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Council top jobs set to go

FOUR of the top jobs at Argyll and Bute Council are set to go and the competency of existing managers will be scrutinised under a proposed restructuring plan.

Argyll and Bute councillors are to discuss the jobs shake-up, which has been recommended in a report by chief executive Sally Loudon.

At a meeting on November 26 in the council chambers, Kilmory, councillors must decide whether to reduce the number of directors from four to three and cut the number of heads of service posts from 15 to 12.

A council spokeswoman said that senior management across the council would also undergo a competency evaluation, overseen by an external organisation.

Mrs Loudon said: 'The pace of change has improved to meet the challenges of delivering our services within a difficult financial climate. However, there remain aspects of the organisation which require to change if the council is to further improve.'

Oban left shaken

REPORTS of an earthquake near Oban on Monday afternoon have been confirmed by the British Geological Survey.

The depth of the centre was 7.7 km and it was recorded as 2 on the Richter scale.

Reports of the earthquake include it being felt in Dunollie as a shaking sensation and as far as North Connel as the sound of a loud explosion.

The time given for the 'quake was 3.43pm and it was centred east of the back road between Connel and Oban and just north of Loch Nell.

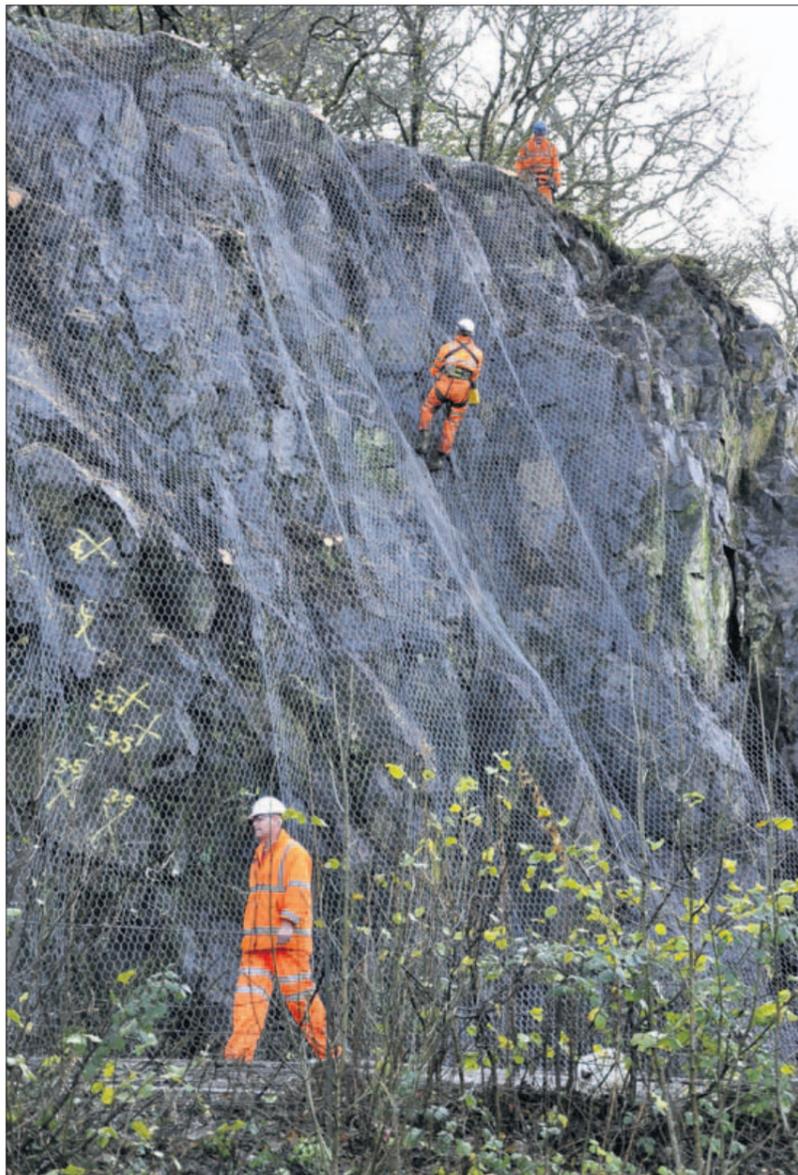
More police on the way

FOUR new police officers promised by Strathclyde Police in September for Oban and district within months will be in place by February and March next year.

Two of the positions announced exclusively in The Oban Times on September 27 by divisional commander for Argyll Chief Superintendent John Thomson were filled in October and two in November.

But a spokesman for Strathclyde Police said the four new officers would be undergoing training before being deployed to Oban.

The post of permanent chief inspector in Oban has also been advertised and, although it was hoped to be filled by the end of October, is at the recruiting stage, said the spokesman.



Abseiling skills are required for rock stabilisation work. 07_147cliff03

The abseiler arriving on platform....

LARGE-scale rail maintenance work to the West Highland Line between Oban and Crianlarich has closed the line this week.

The work being carried out in Connel by contractors Carillion

involves around 25 workers cutting back vegetation, earthworks and rock stabilisation and maintenance of the track itself.

Contractors have removed vegetation, been strengthening

the hillside and covering the cliff face beside the track with netting, abseiling down the face to fix it in place. The train service has been replaced with a bus service and will include the 08.11am on Saturday.

Concerns grow over thefts in rural areas

Police vow to increase patrols

By CHRISTINE MCCARTNEY

POLICE are stepping up patrols in rural north Argyll following public concerns at their response to a spate of serious thefts.

More than £15,000 worth of equipment, cash and tools has been taken from homes and businesses, with a stretch between Benderloch and Appin one of the worst hit.

Extra plainclothes officers with night glasses have been deployed in the area, focusing on the early hours of the morning.

Andrew McIntyre, who runs family firm Backwoodsman Stoves, had thousands of pounds of irreplaceable equipment stolen when thieves forced entry to his warehouse in Barcalaine last month.

Co-ordinated

Mr McIntyre said the thefts seem to be co-ordinated, targeted and the work of the same criminals. 'My business was the first in the recent string. This is the first time in 50 years that I have heard of anything like this happening in the area. Clearly, these guys are emboldened by the lack of police response.'

Mr McIntyre called on the police to mount night-time road blocks on the A828 to catch and deter the culprits. 'We have got a single road. It would be thoroughly reassuring if they put



Andrew McIntyre's business was targeted. 07_147ro01

some checks on the road at night,' he said. 'These people strike at will, without any consequences. The impression I get is the police are woefully under-resourced for the area they are covering.'

In a rash of thefts in Appin last weekend, more than £3,000 worth of equipment was taken from Inver Boathouse on Loch Creran. Manager Cath Livingstone said the thieves took a dinghy and oars from a shed and used it to row out to bigger yachts moored in the loch, stealing engines and other items before cutting them adrift.

'To me, it must have been an organised group,' she said. 'It makes you uneasy. It is the only weekend for a long time that the property has not been let. It is almost like they were watching.'

When Ms Livingstone reported the crime to police, she was told

they were too busy to attend that day and would come the following day. 'I thought they would be here quicker,' she said. 'I think something needs to be done to stop it. If people think this area is an easy target, we are going to get lots more thieves coming in.'

The same night, a trailer was stolen from the side of the A828 while Gunn's Garage in Appin and a building site next door were also hit by thieves.

Garage owner Duncan Gunn said: 'A more visible police presence would help, but they are so stretched.'

Suspicious

Chief Inspector Judy Wilson said Oban police had put more patrols in the area and were working with traffic officers to spot suspicious vehicles.

She said road blocks were not a viable option: 'We have done and we would consider doing them in the future. But we can put a road block on every night and not get anywhere. We need to look at a more intelligence-based response.'

Chief Inspector Wilson acknowledged public concern but said CID was following a positive line of enquiry into the thefts. She urged anyone who has seen any suspicious activity or vehicles to contact Oban Police Office on 01631 510500 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Parliament told of road signs fears

QUESTIONS have been asked in the Scottish parliament over Argyll and Bute Council's plans to remove tourist road signage.

Hilghlands and Islands MSP Jamie McGrigor highlighted the issue from a tourism point of view in a Scottish parliamentary debate on Scotland's built environment. He has backed up his questions by writing to the chief executive of Argyll and Bute Council and to Scotland's enterprise minister Jim Mather MSP.

Mr McGrigor said: 'Around 30 businesses on or near the Connel to Fort William and Tyndrum to Oban roads are going to be affected by this new approach being taken by the council and there are very understandable concerns about the impact the removal of such an important advertising source might have on business viability.'

'Businesspeople are quite rightly asking why the

council is taking this action now when most of these signs have been up for over a decade and indeed some have been in position for up to 30 years. They should have certificates of local use as in the past.

Recession

'In the middle of an economic recession this is the very last thing small businesses need and I call on Argyll and Bute Council to reconsider its position and show the flexibility on this matter that it appears to have shown in the past. I do understand that an original 28-day deadline for the signs' removal has already been extended due to pressure and I urge Argyll and Bute Council to be positive in helping our businesses rather than burdening them with hurdles of this kind.'

A spokeswoman for the council confirmed the letters had been in abeyance while the situation was considered by officers.



Oban High School Pipe Band perform to the capacity audience. 07_147pipe01

Pipe band's ceilidh grows in popularity

SUCH is the popularity of Oban High School Pipe Band's annual fundraising ceilidh, organisers had run out of tickets two days before this year's event.

The ceilidh, held in Oban's Argyllshire Gathering Halls, was headlined by Trail West and the young Tirisdeachs impressed so much they have already been booked for next

year's event. Making up the majority of the entertainment, however, was the pipe band itself.

Many of the young pipers who have recently graduated from the chanter also got their chance to join in.

Other performances on the night came from soloist Mary Catherine MacNeil, Peter

Sinclair and Friends and the Eilidh MacInnes Dancers.

Alistair Dewar of the Oban and Lom Youth Pipe Band Association, which funds the band, said: 'This is a major fundraiser for us and it turned out to be an exceptionally good family night.'

He was confident the night would raise a 'useful' sum.

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KCT board hits back at critics

EXCLUSIVE
By STEPHEN NORRIS
THE BOARD of Kinlochleven Community Trust (KCT) has responded to criticism over its attempts to secure a tenant for the mothballed Aluminium Story and Visitor Centre in the village.

The building is regarded by many as Kinlochleven's prime asset. It closed in August 2008 when the local library it housed moved to the new Kinlochleven High School. Since then, the village has been without the popular tourist attraction and its visitor information facilities.

KCT identified its then chairman, postmaster Andrew Baxter as preferred tenant, a move which would see his post office business transfer to the Aluminium Story. His present premises, also owned by KCT, have

been declared 'not fit for purpose'. The flat, however, is proving complicated and potentially costly.

In September Kinlochleven residents Chris Vind, Craig Munro and David Wilson submitted to KCT separate development plans for the AS, but were rebuffed. Mr Wilson subsequently questioned what was happening with the building in *The Oban Times*. Councillor Bren Gormley also spoke of the 'missed opportunity' of the 2009 tourism season to Kinlochleven.

But in a detailed letter this week to all 185 KCT members, chairman Alan Woollacott countered those claims.

Mr Baxter was on a strict deadline to confirm he will be able to move the post office, he explained, and that KCT had only taken possession of the Aluminium Story weeks

ago. 'The Board has fixed a deadline of November 30 2009 for Mr and Mrs Baxter to confirm that they are able to proceed unconditionally and if they do not meet this deadline the Board will consider alternative proposals for the building,' he said.

Mr Woollacott explained KCT would advertise the availability of the lease for the building and invite proposals from any interested party.

Thereafter, after consultation with the local community, a decision on 'the most appropriate and viable proposal for the long term use of the building' would be made.

Mr Woollacott explained as the transfer was at no cost, formal approval of the council's resources committee and consent of Scottish Ministers was

required, which had led to delays. He said: 'Although KCT had the right to occupy the building, we could not develop it nor grant any leases until the consents were forthcoming and a title to the building given to KCT.'

'In the hope of being able to offer availability of a visitor information point within the building KCT invited volunteers to come forward that were interested in taking this forward.'

'Unfortunately this did not prove fruitful resulting in it not proving possible to operate any such facility during the 2009 season. Eventually all consents were in place, conveyancing was completed and the title was transferred to KCT in early September 2009.'

'Only since that date has KCT been in a position legally to commit to a long-term lease.'

Statue for West Highland Way

EXCLUSIVE
By STEPHEN NORRIS
A BRONZE statue cast in the form of a footsore walker rubbing his blisters would provide Fort William with a world-famous end point to the West Highland Way.

So says Lochaber Councillor Donald Cameron, who came up with the idea after Scottish Ministers last week awarded Fort William £317,000 towards High Street environmental improvements and a new focal point marking the end of the Way at Gordon Square.

Councillor Cameron believes the sculpture would give weary hikers a tongue-in-cheek welcome on their arrival after 97 gruelling miles from Milngavie and provide a fitting centrepiece for the town centre.

Most importantly, according to Councillor Cameron, photographs of the statue would soon be winging their way round the world, giving the town

and Lochaber an invaluable marketing tool in attracting international visitors.

The artwork would be similar to 'The Fair Maid of Perth' sculpture, which depicts a young woman sitting at the end of a bench seat with space for visitors to sit down beside her.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'My idea would be to have a bronze statue of a hiker with one boot off rubbing the blisters on his foot.'

'I can imagine people sitting on a bench next to the statue in the same way, having their photographs taken and then those pictures going all over the world.'

Describing the new money as 'absolutely fantastic news', Councillor Cameron said projects developing sites such as the old senior school, the police station if it became vacant and the former BT offices site could also benefit.

He said: 'It's a boost for the West End, which has stagnated in recent times.'

Hopefully this will act as a catalyst for these other developments to happen.'

He added: 'All the councillors acknowledge the hard work done by our officers on the bid, particularly Dot Ferguson and Emma Taylor.'

Chairman of the Fort William Steering Group, Councillor Brian Murphy said: 'This is very welcome news for the town and allows us to press ahead with our eagerly awaited plans for the West End.'

'Having the West Highland Way finish at the West End will in our view provide a much needed boost to businesses along the High Street.'

'At the other end of town we have some very interesting ideas for refurbishing the underpass and hope to involve our young people in the designs for this.'

The council and partners, including Highland and Islands Enterprise and LEADER, have set aside £155,000 towards the regeneration project.



Monument to heroes unveiled

Lochaber revisited: Veteran Colonel Jaroslav Klemes spends a solemn moment at the new war memorial at Arisaig commemorating the sacrifice of Czech and Slovak paratroopers during the war. Colonel Klemes was one of only five remaining survivors of special operations in occupied Czechoslovakia during 1942 and 1943 to make the pilgrimage back to Garramor, Traigh House and Camusdarroch, where he and his comrades were trained. Hundreds of Arisaig people joined Czech and Scottish government representatives at the unveiling last Wednesday. 10_f47arisaig17

Ex-forces look to Fort centre

THE UNDERWATER Centre has become a preferred supplier for a national body providing specialist careers and resettlement advice to ex-forces personnel. The Career Transition Partnership (CTP), which has

a database of thousands of service leavers, has approved the Fort William facility for its range of specialist subsea training courses. The British Accreditation Council has already approved the centre as its only supplier for

subsea training, underlining its position as world leader in the sector. General manager Steve Ham said former armed forces personnel were 'ideal candidates' because of their range of technical knowledge and skills.

Locals get higher housing priority

LOCAL Lochaber people are to be given a higher priority on housing lists Highland Council housing committee councillors have ruled.

Concern has been expressed for years that homeless people from outside the region are allocated rented homes ahead of local applicants. But at a meeting last Wednesday the committee agreed to establish a special lettings plan for designated Lochaber communities.

The initial proposal is that at Acharacle, Lochaline, Strontian, Roy Bridge and Spean Bridge, new build housing allocations will be rejigged to take account of local needs. The list is purely indicative and will be subject to further consultation.

Councillor Michael Foxley said the six-month local connection required for the allocation of housing association and council houses is too short and discriminates against long-term residents.

'Houses are being allocated to the homeless from outwith the area rather than genuinely local people,' he said.

In a separate move, the former medical centre in Caol is to be re-developed to provide up to 10 houses.

Meanwhile, the former Acharacle Victorian school and schoolhouse are to be redeveloped for housing. Lochaber Housing Association will have half the school and this will be available for a local family on the housing list.

The other half and the old schoolhouse are to be redeveloped by the Highland Housing Alliance and Highland Council for two local teachers.

Newsdesk
01631 568000

Work set to start establishing £665,000 Tarbert timber route

WORK on a timber haulage route by-passing Tarbert is set to begin within a fortnight, after three years of debate in the village.

Argyll and Bute Council will close the single-track B8024 Glenralloch Road for four months from December 1, for strengthening work and to build new lay-bys at a cost of £665,000. After this, the current 25-tonne weight limit will be lifted.

A council spokeswoman said: 'The work will involve constructing four new lay-bys and upgrading and extending seven of the 11 existing ones.'

She added: 'It is our intention to restrict the works to within the existing road corridor, so no extra ground is required.'

Concerned
But local landowners Neil and Ilene Duncan, who farm on both sides of the Glen Road, are concerned the work will infringe on their property and are seeking legal advice. They say their business will be affected while a popular walking, cycling and horse-riding route will be lost.

'Our main concern is the safety aspect for the general public,' said Ilene. 'It is narrow even for a single track road. Also, there have been frequent accidents on it, particularly at the northern junction with the A83.'

Faster
Neil added: 'What they are doing is making the road faster and more attractive to others to use it.'

Jenny Carlile, the new chairwoman of Tarbert and Skipness Community Council, said they had not been notified that work was starting.

She said: 'That road has been in a terrible state for years and its full repair is to be welcomed. Anyone on both sides of the public meeting last March would agree with that.'

She added that the community council must be involved in the design of promised signs, deterring other drivers from using the road as a bypass.

Timber extraction is set to rise in South Knapdale and Kintyre and the route is expected to divert up to 8,000 timber trucks a year from the village centre.

£300,000 boost for Bowmore

BOWMORE on the Isle of Islay is set to cash in to the tune of £300,000 for town improvements - only two months after gaining £150,000 to increase the size of its Gaelic Medium Unit.

Dunoon will also receive £300,000 after Argyll and Bute Council was successful in gaining £600,000 from the Scottish Government's Town Centre Regeneration Fund (TCRF) last Friday.

Bowmore had applied for £700,000 from the fund for a

traffic management system, replacement of pontoons and a project to dredge the harbour. They had envisaged a play area for children and a lift in the public hall and new flower beds and seating in Main Street.

Welcome
Islay-based councillor Robin Currie said: 'We have received less than half the total we applied for but this grant of £300,000 is of course very welcome.'

'We will have to sit down

together and decide what we can afford to do but this is a big boost for Bowmore and I hope we can get local contractors to do as much of the work as possible.'

'As the main village on the island we want to make it more attractive for locals and tourists.'

Argyll and Bute Council had already set aside £50,000 to refurbish the public toilets, which will now be done in conjunction with any other works.

These awards mean that Argyll and Bute has now received a collective TCRF package of more than £1.5 million. In the first round of bids, announced in August, Tarbert was awarded £984,500.

Economies
Council leader Dick Walsh said: 'This is fantastic news for Argyll and Bute, and a huge boost for the economies of Dunoon, Bowmore and the area as a whole.'

'Our town centres are a key

element of the economic and social fabric of Argyll and Bute, and we obviously want to see them reach their full potential.'

Councillor Walsh added that the TCRF project in Dunoon would complement the Dunoon waterfront plans.

Argyll and Bute MSP Jim Mather and Jamie McGrigor of the Highlands and Islands welcomed the news, congratulating both towns on their successful bids.



Don Staniford leads a question and answer session in the Corran Halls after showing the short film *Farmed Salmon Exposed*. 07_147fish01

Spotlight falls on fish farms

REPRESENTATIVES from Argyll's fish farms and industry pressure groups met at the Corran Halls last Wednesday to discuss the future of the industry.

The audience was shown a short film, *Farmed Salmon Exposed*, before a question and answer session led by Don Staniford, global co-ordinator for the Pure Salmon Campaign.

After the film, the topic of conversation was dominated by seal shooting, an issue very relevant to the Argyll area.

The film is being used all over the world to inform people of poor fish farming practices that are leading to sea lice infestation and salmon escapes.

Among those present was Wester Ross

ghillie Brian Fraser, who features in the film.

Mr Staniford said: 'Farmed Salmon Exposed lifts the lid on the can of worms of the global salmon farming industry.'

'We urgently need to close the net on the worst problems of the salmon farming sector - and that requires the adoption of best available closed containment technology and the relocation of salmon farms away from migratory corridors for wild fish.'

'Open net cages have spread like a cancer on our coasts - they need to be ripped out before they kill off wild salmon and sea trout and the communities which depend upon healthy fish stocks.'

Teenagers pitch in together

A GROUP of Oban teenagers are trying to raise funds to drain and repair a football pitch at Soroba.

Oban, Lorn and the Isles Youth Forum were among the members of the public to raise the poor state of the ground with Argyll and Bute MSP Jim Mather at a recent public meeting and have been seeking thousands in grants to carry out the work. Last week the first steps were made when Argyll Community Housing Association began preliminary work to discover the source of the flooding.

Scott Douglas, a community learning worker for Argyll and Bute Council who supports the youth forum, said seeing work start on the football field is the biggest success the forum has had.

Laura Meek, elected chairwoman of the forum last month, said it gives young people a chance to have their say and there are special

opportunities for those who take part.

Laura recently returned from a trip to Spain with other young leaders from Argyll and Bute. The trip inspired her to work for a better youth centre for Oban and the surrounding area.

Two other youth forum members, Kayleigh Campbell and Hannah McPhee, had the chance to sail with the Ocean Youth Trust on a recent expedition.

As well as taking part in educational trips and exchanges, the forum organises activities such as football and outdoor pursuits.

The forum meets weekly in Soroba Community Flat and is open to young people aged 12 and over. Those interested in joining are welcome to come along to a future meeting at 5pm on Mondays or to contact Scott for more information on 01631 562 466.



From left: Eilidh Lamb, who volunteers with the youth forum, Samantha MacIver, chairwoman Laura Meek (behind), Kayleigh Campbell (in front), Scott Douglas and Linzi MacVicar. 15_146yuth01

Lifeboat helps in hospital transfer

OBAN lifeboat was called out last Friday to help take a woman from Mull to Oban after a NHS helicopter had to abort the transfer because of bad weather.

The lifeboat was launched at 6.24pm, with paramedics on board and arrived at Craignure at 7pm where the elderly woman was taken on board.

Forty minutes later she was transferred to an ambulance in Oban and taken to Lorn and Isles District General Hospital.

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Couple's Facebook row ends up in court

WHEN his estranged wife posted uncomplimentary comments about him on her Facebook page a Tarbert man went to the café where she worked and swiped plates of food to the floor.

At Campbeltown Sheriff Court last week Angus Iain William MacFarlane, aged 47, of 1 Burnside, Campbeltown Road, Tarbert, admitted committing a breach of the peace at the premises on Harbour Street in the village.

Sheriff Ruth Anderson QC was told that MacFarlane went into the kitchen and 'swiped' four plates of food to the floor and that staff and customers in the café could hear him arguing.

Sandy Mitchell, MacFarlane's defence agent, said this had happened 'against a background of a deteriorating relationship'. MacFarlane confronted his wife after he was told she had been 'critical' about him on Facebook.

MacFarlane, who had never been in trouble before, was given a deferred sentence for six months for him to be of good behaviour.

Probation for Tarbert embezzler

A TARBERT woman has been placed on probation after stealing from her employer.

Sandra Petra Harvey, aged 30, of 19 Market Place, had previously admitted embezzling £1,702.73 in cash while being a duty manager of the Co-Operative, Barmore Street, Tarbert, in April and May this year.

The sentence had previously been deferred at Campbeltown Sheriff Court until last week for reports.

Her defence agent said the offences happened 'due to mounting debts and an ever increasing dependence on alcohol'.

Sheriff Ruth Anderson QC placed Harvey on probation for two years and ordered her to carry out 100 hours of unpaid work in the community.

Theft from vehicle

AN OBAN resident who parked his motor caravan in Longdale Car Park between October 27 and November 9 returned to find his vehicle broken into and damaged.

The person responsible managed to break in, damage the ignition and steal a CD radio worth around £100.

Police are looking for any information relating to the offence and can be contacted on 01631 510500.

Former council social worker costs homeowner thousands of pounds



Boatman's Cottage. 16_147eviction03

Eviction comes at a price for landlord

EXCLUSIVE

AN EVICTION by sheriff officers in Tayvallich has brought to an end months of distress for a landlord – but he has been left thousands of pounds out of pocket.

This week, Ian Baines, aged 63, vowed to employ a private detective to pursue his tenant, a former Argyll and Bute social worker, who threw his life into turmoil by refusing to pay her rent or vacate the premises.

As a result, the sale of the property was unable to be completed and Mr Baines was forced to take out a bridging loan to complete the purchase of a second home in Portugal.

'This woman has run off leaving me thousands of pounds in debt. But I will find her and make her pay the money she owes me,' he said. 'This whole fiasco has been seven months of incredible upset and stress.'

Neighbours say that the tenants, Jayne Unsworth and her partner, 'fled' the property in the early hours of last Thursday morning.

Despite the house being



A sheriff officer writes the name of the Queen above the door after the eviction, a process in law. 16_147eviction01

empty and in relatively good repair when the sheriff officers forced entry later that morning and changed

the locks, Mr Baines is facing a financial nightmare with debts likely to top £20,000 from the situation.

Ian Baines, who retired a few years ago, built the property in the sleepy Mid Argyll village where he and his wife

spent many holidays. They intended using the property as collateral for another home in Portugal where the couple plan to spend some of their retirement.

Mr Baines said: 'I allowed the woman to move into the property for five months because I was told she had personal difficulties and needed the house. She was good at paying her rent of £500 per month to begin with – until she refused to move out at the end of her lease.'

'She was due to move out of the property on May 12 but she wouldn't budge. She would not speak to me or reply to letters.'

'I needed the money from that house for my new home in Portugal and eventually I had to take out a loan to pay for my new house and cover the cost of my payments on my Tayvallich home.'

'Eventually I wrote to the couple to make an arrangement to visit the house with the letting agent. I made the 750-round mile trip from my home in Cheshire. When we arrived at the door

we were refused entry to the property.

'I have endured so much worry and sleepless nights. At times I thought there was no way out of this situation, but thanks to the court we have finally got the house back. When I look back on it I realise how ill the whole situation has made me.'

The Oban Times was unable to contact Ms Unsworth who is believed to have quit her council job more than a month ago. It is also understood that this is not the first time that she has let down a landlord.

Mr Baines was told by police that this was a civil matter and should be dealt with through the courts.

Mr Baines was granted the eviction order on October 13 and he had made an application for an arrestment of wages order to re-coup the seven months' rent for the property, but he no longer knows where she works.

He added that the prospective buyer of the property is entitled to apply for his expenses and could also renegotiate the price of the property.

Youth accused of assault

AN EIGHTEEN-year-old youth appeared in private at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday in connection with an alleged assault on November 15 at an address in Oban.

Colin Penrose, 5A Knipoch Place, Oban, made no plea or declaration, was committed for further examination and remanded in custody.

Man had heroin and cocaine

A MAN who had admitted being in possession of heroin and cocaine had his sentenced deferred when he appeared at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday.

William McConnel, aged 29, 28 Nelson Road, Oban, had previously admitted being in possession of £25 worth of diamorphine and £60 worth of cocaine on September 18 last year.

The court deferred sentence to December 8 this year to allow McConnel to be assessed for a drug treatment and testing order (DTTO).

Teenager disturbed peace

A TEENAGER who turned up on the doorstep of a flat in Soroba, Oban, asking for cannabis for a joint has been found guilty of causing a breach of the peace.

Oban Sheriff Court heard on Monday that Daniel Kelly, aged 19, 40 Achlonan, Taynuilt, had turned up at the flat around 10.30-11pm on October 12 and banged on the door.

A female witness said Kelly also shouted through the letterbox but she told him to go away as she had children sleeping upstairs.

Sheriff Douglas Small convicted Kelly of breaching the peace, repeatedly knocking loudly on the door, shouting, refusing to leave and placing the woman in a state of fear and alarm.

Kelly, who had been remanded in custody since October 13, was sentenced to 34 days in custody, backdated to October 13.

Sentence on a breach of probation was deferred for background reports until December 12.

Community works together to build new school playground

AN ARGYLL community of fewer than 100 people has been described as 'inspirational' after raising nearly £28,000 and building a new school playground in only 18 months.

The project at Ardchattan Primary School was spearheaded by community group Friends of Ardchattan School, which paid for the £25,000 playground and equipment through grants and fundraising projects.

The nine children at the primary school helped Councillor Elaine Robertson cut the ribbon to officially opening the playground. It has a new safety surface made from recycled tyres and shoes, replacing the old and crumbling tarmac surface.

The pupils, who came up with many of the fundraising ideas, explained to invited guests, including Argyll and Bute's education spokeswoman Councillor Isobel Strong, that they would often get hurt after falling on the previously uneven and broken playground surface.

The new soft-surface playground now offers a small tennis court, basketball hoops, and a five-a-side football pitch for the nine

pupils at the school.

Pupil Thomas Bland told guests: 'We have learnt that even small schools and communities can make a big difference if they work together.'

On top of community fundraising events, Friends of Ardchattan School, led by project co-ordinator Susan Bland, successfully applied for grants from ACHA, Ryan MacPhail Memorial Fund, Oban Cash for Kids, Oban Rotary Club, Oban Lions Club, Argyll and Bute Development Fund and £10,000 from Awards for All.

Councillor Robertson said: 'When this project was proposed I have to say it was aspirational and I thought it was going to take some time to do.'

'But it has been completed so quickly and I feel it has brought the school and the community together.'

Councillor Robertson added that the school and the community were an inspiration and described them as 'trailblazers'.

The project has a second phase, which is planned to have a full-size tennis court for community use and a garden with a polytunnel.



Pupils at Ardchattan Primary School cannot wait to enjoy their new playground after it was officially opened by Councillor Elaine Robertson last week. 07_147play02



Ardchattan's new school playground. 07_147play03

Show goes ahead despite surprise shower flooding hall

WHILE the weekend's weather was changeable, 100 dancers turning up at the Corran Halls on Saturday were surprised to encounter heavy showers indoors as well.

Just hours before the Atlantis Dance Show, the culmination of a year of hard work for adult

and children's dancing classes, a staff member accidentally knocked a fire hydrant, setting it off. The main hall quickly flooded, with water spraying in all directions.

The mains water was switched off and fire crews called and used a pump to remove the excess

water. Corran Halls staff then dried the floor to make it safe for the dancers and audience.

Remarkable

Dance teacher Alison Shepherd said everyone rallied to make sure the show went on: 'It was remarkable. We just rehearsed straight through and then it was

performance time. We only started 15 minutes late in the end.'

A spokeswoman for Argyll and Bute Council, which manages the halls, said: 'The plumber was on site today and the hydrant has been capped so it won't happen again.'



Road rage ends in assault

ATWENTY-year-old driver brandished a baseball bat at another driver and slapped him on the face in a road rage incident.

The incident happened on September 17 in Connel following a journey by the two cars from Taynuilt on the A85. Oban Sheriff Court heard on Monday that a male driver had pulled on to the A85 in Taynuilt from the Main Street around 8.30am and became aware of Steven Thomson in a yellow MG following behind as he drove through the village towards Oban.

Depute procurator fiscal Gillian Climie told the court: 'He was followed for about six miles by the yellow MG and formed the opinion that the driver was somewhat in a hurry.'

At one point the victim cleaned his windscreen and water fell on to the Yellow MG's windscreen behind, which seemed to annoy Thomson.

Ms Climie said Thomson, c/o Thomson, Strone Farm, Dalmally, overtook the driver in front on a bend and then stopped suddenly, causing the other driver to do an emergency stop.

Alsatian

Thomson then got out of his car with an alsatian at his side and brandishing a baseball bat.

He told the victim he was going to 'do him' before striking him on the face with the palm of his hand.

After Thomson went back to his car, the other driver continued into Oban where he went to Oban police station and reported what had happened.

Sheriff Douglas Small called the incident a 'serious matter' and called for social inquiry and community service reports on Thomson to allow him to 'consider all options before sentencing'.

Sentence was deferred until December 14.

Anger at loss of bank managers

BUSINESSES across the west Highlands have reacted angrily to a decision by the Bank of Scotland to remove its business managers from many branches.

It is believed that the changes brought about by the bank, part of Lloyds Banking Group, will result in the loss of eight or nine jobs in Argyll, although the bank has refused to confirm how many redundancies were being made.

The business community on Islay has been particularly vocal in its criticism of the bank after learning that the business manager post in Bowmore would be dissolved.

The frustration was such that a meeting was called last week to discuss the issue.

Ailsa Hayes of Spirited Soaps said: 'The business manager here is an Illeach and knows the price of cattle or fish, he knows that we struggle from January

to March and he realises that the island economy is actually growing and bucking the national trend. Because of that he would always fight our corner when we needed him to. We just feel these changes have been sneaked through.'

As a result of the meeting, Islay businesses will be lobbying elected representatives and the bank to keep the business manager service.

Ms Hayes said: 'I took contact details of everyone at the meeting and some of them didn't have computers, let alone internet banking.'

A spokesman for Bank of Scotland said: 'In a small number of locations, including Islay, we found that most of the contact between the bank and its customers was sporadic and over the telephone. As a result, it was no longer commercially viable in these cases to retain a face-to-face business manager.'

Fight grows to save pool

HUNDREDS of people have rallied to save the Mid Argyll Swimming Pool from closure.

The pool's directors, the Mid Argyll Community Enterprise Ltd, fear they may have to close before Christmas if they cannot secure long-term funding for the facility.

Argyll and Bute Council's chief executive, Sally Loudon, said the council was 'making every effort' to assist after a plea for help from the pool.

She said: 'Council staff have been working closely with the company, providing technical advice and support in helping to identify potential increased income and savings opportunities. Several such opportunities have now been highlighted which we believe will, if implemented, have a significant impact on the pool's financial situation.'

The council provides an annual grant

of £48,394 and has paid in advance for primary school swimming lessons to help the pool's balance sheet. But she said the board must provide more information about its long-term financial prospects before an increase in funding can be considered.

Scrutinising

Mrs Loudon added: 'The council is itself facing the prospect of an extremely challenging budget situation in 2010/2011, and is now in the process of scrutinising all areas of expenditure. 'We would be failing in our duty to our taxpayers if we did not treat a request for additional funding from Mid Argyll Community Enterprise Ltd in the same rigorous way as we would any other such request.'

Meanwhile people across the country are signing an online petition to save the pool.



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Mull Lines



Recently retired Mull and Iona police constable Finlay Christine, left, received a Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) President's Award from broadcaster and RSPB president Julian Pettifer in recognition of the former island policeman's services to protecting Mull's wildlife and his role in helping to establish Mull Eagle Watch. The award was presented at the RSPB's recent annual general meeting in London.

AN TOBAR Tobermory is taking its eclectic mix of modern Hebridean music to the Celtic Connections in Glasgow on January 19. The Tobermory venue will have sessions with Colin Macintyre, Aidan O'Rourke and the David Milligan Trio.



Tobermory Distillery painted the town pink to raise money for Breast Cancer Awareness. Pictured, left to right, are Vairi Mackay, Alison Brown, Ian Brown, Graham Brown, Colin Armour, Roderick Currie, Stuart O'Donnell, Thomas Watt and Simon Proud.

BURN Stewart Distillers encouraged its staff at Tobermory Distillery to get involved in a 'Wear It Pink' Day to raise money for Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

On Friday, October 30, the entire workforce, including the team at Tobermory, raised £2,405 by taking part in a number of activities including a pink fancy dress competition, raffles and a pink bake sale.

Each member of staff was asked to donate £2 for the privilege of wearing something pink with all proceeds being given to Breast Cancer Awareness.



Lynsey Patricia, the daughter of Donald and Wendy Brown, Tobermory, and Gary, the son of Fred and Jan Stibbs, Cambuslang were married at Tobermory Parish Church on Saturday September 26, followed by a reception at The Isle of Mull Hotel. Photograph Ewan Stewart Tobermory

To sponsor Mull Lines please contact Isla at 01631-568000

LDP consultation to identify planning issues in local areas

DEVELOPERS, landowners and community groups are being asked to help identify the most important planning issues in their areas. Argyll and Bute Council has launched a consultation exercise as part of the forthcoming Local

Development Plan (LDP), a document that will eventually replace the current existing Local Plan and Structure Plan. The LDP will set out policies and proposals for the use of land and property within Argyll and Bute.

It will influence housing, shopping, business, industry, transport and the built and natural heritage, and will aim to guide future development to the most appropriate locations. Anyone who wishes to promote a potential

development site for possible inclusion in the LDP is being invited to submit details. Two questionnaires have been produced and are now available on the council's website www.argyll-bute.gov.uk to download. Both forms are also

available at the council's headquarters in Kilmory, near Lochgilphead or can be picked up at the area planning offices in Ardrishaig, Oban, Helensburgh and Dunoon. The three-month consultation period closes on January 31, 2010.

West Highland guesthouses strike gold

Exceptional hospitality and service recognised in first Gold Star awards

SEVENTEEN guesthouses and bed and breakfasts across the west Highlands and islands are among those to win the first Gold Star award, presented by VisitScotland. The award recognises exceptional hospitality and service among establishments within the Quality Assurance scheme in a year that has seen a four per cent rise in guesthouse and bed and breakfast occupancy rates. The star ratings are graded from acceptable (one star) to exceptional (five stars) and only 40 establishments across Scotland were given a gold rating.

Gold

In Argyll, Ards House in Connel, Bealach House in Appin, Blarcreen House in Oban, Balmory Hall on the Isle of Bute and Islay's Glenegedale House and Kilmory Guest House were all winners.

Gold stars were also given to Caloraidh bed and breakfast in Uist and Broad Bay House on the Isle of Lewis.

Mary Bell, of Caloraidh B&B, said: 'We only aim to offer the kind of service that we would expect ourselves, and it's wonderful to have it recognised like this.'

Nine Highland bed and breakfasts have gained the award, including the three gold star Torlinnhe

Guesthouse in Fort William, run by Sue Keen.

Mrs Keen said: 'I'm thrilled and have the certificate framed and on display already.'

'This is a glowing endorsement of all that we're trying to do, particularly with our recent refurbishment, so I'm delighted our efforts are paying off.'

'It can be hard to differentiate yourself in the current competitive market, but I'm confident this Gold Star will help give us that 'edge' guests are so often searching for.'

Other Highland winners included Joan Campbell at the five gold star bed and breakfast, The Grange; The Heathers, Spean Bridge; Bla Bheinn, Drynoch, Isle of Skye; Pool House, Poolewe, Wester Ross; Balliefurth Farm, Grantown, Spey Valley; Crubenbeg House, Newtonmore; Lochview, Lairg; and The Clachan, Wick.

Scott Armstrong, regional director, said: 'I'm pleased the hard work and dedication of these local businesses are being rewarded.'

'Working together, we sell Scotland to the world, bringing millions of visitors and billions of pounds to the economy, and bed and breakfasts and guesthouses have an important role to play in that equation.'



The team of occupational therapists from Oban, Lorn and the isles. 07_045therapy01

Local team promote Occupational Therapy week

OCCUPATIONAL therapists in Oban, Lorn and the isles were last week making their presence felt.

As part of Occupational Therapy Week for the profession, the team had stands in Connel Surgery, Connel village, Lorn Medical Centre and Lorn and Islands Hospital in Oban to provide information about what they do and even encourage people to think about it as a career.

'We have also been out reaching a bit to Appin and

Seil and discussing our service with GPs and clarifying referral procedures,' explained Linda Currie, team leader for Integrated Occupational Therapy Services.

'We are asking people to look at it as a career option and publicising the services we offer,' she said.

Occupational therapy helps people who struggle perhaps to do ordinary, everyday things, from washing and dressing to getting out and about, and find ways of them being able to

adapt or cope.

Often this can follow an illness or involve someone with a disability, and occupational therapy is one of the few professions which crosses both health and social work services as the first contact can be in hospital.

It is about building confidence, enabling people to go about their every day lives, whether with physical aids, teaching people to do simple chores again or adapting their homes to suit.

Ardfern father-of-three banned from driving and fined more than £1,000 at Oban courtroom

DRIVING a few hundred yards home from a party has cost an Ardfern man his driving licence.

Around 3am on November 1, police noticed a broken light on the car Alistair Potter-Irwin, of An Dorinn, was driving on the B8002 near Ardfern. When they pulled over the 41 year old, officers smelt alcohol and a roadside test revealed Potter-Irwin was over the legal limit, with 55ml of alcohol in 100ml of breath

– the legal limit is 35ml of alcohol in 100ml of breath.

At Oban Sheriff Court last week, he admitted drink driving and driving without insurance. Defence agent Edward Thornton said Potter-Irwin had gone to a birthday party with his wife and their young baby. As his wife was planning to drive home, he had a few drinks, but on the journey back, the baby needed attention. Mr Thornton said: 'He made

the fatal mistake of feeling OK to drive and he then drove the short distance back while his wife cared for the baby.'

He added that Potter-Irwin believed another insurance policy covered him to drive the vehicle.

Sheriff Gordon Fleetwood banned Potter-Irwin from driving for 15 months and fined him a total of £1,200, to be paid in monthly instalments over the next two and a half years.

More than £1m to boost wood fuel projects

MORE than £1million is being spent on wood fuel projects across Scotland, six of which are in the Highlands and islands.

The Renewable Heat Action Plan will help Scotland meet its target of 11 per cent of heat coming from renewable sources by 2020, against current production of just 1.4 per cent.

And among the projects to benefit are: Arran Energy Ltd, Lamplash Energy (£107,200); Beinn Bhuide Energy

Ltd, Ardnamurchan (£100,000); Lovat Arms Hotel, Beaulieu (£78,405); Eagle Brae Cabins, Beaulieu (£60,000); A.R.P. Besterman, Bridge of Orchy (40,335); MacLeod Hotels Ltd, Portree, Skye (£26,212).

Energy minister and Argyll and Bute MSP, Jim Mather said: 'Heating accounts for half of our energy use.'

Therefore, alongside better energy efficiency, it is important that we build a diverse renewable heat market

across Scotland to significantly reduce our emissions.

'Focusing on biomass, on an industrial and commercial scale, will make the biggest impact on emissions reductions in the medium term.'

'In urban areas there are tremendous opportunities for district heating schemes, while in rural areas off the gas grid, individual solutions such as biomass or heat pumps will be particularly important.'

Oban High School re-establishes Remembrance Service

A MOVING Remembrance Service was held at Oban High School last Wednesday, led by Ewen Munro of H2O, with support from the senior pupil leadership team.

Head teacher Peter Bain played The Last Post before the two-minute silence was observed across the whole school.

The service concluded with the Reveille and the laying of a wreath, pictured, at the school's own war memorial.

This was the first service of its kind for several years and will be repeated each year to show Oban High School's gratitude to all those, past and present, who served their country so proudly.



North Lorn pupils draw commendation in national healthy eating poster competition

Three girls from Barcaldine and Benderloch join calendar design team

TWO pupils from Lochnell and one from Barcaldine primary schools have been highly commended in a national poster competition.

Shona McKenzie from Barcaldine and Amelia MacTaggart and Megan MacLean from Lochnell in Benderloch are among 11 highly commended winners from 4,000 entries in the Food Standards Agency in Scotland and Consumer

Focus Scotland Safe Food and Healthy Eating Calendar competition 2009.

Jeanette Morrison, head teacher at Barcaldine, said: 'The whole school is delighted that Shona has been highly commended for her poster. I am confident that the competition and the publicity from the calendar will benefit everyone here and that they can take the messages learned into their

homes as well.'

Shirley Matheson, head teacher at Lochnell Primary School, said: 'We are delighted that Amelia and Megan have been highly commended for their posters. We take food safety and healthy eating seriously here and the competition is a fun and creative way for pupils to explore these issues.'

The entries were scored on

originality, artistic merit and effectiveness in promoting the competition's messages on good food hygiene, healthy eating or food allergy awareness.

The overall winner and the highly commended designs will now feature in the Food Standards Agency in Scotland and Consumer Focus Scotland Safe Food and Healthy Eating Calendar 2010.

Grant for town community garden

AN OBAN community garden will be able to fund drainage, landscaping and new furniture thanks to a one-off grant from a Fairer Oban Lorn and The Isles Fund.

The Lynside Community Garden, which began two years ago in Glen-cruitten with support from Argyll Community Housing Association, was recently awarded the £6,500 grant.

According to volunteer and project blogger Margaret Powell-Joss, the money will allow employing Community Links Scotland to take the garden to the next phase.

She added: 'By next spring we will definitely have a very different-looking community garden with a quiet seating area at the top. The big trees in the wedge along the burn will stay, and I very much hope that the productive vegetable and flower plot will continue to flourish along the fence.'

Anyone interested can contact Margaret on 07810 714 421 or Kay McDonald on 0774 823 3215. The blog is at http://lynsideprojectblog.blogspot.com

Dunbeg man forgot glass was in hand when hitting brother

A MAN who broke a glass over his brother's head in a bar told Oban Sheriff Court that he forgot he was holding it when he punched him.

Thomas Barr, of 3 Castle Road, Dunbeg, was drinking in a local bar on May 3 when a row broke out between the brothers about football, the court heard last week.

Procurator fiscal Craig Harris said Barr poured his drink away 'and then took the pint glass and broke it over his brother's head'. The pair was separated by a member of staff and their father, who was with them, and left the pub.

His brother was left with a bump on his head and 'a slight scratch on his face', said defence agent Edward Thornton. The 26 year old was planning to leave the bar when he 'lost his rag and swung a punch at his brother,' he added.

Mr Thornton said: 'He forgot the glass was in his hand,' to which Sheriff Gordon Fleetwood responded: 'Are people still using that one?'

Sentencing Barr to 160 hours of community service and barring him from the premises for two years, the sheriff said the offence could have resulted in prison term.

Oban High School news

OUR SHINTY players have again shown outstanding sporting abilities with 12 students gaining selection in the South of Scotland U14 and U17 teams.

Congratulations to Jack Hill, Alex Dunning, Malcolm Clark, John McNulty, Kieran MacInnes, Sean Dunstaffnage, Robert Dunning, Thomas Dalhety, Gary MacKerracher, Gary Lord, Craig MacDougall and Lewis Cameron.

Our students also did a fantastic job at the Argyll Schools Swimming Championships.

Special congratulations go to Matthew Anderson, Connor MacNeil and Clare MacKinnon who, by meeting strict criteria and gaining set times over several different swimmeets have been selected by Scottish Swimming to join the District Regional Training Programme, held in Stirling from now to December.

Last week 14 S4 pupils took part in the 'Preparing pupils for work' programme. This programme gives pupils work experience and assists them to gain extra qualifications such as the European Computer Diving Licence, health and safety at work, sports coaching certificates, team building, the filling out application forms and gaining important interview skills. The programme was a great success last year, so we have high hopes for its continued success.

Successful Five pupils have returned home from a very successful French exchange trip. The pupils (from S4-S6) spent a week in a small town called Lons-le-Saunier, and stayed with their French pen-pals, going to school and immersing themselves in French countryside life. The French students and teachers (22 in total) will visit us next February.

The design and technology department held an open evening on November 5 to foster enterprise with local businesses. It was also a chance for our design and technology students to show off products designed and manufactured by themselves for possible use in different businesses in the Oban area. The department is working hard to raise funds to purchase a laser cutter, and this open evening was a chance to garner financial support for this project.

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RUMOURS that one of Oban's oldest family businesses, Jackson Bros Butchers, had closed have proved completely unfounded as the business has just undergone a facelift for the first time in decades.

OBAN Accordion and Fiddle Club held their monthly club night in the Argyllshire Gathering Hall when another great night of music well supported by an enthusiastic audience.

Chairman Michael Garvin opened on accordion accompanied by Duncan Campbell, Oban on drums, with supporting players Murray Willis, Isle of Lismore, Ruaridh Morrison, Kilmore, and Sileas Sinclair, Connel on accordion; James MacArthur, Oban, on melodeon, David Cameron, Oban on drums and Donald Morrison, Kilmore on bagpipes. The audience thoroughly enjoyed the talents of the local players.

Committee member Freddy MacKenzie, Oban, introduced guest artistes the Ian Muir Trio - Ian from Prestwick on accordion, Neil MacMillan, Rowardennan, on keyboard and Fraser MacInnes, Tobermory on drums.

The appreciative audience enjoyed the variety of tunes and entertainment from the band. Mr MacKenzie thanked all the local players and Ian Muir Trio for an entertaining evening, which then ended with a stramash.

Next month guest artiste is Gordon Pattullo.

OBAN Speakers Club discussed varied subjects from The Good Old Days to The Red Fox and the Isle of Lismore at their recent meeting.

Speeches were delivered by Cameron Fletcher, Archie MacPhail and Iain Fullarton. They, and their critics Guido Faccenda, Jim Young and John MacLean, were introduced by chairman Jim Fraser. An interesting topics session was conducted by Donnie Graham and his speakers were John MacLean, Frank Walton, Eamonn Arthur, Bill Leech, Jim Fraser and Jim Young. Timekeeper for the evening was Peter Abbott and the general evaluator was Alex Clark.

AT THE first meeting of Oban Photographic Club's new winter session members were treated to a very professional audio visual presentation by Stan Miller of Carlisle.

Digital technology has encouraged the development of audio visual with quality pictures, quality sound and the blending of images to produce a very viewable slide presentation.

The beauty of Iran contrasting with the wonderful landscapes of Scotland were enjoyed by members. More recently the club had an in-house night where they were asked to shoot still life images using the range of digital camera settings.

The results proved to be a good learning curve. The club's first competition night invited five prints or digital images of the photographer's choosing.

Judge George R Neilson of Edinburgh Photographic Club viewed and offered constructive criticism of the 79 images submitted before selecting a charming digital image of 'Lucy the Spaniel' by Edwina Aitken as the trophy winner and recipient of a £5 gift voucher from Oban Photographic Centre. Runner-up was Angus MacKinnon and third was Ronnie MacKillop.

The best print was an in-flight photo of three bomber aircraft from Eric Shaw, Taynuilt. The club meets every Monday at 7.45pm in the Regent Hotel, Oban and new members are most welcome.

RICHARD Allan, a graduate of Edinburgh University, who spent 50 years of his working life in Africa, delivered a talk on his experiences as an entomologist in Kenya, ornithology and a study of the quelea, to the October meeting of Seil Natural History Group.

'The quelea,' Mr Allan explained, 'is a seed eating bird that exists in huge numbers in many African countries. It consumes vast quantities of wheat grown by the local communities who have to go to great lengths to protect their crops. The problem is exacerbated by the fact that quelea can breed five times in one season.'

Mr Allan's work has involved studying the bird's life-cycle, migration routes and behaviour. The Isle of Seil Natural History Group holds monthly talks on a wide variety of natural history topics and organises monthly field trips and mid-week walks. If you would like to join the group please email richardwesley@btinternet.com for details.

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

Woman drove with no car insurance for sixth time

A WOMAN caught driving without car insurance for the sixth time has been allowed to keep her licence. At Oban Sheriff Court last week, Ms Ferguson, of 8 Auchinraith Terrace, Blantyre, admitted driving with no insurance. The court heard Ms Ferguson told officers when she was stopped that she had bought the vehicle three months before the incident on September 21, but had not yet transfer her insurance policy. Defending Ferguson, Gordon Seaton said: 'This was an oversight on her part.'

He said she had been overcoming some personal difficulties and, handing the sheriff three character references, urged the sheriff not to ban her from driving. Fining her £330 and endorsing her licence with eight penalty points, Sheriff Gordon Fleetwood said it was 'with some reluctance' that would he allow her to continue driving.

Drivers 'tyre' of Connel road punctures

Call for urgent access road upgrade

TWO CARS suffered double punctures recently after hitting deep potholes on the back road between Oban and Connel. Another driver said her back had been hurt from the jarring of her car wheel dropping into a hole near Kilvaree Farm on the same night.

And although the potholes have since been filled in, calls are being made to upgrade the road. Tracey Lockhart, who stays along the road, told The Oban Times: 'We came upon a car which had hit the pothole just past the access for Kilvaree because the driver did not see it until the last minute as it was dark and full of water.'

'He not only had two punctures but the two tyres had large holes you could put your hand through.'

Cope Tracey added: 'The council is letting more and more houses be built and the road can't cope with the lorries going up and down it.'

'If they are going to allow all these houses to be built then they should upgrade the road.'

On the way back to help this driver, she came across a Corsa with two punctures as well. Another driver told The Oban Times she also hit a deep hole in the road.

'I knew there were several deep, wide holes and had avoided hitting some but I didn't see this one. When my back wheel hit it, I felt the impact jar my spine all the way up and I was in pain for the rest of the evening and the next day.'

She said the condition of the road had been steadily deteriorating over the past few years, with edges crumbling away and it was time that it was resurfaced.

Councillor Roddie McCuish, deputes transportation spokesman for Argyll and Bute Council, said: 'I can confirm that I receive representations on a regular basis about the back road and the amount of traffic on it; it was never designed for that amount of traffic.'

A council spokeswoman said the road was inspected last on August 3, in accordance with the road maintenance asset management plan and no defects were found. 'The defect at Kilvaree was reported to roads operations in Oban on November 5. It was inspected within the hour, and a works instruction issued. The defect was repaired the following day using hot material,' she said.

'The defect was likely to have been caused by the adjacent ditch being blocked by a tracked excavator seeking access to work on land beside the road. This situation, which is impossible to police, caused water to course onto the road at the point where the defect appeared.'

The council is in the process of carrying out a strategic area capacity assessment (ACE) of this area following concerns raised about the capacity of the landscape to take more development. The results will be published and will be taken into account when planning consents for new houses are being considered by the council.

Oban's crumbling pavements to be fixed in a fortnight

Loose slabs and holes have caused injuries

CRUMBLING pavements in Oban's George Street, which were highlighted in The Oban Times, will be fixed within the next two weeks following a meeting between Argyll and Bute Council and trunk roads authority Transerv Scotland.

Loose slabs and holes in the pavement have caused a number of injuries to pedestrians this year and the two organisations met recently, agreeing that the council should carry out remedial work. Councillor Roddie McCuish, deputy spokesman for transport, said: 'Council officials and Transerv had a very productive meeting to identify each other's responsibilities and agreed that the council should carry out the repairs as soon as possible.'

'I am assured that this will be done within the next two weeks and I am delighted that Transerv was able to come around the table so quickly to discuss these problems.'

There will be a further meeting on wider road issues between the two parties on November 23.



Dunbeg Primary School donated shoeboxes to the Blythswood appeal. 08_146dunbeg01

Dunbeg children keep filling the shoebox fund

WHILE most children will be thinking about what they will receive from Santa this Christmas, children at Dunbeg Primary School have been in the giving mood. For the sixth year in succession the pupils filled 45 shoe boxes with gifts for the Christian charity Blythswood Care, through the charity's annual Shoebox Appeal. These boxes will be given to people in some of the poorest nations in Eastern Europe and the Middle East.

Among the items donated have been toiletries, clothes, stationery and sweets. Dunbeg Primary School head teacher Sine MacVicar said: 'It is important that the children think about others less fortunate than themselves at this time of year.'

'The children really enjoy doing it every year.'

Council sort street sewer spill promptly

A PROBLEM with sewers on Gibraltar Street in Oban was cleaned up swiftly by Argyll and Bute Council workers and Scottish Water staff.

It is understood that the untreated sewage was on the pavement outside a number of shops, and staff were concerned for public health. Despite the drains not being a responsibility of Argyll and Bute Council they sent staff to deal with the problem.

A spokeswoman for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'Our protective services team received a complaint from a local business regarding sewage discharge from a pavement access point.'

'Following a site visit we immediately contacted Scottish Water. The matter has now been resolved, with the blockage cleared and the spillage cleaned.'

School holiday error

AN ERROR in the original school holiday schedule for schools in Oban, Lorn and Mid Argyll has led to today (Thursday) being marked as a school day in public transport guides.

This means bus services showing a school day for this date will in fact be operating a school holiday timetable.

Some bus stop information panels may also show today incorrectly as a school day.

Argyll and Bute Council has apologised for any inconvenience caused.

Fine for heroin possession

AN OBAN man caught with heroin has been fined £330. Christopher Halbert, of 5 Graham Court, pleaded guilty by letter to having the drug in his pocket on the Glencruitten Road.

Oban Sheriff Court heard last week that on June 11 police officers approached the 30 year old in his car around half a mile east of Glencruitten Golf Course. They discovered a bag containing 0.7 grams of the drug.

Defending Edward Thornton said Halbert had recently developed a drug habit after going through a difficult period in his personal life. Mr Thornton added: 'For the past three months he has been drug free and Mr Halbert is determined it will stay that way.'

Oban man repays damages

AN OBAN man has been admonished for two crimes, after repaying more than £1,000 of damage.

Andrew McKenzie, of Flat 3-1, 19 High Street, had previously admitted throwing a brick through a shop window on March 8, causing £644 worth of damage. The 28 year old further pleaded guilty to damaging a door, mirror, heater and television at a flat in Soroba in a separate incident on March 14. The cost of damage was £480.

Oban Sheriff Court heard last week that McKenzie had passed £1,044 to his lawyer to be paid in compensation.



Ian MacLeod ran for Yorkhill Hospital

Run boosts Yorkhill

A CALEDONIAN MacBrayne steward has raised more than £2,000 for Yorkhill Hospital in Glasgow after completing his first charity run.

Iain MacLeod, of Jarvie Row, Mallaig decided to run the Baxter's River Ness 10k to boost the children hospital's funds after his sister's baby son was born prematurely and grew up without complications thanks to three months of intensive care in the world-renowned baby unit.

Iain, 43, who works as steward on the Isle of Mull ferry, raised £300 from workmates, while friends and family in Mallaig and members of the public in Craignure and Tobermory chipped in to take the total to an incredible £2,144. Ian said: 'I would just like to thank everyone who sponsored me.'

Advertisement for 'Put your business on the map for 2010!' featuring maps of Oban, Loch Fyne, and other local areas. Includes contact info for Anne Gardner and sales team on 01631 568000.

Advertisement for '2010 Calendars' featuring various scenic calendar options like 'Scottish Field', 'The Oban Times', and 'Isle of Arran'. Includes 'ON SALE NOW!' and contact info for Scottish Calendars.

Large advertisement for The Oban Times with text: 'Sound business needs sound investment. Promote your business the cost effective way. The Oban Times tried • tested • local. Call Fiona on 01631 568000 to find out how we can help promote your business. We are here to help'

Lismore

Your correspondent is Pauline Dowling: 01631 760293

Lismore remembers

ON AN overcast but calm morning, a moving act of remembrance was conducted at the war memorial by the Rev Dr Roderick Campbell, attended by members of the community from the oldest to the youngest.

Davie Garrett played the pipes and several people planted their remembrance crosses, including the new primary one pupils at Lismore school.

Celebration

FRIENDS and family of Duncan Maclean gathered in the hall recently to wish him a very happy 21st birthday and to enjoy the party and dance his family put on for him.

His aunt Janette Stewart proposed the toast and everyone present wished Duncan well as he begins his career at sea.

Exhibition of the Brooch of Lorn

FOR TWO weeks from November 12 to 26, visitors to the museum at Ionag Naomh Moluag can see a charm stone with healing properties thought to be one of a group of Scottish charm stones Crusaders brought from the east.

It is on loan from the Dunollie Trust.

Lochaline

Your correspondent is Alistair Scoular: 01967 421285

Community council AGM

MORVERN'S eleventh community council held its first annual general meeting in Lochaline hall on Thursday November 5.

Chairman Iain Thornber welcomed eight councillors, 25 members of the public and Forestry Commission Scotland's community forester for Morvern and Sunart Kirsty Mann.

Mrs Mann gave an interesting talk about forestry activities within the community council's area and about her involvement with the Sunart Oakwoods Initiative on both sides of Loch Sunart, which prompted one councillor



Oban Homebase staff celebrate as Andrew Spence hands Iain Forsyth his 1,000,000 Nectar points prize.

07_147nectar01

Points millionaire celebrates at Homebase

RETIRED teacher Iain Forsyth of Inveraray couldn't quite take it in when he was told he had won one million Nectar points from Homebase on his rewards card.

'They said, this is Homebase and you have won a prize,' said Iain, 'and when she said it was a million Nectar points I thought it was someone having me on.'

Iain was one of thousands of Homebase customers who transferred from the Homebase spend and save card scheme to the Nectar reward card

earlier in the year. When he used his card for the first time in Homebase, he was automatically entered into the nationwide prize draw and his name was first out of the hat when it was drawn.

Local

Oban Homebase manager Andrew Spence, who handed over the Nectar points worth £5,000, was delighted that out of 352 stores across the UK that it was someone local to the Oban store who had won the prize.

Iain, a retired technical subjects

teacher at Lochgilphead High School, was also delighted as he is normally a sceptical person when it comes to such prize draws.

'We see these things advertised and the people who have won and I always wonder if it's real but it's good to see it is.'

He said that he and his wife Elizabeth had been thinking of re-doing their kitchen and the points would probably go towards that.

Nectar card holders can collect and use points from participating companies.

to request that Morvern be incorporated into the oakwoods title. Before Mrs Mann left the meeting to connect with a late ferry at Ardour back to the Fort William area, she left a document for public perusal which detailed the total amount, £742,623, that had been allocated via Forestry Commission Scotland to estates, other landowners and community properties in Morvern.

With completion dates from 2001 to 2008, top of the local estates grants league table were: Glencripesdale, £191,829 followed by Ardtornish, £54,083; Drimmin, £47,110, and Rahoy, £40,327.

Grants were allocated for projects including rhododendron clearance, bracken control, fencing and deer control.

The community woodland at Achnaha gained a new

car park, an all abilities access, a Logosol mobile chainsawmill, thinning and chipping to provide material for paths constructed by Morvern Community Woodland volunteers, and other utilities, amounting to a total cost of £19,037.

Within the village, Lochaline's hazel woodland 'Coille a Challtain', the property of Morvern Community Development Company, was enhanced by a new footpath and tree felling for view improvement, enabled by a grant of £6,736. Care and maintenance here will continue through 2010/2011 funded by the strong possibility of a further grant of around £800 from Forestry Commission Scotland.

Following the presentation of the accounts by the treasurer Helen Watt, the chairman summarised the council's income and expenditure during its first year in office and continued: 'I am not a great believer in anything blowing its own trumpet, especially when it is only a year old, and I would much rather talk about the things we have not done rather than the things that we have done.'

'We could not have started at a harder time, with the closure of the sand mine, and I must pay tribute to Robin Smart and Malcolm McNeill in trying to persuade Tarmac, the mine owners, not to shut down. But I am quietly confident the mine will open again: it is just a question of time. Fortunately with careful housekeeping, the council has a modest sum in the bank, £5,925.74, which may see us through the worst of the recession, and I hope that the new Lochaline Primary School is not going to be caught up in this.'

'However the Scottish Government is offering incentives to communities such as ours on a scale never seen before, so we should take advantage of this and tackle some of the bigger issues, such as the production of food and the establishment of allotments.'

He concluded by stating that some of the council's future time would be involved with long-term business plans.

Rare swift sighting

SWIFTS, as their name denotes, are fast and graceful high summer migrants to more southerly parts of the UK and are rarely seen over Morvern.

So your correspondent could hardly believe that at lunchtime on Sunday November 1, he saw a swift flying around the Torr-na-faire area at an estimated height of around 250 feet.

Continuing a circular flight path for nine minutes, it then flew north towards Kirk Brae where local ornithologist Michael Dawson happened to be looking out of his living-room window and was equally surprised to see and confirm it was a swift.

It certainly beggars the questions: why so far out of season and why the completely wrong direction to be heading?

Further south, swifts are rarely seen after mid August as by that time they are flying down to feed on insects in the sub equatorial skies of the African continent.

Islay

Your correspondent is: Susan Campbell 01496 850215

Proposed Islay Youth Forum

A WORKING group of interested organisations and individuals is meeting to develop a new youth forum to identify issues and concerns young people have about the quality of life they experience living on the islands.

Initial meetings have involved a range of agencies and the next step is working with young people to see

whether and how they can get involved.

Also, three young people from Islay will be participating in a national course provided by Youth Scotland.

The course is designed to offer a practical introduction to youth work and will complement an introduction to youth and community work course being supported by Islay and Jura CVS, Argyll College and Argyll and Bute Council.

Christmas fairs

THE IDEAS Group Christmas Fayre will be held at the Resource Centre, Kilarrow House, Bowmore on Saturday November 21, starting at 10am.

Please go along and support the group's endeavours.

Kilmey Church's annual Christmas Fair will be held on Saturday November 21 from 2pm in Ballygrant Hall.

There will be a Christmas stall, baked goods, bric-a-brac, seasonal cards and teas. Goods are welcome at the hall from 10.30am. Donation on entry.

Islay and Jura CVS AGM

THE ANNUAL general meeting of Islay and Jura Council for Voluntary Service will be held on Thursday November 26 at

the Service Point, Jamieson Street, Bowmore, from 5.30pm to 7pm. All island voluntary organisations and members of the public are welcome to attend. The annual report and accounts will be presented to the meeting.

Kilchrenan

Your correspondent is Marilyn Henderson: 01866 833201

Community council

AT THE inaugural meeting of Avich and Kilchrenan Community Council at which Councillor Elaine Robertson and Jane Gilles, on behalf of Ken MacDonald, Area Corporate Services, attended, the following officers were appointed: Jane Organ, convener; David Crook, vice convener; David Price, secretary; and Jeanette Connor, treasurer.

Other members of the council: Christopher Bruce; Robert Connor and Graham Henderson. At the meeting, a presentation was given to Marilyn Henderson, retiring secretary/chairman, who had served on the community council for 17 years.

Killin

Your correspondent is: Judy Forster: 01567 820298

Primary pupils open Co-op

PUPILS were delighted to be asked to 'cut the ribbon' at the opening of the refurbished Co-op.

Thanks go to Aaron, Ewan, George, Liam, Lydia and Noah who performed the ceremony. Thanks also go to the Co-op staff for their hospitality and donation to school funds.

Perthshire open studies

PRIMARY three to seven children have been given the opportunity to get involved in 'Perthshire Open Studies'. Working with Dave Hunt,

photographer, the children will take part in a work shop lasting approximately 20 minutes for each class. Thereafter they will use their knowledge to discuss and select three views they would like to photograph.

Located entirely within the school building and grounds, the children will be challenged to photograph a view of the school, as you have never seen it before.

Using school cameras, they will work in small groups to photograph their chosen subjects. From three photographs the children will then select their favourite to be displayed at Wester Lix Studios prior being moved to the school where they will be on view at the Family Portrait Day later in the month.

There will be no cost to the school as printing and associated costs are sponsored by Open Studios, thus fulfilling one of their aims to promote education in the arts.

Winners

KILLIN Primary School was the lucky winner of football equipment following their entry to a Stirling Observer competition.

The prize, goal posts, nets and footballs, was sponsored by the Co-op. Duncan Stewart, manager, presented the prize to the Pupil Council.

Killin and Crianlarich Nursery

CHILDREN have been busy tidying the nursery gardens.

The children have become skilled in making bread rolls and 'Homecoming Scotland' will be celebrated on St Andrew's Day Music is part of the plan and if anyone would like to come and share their musical talent please get in touch.

Thanks to Tom Weir for help in the nursery.

In September a new after school group the Scripture Union held its first meeting of about eight children and four adults. The pupils have taken part in games, crafts and heard Bible stories.

Meetings are held every Tuesday from 3pm to 4pm and are led by Helen Young and Jo Robinson.

Alasdair Lunan assists and oversees the club. Claire Melia has also come along to help.



Barcaldine bonfire fun

The MacLarty family from Benderloch and Easdale enjoyed the Bonfire night at Dalrannoch Farm, Barcaldine. 16_146firework01



Virginia Mayes-Wright, Museum of Scottish Lighthouses Director, centre, with committee members of Appin Historical Society at the restored Sgeir Buidhe Light.

Lighthouse museum director visits Appin

DIRECTOR of the Museum of Scottish Lighthouses, Virginia Mayes-Wright, was the speaker at this month's meeting of Appin Historical Society.

She spoke enthusiastically about the preservation of artefacts at the museum and told several lighthouse stories. On her first visit to Port Appin since the restoration of the top section of the old Sgeir Buidhe light off Port Appin, she said how pleased she was with the work that had been carried out.

The old light belongs to the museum but has been on loan to Port Appin since being replaced by a safer solar-powered lighthouse in 2002.

A sub-committee of Appin Historical Society undertook its restoration and it now stands outside Port Appin Village Hall with panels describing history, wildlife and traditions in its windows.



Mrs Joy Cameron with her class of primary ones at Lochnell Primary School. 15_146loch02

Busy term for Lochnell primary ones

Lochnell primary one pupils are already well into the swing of school, having learnt to count to 20, write their own stories and all the colours of the rainbow. On top of all that, they have a friendly giant, Robbie, living above their classroom and occasionally leaving giant-sized objects for the children to find.

Around the Rurals

Salen

ON FRIDAY October 30, Salen SWRI held its Hallowe'en Fancy Dress Party in Salen School Hall.

Many children and their parents attended with a good audience. Fiona and Colin Newton were very busy judges. John Archibold was the MC, who kept the evening going very well. Sandy and Addie provided the music.

Results: Under 5s, Original: 1 Amber MacKenzie - Cave Girl; 2 Shannon Tangne - Autumn Princess; 3 Noah Gawthorpe - Spaceman. Humorous: 1 Lily Howitt - Flamingo Dancer; 2 Talia Carmichael - Raining Cats and Dogs; 3 Clara Howitt - Baby Pumpkin. Topical: 1 Ellen and Gemma MacRae - Witches; 2 Erin Mathieson - Witch Doctor; 3 Cameron MacVicar - Harry Potter.

Five to eight years, original: 1 Olivia Sexton - Female Devil; 2 Gothic Girl; 3 Ewan Gawthorpe - Knight. Humorous: 1 Tania and Matthew Heyman - Flintstones; 2 Iain Ralston - Mortitia; 3 Bailey Wild - Pirate. Topical: Abbie, Megan and Cailie MacFadyen - Ugly Sisters and Cinderella; 2 Fergus Richards - Zombie; 3 Emma and Nicola Noble - Witches in Training.

Nine to 13 years, original: 1 David Kievers - Headless Man; 2 Murdo MacLennan - Arab with

Gun; 3 Poppy Sedgewick and Grace Roche - Witch and Cat. Humorous: 1 Claire Tilley - Madge; 2 Scott Thompson - Wee Woman with Glasses; 3 Saffron Carmichael - A Game of Cat and Mouse. Topical: 1 Bethan Sexton - Hallowe'en Queen; 2 Matty Gawthorpe, Toran Richards and Matthew Sutton - Three Zombies; 3 Kyle Braid - Grim Reaper. Winner of the Pumpkin was Claire Tilley. After the parade the children enjoyed games and dancing organised by John Archibold.

This was followed by tea and cakes supplied the SWRI ladies.

The ladies of the SWRI thank everyone who helped out, especially the young girls and lads who were very helpful.

Lochawe

THE NOVEMBER meeting of Lochawe SWRI was an open night with visitors from Taynuilt and Dalmlaidh institutes in attendance.

President Mrs Christine MacDougall introduced the demonstrator for the evening Mrs Karen Mackie and her helper Mrs Sylvia Clark to the 33 ladies in the audience.

Mrs Mackie showed how easy it is to make flower arrangements for Christmas, including an attractive table centre piece on a cake stand. Next she made a cute mouse decoration for the

Christmas tree using three pieces of felt and a candy walking stick. The ladies then made a batch of nibbles from puff pastry, pesto, goat's cheese and tomato - a tasty combination savoured by everyone.

Mrs MacDougall thanked Mrs Mackie and Mrs Clark for three most enjoyable demonstrations.

Competition: Three Oatmeal Biscuits, judged by Mrs MacKie and Mrs Clark - Mrs T Orr, silver; Mrs J Ogden, Gold; Mrs P McLeod, Red.

An excellent tea was provided by hostesses Mrs P McLeod; Mrs M MacKenzie; Mrs T Orr and Mrs J Wylie.

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday December 2 at 7.30pm in Lochawe Village Hall. Visitors welcome.

Kilbrandon

PRESIDENT Linda Brown welcomed members to the November meeting of Kilbrandon SWRI, held recently in Seil Island Hall.

After business, including choosing menus for the Christmas meal, Linda led a paper craft workshop, demonstrating the use of templates to produce unique greetings cards.

Shona Neil thanked Linda for producing the craft packs, and for leading such an entertaining and informative evening.

Mechanic followed ambulance after drinking

A MECHANIC was over the limit behind the wheel as he followed an ambulance carrying his sick father-in-law from Glenachulish to the Belford Hospital, Fort William, a court heard.

Simon David Baines, aged 33, of 52 Daltonfold Road, Huddersfield, admitted driving on the A82 to Fort William with 75mcg of alcohol in 100ml of breath, just over twice the legal limit, on October 3.

Police came across Baines at the hospital beside a van and noted he smelled of alcohol, Fort William Sheriff Court was told.

Baines advised police officers at the scene he was going to drive a relative home to Glenachulish and admitted following an ambulance from Glenachulish to Fort William.

Baines' defence agent said that he had seen his father-in-law collapse and phoned an ambulance. 'The reason he drove is because he was concerned about his father-in-law,' he said. Sheriff Gordon Fleetwood fined Baines £675 and banned him from driving for 15 months.

Act now or ocean could split South Uist in half



Sgoil Lionacleit representatives at the Western Isles climate hearing: Chrissie Dick, teacher Mary Galbraith, Anna MacLellan, Joanna Thompson and Judith Roberston of Oxfam Scotland.

By STEPHEN NORRIS
SOUTH Uist could be split in half by the sea unless measures are taken to counter rising ocean levels, a ground-breaking conference has heard.

The warning came at Scotland's first 'climate hearing' on the island on Saturday as local people demanded action to prevent further loss of land, livelihoods and life.

The summit, chaired by Oxfam Scotland and held in the Borrodale Hotel, Daliburgh, heard testimonies from local people on how coastal erosion, rising sea levels and more frequent severe weather events threatened the islands' future and the ability of islanders to fish, croft and crop.

The Uists are deeply indented by the sea and have hundreds of low lying fresh water lochs separated from the ocean only by narrow strips of land.

Increased winter rainfall and more severe weather events were making the islands more vulnerable to flooding, they said, and unless better drainage and defence systems were installed South Uist could eventually split, making much of it uninhabitable.

Local people voiced concerns to a panel of agencies, including representatives from CoastAdapt, Scottish National Heritage and academics examining climate change impacts on the Western Isles. Residents referred to the January 2005 storm in which three generations of one family

were tragically washed off the causeway by a freak wave caused by a storm surge.

No progress on installing better defences had been made and early warning systems for dangerous areas were needed to prevent future loss of life, they said.

Kilphedar resident Seumas MacDonald said: 'The 2005 storm broke onto the Machair at Kilphedar. We see the land going and nothing has been spent to stop it. If money had been spent on the land, there could be quite a good defence system in place now. With the next storm that comes, the Machair will disappear all together.'

Ghille and loch fishermen Donald Campbell said: 'We are getting a lot more rain through winter into spring. Then last summer, we had ten weeks without any rain at all. This is affecting cropping and crofting.'

Ronald MacKinnon, chairman of Lochboisdale Community Council, added: 'We have already had loss of life here. We can't get much worse than that.'

Climate hearing chairman Judith Robertson, head of Oxfam Scotland, said: 'Why we have come to South Uist is that we want to understand the impacts of climate change from the perspectives of people who are living with it every day.'

'This isn't something that is happening in 20 or 30 years time. This is happening here and now, in Scotland, and we need to take action, before it's too late.'

Salen - a crime hotbed?

A SHERIFF asked a defence agent if Salen was a 'hotbed of crime' after a defendant claimed he had driven his van 150 metres from a local hotel to his home because it was filled with tools.

Sheriff Gordon Fleetwood made the remarks at Fort William Sheriff Court after Kenneth Duncan Morrison, aged 36, of Salen House Cottage, Salen, Acharacle admitted driving with 96mcg of alcohol in 100ml of breath, over twice the legal limit, on the B8007 at Salen on August 8 this year.

The court heard that Morrison had committed the offence after police had seen him drinking alcohol at the bar of the hotel earlier that night.

Procurator Fiscal Heather Swan told the court that police had attended at the hotel to carry out a licence check.

Ms Swan said: 'The police noticed the accused's vehicle in the hotel car park.'

'While on routine patrol at around 12.30am they observed the accused's vehicle being driven past them towards Ardnarnachan. They recognised the driver. He was followed a short distance but stopped of his own volition 150 metres from the hotel.'

'Officers reported that he smelled strongly of alcohol and his speech was slurred.'

Working

Defence agent Hamish Melrose said that Morrison, a self-employed builder, had been returning from working further afield and had called into the hotel.

'It seemed a ludicrous thing to do but he had his tools in the back of the van,' said Mr Melrose, to which the sheriff asked, 'Salen's a hotbed of criminality, of course?'

Mr Melrose replied: 'Well, it's tools in a work van.'

Sheriff Fleetwood said: 'He places his car 150m from his house, sees the police in the bar and then decides to drive?'

Mr Melrose said: 'Maybe he thought the police had finished their business and were away. It was 45 minutes later.'

Sheriff Fleetwood banned Morrison from driving for two years and fined him £1,125.

'The fine reflects your previous conviction and your level of alcohol,' added Sheriff Fleetwood.

Christmas fair and concert

THE ROTARY Club of Lochaber will hold its Christmas Fair in the Nevis Centre because of demand for stalls.

The free entry event on Saturday November 28 runs from 10.30am

to 4pm, more information 01397 706151. The following night sees the annual Rotary Concert supported by Lochaber Community Wind Band in Kilmallie Hall, Corpach, at 7.30 pm.

Highland tenants get a say

AROUND 100 Highland Council tenants are meeting in Inverness on Saturday to attend the first Highland Tenants' Conference.

The event, entitled 'Your home;

your community; your conference' aims to involve and engage more tenants in the future management and decision-making of their own homes.

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Bank worker stole £10,000 from customers' cheques

A FORT William bank worker who embezzled more than £10,000 from customers' cheques has been given community service.

Richard Shaw Davidson, aged 22, of 15 Grampian Way, Barrhead, Glasgow, admitted embezzling the money from customers' accounts at Halifax Bank of Scotland, Fort William, between August 1, 2006 and February 14, 2007. He has since paid the money back in full.

Fort William Sheriff Court heard

bank staff had noted he was paying money from cheques paid in by customers into his own account and at a subsequent fact-finding interview Davidson admitted to bank bosses he had taken the money.

Davidson's defence agent said: 'He was living away from home at the time and in a fairly junior employment situation. There is no real explanation for this behaviour

- it was temptation, foolishness

and irresponsibility, and extremely ham-fisted.'

Sheriff Gordon Fleetwood said: 'This is an offence that would ordinarily attract a period of imprisonment. But there are two things that weigh against imprisonment, your youth and lack of previous convictions and that you made full restitution.'

Sheriff Fleetwood imposed 160 hours of community service as a direct alternative to imprisonment.

Skye link to sea adventure

AN AUSTRALIAN sea captain believed to have his roots on Skye is to re-enact the 4,000-mile open boat 'Mutiny on the Bounty' voyage of Captain William Bligh.

Don McIntyre, aged 54, will sail across the Pacific from Tonga to Timor to raise funds for the world's first international research centre into Motor Neurone Disease, currently being built by the Sheffield Institute Foundation.

Talisker whisky is sponsoring the event and on Saturday the adventurer met fellow McIntyres at a clan reunion at the famous distillery.

Distillery lead guide Fiona MacIntyre said: 'As a MacIntyre myself and an employee at the distillery, it was a proud moment for Talisker to announce our sponsorship of this wonderful adventure and welcome Don to the Isle of Skye to meet his fellow MacIntyres.'

Student's birthday turns into nightmare

A LOCHABER student's birthday turned into a nightmare after he crashed a car into the garden of a house after driving while almost three times the legal alcohol limit.

Fort William Sheriff Court heard that David Peter MacKinnon, a student at Lochaber College, mounted a pavement and struck a woman before driving the vehicle down a flight of steps in a Fort William housing estate.

MacKinnon, aged 27, of Aonach Mhor, Torlundy, admitted dangerous driving and driving with 98mcg of alcohol in 100ml of breath on October 9 this year at Lundavra Road, Fort William. The legal limit is 35.

The court also heard that MacKinnon had only passed his driving test less than six months before the incident.

Procurator Fiscal Heather Swan told the court that at around 1.15am a number of people were walking along

Lundavra Road following a night out when they became aware of a car approaching from behind.

'As it closed on the group,' said Ms Swan, 'it mounted the pavement and the woman was struck on the right arm by the wing mirror of the car. It returned to the carriageway and swerved into the opposite lane.'

'A bang was then heard from further up the road. The car had gone through wire fencing and went down 15 concrete steps before coming to rest at an angle in the garden of a house.'

'He began to reverse the car up the steps towards the roadway but it was obvious the car was not going anywhere.'

Defence agent Stephen Kennedy said: 'Clearly the underlying factor is alcohol.'

'He had no intention of driving that day. He had placed

his car in the college car park. It was his birthday and he planned to socialise in the town and return home.

'But there was an argument between him and his girlfriend. She left and he made the mistake of deciding to drive to meet her.'

'He has expressed his shame and remorse and has tried to apologise to the lady he struck, thankfully she was not seriously injured.'

Sheriff Gordon Fleetwood said: 'I am satisfied that these are offences where if I were to impose a custodial sentence I would not be criticised.'

'But given your lack of record I will impose community service as an alternative.'

MacKinnon was banned from driving for three years and ordered to perform 240 hours of community service.

Youth Voice meets in Aviemore

HIGHLAND Youth Voice, the elected youth parliament for the Highlands, meets this weekend at Badaguis near Aviemore.

The conference has been designed by young people to look at issues such as living in the Highlands, employability, children's rights, child protection and internet safety.

The conference will be opened by Inverness Nairn and Badenoch and Strathspey MP Danny Alexander. A Sardinian delegation will also attend.



Kilchoan nurse Jessie Colquhoun receives her award.

Healthcare professionals honoured at awards

TWO LOCHABER healthcare professionals have been named as the best in Scotland in their field of work at the Scottish Health Awards 2009.

At a ceremony at the Edinburgh Corn Exchange, Jessie Colquhoun, duty nurse at Kilchoan Community Centre won the Nurses Award, while Clare Rungay and her Lochaber community mental health team scooped the Mental Health Care Award.

Jessie, who has given more than 50 years to the NHS in Scotland, was consistently nominated by students as an exceptional mentor. She also provides first aid training for the local fire and coastguard service, runs an exercise class for

over 50s in her own time and is rarely off duty. Clare and her team were nominated for the Mental Health Care Award by a bipolar patient grateful for the expert care and support she received at Fort William Health Centre.

Acting locality general manager for Lochaber, Tracy Ligema said: 'I am delighted that Jessie has won this award.'

'It is well deserved recognition of the unstinting dedication with which Jessie has served her community for so many years.'

'I have great pride knowing that Jessie is part of our team and I know that everyone of her colleagues and her community will share in that feeling.'

New power scheme set to re-invigorate community

A NEW hydroelectric scheme in Ardgor has the power to re-invigorate the community, according to the estate managers.

The £300,000 Kilmalieu Estate in Ardgor, developed by the Abernethy Trust with the support of Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Community Energy Scotland and with European Leader funding, could see electricity being generated for the grid by March.

Director of the Ardgor Centre Barry Edmondson says the installation will offer a vital income stream to allow continued growth of the charity's core outdoor education business.

Longer term, the trust wants to power the outdoor centre and the homes in the community at lower cost, with excess

electricity being sold to the network. He said: 'The hydro scheme fits well with the activity side of our business.'

'We are committed to the outdoor training but it is increasingly difficult for those running estates to rely on one income stream, like farming or tourism.'

'The direct benefits from the additional income will allow us to move the business forward much more quickly, as well as improving the environmental sustainability of our facilities.'

'The construction of the hydro scheme, added to the success we have enjoyed from expanding our activity holiday market into ski-ing trips to Switzerland, has created a real growth in confidence in the community.'

Eigg's green efforts recognised at House of Commons reception

TWO ISLE of Eigg women are attending a House of Commons reception today (Thursday) recognising the island's achievements in cutting carbon emissions.

Tasha Lancaster and Kathleen Miller, jobshare project managers for Eigg's Big Green Challenge year, will meet the nine other finalists from NESTA's Big Green Challenge competition at the function.

At stake is a £1 million prize, which judges will award to the community group making the most sustainable progress to a low-carbon lifestyle.

Maggie Fyffe, of the Isle of Eigg Heritage Trust, told *The Oban Times*: 'This is just a chance for them to meet the other competitors. We thought as they were the two who had done all the hard graft we would send them off!'

The Eigg team beat off competition from 355 other teams to become one of 10 finalists, winning a £20,000 grant to pilot their project to create a green island by halving their carbon emissions.

The team has now submitted the results of their carbon reducing initiative to the Big Green Challenge judges who will announce a winner in January 2010.

NESTA chief executive Jonathan Kestenbaum said: 'The achievements of these finalists are testimony to the power of communities and their ability to come up with truly ingenious solutions to the big challenges we all face.'

'Their passion, commitment and courage to tackle problems in an innovative way is an inspiration.'



Pupils brush up on Scottish history

Primary five pupils at Inverloch Primary School have completed a Scottish history project on William Wallace and Robert the Bruce and the Wars of Independence. The children made their own swords, spears, shields and re-enacted battles using puppets. One of the highlights of the projects was a trip to Laggan where they were taught archery skills and how those were deployed in battles fought in Scotland against the English.

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The children from St Columbas Primary School displaying their drawings for Children in Need

CHILDREN IN NEED CHARITY FEATURE

BBC Children in Need positively changes the lives and prospects of children and young people living in the UK who have suffered hardships, difficulties or disadvantages of some kind.

Each year the Charity provides practical and lasting support to thousands of youngsters aged 18 and under, including those who have experienced homelessness, neglect, abuse or poverty, and those who have encountered serious illnesses, disabilities, psychological disorders or addictions.

The Oban Times newspaper will MAKE IT LOCAL, by featuring the paintings done by children from St Columbas Primary

School. The paper will donate 20% of the advertising revenue to the BBC Children in Need Appeal.

The Oban Times would like to thank all the businesses who have featured on this page and the all the children, without whom this page would not be as exciting. Be proud that you have helped the BBC Children in Need appeal.



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The GRAB Trust
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The Oban Times is delighted to be able to do donate the sum of

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We would like to thank all those who advertised in our feature, whose support is so important.

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Police must act quickly

IT IS not surprising that rural communities feel alarmed when their usual peaceful security is disturbed by crime – all the more so when there seems to be a concerted campaign of thefts. Their added concern is that if police do not quickly catch or deter the thieves, their areas will be seen as easy targets by others. Neighbourhood watch schemes can be a help, but rural residents quite rightly would like to see a greater visible police presence and prompt action to nip any trends in the bud. Strathclyde Police says that will now happen – let us hope for a successful outcome.

Glasgow Letter

Stirling ceilidh Echoes of Oban

IT IS not an easy task to organise a ceilidh which you feel will be a crowd pleaser but the Stirling branch of An Comunn Gaidhealach certainly did their homework for its November ceilidh in Lesser Albert Halls.

For the singers they went for youth and experience and where better to start than with the only two Gaelic singers who are past winners of Radio Scotland's Young Traditional Musician of the Year.

Yes, both James Graham and Catriona Watt featured on the programme and, of course, they are also Mod Gold Medallists and Silver Pendant winners respectively.

They were the youngsters, though not short of experience, and they were ably assisted by Mod Gold Medallists Archie MacLean and Calum Ross in ensuring that the audience was treated to singing of the highest quality.

Not to be outdone, young piper Craig Sutherland, playing beautiful selections of tunes with exceptional skill, exhibited why he has won so many piping titles that his competitive career is on hold until he qualifies to enter at older age groups. What a talent he is and he also played for the delightful dancing of the two young girls from the Cluaran Dancers.

Jointly sharing the duties in the chair, Sumas Campbell and Mary MacColl would, under normal circumstances, have had an easy task but the sudden death of recently appointed branch president Les Bathgate made their task extremely difficult.

At the start of the ceilidh Sumas delivered a tribute to Les, a most reliable and committed branch member, friend to all and a gentleman ever willing to be of assistance. He will be sorely missed and our sympathy at this very sad time is extended to his wife Adrienne and the family.

Clydebank ceilidh

AS WITH Stirling, the Clydebank association still has a monthly ceilidh using the traditional format and I had the pleasure of being in the chair at the November event.

There was an excellent turnout and singers Alison Campbell, Kirsteen Grant, Iain MacLean and Sandy Sinclair treated the audience to a variety of favourites.

Andrew Caulfield piped to his usual high standard, Kirsteen displayed her multi talented skills as accompanist and Fiona Johnston provided the accordion selections.

Clarification

THE OBAN Times would like to make it clear that in last week's story about the withdrawal of NHS Highland funding to create a hospice at Oban, Lorn and the Isles Hospital, Ruth Moody, of North Argyll Carers Centre, was not referring to the hospital or any facility in the Argyll area when she spoke of 'the effects of a loved one dying in dreadful conditions can have a devastating effect on families'.

PRESS POLICY

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.

It is the policy of The Oban Times Group to correct any errors in print. If you find an error of fact on our pages please write to The Editor, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB giving your day-time telephone number where possible. This statement of policy will appear on this page every week along with any corrections or clarifications.

The Oban Times adheres to the Press Complaints' Commission's Code of Conduct.

The views expressed in *The Oban Times* are not necessarily those of this newspaper.



Lochnell Primary School Choir c1984

Isobel Campbell of North Connel submitted this week's flashback photograph which shows Lochnell Primary School Choir around 1984. Back row: Alan Forbes; unknown; unknown; Alastair McGregor; Fiona Ferguson; Angela McLeod; Rhoda Campbell; Sharon Holland and Elaine Munro. Front: Mrs Elsie Robb; Morag Buchanan; unknown; unknown; Jennifer MacLeod; Lorraine Reid; Caroline MacMillan; unknown; Catherine Silcox; Kirsty Muir; Diane Kerr; Victoria Gage and Mrs Sheila Kettles. The photograph was on display in Ardchattan Kirk in the Year of Homecoming Exhibition depicting 'The Way We Were'. Exhibition organisers thank everyone who helped make the exhibition a success by contributing to the memory books or donating or identifying photographs. 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

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Moving forward

Sir,
By way of an update to your story and editorial in last week's edition on Oban Hospice, readers will wish to know that a further meeting with management at Lorn and the Isles Hospital took place on Thursday November 12.

The initial outline of an interim development programme for palliative care has been agreed and more discussions will be held shortly.

May I also take this opportunity to correct any impression given in your article that in seeking these improvements, Oban Hospice is in any way critical of the first class clinical staff who provide the current service.

The high standards of skill, the compassion and the dedication of our doctors and nurses are much appreciated by everyone, especially by the patients and carers with whom they work.

Dr E M Armstrong, Chairman, Oban Hospice Limited.

'Gloves off' over Oban Hospice

Sir,
As a founder member, I was not surprised to read in your issue of November 12 that Oban Hospice Limited has yet again been denied support from the NHS.

In the past I have pressed the trustees on more than one occasion to go political but in their wisdom they stood out against such action.

Why, when other areas are able to provide full hospice facilities, is Oban treated in this way?

The fact that fully supported fund-raising throughout Argyll has accrued £300,000 shows people want it and are prepared to work for it.

To the trustees I say once again: 'It's gloves off. Time to take our case to Holyrood.'

W Raymond Shaw, Drimvargie Road, Oban.

Excellent palliative care

Sir,
I am writing with regards to the article published in last week's *Oban Times* referring to Oban Hospice.

I was extremely upset and disappointed to read the negative comments made

by Ruth Moody and Dr Mac Armstrong regarding the palliative care patients receive.

As the daughter of a patient who received palliative care for six months after suffering a sudden and unexpected stroke I would like to convey the feelings of our family.

The nursing staff in Oban hospital not only showed my mother the greatest amount of care and respect but supported us as a family, offering us every consideration and kindness.

They ensured my mum was comfortable and clean at all times and some staff even spoke to her in Gaelic, which she seemed to respond to.

This excellent care continued after she passed away with the staff showing so much care in the way they dealt with her personal possessions.

We as a family cannot express the amount of gratitude we have and are sure that there are many families in the Oban area who feel the same way.

I hope the nursing staff do not let these unkind and unfair comments dent their morale and know that many people admire and appreciate them greatly for the sometimes very difficult job they do.

Name and address supplied.

Exceptional staff

Sir,
Following your article last week regarding palliative care in Oban, I would like to share with you our recent experience.

My daughter-in-law Alison has spent the past 12 weeks on Ward C with advanced brain cancer and the standard of care that she has received could not have been bettered anywhere in the world.

The staff have been absolutely exceptional and we can not thank them enough for their total commitment to Alison's comfort and care.

We have felt truly privileged to have such a superb facility in Oban.

Jen Fitton, Moorcroft, North Connel.

Coll questions answered

Sir,
Marian Miller's article 'Crucial Coll hall meeting tries to answer £2.5m questions' should have been headlined 'Development Coll Limited successfully answers all questions

regarding £2.5m community centre'.

Those few citizens who are against the An Cridhe project for whatever reasons known only to themselves had their questions answered in full by Development Coll Limited directors and invited experts and the minutes make pleasant reading.

The meeting was not stage managed, just properly organised to avoid a shouting match where useful progress is impossible.

The anti-An Cridhe criticisms highlighted by Marian Miller from her various contributors regarding land valuation, project viability/sustainability, mandates and refurbishment of the undersized old hall were all comprehensively settled at the meeting and in a subsequent statement where a particular date requested was not readily to hand at the time.

As for comments like 'the island has been split', well naturally there are differences in the aspirations of the various component parts that make up our community. This project has merely shed light on those differences.

Peter Isaacson, Isle of Coll.

Easdale indignation

Sir,
I am writing to voice the protest and feelings of indignation of a broad range of Easdale Island residents with regard to the ongoing secrecy and lack of real consultation concerning 'development projects' which are purported to be on behalf of or in the interest of islanders.

The protest which I am writing of at this moment is not regarding the pros and cons of each scheme but rather the manner in which a small band of unelected individuals, both resident and non-resident, choose to recommend what is good for the island with apparent disregard of many people whose homes and lives are on Easdale Island.

The first many islanders knew about the Scottish Gas Energy project was the article in *The Oban Times* last week. Thank you *Oban Times* for keeping us informed.

These methods are not only unprofessional in relation to islanders, but also to those supporting the projects with funding.

Whether this is a form of misguided philanthropy or for reasons detailed in the

conclusions of the Public Local Inquiry Report of August 2007 or other, it is not clear, but the attitude of secrecy, along with the manner of consultations, when eventually carried out, do not provide for a sound foundation for a way forward.

Heather Chaplin, 3 Easdale Island, Oban.

Empathy over tourism signs

Sir,
I read with complete empathy the frustrations voiced by Fiona Hutchison of Kinlochlaich Garden Centre and Nicola and Laura, who've developed the fantastic Castle Stalker View Cafe, about Argyll and Bute Council's attitude to road signs.

The Scottish Government set out a clear mandate to achieve a 50 per cent growth in tourism by 2015. The Highland Council responded to that plan with a two-page report identifying: 'The Highland Council would consider this ambition is realisable given the right conditions. We will continue our work with VisitScotland to further develop tourism in the Highlands as one of our major industries' and the draft Corporate Plan target to 'increase the value of tourism by four per cent per annum to £700m by 2010'.

It is incredible therefore that the planning department should be placing additional, avoidable impediments in the way of Highland tourism businesses.

Ice Factor last year attracted more than 138,000 visitors and a study by Robert Gordon University indicated Ice Factor injects £4.2m into the local economy.

Despite that, we have one road sign at Glencoe junction. We applied for signs on the approach to Glencoe and at North Ballachulish but eventually were only granted consent for a single brown sign.

To the passing motorist, which accounts for 62.9 per cent of all Highland visitors, they see, if they are lucky, a sign that states Ice Factor - not our National Centre Status, Four Stars, multiple awards for tourism excellence or any indication we are the UK's premier adventure centre. Just the words 'Ice Factor'. We've got the great facilities, but we need to be allowed to tell our visitors what and where they are.

Jamie Smith, The Ice Factor, Kinlochleven.

A VIEW FROM THE TOWER

By McCAIG

SNP shocked but not surprised

WHAT a mess the Returning Officer and his staff made of last Thursday's count for the North-East Glasgow by-election.

We had been told throughout the evening that it was a very low poll - a record for the constituency as it turned out - and that the result should be known around midnight.

At regular intervals, this was updated to 'around 1am, then 1.30am and finally 2am or thereabouts.'

The latter was right but we should have been given a statement from the Returning Officer as to why, apart from the police taking away three 'dodgy' ballot papers, there was this absurd, unexplained delay.

Admittedly, there were an inordinate number of hopeless candidates who were prepared to waste their deposit of £500 and a great deal of shoe leather - all for 13 votes as one hopeful got.

While I'm all in favour of the right of anyone to stand, there should be some gentle persuasion by the election officials to point out what contesting a parliamentary constituency entails and that to persistently put your name forward without any hope of winning is an abuse of the process.

Surely John Smeaton of the 'Jury Party' has had many more times his '15 minutes of glory' and should fade from the limelight with his MBE and a chat with the Queen to do a sort of toastmaster role at functions at which someone minimally famous is required.

Somehow the almost unanimous view of the political journalists was that as far as this by-election was concerned the SNP was a 'busted flush'. The candidate was a third choice and didn't have much of a record - he stood for them in a Falkirk by-election and did abysmally badly.

He didn't impress the Springburn electors nor his 'minders' who were as enthusiastic as mortuary attendants are when the freezing facilities break down.

Obviously, Alex Salmond Esquire realised early on this was one by-election he should give a body-swerve to as it was lost before the campaign started.

Why? Could it be that even the electorate of Glasgow North-East had noticed how many electoral promises have been broken or 'postponed' and want promises fulfilled today as even Labour has always managed at least some of them.

'They speak with forked tongue'

WHEN I first learned that some 'whey-faced youth' in the planning department had been allowed to cause unnecessary trouble for businesses in rural Argyll, I wondered which zealot within the planning department wanted to be 'bolshie' and teach those who dare to open up businesses in rural Argyll that they may get the necessary permits to do so, but don't let them ever expect to be allowed to advertise what these enterprises make or sell.

And the current councillors are equally to blame for a number of reasons.

Don't let rural businesses tell anyone what they are about, what they offer, or invite passing traffic to stop and visit their premises.

Yet these same officials happily pollute towns, villages and isolated hamlets with a plethora of road signs of inordinate size and great swathes of language which about half a per cent of those who study them can understand until they get it: the top language is Gaelic which underneath neither of which may mean anything to many of our visitors.

On the other hand, the signs erected by private enterprise are attractive, tell everyone succinctly that this is a garden centre, a smokery, a restaurant or a historic building. These are what are essential to the continued existence of a thriving rural Argyll.

Let well alone

DON'T let us totally malign 'the little boys and girls' in the planning department as they sometimes realise that they didn't get it right first time round.

Many councillors have had to have their constituents' doors, blasting the 'boys and girls' out of the pub, demanding that they 'leave well alone' on penalty of more than just things 'going bump in the night'.

So the planners come up with even more idiotic proposals: 'if the businesses agree to remove all their signs they will permit a dirty big sign to tell anyone who might want to know what goes on in this town, village, hamlet or island bi-lingually of course!'

Common sense says: 'leave well alone!'

Support for National Trust

Sir,
I am writing to thank readers for their generous support of the National Trust for Scotland this summer.

As well as visiting properties, local people support our charity and its vital conservation work through volunteering, by becoming members or buying membership as a gift for friends and family and through donations.

Arduaine Garden remains open thanks to the contribution of a generous donor. A local support group has also been established and we are working on plans to raise an endowment fund for Arduaine to ensure its future.

Kate Mavor, Chief Executive, The National Trust for Scotland.

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.

Another ban for Mull driver

A MULL woman with less than three months of a driving ban left to serve has been disqualified for a further two years.

Zoe Goodwill, of 24 Riverside Court, popped out to the shops in Tobermory in the early evening of October 16. On the way back, the 25 year old was stopped by police officers who received information about her licence, Oban Sheriff Court heard last week.

She pleaded guilty to driving while disqualified and without insurance, following a drink driving conviction in 2008.

Defending Goodwill, Duncan Durbin said: 'I'm not sure whether it was the security of Tobermory of not giving any thought to her actions.'

As well as being banned from driving for two more years, Goodwill was fined £800.

Mull mussel farm sold

A MUSSEL farm on Mull has been sold at auction for £30,000.

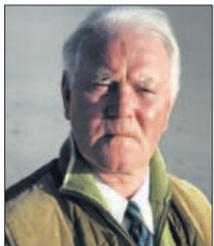
Property auctioneers SVA sold Tobermory Mussel Farm in Tobermory Bay, near Aros Park, as a going concern.

Started three years ago the site was described as being 'established and approaching a first harvest' with 'room for expansion'.

The site was one of 30 lots sold on November 4 through SVA, which sells everything from residential properties to commercial premises to redundant Scottish Water sites all across Scotland.

Shaun Vigers, director and auctioneer, said: 'There was some serious money in the room and the majority of people who attended were serious about doing business.'

'Interestingly, we are very aware that the canny buyers are land banking - buying at the bottom of the market with a view to sitting on the properties, taking their time to sort out planning issues and being ready to sell when the market picks up.'



Gus Macaulay

New leader for society

A NEW leader has been appointed to Uist's marine society, Comann Na Mara (CNM), following the sudden passing of its founder and chairman, Dr John MacLeod, in September.

Gus Macaulay of Cnoc an Torrain, North Uist has been elected chairman of the board of trustees, and has vowed to continue Dr MacLeod's work and vision for the organisation.

Mr Macaulay is an experienced television and radio producer who now works in the development of new media projects. He also has a three-year ambassadorial role as a foundation member of the University of the Highlands and Islands Millennium Institute.

As well as inviting marine biologist Andrew Rodger of Berneray to head up a scientific sub-group, Mr Macaulay has laid out a programme of events for development which he hopes will raise awareness of CNM and its work around Lochmaddy Bay.

Mr Macaulay said: 'Discussions are underway to set up an annual yacht race and an international open piping competition centred around songs of the sea.'

Former Islay woman leaves £1m to RNLI

A FORMER Islay woman and her husband have left a legacy of £1 million to the Royal National Lifeboat Institute.

Bruichladdich native Molly (nee McDiarmid) Brown died in October 2006 and her husband, Hugh, passed away in February this year.

The couple, who latterly lived in Kinghorn, Fife, were

sailing enthusiasts and Hugh was twice rescued by the RNLI in the Firth of Forth.

The RNLI has allocated most of the generous legacy to projects across Scotland including funding three years of crew training of the Islay RNLI lifeboat crew as well as the next planned maintenance for Islay RNLI lifeboat.

Islay McEachern, lifeboat operations manager for Islay, said: 'All at Islay Lifeboat Station were amazed to learn of the magnificent legacy left to the RNLI by Hugh and Molly Brown and we are grateful to note that a sum has been allocated to our station.'

'Training forms an important part of station

activity and this generous donation will ensure that our crew continue to train at the highest level.'

'The donation will also assist to maintain our boat to the exacting standards required to fulfil its role of saving lives at sea.'

'This legacy reflects the generosity and thoughtfulness, both at local

and national level, which allows the RNLI to maintain its operations.'

Hugh and Molly met and worked in India but spent their retirement years in Kinghorn, where they were supporters of the RNLI and made numerous donations including a £20,000 gift, which funded the trailer for the new Kinghorn lifeboat.

Island in running for £400,000 Lottery funding Big hope for Kerrera

AN SOS by the island of Kerrera has been heard by the Big Lottery Fund.

The island is one of five communities in Scotland and 28 in the UK to be shortlisted for Village SOS, an initiative by the Lottery and the BBC to inspire revival in rural communities.

The aim is to choose six communities to develop new business ventures and breath new life into their areas, creating jobs and improving the quality of life for locals. The winners would each receive up to £400,000.

The Isle of Kerrera Development Trust has put forward a proposal to build a community centre on the island, in the style of an old-

fashioned inn, with a meeting hall and a café, that could be used for island projects and to host special events like weddings. It would have visitor accommodation above.

Project officer for the Isle of Kerrera Development Trust Louise Moran said: 'We are all delighted and excited at this news.'

'The Isle of Kerrera has virtually none of the public services that other communities may take for granted.'

'Our school closed some 12 years ago and our children have to go by small open ferry to Oban.'

'We have no shop, village hall, pub, policeman, doctor

or nurse. Our project will build a community centre which will be so much more than that.'

'It will provide a place for our community to meet and socialise together. In short, this would transform the lives of our islanders.'

Success

Argyll and Bute MSP Jim Mather said: 'This is one more excellent example of a small west coast community seeking to improve facilities on its island and has achieved success in moving on to the next stage of the Big Lottery Village SOS competition.'

'Kerrera Primary School closed some time ago and with it went a point of focus of the community.'

This ambitious project could provide much more by providing a social hub for the island and islanders as well as much needed facilities for visitors to Kerrera.'

All 28 villages shortlisted will be offered a grant of up to £10,000 to develop their business proposals.

To help them will be professionals, known as 'village champions' and found through a nationwide search run by the BBC and Enterprise UK, who will live and work with the successful six villages for a year.

BBC One will document the projects' journey for a six-part series following the ups and downs as the

'champions' move into their chosen villages and work begins.

In May 2010, the final six communities will be announced and their respective village champions will move in for a year to help them turn their business idea into a reality.

The other communities in Scotland are a sea life tourist attraction and community hub in Lochinver in the Highlands; a recycling centre for cooking oil in Catrine in East Ayrshire; a sustainable energy supply project in Eskdalemuir in Dumfries and Galloway; and plans to create a new community focal point for people living in West Wemyss in Fife.



Coll girls sweet idea for Children in Need

THREE young girls from Coll have worked hard to raise £65.68 for Children in Need. Niamh Brady, Luisaidh Henderson and Maria MacIntyre, pictured, decided to make bags of assorted tablet to offer in return for donations during the annual bonfire and fireworks event. On the Saturday afternoon the girls were up to their elbows in icing sugar as well as other sweet ingredients. The delicacies were very popular and their basket emptied quickly. Thanks went to sub postmistress Fiona Kennedy for her advice and for providing the stickers and collection bucket.

More hedgehogs removed from Uists

MORE than 100 hedgehogs have been trapped in Benbecula in the latest phase to try and reduce their numbers on the Uists.

The 109 hedgehogs trapped in the Uist Wader Project were handed over to Uist Hedgehog Rescue and transferred to the mainland.

The success of the project is seeing the number of hedgehogs in Benbecula continuing to fall in an effort to remove the non-native creatures that have a devastating effect on ground nesting wader birds by eating their eggs.

Gwen Evans, UWP manager, said: 'We are pleased with these latest figures which show that the trapping is working - we are catching fewer for a given amount of effort, and we are continuing to have a positive impact on hedgehog numbers. This success on Benbecula can be built on and we will use these results to help in reviewing our future plans.'

After several seasons of recording no catches on North Uist, a hedgehog was spotted by a crofter in Bayhead on North Uist.

Traps were placed around the location and a further three hedgehogs caught.

These hedgehogs formed part of the three batches taken to the mainland by UHR as part of the autumn fieldwork stage of the project.

Uist Wader Project is a partnership of Scottish Natural Heritage, RSPB and the Scottish government.



Beachd Ailein

'Cumaibh a' stri, oir tha aon rud cinnteach, nuair a gheibh sibh fòghlam Gàidhlig gabhadh fada a' bharrachd cothrom air na tha deònach sabaid air a shon!'

Tha mu chòig bliadhna deug bhon a thuir boireannach sin aig coinneimh a bh' agam ann an Glaschu mu fhoghlam Gàidhlig. Cha do nochd mòran oir bha "caochladh rudan eile a' dol!". Nach b' eòlach mise air an leigseal sin, co-dhiù 's ann a' feuchainn ri fiosrachadh a thoirt dha Buill Pàrlamaid, Comhairlichean, neo coimhearsnachdan a bha sinn bha rudan eile a' tighinn as an rathad. Ach tha ùine air dearbhadh gum robh am boireannach a thug a' mhisneachadh dhùinn ceart, agus nach taitneach a bhith a' faicinn mar a tha foghlam Gàidhlig a' fàs far am faigh e an cothrom. Ach feumar cothrom ghoireasan agus taice a thoirt dhà airson adhartais.

"Carson a dhèanadh e atharrachadh? Cha dèan e atharrachadh sam bith!" Beachd a chuala mi aig fear a bha a' cur taice ri fosgladh ghoireasan spòrs Leòdhais air an t-Sàbaid. Ged a tha mi ag aontachadh gum bu chòir dha na goireasan a bhith fosgailte is an roghainn aig an t-sluagh an cleachdadh neo an seachnadh, chan eil mi idir ag aontachadh nach toireadh sin atharrachadh air dòigh beatha Leòdhais. Mar a thuir an tèile a thaobh an fhoghlaim Ghàidhlig, nuair a bhios an cothrom ann gabhar e gu ìre nas motha na tha daoine 's dòcha an dùil, agus bheir sin buaidh air faireachadh agus iomhaigh Sàbaid an eilein.

Tha Caledonian Mac a' Bhriathainn ag innse gum bheil aiseag na Sàbaid eadar Steòrnabhagh is Ullapool cho trang ri seirbheis a th' aca, agus nach eil sin na dhearbhadh air mar a thèid rùn an t-sluaigh a nochdadh far am bi an cothrom.

Fichead bliadhna' air ais, glè fhaig air an aon àm ris an robh tè Ghlaschu gam mhisneachadh chaidh am balla a bha a' sgaradh slughan an ear is an iar na Gearmailt a leagail agus fhuair daoine saorsa siubhal! Bhon uairsin chaidh structar dhumannach na Ruis às a chèile agus ged a tha a thrioblaidhean fhèin aig na chàile agus chan eil teagamh nach do dhearbhar na duilgheadasan a tha an luib a bhith a' cumail dhaoine fo cheannsal riaghailtean an aghaidh an toil.

'Keep fighting,' said a lady at a meeting in Glasgow some 15 years ago, 'because when you win Gaelic Medium education more will use it than are willing to fight for it!' Happily time has proved her right, and it is hugely encouraging to see GME flourishing.

'Nothing will change,' said a campaigner for Sunday opening of Lewis sports facilities. While I support his argument for people to have the choice, I don't agree about the impact. Shortly before the time the Glasgow lady was encouraging me the Berlin wall fell and gave people freedom to travel. The collapse of the Soviet system demonstrated that people will not be corralled by policy they do not support.

Aileen Caimeul (Allan Campbell)
ailean@obantimes.co.uk

Woman to contest ASBOs

A 59-YEAR-old woman is challenging two anti social behaviour orders which were granted ad interim against her.

Argyll Community Housing Association was granted two ASBOs ad interim at Campbeltown Sheriff Court on October 14 by Sheriff Ruth Anderson QC who heard allegations that one of its tenants, Mrs Ann Walton was abusive to neighbours and that the way she fed

wild birds at her home at Castleacres, Campbeltown, attracted large numbers of seagulls.

The case was again before the court last Friday when Mrs Walton was not present but her solicitor said she intended to defend the action.

The case was sisted for Mrs Walton's legal aid application to be determined and the ad interim orders were continued.

Armistice Day troopers visit 24 war graves on Mull

TROOPERS from the Scottish Frontiers Yeomanry Volunteers on Mull visited 24 war graves all over the island on Armistice Day to pay their respects to fallen comrades.

A specially made wooden cross was left at each grave visited between dawn and dusk and respect paid in silence and remembrance.

Each one has been listed for future visits and will be cared for, said commandant of the Scottish Volunteers Ken Walker, although some are 'known only to God' and others 'sailor unknown'.

'The early evening found us at Tobermory Cemetery,' said Commandant Walker, 'where we found we had no cross for the last grave.'

'Troopers placed their own poppy out of their jackets and it was a poignant touch.'

'Rather than a sad occasion, we

rejoiced to bring these unforgotten sons into our family of comrades, vowing to visit each year or, if not us, those who come after to take up the caring.

'Our regiment has lasted for more than 100 years and many gave all, and we intend to keep the tradition of caring alive and into the next century.'

'I would ask any resident who can assist us in constructing crosses and wreaths or just to be with us, to please do so, for we are all volunteers.'

On the prior Sunday, the volunteers presented a wreath and squadron standards, by veteran Danny Lamont, at Tobermory war memorial.

Later a wreath was cast into the sea helped by boat skipper Jim Fairburns and piper Brigade Sergeant Jim Baron played a lament at both.

Thanks were given to everyone who made both days a success, especially Pete Smith and Jim Simson.



A wreath is about to be cast into the sea.

Craft fair for Seil

A CHRISTMAS craft fair will be held on Sunday, December 6 from 11am-4pm in Seil Island Hall with proceeds from the day being shared between the island's sports hall, primary school and amenities group. A group from Seil Island Hall recently missed out on raising money through the Peoples' Millions Lottery and are looking at other funding options to raise cash to build a children's play park on the island. Some of the proceeds from the craft fair will go into the play park fund.

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My Village Taynuilt

What makes Taynuilt special for you?

It's the place I have made my home, raised my family, and carried out my business. The villagers made me very welcome when I came here as a boy, and are still doing so today.

There is a great community spirit here and the village still retains the values of a traditional Highland village, while still growing and welcoming new families all the time.

Does it have an interesting history?

There are too many events of note to list in one article but arguably the most important historical events that took place in Taynuilt are still evident today.

The Callander and Oban Railway arrived in Taynuilt in 1880 and secured the village's place as a popular calling off point on the Victorian visitor's grand tour of the Highlands. Taynuilt still has a railway station offering services to Oban and Glasgow but the old timber station, which for a while had the Station Tap Bar, recently burnt down. It was one of the last original stations on the line. Perhaps the most important event for the

village's growth was the Bonawe Iron Furnace, which brought a lot of workers here.

It produced anything up to 700 tons of iron per year from 1753 to 1876. It was run by English iron masters and the iron produced made cannonballs for Nelson's fleet. Following the battle of Trafalgar in 1805 the men from the furnace erected Nelson's Monument in the village and it is claimed it was the first monument erected following his death.

The furnace is now in the care of Historic Scotland and open to the public.

The Taynuilt Hotel, which has remained a hub for the village, made its name as an old coaching inn and was a staging post for travellers along this route. The village grew around the hotel and takes its name from it; Taigh-an-Uillt is 'house by the burn' in Gaelic.

How important is it to Argyle? What does it offer that other villages can't?

Taynuilt is important to Argyle in the sense that it is a growing, vibrant community, with a wealth of talent to offer. It helps provide power



Davie Thomson came to Taynuilt from Kintyre as an apprentice joiner but became so attached to the place that he made it his home and began his own joiners firm. He is a mainstay of the Taynuilt Highland Games and a driving force behind two of the village's most popular sports clubs, Taynuilt Golf Club and Taynuilt Shinty Club.

to the national grid from Cruachan Power Station and Beinn Glas Wind Farm.

Taynuilt offers a wide range of sporting facilities which many other villages of comparable size cannot match. Most, or all of these facilities, have been funded and built by the villagers, including a nine-hole golf course, playing fields, an all-weather, floodlit pitch for tennis and other sports, all-weather cricket wicket,

and a sports pavilion.

We are fund-raising to provide a children's playpark on the sports field. Of course, we also have the annual Highland games, which is a popular attraction for locals and visitors alike.

We are also in the fortunate position of having our own butcher's shop, a post office, a village shop that sells pretty much anything you need, a tearoom and a toy shop, all in the main street. How many other villages can say they have all of those?

In 2001 Inverawe Smokehouses was awarded a royal warrant by Her Majesty the Queen and now provides hampers for the royals. **How would you describe the village to someone who has never been there?**

Firstly, I would point out for 42 years and now consider myself to be a local!



Kelly's Pier on Loch Etive provides a wonderful setting for a beautiful day.

the excellent range of shops in the main street, as well as the tearoom and hotel serving first class food.

On a sunny day there are few more beautiful places to go walking and when it rains, there is always something to do.

We also have good transport links to Oban and Glasgow.

For holiday visitors, there are many self-catering establishments and most importantly a warm welcome awaits.

For those that wish to make their home here, we are fortunate to have an excellent school, sports facilities and many other activities to suit all ages and tastes.

Were you born in the village? How long have you lived there?

I was born in Kintyre but moved to Taynuilt to begin my apprenticeship as a joiner when I was 16.

I have now been here for 42 years and now consider myself to be a local!

How much has the village changed since you were a teenager?

The village has changed a lot in the years since I arrived here. It has grown considerably and now has a population of more than 1,000.

The Main Street has remained more or less the same, although we have lost a couple of shops, particularly 'Seonaid's' sweet shop which many people still miss.

But on the whole, the heart of the village and sense of community stays - that is very important, regardless of how the village changes.

Do you have a favourite place in the village?

My favourite place in the village is the hill above my house on the common grazing, from where you get a great view of the whole village, up Glen Etive towards Ben Starav, and down towards Bonawe and Ardochattan. I like to sit up there in the summer time and take in the majestic views - everything seems right with



Taynuilt Main Street with Ben Duirinnis in the background. t47tay02

the world for at least a wee while.

Do you have a favourite time of the year in the village?

My favourite time is autumn when the colours of the trees are most beautiful and the large horse-chestnut tree at the war memorial starts to shed its leaves.

Glen Nant at this time of year is spectacular, offering

fantastic photographic opportunities.

What do visitors like about the village?

Visitors come to Taynuilt to enjoy the outdoors, whether to camp, climb, walk, fish, sail, play golf or paint our beautiful scenery.

They enjoy the friendliness of the people and the fact that after visiting the village once, they will be warmly

welcomed on their return visit. A lot of people come to climb the Munro Ben Cruachan, which towers over the village.

Is there anybody famous from the village?

Karen Matheson and Donald Shaw, founder members of Capercaillie were born and brought up in Taynuilt. Also the late Kenny McIntyre, BBC political journalist and reporter, was born here.

What are the challenges facing the village, or how could it be improved?

Among the challenges facing the village is the need to maintain the community spirit and values as the population grows.

Also the infrastructure must be improved to accommodate the increase in numbers and the traffic that this brings.

It is also important that the young people of the village can find employment locally and keep Taynuilt a community that is young and vibrant.

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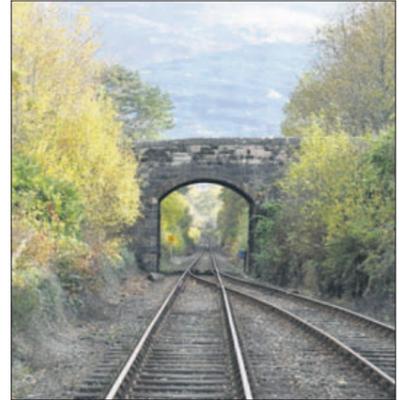
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Nelson's Monument stands in the shadow of Ben Cruachan.



The road through Taynuilt passes over the railway. Ben Cruachan is pictured in the background. 07_t44tay01

25 Years Ago Those Were The Days
The Oban Times
Thursday, November 22 1984

'Dunstaffnage Castle was stolen' claims American
AMERICAN millionaire Stuart McAlpine will be arriving in Oban on Friday when he will visit Dunstaffnage Castle.

He wants to buy the castle to open a Clan McAlpine centre; and, he claims, to restore the castle to its rightful owners.

Mr McAlpine believes that Dunstaffnage was stolen by the Campbells in the 13th century.

After starting out in real estate and electronics in America, Mr McAlpine is now a millionaire.

He told The Oban Times this week that he had been keen to come back to his roots in Scotland for some time.

Dunstaffnage Castle is the property of the Queen and is not for sale.

The Duke of Argyll threw cold water over his plans to purchase Dunstaffnage. 'It is a royal castle, it is not for sale, and even if it were it is not a practical place to stay.'

Asked about Mr McAlpine's claim that the castle had been stolen by the Campbells, the duke replied: 'The Campbells did not steal it - over the years they have had more stolen from them than they have ever relieved other people of.'

Tiree Aerodrome concern
THERE is continuing concern on Tiree about the future of the island's aerodrome.

Along with others in the Highlands and Islands, Tiree has been offered for sale by the Civil Aviation Authority.

But unlike other aerodromes, Tiree is for sale in separate lots. The main airport area is for sale separately from the total land area owned by the CAA.

Crofters on the island have been using part of the land for grazing for several years, and they have now grouped together in an attempt to buy the grazing land at the reef.

Meanwhile, Alex MacArthur, the island's district councillor, has been pursuing the question of how much land is to be sold as an aerodrome and the security of future air services.

Big jump in Lochaber jobless
A JUMP of 100 on last month's figures shows the number of Lochaber's unemployed now standing at 1,362, with the increase virtually all due to the seasonal dismissal of 98 female workers.

New members of Kinlochleven body
THE MEMBERS of Kinlochleven Community Council appointed to serve for the ensuing period are John Blair, John Anderson, George Robertson, Annie Mitchell, Mavis Finnigan, Phyllis Tod and Christine Glenday.

Highland regional councillor Tom Peddie and district councillor Albert Robertson serve ex-officio and Constable David Mateer, who was co-opted to the previous council but is as yet not on the electoral register, has been co-opted again.

It is not the intention to fill the remaining vacancy at present if at all.

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Across

- Desert creature (6)
- Loud laugh (3-3)
- Blur (4)
- One who tells (8)
- Gossip (7)
- Project (5)
- Old gold coin (5)
- Tip-off (7)
- Run (8)
- One way to stand by (4)
- Juice extractor (6)
- High praise (6)

Down

- Vinyl player (2-2)
- Petty officers... (7-2-4)
- ...and one of his superiors (7)
- Removal of items belonging to someone else (5)
- Blameworthy (13)
- Drawn (8)
- Schooled (8)
- Wall coverer (7)
- Another place (5)
- Game pieces (4)

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I	N	T	E	C	G	A					
N	I	T	R	E	T	O	E	H	O	L	D

Festive Times

Your essential guide to Christmas

Inside:

Christmas gift guide
Puzzles & games
Festive Food & Drink
Dining Out
Christmas Recipes
Gig guide

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Festive Times

Do you realise it is only five weeks until Christmas? Honestly, it is! Yes, December is nearly upon us and if like half the rest of the population you haven't even started thinking about Christmas, this is likely to lead to slight feelings of panic and anxiety.

It's amazing how we have 52 weeks in which to think about what we are going to do at Christmas, ideas for presents for our loved ones and what we would like to have for Christmas dinner but every year, without fail, it all falls into the last minute.

And then there's the money aspect - or lack of it this year, with the recession cutting through all levels of society. But that doesn't mean you have to turn into Scrooge this Christmas, just think a little bit more laterally. That's why we've put together these festive pages full of ideas to help find that present or venue for a night out that might be a bit different.

With the price of fuel as high as it is, now is the time to open your eyes to the opportunities on your doorstep.

For starters, where better to buy your festive food than locally? Award-winning restaurants across the country queue up to buy top quality, fresh produce from the West Highlands and islands - that means it has to be good enough for your Christmas dinner table too.

Not only that, most local venues, from hotels to restaurants and pubs to cafes have also cottoned on to the fact that there is the most fabulous larder on their doorstep.

Order in that turkey or goose or venison or beef or lamb locally, forage through the smoke houses and local produce markets, find the freshest scallops and prawns, delve into the delights at your local deli - you'll be amazed at just how much is sourced or produced locally.

That's the food sorted.

But Christmas is also about getting out and about, meeting friends, having a laugh over a drink or a meal, catching up with those who have been away and come home for the festive season.

Or perhaps you want to get away for a few days, but not too far. So why not take advantage of the relatives who have volunteered to visit you and make use of their babysitting services by booking yourself into a guesthouse or hotel for a couple of nights!!

There's nothing like a different setting to refresh the soul and ring the changes and a romantic night not too far away might be just the Christmas present your other half is looking for instead of another pair of socks or another bottle of bath foam.

You could also save yourself the hassle of postal strikes from internet buying and the crowds of Christmas shoppers in the city by going local for your Christmas presents too - there can be some really imaginative presents if you just have a look.

Look to the seas for something out of the ordinary - a boat charter, wildlife cruise or exploration of a new shore.

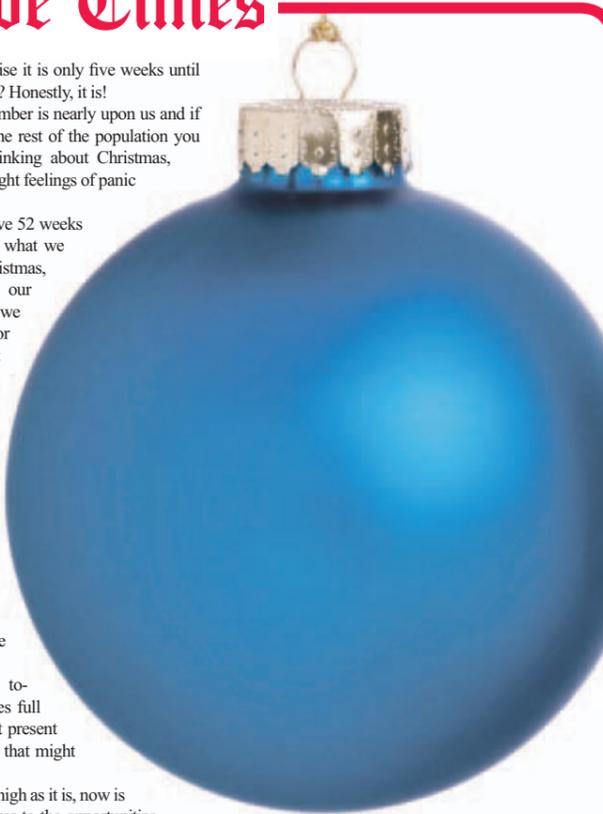
Car proud? What about a year's supply of valeting? Always wanted to learn how to fly? Take to the skies. In love with the outdoors? Seek out the gadgets and kit.

Want to improve your road skills? Drive your way forward.

New woman in your life? Can't go wrong with something sparkly.

Difficult relation to buy for? Take a new look at all those gift shops.

Everything from Fairtrade to fair prices can be found in the high streets of the West Highlands.



Christmas notes

*The common abbreviation for Christmas to Xmas is derived from the Greek alphabet. X is letter Chi, which is the first letter of Christ's name in the Greek alphabet.

*December 26 was traditionally known as St Stephen's Day, but is more commonly known as Boxing Day. This expression came about because money was collected in alms-boxes placed in churches during the festive season. This money was then distributed to the poor and needy after Christmas.

*In 1843, the first Christmas card was printed in England for Sir Henry Cole. He was a busy man who wanted to save time in his own Christmas letters, but was also interested in encouraging the expansion of the postal system. A thousand copies of the card were sold at one shilling each.

*Every year since 1947 the people of Oslo have given a Christmas tree to the city of Westminster. The gift is an expression of goodwill and gratitude for Britain's help to Norway in the 1939-1945 war.

*Mexicans call the poinsettia 'flower of the Holy Night' - the Holy Night is the Mexican way of saying 'Christmas Eve'.

*The biggest selling Christmas single of all time is Bing Crosby's White Christmas.

*The largest functional Christmas cracker was 45.72 metres long and 3.04 metres in diameter. It was made by Australian international rugby player Ray Price in Markson Sparks of New South Wales, Australia and was pulled in the car park of the Westfield Shopping Town in Chatswood, Sydney, Australia on 9 November 1991.

*The 12 days of Christmas are the days between Christmas Day and Epiphany (January 6) and represent the length of time it took for the wise men from the East to visit the manger of Jesus after his birth.

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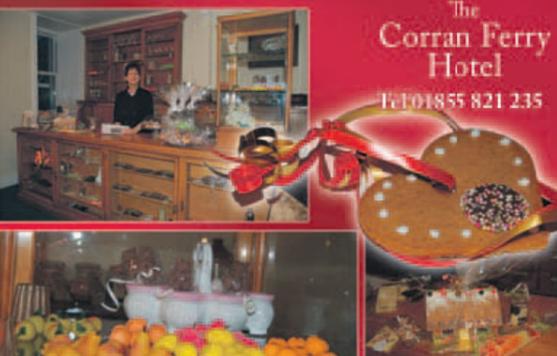
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Christmas Gift Guide



GIFTS FOR HER

She's very special, but what should it be, the gift that tells her so? All through the year you have had brilliant flashes of inspiration but now, when the decision has to be made, your mind is blank. All you can think of are the obvious, though when you come to think of it, the obvious takes a lot of beating. Perfume, chocolates, flowers, something beautiful to wear, are all appropriate, all very acceptable, but it has to be said, they are not original. Let's face it, originality in these sophisticated times, is a difficult concept to achieve. However, if you look at the obvious and employ a spot of lateral thinking, you may well achieve that elusive originality.

For example, perfumes don't just come in bottles. Buy her piles of pot-pourri in boxed sets, complete with bottles of scented oils and beautiful bowls to keep it in. A set of exquisite silver or crystal pomanders to hang in her wardrobe would be nice? Lace encrusted herb pillows will cure those headaches and give her sweet dreams, and a course of aromatherapy massages will totally relax her. All would surely be appreciated?

Jewellery can be just as 'original'. Have something specially made, there's still time. A silver snake that coils around her

arm from wrist to elbow or beyond would be exciting. A similar silver creature coiling around her ankle could be fabulous, even more so if you can run to gold. A fabulous silk robe, richly hand-painted in silver or gold, a pure white cashmere sweater embroidered with pearls, a deeply fringed pashmina, a shawl hand-embroidered with pearls and rhinestones, or a pair of sheer, pure silk stockings - are all absolute luxury to look at and wear. Chocolates are chocolates of course, and the originality lies in the selection. Go for a dark and bitter, hand-made Belgian selection but, have them professionally packed in a fabulous hand-carved wooden chest, crystal casket or brass-bound box. Or buy her a huge box of crystallized fruits, peels, chestnuts and ginger, they're not chocolate but they do carry all the flavours and scents of Christmas.

GIFTS FOR HIM

Habitually, if not traditionally, 'he' usually has to resign himself to receiving lack-lustre Christmas gifts such as soulless socks, terrible ties, hapless handkerchiefs, awful aftershave and boring old booze. Make this year the one when you surprise him with more imaginative and exciting gifts.

A pair of cuff links, specially crafted and packed in a silver-bound, black leather box would be special. A beautifully crafted pewter or silver hip flask filled with his favourite tipple could be even more so.

Dreary days at the office could be cheered up with a gold-plated or solid brass fountain pen, and if you can run to it, a ball point pen to match. A set of those fanciful executive desk toys might help him while away the boring moments. To help him keep his papers together give a set of hand-shaped brass clips, a

paper weight in the form of a beautiful natural lump of crystal quartz or brilliantly hand-polished fossil fish in their bedrock of stone.

If he travels a lot, a re-chargeable pocket torch could be useful, as could a pewter thermos or a kettle/coffee pot that runs from the car's cigar lighter. Even more useful could be an elegant travelling razor set smoothly plated in silver, silver soap box complete with a special hand-made soap, silver tooth brush box, and a soft leather sponge bag with a waterproof lining to keep it all tidily and elegantly together.

If he's in to real luxury, a crocodile leather belt will last him for years. A money belt will keep him safely in funds, and a wooden massager with fragrant muscle rub oil will help him relax after a very hard day. And if you must give him socks, get some hand-knitted in fine wool in his favourite colours - your local knitting shop will have the names of good home knitters. Knitwear is, oddly enough, always popular with men. Buy him a real cashmere pullover with matching scarf. Or if he is given to flashy statements occasionally, buy him an unusual and colourful waistcoat or a tunic-length jerkin to wear without a jacket. Or, if he really likes to be smart, get him a real waterproof canvas drover's coat and wide brimmed hat, and he'll really look the business.

GIFTS FOR THE YOUNG

Gifts for youngsters these days are often age specific. If you buy toys from reputable sources they usually carry a recommendation to the targeted age group. This is only a guide but, it's worth considering since toys for older children may be dangerous for the very young. Safety of toys is also bound up in their construction, they mustn't come apart exposing small bits that can be swallowed, or sharp edges that can cut. Durability is also important however because if it only lasts five minutes, it is patently a waste of money. Cheap toys are no economy.

The perfect toy educates, amuses and encourages original thought. At Christmas this is especially important because children get bored very quickly. There is after all, only so much that can be done with a doll or a toy car. Look for gifts that give the youngster something to do. For the very young there are toys

that hang over the cot and which the baby can touch and move. For the slightly older there are dolls with attached clothes that open in all sorts of ways - with Velcro, buttons, zips and other fasteners. For the yet older there are toys that make noises, books that make noises appropriate to the story within, construction toys, shaped blocks that can build into all sorts of things, and for children even older, the suitable blocks are smaller and more intricate but just as fascinating.

Kits of all sorts are worth considering. These include felt pictures to make, stencils to draw round, printing blocks, modelling clay with moulds and shaping tools, clock making outfits, electrical circuitry, and that old favourite, the paint box.

But children also like clothes, new furnishings for their rooms, their own clock, mobile phone, radio, TV, computer, games console, or cassette player - most of which come in age specific designs.

With an eye to the future, you could give a youngster music in the form of a musical instrument and a series of lessons, your local music shop will be able to advise. Or, for a really vocal child, singing lessons would help develop that voice. A natural progression from this would be dancing lessons or coaching in some special sport which of course, would call for special clothes and equipment as well.

GIFTS FOR THE YOUNG-AT HEART

Buying for the no-so-young is no easier than buying for anyone else, though like the gifts for 'him', they can fall into those boring stereotypes. We buy what we imagine those older than ourselves would prefer. So they get things like slippers (boring ones at that), handkerchiefs (most people use tissues these days), sticky sweets (that get stuck in dentures), cheap booze (that gives indigestion), old-fashioned aftershave (that they never use) and toilet waters that more nearly resemble disinfectant.

Ageing in a healthy person is seldom accompanied by a similar ageing of the mind. Many elderly folk will say they think and feel much as they did in their teens, though their atti-

tudes are coloured by the experience inevitably gathered over the years. It follows therefore, that they probably have similar tastes to their younger relatives. Gifts therefore, should be chosen accordingly, but with due thought given to some of the physical changes that may have taken place.

For example, the older you get, the more sensitive you become to temperature changes. Appropriate gifts will take this into account. A soft and attractive travel rug for those chilly evenings might be well received, a pashmina is much more glamorous. A sheepskin foot muff is more fun than slippers. A collection of pretty or attractive cushions, some supportive and some just dreamily soft, could make an evening by the fire, blissfully comfortable.

Give a superb bottle of wine, a delectably aged brandy or whisky with perhaps some beautiful glasses to drink it from. A mouth-watering selection of crystallized fruits and ginger, stem ginger in a beautiful porcelain jar, or a bottle of their favourite fruit deliciously preserved in brandy, could really 'make' their Christmas. Or why not give a hand-raised pork pie; game pie; smoked turkey, salmon or eel; exotic pickles; some traditionally cured ham; smoked kippers; or a specially commissioned and decorated cake or pudding? A beautiful basket of fruit, a luxury wicker hamper, a dozen half bottles of Champagne, or a casket of hand-made chocolates, would add the seal of pleasure on the day. They are all the traditional gifts those with long memories will cherish and enjoy.

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Festive Times Big Guide

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History of the Christmas Tree

In the 21st century, Christmas is just not the same without a tree covered in baubles, lights of all shapes and sizes and tinsel flowing from the branches.

The origin of the Christmas tree is rather murky but the Britain's love of the Christmas tree has very definite Royal origins.

Some credit Saint Boniface, circa 722, with the first Christmas tree after he stopped a child from becoming a human sacrifice to a pagan god by cutting down an oak tree destined to be used as a stake.

Legend has it a fir tree sprang from its place and he declared it a holy tree and the faithful were told to take a similar fir home and surround them with love and gifts.

The Romans and Egyptians also used trees and greens as part of their winter festivals; the Romans decorated their houses with greens and lights and exchanged gifts for the festival of Saturnalia, in honour of Saturnus, the god of agriculture; the Egyptians brought palm leaves into their homes at the winter solstice to symbolise life's triumph over death.

Pagans also used trees in winter solstice rituals, as well as holly and mistletoe as symbols of life.

In the 11th century a tradition of Mystery Plays had sprung up in Europe and fir trees, left in place, were hung with apples to represent the Tree of Life from the Garden of Eden.

It is believed that the idea for decorating a tree sprang from the Alsace region of Germany and by the mid 1500s, the German guilds were erecting Christmas trees in front of their guildhalls, some decorated with nuts, apples, dates, pretzels and paper flowers for the guild members' children to collect on Christmas day.

So popular was the custom that the area of Alsace started to run out of pine trees and a law was passed to limit their use to one per house.

Princess Helène de Mecklembourg is credited with spreading the joy of trees in the home after she brought one with her to Paris in the 1520s after her marriage to the Duke of Orleans.

By the mid 17th century Christmas markets were held to sell not only trees but decorations, originally in red or white to symbolise knowledge and innocence.

Around this time, the first tinsel was made from real silver, stretched into thin strips.

Originally the Christmas tree was regarded as a Protestant custom by the Roman Catholic majority along the lower Rhine but it is believed it was spread there by the movement of Prussian officials and thereafter adopted by the Roman Catholic Church because it could not prevent its spread.

However, its early introduction to the United States of America was strongly resisted in some parts because of its supposed pagan origins.

Royal families in Europe took the custom to their hearts and it became popular among the nobility and on royal courts even as far as Russia by the early 19th century.

The rise in popularity of the Christmas tree in Britain starts with the British Royal family marrying into the German royal family.

Queen Charlotte of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, who married George III, introduced decorated trees to the British Royal family and Queen Victoria as a child was familiar with seeing heavily decorated Christmas trees on Christmas

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Eve, when the custom was to give out presents.

In 1832, the 13-year-old princess wrote: 'There were two large round tables on which were placed two trees hung with lights and sugar ornaments. All the presents were around the trees.'

After her marriage to Prince Albert and during Queen Victoria's reign, the simple joy of the decorated Christmas tree became more widespread.

Decorations during the 1800s were still hand made; everything from crocheted snowflakes and stars to baskets for sugared almonds made from paper.

Candles were protected with hoops and beaded decorations and tinsel were ordered from Germany.

During the Victorian era trees were bedecked with tinsel, silver wire ornaments, candles and strung beads.

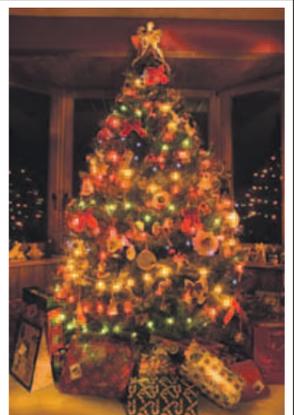
Glass baubles were available and the first electric lights were patented in 1882.

The size of the tree became something of a status symbol - the bigger the better - and gifts could be hung from the tree as well as around the base.

After the death of Queen Victoria, the Christmas tree went into a brief decline until the 1930s when the first artificial trees began to come on the scene with the 'silver' pine appearing in the United States in the 1950s.

These days the more eco-conscious prefer artificial trees or ones that come in a pot and can be planted out after the festive season is over.

Many trees are grown specifically for the Christmas mar-



ket and are specially treated to prevent needle loss.

Whatever the preference, nothing now signals the lead up to Christmas more than the sight of Christmas trees in the windows of homes dripping in lights from bright white to all colours of the rainbow winking off neighbouring baubles.

Nor can there be any more heart-stopping a picture for children of all ages than the sight of the Christmas tree on Christmas morning with treasures beneath waiting to be explored.



Festive Times

Christmas Recipes

Mince Pies

Ingredients: 8 oz/250g all purpose/plain flour
Pinch of salt
4oz/ 100g butter, cubed or an equal mix of butter and lard
2-3 tbsp cold water
1 jar of mincemeat, shop bought or home made
2 tbsp icing sugar

Preparation: Heat the oven to 425F/220C/Gas 7
Make the Pastry Place the flour, butter and salt into a large clean bowl. Rub the butter into the flour with your fingertips until the mixture resembles fine breadcrumbs, working as quickly as possible to prevent the dough becoming warm.

Add the water to the mixture and using a cold knife stir until the dough binds together, add more cold water a teaspoon at a time if the mixture is too dry.

Wrap the dough in Saran wrap/Clingfilm and chill for a minimum of 15 minutes, up to 30 minutes.

The dough can also be made in a food processor by mixing the flour, butter and salt in the bowl of the processor on a pulse setting. When the mixture resembles breadcrumbs, add the water, slowly, through the funnel until the dough comes together in a ball. Wrap in Saran wrap/ Clingfilm and chill as above.

Assembly Dust a work surface lightly with a little flour and roll out two-thirds of the pastry to 1/8"/3mm thick. Cut circles 3"/7.5cm of pastry to line the cups of a standard muffin or bun tray, don't worry if the pastry doesn't come to the top. Fill the pastry lined tins 2/3 full/ approx 1 heaped tsp with mincemeat.

Roll out the remaining pastry to the same thickness and cut smaller circles to fit as lids on the tarts or to be decorative, cut stars or other fancy shapes.

Dampen the edges of the tart bases with a little cold water and press the lids on. Make a small hole in the surface of each pie with a small sharp knife to allow the steam to escape (you can omit this if using stars).

Bake in the preheated oven for 15 mins or until golden brown. Remove from the oven and sprinkle with the icing sugar.

Mince pies are delicious served hot or cold on their own or with Brandy Butter.



Spicy Sausage Rolls Recipe

Ingredients: 1 x chilled puff pastry sheet
1 x 454g sausage meat or skinned sausages
50g diced chorizo
1 tbsp chilli flakes or a good pinch of chilli powder
Beaten egg for glazing

Preparation: Preheat oven to 220°C (200°C fan assisted) Gas M7
Method Combine sausage meat, diced chorizo, chilli flakes and herbs in a bowl

Unroll the pastry sheet and cut in half down the length of the sheet.

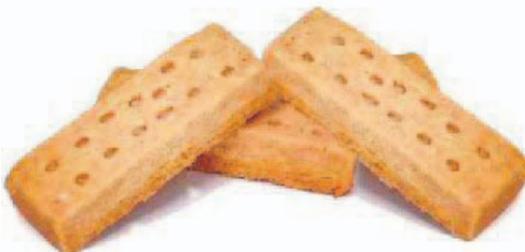
Divide the sausage mixture in half and lay each half in a long 'roll' just off centre down each pastry length.

Brush the edges of the pastry lightly with egg wash & bring the sides up to meet over the filling. Pinch the edges firmly together to form a seal, knock up with a sharp knife if desired.

With a sharp knife cut each roll into six equal pieces. Make two slits in one side of the rolls, to allow steam to escape.

Brush the pastry with the remaining egg wash and bake for 18-20 minutes or until pastry risen and golden brown.

Serve Scatter with further chopped herbs and serve with the apple salsa.



Shortbread

Ingredients: 125g/4oz butter
55g/2oz caster sugar
180g/6oz plain flour

Preparation: Heat the oven to 190C/375F/Gas 5.

Method Beat the butter and the sugar together until pale. Stir in the flour to get a smooth paste. Turn on to a work surface and gently roll out until the paste is 1cm/1/2in thick. Cut into rounds or fingers and sprinkle with a little extra caster sugar. Put on a baking sheet and chill for 20 minutes. Bake in the oven for 15-20 minutes until pale golden. Cool on a wire rack.

Christmas Cake

Ingredients: 8oz (225g) sultana's
8oz (225g) raisins
12 oz (350g) currants
2oz candied peel
2oz glace cherries, washed and chopped
3 tablespoons of brandy

All these ingredients should be put into a covered bowl 24 hours before you plan to make your cake to allow the brandy to soak into the fruit which will make the fruit plump and moist

8oz (225g) plain flour
half a teaspoon nutmeg
half a teaspoon ground mixed spice
half a teaspoon of salt
8oz (225g) soft brown sugar
8 oz (225g) butter
4 large free range eggs beaten
2oz chopped Almonds
1 tablespoon of black treacle
grated zest of 1 lemon and 1 orange

Preparation: Preheated to gas mark 2, 500C or 300F
Double sift your flour, nutmeg, mixed spice and salt into a bowl

Method Put the sugar and butter into either a bowl or your mixer and cream together the mix until it is really light and fluffy.

Add your beaten eggs a little at a time, allowing it to be thoroughly mixed in before you add the next bit of egg until you have added all the eggs. If your mixture at an time looks like it's going to curdle just add a little of your ready sifted flour mix.

Next fold the sifted flour mix into your creamed butter, sugar and egg mixture. It is important to fold the flour in and not just use your mixer for this.

Next fold all other ingredients into your mixture.

Pour your mixture into your pre-prepared cake tin and level the surface of your cake mixture

Tie brown paper that's taller than your cake tin around the edge of your cake tin, this helps prevent the sides of your cake being exposed to too much heat

Cover the top of your cake tin tower with parchment paper making sure there is a hole in the middle that is about the size of a 50p piece

Bake on a low shelf in your preheated oven for between 4 and 4 1/2 hours

The cake is ready when a metal skewer come out clean with no raw cake mix attached

Once your cake has cooled wrap in greaseproof paper and store in an air tight tin for up to 8 weeks before Christmas

Gently skewer your cake in places and then put a teaspoon or so of brandy onto your cake before you marzipan and ice it.

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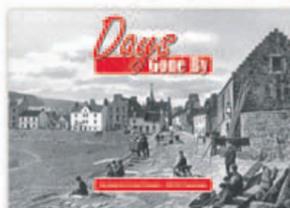


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Festive Times

Word Search

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 S S K T L S W D G O K O R H T
 N N S S Z E D T J C S A E C R
 O O O C E N I K O R C Y I A E
 W W Y R S T J T E Q E W M N E
 M B N O T S S K R K Y D I D I
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 N L I G W A P U L C D Z L E W
 M L N E R X T O X E H E M B W
 O W S C Q W H C L B A U B L E
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 U P L I V Y U T R I F L E I B
 X O Q H W M I S T L E T O E X

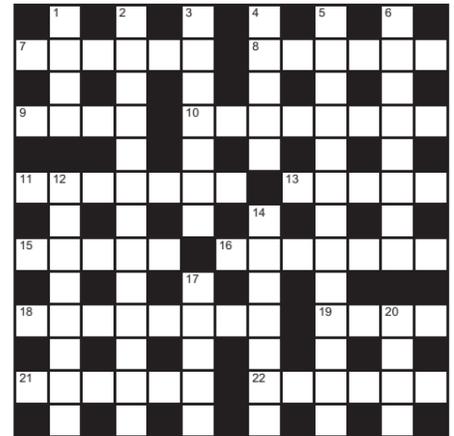
Find the following words in the box.

- Rudolph
- Tinsel
- Tree
- Star
- Bauble
- Santa
- North Pole
- Snowman
- Scrooge
- Carol
- Presents
- Sleigh
- Mistletoe
- Holly
- Stocking
- Turkey
- Mulled Wine
- Candle
- Bells
- Star
- Robin
- Ivy
- Decorations
- Trifle
- Crackers

Crossword

Use the clues to complete the crossword

- Across**
- Christmas is a time of (6)
 - Scrooge was one (6)
 - This snowman is abominable (4)
 - Traditional fire fuel (4,4)
 - The birth of Christ was one (7)
 - A warm wrap (5)
 - and goodwill towards all men (5)
 - After effect of Christmas dinner (7)
 - Tin soldiers march to this (8)
 - Christmas mistletoe and wine (4)
 - Biscuit depository (6)
 - Christmas, Easter, Hallow'en - all annual ones (6)
- Down**
- Traditional place to hang your stockings over (4)
 - Snappy Christmas gift (7,6)
 - Main ingredient of eggnog (3,4)
 - Christmas should bring one of these to your face (5)
 - Composer of "Wonderful Christmas Time" (4,9)
 - A gift for her perhaps? (8)
 - Not traditional but a common desert for children (8)
 - One of Santa's reindeer (7)
 - Rung out at Christmas (5)
 - Hand warmer (4)



CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Published on 17th December

SEND A SPECIAL CHRISTMAS MESSAGE TO FRIENDS WITH YOUR PHOTO FOR ONLY £30 OR FOR JUST £20 YOU CAN SEND A FESTIVE MESSAGE USING ONE OF OUR SMALLER CHRISTMAS TEMPLATES.

IB SEASONS GREETINGS
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ID Merry Christmas
 To all my relatives and friends from Hugh Harvey, Oban



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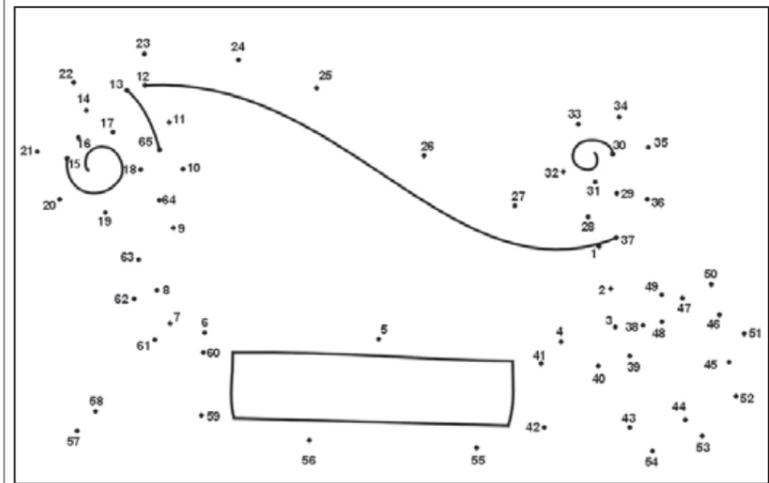
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The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

MONDAY 21st DECEMBER 12noon
FOR THE ISSUE OF THURSDAY DECEMBER 24th
MONDAY 28th DECEMBER 12noon
FOR THE ISSUE OF THURSDAY DECEMBER 31st
PLEASE NOTE - Our offices will be closed on Thursday 24th & Friday 25th December and Thursday 31st December & Friday 1st January

Accordion and fiddle club enjoys a great evening

THE FIRST Thursday of November in the Royal Hotel, Portree, found a large group of members and friends of the Isle of Skye Accordion and Fiddle Club gathered for an evening of great music introduced by club chairman and MC Jim Campbell.

Local musicians started the evening with Aly 'K' MacPherson on piano accordion, John Cameron on keyboards and Donald John Campbell on drums getting the feet tapping with a selection of marches, jigs and reels.

One of the club's younger players, Emma Beaton of Flodigarry on piano accordion played some marches to be followed by the solo fiddle of Wendy Riva of Kilmuir with a varied and well prepared programme.

The trio of club stalwarts, John MacGillivray and John Cameron on accordions and Aly 'K' MacPherson on drums were followed by some very fine piping from young Bruce MacDonald.

The audience were delighted to welcome visiting accordionist Bobby Dowds who had travelled all the way from Leuchars. Bobby borrowed two players from



Accordionist Bobby Dowds and the band entertain.

the guest band of the night to accompany him, namely drummer Richard Hughes and Derek Hamilton on keyboards and proceeded to give a fine performance to an appreciative audience.

Portree drummer Donald MacRae joined accordionist John Cameron who had returned to the stage to give another enjoyable selection before the official guest band of the evening made their

eagerly awaited appearance. The remainder of the evening was devoted to the John Stuart Scottish Dance Band which comprised of John himself from Leven leading on piano accordion, Stuart Reid of Dunfermline on fiddle, Derek Hamilton of Galston on piano keyboard and, from Tobermory, Richard Hughes on drums.

These great musicians are no strangers to the Skye club and, as usual, provided their audience with an excellent and varied mix of music played to a high standard in a fine traditional style, which was greatly appreciated.

The next meeting of the club will be for the annual buffet dance in the Royal Hotel, Portree on Friday, December 4 when the music for dancing will be provided by the ever popular Allan McIntosh and the Heather Dance Band.

Islay's Mòd performers show off their talents

ISLAY'S proud prizewinners from this year's Royal National Mòd showed off their talent and trophies at the Post-Mòd Ceilidh last Friday in Bowmore Hall.

The capacity audience was welcomed by well-known Fear an Taigh, Còisir Ghàidhlig's president, Iain MacPherson of Conisby.

The concert was opened by the successful Islay Pipe Band, this year's European champions at Grade 3B, followed by singing of the traditional 'Suas leis a' Ghàidhlig' (Togaibh i') led by Còisir Ghàidhlig Ìle joined by the Bowmore and Port Ellen primary schools Gaelic choirs and new youth choir Còisir Og Ghaidhlig Ìle, with Iseabail Mactaggart delighted to conduct this 'Còisir Ghàidhlig Mòr Ìle'.

The senior choir then sang this year's Rural Choirs Puirt-a-beul and many other outstanding solo and group contributions followed.

The Islay Men's Gaelic choir sang to close the first half of the concert.

After the Bowmore Primary Gaelic Choir

conducted by Helen Gillies, Port Ellen Primary Gaelic Choir conducted by Maureen MacDonald and junior choir Còisir Og Ghaidhlig Ìle conducted by Arlene MacKerrell sang their National Mòd pieces, the Islay Ladies gave prescribed song and Highland dancers Sophie and Stacy Baker of Ella Edgar Highland Dancers showed their award-winning steps.

Sea song
Còisir Ghàidhlig Ìle sang this year's set piece, 'Mo Chailin Dileas Donn', then own choice, the well-known Islay sea song, 'Birlinn Cholla Chiotach' written by Islay bard Duncan Johnstone.

For the finale, the youngsters again joined Còisir Ghàidhlig Ìle to bid the audience goodnight with 'Soraidh leibh'.

Còisir Ghàidhlig Ìle members would like to thank all who took part in this year's concert and especially choir conductor Iseabail Mactaggart, Gaelic reader Robert Forrest of Bowmore and Dorothy Dennis.

Ceilidh band celebrates its 10th anniversary with a party

SKIPINNISH Ceilidh Band marked its 10th anniversary at the weekend with a party for invited guests in Oban.

Band members Angus MacPhail, Tíree, and Andrew Stevenson from Achnacarry, Spean Bridge, met at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama, where they formed the band.

The Skipinnish brand has since been used to run a record company, sea tours and the Skipinnish Ceilidh House music venue in Oban, where the anniversary celebrations took place.

Best

Among those in attendance were some of the best traditional musicians from the Highlands and islands.

Among those performing were: Gaelic singer and musician Rachel Walker, who is Andrew's wife; Skerryvore; fiddle player Archie McAllister from Campbeltown; Spean



Skerryvore had the audience on the dance floor with a rousing set. 07_47skip04

Bridge accordion player Gary Innes; Gaelic singer James Graham; Fort William's Ewen Henderson and Young

Traditional Musician 2008 Ewan Robertson. Blazin' Fiddles member Allan Henderson paid tribute

to Skipinnish, speaking to the audience about his experiences of Angus and Andrew on the ceilidh circuit.

Music lessons from a Skye poet, playwright, broadcaster and author

SCOTTISH musicologist John Purser visited Lews Castle college Benbecula campus to give two seminars to students and local singers and musicians.

Mr Purser is the author of Scotland's Music, and broadcaster of two radio series of the same name. He is also a composer, poet, playwright, and crofter, resident on Skye.

Using visual images and audio recordings, Mr Purser set out the development of Scotland's



Musicologist John Purser with two of his publications.

music from the pre-history to early Christianity, covering the birth of musical communication from the rock gongs of the Bronze Age through Iron Age horns to the triple pipes, clarsach and the bagpipe.

Mr Purser completed his talks with a discussion of the

piobaireachd and its roots in song.

His 20-strong audience were held in thrall by Mr Purser's sparkling scholarship and musicianship, and his deep insight into the subtleties of Gaelic music and song.

Mr Purser said: 'I love coming

to Uist. Everyone who comes is eager to listen and learn, and not shy to contribute.'

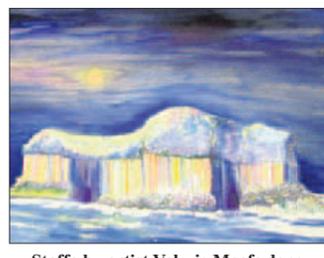
Fiddler and composer Anna Wendy Stevenson, who teaches traditional music to FE and HNC students at Lews Castle College said: 'Every year I try to get some special stars here, someone that people go away and remember, and John is a highlight.'

Biography

Mr Purser's latest work is a biography of Scottish composer Eric Chisholm, commissioned by the Eric Chisholm Trust and the Birmingham Conservatoire.

'Eric Chisholm, Scottish Modernist 1904-1295. Chasing A Restless Muse', published by Boydell, was launched recently to critical acclaim. Mr Purser hopes it will restore Eric Chisholm to his rightful place as an international composer and musicologist who placed Gaelic music at the forefront of the European modernist music movement.

Local Producers Christmas Fayre
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Local artists get to the heart of the matter

AN EXHIBITION by talented local artists will be on display in St John's Cathedral narthex, opening this Sunday until next Saturday.

Pictures in a variety of media by the artists will be up for sale throughout the week in support of

Little Hearts Matter. This worthwhile cause offers support and information on single ventricular heart condition and helps to raise awareness about the medical and lifestyle aspects when a baby has a complicated heart problem.

Tiree group focuses on winning big television prize

A PROJECT to create a community cinema on Tiree is going up against a gardening group in South Lanarkshire next Monday to try and win a share of £250,000 in The People's Millions TV contest.

The television contest, run by ITV and the Big Lottery Fund, asks people to phone in and vote for their favourite project out of two going head-to-head four nights next week on the STV Central evening news programme.

Of the four losing projects, the one with the highest number of phone votes will be given the final grant announced on Friday November 27.

The Tiree project has been put forward by Tiree development to refurbish the livestock market and create a community cinema.

It will add to equipment already installed and create a comfortable space where the whole community will be able to meet up.

Voting

Telephone voting lines will open on the day the projects are due to appear on ITV and winners will be announced the following day. The telephone voting numbers will also be available from 9am each day on www.peoplesmillions.org.uk

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

An Comunn Gaidhealach CRUACHAN BRANCH
CEILIDH
Saturday 21 November
Taynuilt Village Hall At 7.45pm
Piper Euan MacCrimmon
Maevie MacKinnon (G.M.) Norman MacKinnon (G.M.)
Fiona Rutherford - Clarsach, Robert Robertson - Accordion,
Isla Sinclair Dancers, Fear-an-Tìghe: Murdo Iain MacDonald
Admission £3: Members & Children (5-16 yrs) £2 including Tea
Funds collected promote The Gaelic Language, Music and Culture

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Along with
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HYDRO DAYS:
Neil MacLean
Saturday 21
November 2.30pm
Port Appin Hall
SRC No. SCO29411

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

Meur Lochabair
Lewis Ceilidh Dance
Westend Hotel on 28th
Nov 2009 at 7.30pm
Singers: DA Matheson
Isobel MacAskill, David MacKenzie
& piper Ewen Henderson.
Fear an Tigh
John A MacIver
Music by DP MacLeod

Oban Art Society
FUN WITH FELT
Talk and demonstration
By Mairi Stones
Lorn Resource Centre,
Soroba Road, Oban
Friday 20th
November 7.30pm
Visitors welcome

Rotary Club of Lochaber
Christmas Craft and Food Fair
Nevis Centre (Main Hall)
Saturday 28th November
10.30 am - 4.00pm
Free Admission

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South African Guitarist
Craigish Village Hall,
Ardfern
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or cvh.arts@btconnect.com

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Connell Village Hall
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11.00am to 3pm
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Lunch
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Craft Fair
Taynuilt Village Hall
Saturday 28th November,
10-12.30
Stalls incl - Jewellery, cards,
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Face painting and
children's activity
Refreshments and live music
Entrance by silver donation

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Various > Kundalini Yoga
Energie Fitness
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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
Thursday 26 November > Local Producers
Kintaline Farm, Benderloch Christmas Fayre
Friday 27 November > The Ross Presto
Portree High School Magic Show
December > The Vatersay Boys
Various venues - www.thevatersayboys.com

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YOUR STARS WITH PATRICK ARUNDEL
ARIES Mar 21st - Apr 20th 090 6612 4520
Your social prospects sparkle brightly. Travel with friends is a possibility or a booking can be made to get away before the turn of the year. An overseas jaunt, a big concert or gig, or doing Christmas shopping can excite, and see high spirits and mirth aplenty. Yet you can also become much more restless Aries. Limitations or snags could get you down. Call now for more news...
TAURUS Apr 21st - May 21st 090 6612 4521
Try not to put yourself under pressure around family or close-to-you demands and needs. There could be a tendency to be too protective or take on other people's woes and problems. Christmas can often be a pressurised time, so with that racing up fast, avoid the trap of striving for perfection. For example, if new furniture doesn't arrive in time, so be it. Call now for more astral advice...

GEMINI May 22nd - Jun 21st 090 6612 4522
It may not have been your love life feeling the pinch of Venus and Mars' recent squabble, other ties may have creaked too, involving work or everyday interaction. Now you have a choice, and you can either be a bit spikier in your responses, and show grit or reach out to meet people half way. In both cases your enthusiasm can win people around Gemini. Call now for more news...

CANCER Jun 22nd - Jul 23rd 090 6612 4523
Although you can enjoy pottering around at home, with the party season beginning to get into full swing, there can be some opportunities to play. You may find yourself socialising with people you work with, as much as friends, and a jolly time can be had. Yet dietary discipline may prove harder to maintain, now and in the run up to the New Year. Call your special prediction line for more...

LEO Jul 24th - Aug 23rd 090 6612 4524
Mars is going to do you a power of good in the next seven months, but it is a planet which has its downside. Not least in its tie with Jupiter now, which could see you "big yourself up" in a way that others find unpalatable. This angle can give you confidence - as can the Sun's move into your sister Fire sign, but know when to show some humility Leo. Call now for more astral advice...

VIRGO Aug 24th - Sep 23rd 090 6612 4525
Someone can enter your orbit now, who you can view as being something of a guru. This person can teach you loads about life and yourself, and can genuinely be a guiding light. Then again a new philosophy can begin to take hold. But in either case, don't get too swept along in this. Retain some detachment. Your past experiences are still highly valid. Call me now for more news...

LIBRA Sep 24th - Oct 23rd 090 6612 4526
The shackles are off, and you can feel much less inhibited about speaking out. Yet whilst you can be one of the most polished and diplomatic members of the zodiac, just occasionally and especially over issues of fairness, you can take it upon yourself to be much more direct in your comments. If this is a course you take, don't burn all of your bridges! Call your prediction line for more news...

SCORPIO Oct 24th - Nov 22nd 090 6612 4527
Venus, in your zodiac sign still Scorpio, both squares up to Neptune, but angles beautifully to Uranus. These aspects point towards potential confusion in an on-going union, and switchback moods and modes. And yet if you're solo, you could meet somebody who really is larger than life. This has the potential to rock and excite you - all at the same time. Call me for your love scope...

SAGITTARIUS Nov 23rd - Dec 21st 090 6612 4528
The Sun arrives in your zodiac sign - providing welcome refreshment. In fact, ironically, you go from a time when you may have been disinclined to engage with people, to one that starts to go at the speed of light, virtually straight away. If you enjoy travelling that side of you which can do things on impulse, could see you snaffle a last minute ski break. Call me now for more advice...

CAPRICORN Dec 22nd - Jan 20th 090 6612 4529
Virtually up to Christmas, the know-no-bounds Jupiter is opposed by the planet of ego, Mars. This combination can see us be rash, boastful or over-optimistic. Because the sectors affecting intimate relationships and shared assets are touched by this, you will need to retain your legendary sense of perspective - especially if a settlement is sought. Call your special prediction line for more news...

AQUARIUS Jan 21st - Feb 19th 090 6612 4530
The next five weeks gives you an excellent platform to be more go-getting and zippy - particularly if you are someone who can be a little tremulous in taking the first few steps around new beginnings. Aquarians have a resonance with truthfulness, so don't feel the need to overdo the "can do", but generally a more optimistic, friendly and sociable phase begins. Call now for more...

PISCES Feb 20th - Mar 20th 090 6612 4531
You can become more goal-orientated but what you shouldn't do is overburden your physical and nervous system by pushing yourself too hard. Of course this is easy to say, and if you're given an opportunity of a new job, or a step up the ladder of promotion, you may want to seize it with both hands. Pleasingly, someone can give you excellent support. Call now for more news and advice...

SP: Pronto Ltd, PO Box 52785 EC1p 1TY
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Upper Auchenlay British Blue cross sells to 263.8p per kg at Stirling

UNITED Auctions sold 750 store cattle, 100 young bulls, 587 suckled calves and 2,660 store sheep at Stirling last Wednesday.

Bullocks calves averaged 190.7p and sold to 263.8p per kg for a 254kg British Blue cross from Upper Auchenlay and £820 for a 435kg Limousin cross from Balnaguard.

Heifers calves averaged 183.1p and sold to 229.4p per kg for a 235g Saler cross from Rannagulzion and £760 for a 382kg British Blue cross from Bankhead.

Bulls sold to £1,100 for a Limousin from East Blairquhannan and £800 for a Charolais from Rhynaclach. While young bulls sold to £760 for a Simmental from Windyedge.

Suffolk cross lambs averaged £53.36 and sold to £63 from Craigraineach while Beltex crosses from Moor sold to £63.50.

Blackface lambs averaged £42.64 and sold to £55.50 from Dullator and £50 from Dykes.

Texel ewes from Balgowan fetched £75 with Cross ewes from Langfauld to £60.50 and Blackface ewes from Carston to £35.50.

Prime bullocks to 196.5p per kilo at Millhall

CALEDONIAN Marts (Stirling) Ltd sold 151 prime cattle including young bulls and OTM clean and 112 cast cows and bulls at Millhall, Stirling last Thursday.

Bullocks averaged 172p per kg and sold to 196.5p per kg, for a 585kg Limousin from West Mains Farm, Peat Inn and £1,243 for 670kg, from Knowhead of Duntrune Farm, Forfar.

Young bulls sold to 169.5p per kilo from Barbreck Estates, Lochgilhead.

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North Uist's RSPB officer Jamie Boyle aims to help rare corn buntings through the winter months

Uist crofters flock to join corn bunting aid scheme

THE NUMBER of participants in the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) arable stack scheme to encourage corn buntings in the Uists has soared this year, taking the organisation by surprise.

But RSPB's delight in the scheme's popularity is tempered by recent figures showing the corn bunting is still declining, albeit at a much slower rate.

The arable stack scheme was started in 2002 with a handful of crofters in North Uist receiving small payments for storing their

hay in traditional stacks, thus providing a source of seed for corn buntings and other birds over winter.

By last year, 34 crofters throughout the Uists were taking part in the scheme, and this year that figure has soared to 47.

RSPB says it hopes to keep the £22,000 per year scheme going for at least another year.

Crofters get £200 for a stack which is being used for seed storage, and £300 for a stack being used for cattle feed. One stack represents an acre of crop.

North Uist's RSPB officer

Jamie Boyle said: 'We're not sure why the scheme is so popular, possibly it's because a lot of people are out of ESAs and RSS schemes now and getting less from agri-environment schemes.'

'A lot of younger crofters have come in this year too, which we're pleased about, particularly as stacking hay takes a lot of work compared to making silage.'

The downside is that corn bunting numbers have not so far increased.

Mr Boyle said: 'At the start of the 1980s there were 260 territorial corn bunting males

on the Uists and Barra. That figure is now around 88, and declining at five to 10 percent a year instead of exponentially downwards.'

'But the situation is critical with so few males spread over 70 miles and eight islands.'

'It would only take a couple of bad breeding seasons to wipe them out.'

'That would be the end of the corn bunting in the western UK. The Uist population is also the most northerly and westerly population in the world.'

Mr Boyle added that RSPB has been trialling small

plots of other crops such as triticale, barley, rye and seed grasses to leave standing over winter as another food source for the birds.

He said: 'It's hard to keep the crop standing here in these weather conditions, and there is stiff competition for the seed from geese and even deer.'

'Corn bunting have a close association with man, so it's important that we continue to look for ways of keeping the bird population in the working system, keeping up with the changes that have inevitably taken place in agriculture in the islands.'

Breeding cattle in demand at Dalmally as sheep hit highest trade of the season

UNITED Auctions held a sale of 118 cattle and 1,056 sheep and lambs of all classes at Dalmally Auction Mart.

Breeding stock was in good demand as was a varied selection of suckled calves and store cattle.

All classes of sheep sold at the dearest trade for the season at this centre.

Breeding cattle sold to £1,020 for Aberdeen Angus

cross in-calf heifers from Duncroisk, Killin.

Calves from Lochuise and Fuinary sold to 191 pence per kilo for Limousin bullocks.

Lambs sold to £58.50 for Texel crosses from Barnakill (MacDonald) whilst a pen of 105 Blackface lambs from Garraron and Melfort Farms, Argyll sold to 169 pence per kilo.

Benbecula Limousin sells to 241.7p per kilo at Lochmaddy

DINGWALL and Highland Marts Ltd sold 34 weaned calves and store cattle, a small number of Over 30 Month cattle and 480 store sheep of all classes at Lochmaddy market last Friday when all classes of cattle and sheep met a very strong demand in line with mainland rates.

Bullocks averaged 178.8p and sold to 241.7p per kg for a 240kg Limousin cross from 15 Liniolate, Benbecula and £815 for a 520kg Aberdeen Angus cross from 220 Stoneybridge, Lochboisdale.

Heifers averaged 192.1p and sold to 2.00 per kg for a 480kg Limousin cross from 10 Borve, Berneray and £560 for a

285kg Limousin cross from 15 Liniolate, Benbecula.

Over 30 month cows sold to 81.1p per kg and £600 for a 740kg Simmental cross from No 1 Clachan Farm, Lochmaddy.

Lambs sold to £62 per head for Cheviots from 2 Sollas, Isle of North Uist, while ewes sold to £69 per head for Cheviots from 19 Liniolate, Benbecula.

Gimmers sold to £72 per head for Cheviots from 25 Liniolate, Benbecula and feeding sheep sold to £50 for a Cheviot wedder from 9 Malaglate, Lochmaddy.

Rams sold to £260 per head for a Texel ram from 25 Liniolate, Benbecula.

Carrabus Texel lambs sell to £65.50 in Islay

UNITED Auctions held a sale of 2,198 lambs and sheep at Islay Auction Mart.

All classes continued to sell well at enhanced values on earlier sales.

Texel cross lambs from M/s Porter, Carrabus Farm took the lead call per head at £65.50 and Mr J Rountree, Bowmore led the prices per kilo when his Texel crosses sold to 185p per kilo and was closely followed by M/s Johnstone, Balaclava when their Texel cross lambs sold to 173p per kilo.

Cast feeding ewes from Ian MacPherson, Conisby sold to £74.

The overall average for lambs was £52.29 or 144.54p per kilo.

Quality cattle sell well at Dingwall breeding sale

DINGWALL and Highland Marts Ltd sold 110 adult head of breeding cattle on Monday when a mixed show met a more hesitant demand than the previous sale, with quality kinds short of requirements.

Bulling heifers sold to £1,280 for a Limousin cross from 7 Balranald, Lochmaddy.

Heifers with bull calves at foot sold to £900 twice for Shorthorn crosses from 2 Achnagarrin, Rogart, while heifers with heifer calves at foot sold to £1,150 for a Limousin cross from 387 Elphin, Lairg.

Cows with bull calves sold to £1,500 twice for a British Blue cross from Bogburn Farm, Duncanston, and an Aberdeen Angus from Heathmount, Tain.

Cows with heifer calves sold to £1,300 for an Aberdeen Angus cross from Wester Lochend Farm, Inverness and in calf heifers sold to £1,900 for a Limousin cross from Attadale, Kyle of Lochalsh.

In calf cows sold to £1,200 for a British Blue cross from The Rowans, Brora.

Bulls sold to £1,450 for a British Blue from Rooffield Farm, Kinkell.

Prime sheep trade rises again

DINGWALL and Highland Marts Ltd sold 62 prime cattle and 743 prime sheep at Dingwall last Tuesday.

Prime bullocks averaged 172.6p (+3.5p) while heifers averaged 170.8p (-4.0p) and sold to 183p per kg for a 560kg Limousin cross from Bridgend Farm, Dingwall, and £1,133.15 for a 655kg Charolais also from Bridgend Farm.

New season lambs averaged 144.2p (+7.2p) and sold to 154.3p per kg for 40.5kg Texel crosses from Dell of Killiehuntly, Kingussie, and £70 for 47.5kg Beltex crosses, 49.5kg Suffolk crosses, 49kg Suffolk crosses and 49kg Texel crosses, all from Torgorm, Conon Bridge, to John M. Munro Ltd, Dingwall, and Fraser Brothers Butchers, Dingwall.

Sheep rates stay high at Dingwall

DINGWALL and Highland Marts Ltd sold 3,082 sheep of all classes at Dingwall last Thursday when a better offering saw top end lambs and ewes dealer with other classes selling at last week's keen rates.

Lambs averaged £47.13 and sold to £70 for Cheviots from Heathmount, Tain.

Correct ewes averaged £45.78 and sold to £66 for Suffolk crosses from Greenlands, Arabella while

broken mouth ewes proved in demand and averaged £43.58, and selling to £100 for Suffolks from 9 Loaneckheim, Kiltarlity.

Feeding ewes averaged £42.80 and sold to £97 for Texels from Greenlands, Arabella and rams sold to £200 for a Texel cross from Balmaglaster, South Laggan with feeding sheep selling to £65 for a Cheviot wedder from Kintradwell Estate, Brora.

Skye crofters' meeting at Portree

SKYE and Lochalsh Monitor Township group will hold a meeting at Skye Camanachd Club's clubhouse at Portree on Thursday, November 26 when the guest speaker will be Gavin Hill from the Scottish Agricultural College.

Mr Hill will talk about feeding cattle overwinter and replacement heifer management

Market reports

ISLAY United Auctions

Lambs
SuffolkX: £62.50 Ardbeg £62 Kilchchiaran and Craighfad £60 Coille £58.50 Coull £57.50 Duich £57 Stanalane and Uiskentuie £56.50 Craighfad £55.50 and £51.50 Coille; £51 Bayview £50 Craighfad.

TexelX: £65.50 Carrabus £64.50 Ardbeg £64 7 Claddach £63 Carrabus, Ronnachmore and Dunlossit Estate £62.50 Lossit £62 Carrabus and Balaclava £61.50 Stanalane and Ardbeg £60.50 Dunlossit Estate £60 Coull and Balmartin £58 Gartloist, Lossit and Mulindry; £57 Balaclava £55.50 Gartloist and Corry £55 Gartbreck £53.50 Craighfad £53 Ronnachmore £51.50 7 Claddach.

CheviotX: £53 Duich £47 Keppols £46.50 Ballychatrigan £45.50 Tormisdale Croft

Cross: £59 Ardbeg £58.50 Uiskentuie £57.50 Duich £52 Ardbeg £47.50 Leorin £47 Island

Mule: £48.50 Corry £46.50 Coille

Blackface: £56 Kilchchiaran £54 Lossit £50 Uiskentuie £49.50 Ardbeg £49 Duich £48.50 and £47 Dunlossit Estate.

Jacob: £40.50 Ardlussa Estate.

HalfBred: £57.50 - Stanalane

Gimmers
Mule: £92 and £90 Ballytarsin

Ewes
SuffolkX: £74 Conisby

TexelX: £73.50 Coull £73. Ardbeg £69 Stanalane £65.50 Conisby and Lossit CheviotX: £70.50 Coull Cross: £64 Coull

Blackface: £59.50 Dunlossit Estate

Prices per kilo
Lambs
SuffolkX: 155p - Corry 152p - Craighfad 150p - Coull and Coille 149p - Ardbeg 148p - Island 146p - Stanalane, Ballinaby and Coull and Uiskentuie 144p - Kilchchiaran and Duich 142p - Bayview 141p - Ballachlaven and Craighfad.

TexelX: 185p - Island 173p and 159p - Balaclava 159p - Dunlossit Estate 158p - Stanalane and Ardbeg 155p - Carrabus 154p - Coull 153p and 152p - Lossit 150p - Carrabus and Dunlossit Estate 149p - Gartbreck 146p - Gartloist 145p - Mulindry and Bayview.

CheviotX: 152p - Tormisdale Croft 147p - Keppols and Knockrome (Mack)

Cross: 157p - Island 149p - Ardbeg 146p - Uiskentuie

Mule: 152p - Corry 150p - Coille.

Blackface: 147p - Dunlossit Estate 146p - Ardbeg 142p - Lossit and Dunlossit Estate.

DINGWALL
Dingwall and Highland Marts
Bulling heifers: ShorthornX: Morvich, Ro-

gart, £1,150; SalerX: 7 Balranald, £1,020;

LimousinX: 7 Balranald, £1,000;

SimmentalX: Bruiach Mills Farm, Kiltarlity, £980.

Heifers with heifer calf: ShorthornX: Wester Lochend Farm, £850.

Cows with male calf: Aberdeen Angus: Heathmount, £1,280;

Blonde d'Aquataine: Wester Lochend Farm, £980

LimousinX: Wester Lochend Farm, £900.

Cows with heifer calf: Aberdeen Angus: Heathmount, £1,150;

LimousinX: Wester Lochend Farm, £1,100;

ShorthornX: Wester Lochend Farm, £950.

In calf heifers: LimousinX: Rychraggan, Drumnadrochit, £1,420;

SimmentalX: 7 Balranald, £1,350;

ShorthornX: Ordmuir, Muir of Ord, £900.

In calf cows: LimousinX: Kilcoy, Killearnan, £1,040;

Aberdeen Angus X: Spittal Shore, Strathpeffer, £920;

Shorthorn: Parkhill, Durness, £800.

Bulls: Limousin: Pookandraw, £780.

DALMALLY
United Auctions
Bullocks

Beef ShorthornX: £650 and

£510 - Brechoille

LimousinX: £520(2) - Lochuise and Fuinary

LuingX: £420(6) - Carie Farm

SimmentalX: £470 - Upper Glaschoigne

Heifers
LimousinX: £430 - Lochuise and Fuinary

Breeding cattle
Bulling heifers: £820(2) Carie Farm £750 Craig Farm and High Balantyre £700

Carie Farm £680 Stroneskar and Craig Farm.

In-calf heifers: £1020 Duncroisk £920(2) and £900 Dall Farm £880 Braes of Ardeonaig and Dall Farm.

Prices per kilo
Bullocks

LimousinX: 191p and 184p Lochuise and Fuinary

Beef ShorthornX: 190p - Brechoille Farm

Luing: 170p(6) - Carie Farm

ShorthornX: 184p(2) - Ardalarach

SimmentalX: 190p - Upper Glaschoigne

Heifers
LimousinX: 185p(2) - Lochuise and Fuinary

Sheep
Lambs

TexelX: £58.50 Barnakill : £52.50 Silvercraigs £50 Auchencorvie

Cross: £47 Craigmore

Blackface: £52 Auchencorvie £49.50 Castles Estate £47.50 Garraron and Melfort Farms

£46. Silvercraigs : £40.50

Melfort and Garraron

Ewes
£53.50 and £46.50 Barnakill £40 Glenstrae Farmers

Prices per kilo
TexelX: 160p Auchencorvie

SuffolkX: 159p Achanelid Farm

Charollais: 153p Auchencorvie

Cross: 154p Garraron and Melfort Farms

Blackface: 169p Garraron and Melfort Farms

DINGWALL
Dingwall and Highland Marts
Lambs:

Cheviot: Heathmount, £69; TexelX: Cragganvallie, Inverness, £69; SuffolkX: Cragganvallie, £65.50;

Blackface: Bogburn Farm, Duncanston, £65;

Dorset: Bogburn Farm, £64; Meatlink - Clynellish, Brora, £61.50;

BeltexX: Dunmaglass Estate, Dore, £60;

Suffolk: Mariain, Evanton, £60;

Charmoise: Lower Gaich, Dulnain Bridge, £58.50;

Blackface: Cloughmore, Gask, £56.

Correct ewes:
Cheviot: Kintradwell Estate, Brora, £66;

Blackface: Laintachan, Nethybridge, £49;

Suffolk: 9 Loaneckheim, £45.

Broken mouth ewes:
Cheviot: Wester Fearn, Ardgay, £58;

Cross: 48 Achbeg, Strome Ferry, £33;

Blackface: Lyne of Urchany, Nairn, £31.

Feeding ewes:
Suffolk: Wester Craiglands, Fortrose, £92;

TexelX: Little Kildrummie, Naim, £88;

Cheviot: Grantfield Farm, Tain, £83;

Texel: Corrieoils, Culbokie, £70;

Mule: Little Kildrummie, £66;

SuffolkX: Beinn Ghlass, Dingwall, £62;

Cross: Corrieoils, £56.

Rams:
Cheviot: Balmaglaster Farm, £180;

Bluefaced Leicester: Grantfield Farm, £160;

Suffolk: Corrieoils, £120;

Beltex: Greenlands, £80; Texel: Greenlands, £65.

Feeding sheep:
Cross: Strathaird Farms, Skye, £60;

Cheviot: Kildonan, Isle of Egg, £56;

BeltexX: Greenlands, £49; Blackface: Corrybrough, Tomatin, £39.

LOCHMADDY
Dingwall and Highland Marts
Bullocks up to 200kg - No 1 Clachan Farm, Lochmaddy, £250, 128.2p;



McArthur - MacNeill

Donalda McArthur and Russell MacNeill, both of Islay, were married at Portnahaven Parish Church.

Photo by Rainy Cloud Images, Kilmartin.



MacKinnon - Kellar

Rhoda MacKinnon, elder daughter of Iain and Ishbel MacKinnon, Achadhbeag, Tobermory, Isle of Mull, and Jonathon Kellar, only son of Nick and Frances Kellar, Falkirk, were married in Tobermory Parish Church.

Photograph by Phil McDermott Photography, Lochdon, Isle of Mull.



Ironside - Robertson

Fiona Ironside, Ardmor, Mallaig, and David Robertson, Glenfinnan, were married at North West Lochaber Parish Church, Mallaig. The couple held a reception in the West Highland Hotel, Mallaig.

Photograph by Anthony MacMillan Photography, Fort William.



Jones - Scudder

Gillian Jones, formerly of Easdale, and Damien Scudder were married at The Oban Bay Hotel. They also held their reception there. The couple won a free Perfect Images wedding photography package in a competition.

Photograph by Perfect Images, Dunbeg, Oban.



Campbell - McCubbin

Ann-Maree Campbell and Kevin McCubbin were married at Malcesine Castle, Lake Garda, Italy. Ann-Maree is the daughter of John and Helen Campbell, Dunbeg, and Kevin is the eldest son of Bill and Elma McCubbin, Glencoe.



Ford - MacLennan

Lynsey Ford and Gordon MacLennan were married at Ardbeg Distillery, Port Ellen, Islay. The couple also held their reception there following a tour of the distillery for family and friends.

Photo by Perfect Images, Dunbeg, Oban.



MacIntyre - Pollock

Katy MacIntyre and Gordon Pollock of Kilmore, by Oban, were married at McCaigs Tower. They held a reception at The Argyllshire Gathering Halls.

Photo by Perfect Images, Dunbeg, Oban.



Craig - Mitchell

Mary Craig and Neil Mitchell were married at Oban Parish Church, Mary returning to her home town for the ceremony. The couple held a reception in The Argyllshire Gathering Halls.

Photo by Perfect Images, Dunbeg, Oban.



Bowers - Borland

Fiona Bowers and Stewart Borland of Ballachulish were married at Gretna Green.



Buchholz - MacKillop

Kristin Buchholz of Eau Claire, Wisconsin, USA, and Ronnie MacKillop of Oban were married at the Argyllshire Gathering Halls, Oban, where they also held their reception.



Gillies - Stewart

Melissa Gillies and Darren Stewart, both of Blaven View, Mallaig, were married in the Church of Scotland, Mallaig.

Photograph by The Write Image.



Mowbray - O'Ryan

Wendy Mowbray and Sean O'Ryan were married in Dunoon. They held a reception in the TA Centre, Sandbank.

Photograph by Perfect Images, Dunbeg, Oban.



Partridge - Mellor

Susan Partridge and Martin Mellor were married at South Shian, Benderloch, and later held their reception in the Victory Hall.

Photograph by Sandy Fea Photography.



MacNaughton - Bryden

Sarah MacNaughton, Easter Kinkell, Dingwall, and Rory Bryden, Inverness, were married at Loch Insh Church, Kingussie. Sarah is the grand-daughter of the late Archie and Liza MacNaughton, Banavie.

Photograph by Phimister Photography.



O'Sullivan - MacDougall

Brona O'Sullivan, from Ireland, and Peter MacDougall, of Lismore, were married at Lismore Parish Church. The couple, who live on Lismore, held a reception in the Oban Bay Hotel.

Photograph by Perfect Images, Dunbeg, Oban.



Smith - MacKechnie

Lindsay Smith and Iain MacKechnie, both of Oban, were married at Christchurch, Corran Esplanade, Oban. They held a reception in the town's Corran Halls.

Photograph by Highland Photos, Oban.



Darvill - Maynard

Lorraine Darvill and Russell Maynard were married at the Old Pines Hotel, Spean Bridge. They also held their reception there.

Photograph by Perfect Images, Dunbeg, Oban.



Langston - Louton

Kennedy Langston and Daniel Louton were married at Calgary Castle, Isle of Mull, by the Rev Carol Leach. The couple held their reception in the Calgary Hotel, Isle of Mull.

Photograph by Highland Photos, Oban.



McGunigal - Elder

Kara McGunigal and Craig Elder, both of Henderson Road, Fort William, were married in the Free Church Hall, Caol. The couple held a reception in Caol Community Centre.

Photograph by Anthony MacMillan Photography, Fort William.



Devine - Cameron

Anne Marie Devine and Donald Cameron, both of Glengallan Road, Oban, were married at Oban Cathedral by Father Donald MacKay. The couple held a reception in the Royal Hotel, Oban.

Photograph by Highland Photos, Oban.

The Oban Times Wedding Album

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Stòrlann
Nàiseanta na Gàidhlig

Ceannard

Tha Stòrlann Nàiseanta na Gàidhlig aig cridhe leasachadh ghoireasan 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 sheirbhisean-taice eile do dh'fhoghlam, nam measg CPD do luchd-teagaisg agus comhairle is taic do bhuidhnean nàiseanta foghlaim eile agus sàr sgilean 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 àsgaidh 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 sgoibaidhean rianachd, pròiseict is leasachaidh. Bidh ceum oilthigh agad, sàr sgilean ro-innleachd, ionmhais agus rianachd, eòlas air a bhith a' dèanamh cheanglaichean ri buidhnean 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 Stormway 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 Chrombail, Eilean Leòdhais HS1 2DF. Fòn: 01851 700 880 Post-d: margaretmaclean@storlann.co.uk

Ceann-latha airson iarrtasan 27 Samhain 2009.

www.storlann.co.uk

Aquapharm
BIODISCOVERY

Temporary Office Manager – Maternity Leave Cover

Aquapharm Biodiscovery Ltd is a marine biotechnology company based at the European Centre for Marine Biotechnology at Dunstaffnage, Oban.

An opportunity has arisen for an Office Manager to cover maternity leave.

The successful candidate will be able to integrate into a small team environment, be confidential, proactive, with excellent organisational and communication skills.

Previous experience working within an office environment is desired along with good skills in MS Word, Excel and Outlook. Previous experience of Sage Payroll and Accounts is essential as the successful candidate will be responsible for the company payroll and book keeping duties including the completion of the company VAT return.

To apply please send a CV (including names and addresses of referees) along with a covering letter detailing your suitability for the position by email or post to: **HR Manager, Aquapharm Biodiscovery Ltd, European Centre for Marine Biotechnology, Dunstaffnage, Oban, Argyll PA37 1QA, or by e-mail to sara.milton@aquapharm.co.uk**

Further particulars are also available from the above address

The closing date for completed applications 18th December 2009

ACHA
Argyll community housing association

ACHA - Putting Tenants First.
We are on target to create homes and places across Argyll & Bute where people want to live. Can you help us achieve that vision?

Senior Welfare Rights Officer
Fixed Term Contract to 30th June 2011
Location base within Argyll is flexible
Salary Grade 4 (29,773 to £33,080) 35 hours per week

On behalf of a partnership of ACHA, West Highland Housing Association and Dunbritton Housing Association, applications are sought from candidates with strong inter-personal negotiating skills to deliver a high quality Welfare Rights service to our tenants.

As a minimum, current experience of delivering welfare rights including appeals, tribunals and all recent legislation and a current valid driving licence are all essential for this post.

Closing Date: 12 noon on Friday 4th December 2009
Interviews for these posts will be held on Wednesday 16th December 2009.

ACHA is committed to being an equal opportunities employer. We value diversity in our workforce and welcome applications from all sectors of the community. All posts will be subject to an Enhanced Disclosure Scotland check.

Recruitment packs are available via our website at www.acha.co.uk; from our HR & Corporate Services Dept at 63/65 Chalmers Street, Ardrishaig, PA30 8DX, Tel 01546 604098 or by emailing fiona.connor@acha.co.uk

Hydroplan
Water & power engineering
POWER-ful Opportunities

Hydroplan are a leading renewable energy consultancy with an office in Fort William, Scotland. We specialise in small to medium hydropower schemes, as well as other water related projects.

Our staff are experts, enthusiastic, committed and full of energy. Without this valuable resource we would not be able to deliver the great service that our clients have come to expect. We are a small company with big, but sustainable, ambitions and now need to recruit for the following vacancy:-

Project Engineer

- Civil qualification to HNC/Degree level (or ONC with significant relevant experience)
- Basic knowledge of AutoCAD; proficient with Excel, Word, Outlook etc
- Good practical experience in construction, large bore pipelines or commercial buildings
- On site experience but able to handle several projects at the same time
- Be part of a team and be willing to develop and grow within a small but expanding company

Please send your CV with a covering letter to Audrey Wiles, Unit 12 Riverside Park, Station Road, Wimborne, BH21 1QU or email: info@hydroplan.co.uk

FORWARDER OPERATOR REQUIRED

For John Deere 1410D

Tel Duncan Gillies 07747 016900

Market Research Interviewers

Earn £57.60-£63.72 for a 6 hour working day with travel allowance and holiday pay, interviewing people in their own homes after 12.30pm.

Flexible work, no previous experience - full training given. NO SELLING. A good standard of English is required, along with land phone line and your own transport. Call for an information pack quoting ref: 6674MH

Call 020 8433 4491

Kantar Operations
www.kantaroperations.com
We are an equal opportunity employer.

Social Worker (2 Posts)
£30,823 - £33,724
Community Services - Children and Families and Adult Care Islay Ref: CSC32093/2
Community Services Adult Services-Mental Health Lochgilphead Ref: CSC62039/2

Domestic
£256.04 per week Mull Ref: CSD63273/2
Community Services - Adult Care

Catering Assistant (Jobshared)
£6.92 per hour Mull Ref: CSD63251
Community Services - Adult Care, 18:30 hours per week
☎ 01546 604713 for the above 4 posts

Town Centre Manager
£26,589 - £29,928 pro rata
Mid-Argyll, Kintyre & Islay Ref: DSP04046T
Based in Burns Square, Campbeltown, Part Time, Temporary, 17:50 hours per week
☎ 01546 604286 for this post only

Crew Commander
£26,589 - £29,928 Oban, Lorn & the Isles Ref: OSR00655/R
Based at Oban Airport

Janitor/Caretaker
£7.79 per hour Campbeltown Ref: OSF20354
Castlehill Primary School, Part Time, 18:50 hours per week

Catering Assistant
£6.92 per hour Oban, Lorn & the Isles Ref: OSF20573
Dalmally Primary School, Term Time, 10 hours per week

Pier Operative
£6.92 per hour Campbeltown Ref: OSR00398/R
17 hours per week, Part Time
☎ 01546 604625 for the above 4 posts only

Clerical Assistant
£14,216 - £15,074 Lochgilphead Ref: CPD21031
Committee Services
☎ 01546 604395 for this post only

Closing date: 4 December 2009.
To apply visit our website

Librarian
£23,578 - £25,768 Lorn Ref: CSE51310/1
Oban High School

Assistant Officer in Charge (2 Posts)
£24,925 - £27,240
Glencruitten Hostel Oban Ref: CSE70030
Glencruitten Hostel Oban Ref: CSE70310

Houseparent (7 Posts)
£18,501 - £19,658 (pro rata for part time)
Glencruitten Hostel, Full Time Oban Ref: CSE70040
Glencruitten Hostel, Part Time, 15 hours per week Oban Ref: CSE70340
Glencruitten Hostel, Part Time, 22:30 hours per week Oban Ref: CSE70330
Glencruitten Hostel, Part Time, 22:30 hours per week Oban Ref: CSE70320
Glencruitten Hostel - Waking Night Staff, Part Time, 30 hours per week Oban Ref: CSE70370
Glencruitten Hostel - Waking Night Staff, Part Time, 20 hours per week Oban Ref: CSE70380
Glencruitten Hostel - Waking Night Staff, Part Time, 20 hours per week Oban Ref: CSE70230/1

Classroom Assistant (4 Posts)
£14,216 - £15,074 pro rata
Skipness Primary School, Term Time, 4 hours per week Kintyre Ref: CSE54190/2
Kilchattan Primary School, Term Time, 4 hours per week Lorn Ref: CSE54461/1
Oban High School, Term Time, Temporary, 27:30 hours per week Lorn Ref: CSE5300/1
Oban High School, Term Time, Temporary, 15 hours per week Lorn Ref: CSE55320/1

Clerical Assistant (2 Posts)
£14,216 - £15,074 pro rata
Lismore Primary School, Term Time, 18 hours per week Lorn Ref: CSE51220/1
Oban Secondary Learning Centre, Term Time, 18 hours per week Oban Ref: CSE51160/1
☎ 01369 708546 for the above 16 posts

Argyll & Bute COUNCIL

Oban Times RECRUITMENT

HOLIDAY PARK
Working Manager Required

Enthusiastic, capable person to join our management team and assist in the operation of our substantial holiday business catering for touring caravans and camping, self-catering accommodation and shop / reception.

Experience in the holiday trade is not essential but a good practical mind with reasonable knowledge of general maintenance of property, machinery and services would be required.

Involves control and supervision of the business as well as direction and motivation of park workforce. Post would ideally suit a couple with employment for partner in shops/housekeeping/reception/office.

An attractive remuneration package including good housing is available for the successful applicant.

Please apply in writing with C.V. to:
Mr R.J. McCready (Director)
Glen Nevis Holidays Ltd, Glen Nevis FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6SX
rnc@glen-nevis.co.uk www.glen-nevis.co.uk

MACLEOD
MACLEOD CONSTRUCTION LTD
HGV CLASS 2 TIPPER DRIVER

APPLICATIONS IN WRITING OR C.V. TO:
HARRY ROSS,
PLANT MANAGER,
MACLEOD CONSTRUCTION LTD.,
KILMORY INDUSTRIAL ESTATE,
LOCHGILPHEAD,
PA31 8RR.
OR
E-MAIL: jobs@mkmacleod.co.uk

LQRI
LORN & OBAN
REUSE INITIATIVE LTD

2 x 16 hour part-time posts at £7.14 per hour
Driver/Handy Person/Project Worker
1 x 3 days per week
Co-ordinator/Trainer
Pro rata - salary details on application

Tel: 01631 569819 for further information
email: elizabethlori@btinternet.com

'RUTHERFORDS'
EXCITING NEW HAIR SALON
Opening in Oban
Looking for Qualified Stylists and Assistants.
Also Beauty Room available to rent.
Contact Pamela on 01631 710896

Oban Times RECRUITMENT

MANAGED ESTATES
Stalker/Keeper for Meggermie Estate, Glen Lyon, Perthshire
Single handed post for experienced stalker. Other keeping, fishing and general Estate work to be undertaken. Good terms, conditions and accommodation available.

ALSO REQUIRED
For southwest Perthshire Estate - General Keeping Position. Grouse & stalking experience essential along with flexible approach to general Estate duties. Potential part time work for wife/partner.

Applications in writing to Managed Estates, 1 Springkese Road, Stirling, FK7 7SN, Tel: 01786 462519 E: me@managed-estates.co.uk

Oban Times RECRUITMENT **Oban Times RECRUITMENT**

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**SCOTTISH ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AGENCY
WATER ENVIRONMENT AND WATER SERVICES (SCOTLAND) ACT 2003
WATER ENVIRONMENT (CONTROLLED ACTIVITIES) (SCOTLAND)
REGULATIONS 2005 ("THE REGULATIONS")
SCHEDULE 1 APPENDED TO NOTICE OF REQUIREMENT
TO ADVERTISE THE APPLICATION FOR A LICENCE IN
PURSUANCE OF REGULATION 13**

The form of advertisement and text to be included in the advertisement referred to in the attached Notice are as follows:

"WATER ENVIRONMENT AND WATER SERVICES (SCOTLAND) ACT 2003
WATER ENVIRONMENT (CONTROLLED ACTIVITIES)
(SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2005 ("the Regulations")

Notice is hereby given, in accordance with Regulation 13 of the Regulations, that an application has been made to the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) by Lakeland Marine Farm Ltd for authorisation to carry out a controlled activity, namely:

1) Discharge of trade effluent from a salmon rearing cage fish farm to Kilbrannan Sound south of Eilean Grianan (Carradale) at NGR NR 8166 4093.

Any person affected or likely to be affected by, or having an interest in, the application may make representations about the application to SEPA in writing within 28 days beginning with the date of this advertisement, at the following address, quoting reference number CAR/L1078064:

The Registry department, SEPA, Graesser House, Fodderty Way, Dingwall, IV15 9XB

A copy of the application may be inspected free of charge, at the above address, between 9.30 a.m. and 4.30 p.m. Monday to Friday (except local and national holidays) or by prior arrangement at SEPA's Lochgilphead office, 2 Smithy Lane, Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8TA (tel. 01546 602876).

Written representations received within 28 days of this advertisement will be taken into consideration in determining the application. Any such representations will be placed in a public register unless the person making them requests that they should not be. Where such a request is made there will be included in the register a statement indicating that representations have been made which have been the subject of such a request."

**WATER ENVIRONMENT AND WATER SERVICES
(SCOTLAND) ACT 2003
WATER ENVIRONMENT (CONTROLLED ACTIVITIES)
(SCOTLAND) REGULATION 2005 ("the Regulations")**

Notice is hereby given, in accordance with Regulation 13 of the Regulations, that an application has been made to the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) by Wallace Stone LLP for authorisation to carry out a controlled activity, namely:

Proposed refurbishment of the abutments and in-river pier foundations of the A861 Shiel Bridge at Acharacle, being engineering works carried out adjacent to and within the River Shiel at NGR NM 6768 6886.

Any person affected or likely to be affected by, or having an interest in the application, may make representations about the application to SEPA in writing within 8 days beginning with the date of this advertisement, at the following address, quoting reference number CAR/S/1077802:

The Registry, SEPA, Graesser House, Fodderty Way, Dingwall Business Park, Dingwall, IV15 9XB.

A copy of the application may be inspected free of charge, at the above address, between 9.30am and 4.30pm Monday to Friday (except local and national holidays) or by prior arrangement at SEPA's Fort William Office, Carrs Corner Industrial Estate, Lochybridge, Fort William, Tel: 01397 704426.

Written representations received within 28 days of this advertisement will be taken into consideration in determining the application. Any such representations will be placed in a public register unless the person making them requests that they should not be. Where such a request is made there will be included in the register a statement indicating that representations have been made which have been the subject of such a request.

**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, FT 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
09/00415/FULLO	West Bay Car Park Mallaig	Erection of 2 wind turbines	Mallaig Service Point (14 days)
09/00420/FULLO	Site 350m West of Nevis Range, Torlundy, Fort William PH33 6SW	Erection of 2 rope courses	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
09/00431/FULLO	Shiel Bridge 160m West of Pennycroft Acharacle PH36 4JY	Refurbishment of bridge foundations	Acharacle Post Office (14 days)
09/00436/FULLO	Burnside Cottage Arisaig PH39 4NR	Alterations & extension to cottage	Arisaig Post Office (14 days)
09/00437/FULLO	Gairloch Bay Holiday Site Gairloch Spean Bridge	Variation of condition 4 of 09/00158/FULLO (to allow unrestricted holiday occupation)	Spean Bridge Post Office (14 days)
09/00439/FULLO	Land 50m East of 4 Seaview Drimmin	Erection of house	Drimmin 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

Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES
Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us @ www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

Argyll & Bute COUNCIL

SOCIAL WORK COMPLAINTS REVIEW COMMITTEE

Argyll and Bute Council is committed to the highest standards of openness, probity and accountability, and wishes to demonstrate an ongoing approach to these standards by appointing an additional independent person from the local community to serve on the Social Work Complaints Review Committee. While no remuneration is payable in respect of the appointments, travel and subsistence costs will be paid.

The Committee would only convene on the basis that there is business to consider and therefore the time commitment required would not be unduly onerous, possibly in the region of 1 or 2 days per annum.

No formal qualifications are required but you should have the necessary skills to analyse complex issues, exercise clear judgement and make objective and fair decisions based on the information before you. Training will be provided for the successful candidate.

If you would wish to be considered, please write to Charles Reppke, Head of Democratic Services and Governance, Argyll and Bute Council, Kilmory, Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8BT by not later than Friday 4 December 2009 setting out fully the skills, experience and personal attributes which you feel you could bring to the posts. Should you require any further information regarding the positions, please contact Charles Reppke on 01546 604192.

North Argyll Volunteer Car Scheme
Registered Charity no. SC037509
Annual General Meeting
Friday 11th December 2009 at 12 noon
Boardroom, Lorn Medical Centre, Oban

crofters commission
ughdarras nan croitearan

John D Morrison has applied to **decroft** part of the croft at Penmore Mill, Kilinian & Kilmore extending to 0.3661 ha for the purpose of providing a site for a new restaurant. Ref: 4.86.20986

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@crofterscommission.org.uk, by 7 December 2009 quoting the above case number.

A copy of any valid comments will be served on the applicant.

Dunbartonshire and Argyll and Bute Valuation Joint Board

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2008/09

Regulation 6(2) Local Authority Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 1985

Joyce White, Treasurer,
c/o West Dunbartonshire Council, Garshake Road,
Dumbarton, G82 3PU

Barcaldine Community Association AGM
Tuesday 24th Nov, 7pm
at the Sea Life Centre Restaurant
All Welcome
Come along and find out about BCA projects and events and have your say on what we do in the future.

NOTICE TO JOAN FRANCES STEWART

An action has been raised in Oban Sheriff Court by Bank of Scotland plc, Pursuer, calling as a Defender Joan Frances Stewart whose last known address was South Ledaig Farmhouse, otherwise known as Eilean Mhor, Ledaig, Oban, Argyll, PA37 1NY. If Joan Frances Stewart wishes to defend the action or make any claim or seek any order she should immediately contact the sheriff clerk at Oban Sheriff Court, Albany Street, Oban, PA34 4AL from whom the service copy initial writ may be obtained. If she fails to do so decree may be granted against her.

Signed
Myra Scott, Solicitor for the Pursuer,
Irwin Mitchell Solicitors, 123 Elderslie Street,
Glasgow, G3 7AR

crofters commission
ughdarras nan croitearan

APPLICATION TO CREATE A NEW CROFT

Ms Katherine McKinlay, owner of **Balure Croft, Tayinloan, By Tarbert, PA29 6GX** is applying to create a new croft.

If you have any objection to the proposal, you may submit representations in writing or some other permanent form to the Crofters Commission, Castle Wynd, Inverness IV2 3EQ by 7 December 2009 quoting 5.01.21031. Please specify your interest in the application and your reasons for objecting. A copy of any representations made will be forwarded to the applicant.

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V37 KSA

SA51 MVM

Normal Oban Times rules apply

West Coast Property Guide

Sell your property online at our new website:
www.westcoastpropertyguide.co.uk

TO LET

Crinan, Argyll
Flat overlooking the Loch Crinan and Canal Basin.
Living Room, dining kitchen, three bedrooms and bathroom.
The flat is unfurnished but benefits from carpets and floor coverings throughout.
The property has a small drying green across the road.
For all enquiries please call **British Waterways Property Department** on 0141 332 6936.

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Kitchen white goods included in let
References essential
No D.S.S., smokers or pets
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Two bathrooms, fully carpeted white goods in kitchen gardens and oil C/H
£700 pcm + Bills
Tel: 01855 831900 or 07909963667

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West Coast Property Guide
West Coast
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WANTED

HOLIDAY COTTAGES WANTED
ONLY AGENCY COMMISSION until Jan 2011
For details and an Owner Information Pack please contact Karen McWilliams
www.scottish-cottages.co.uk
1665 570 715
Email: karen@scottish-cottages.co.uk

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56 Renault Megane Expression 1.4 hatchback, 5 door, 13k miles, red...	£6,850
56 Renault Clio Campus Sport, 3 door, silver, 22,500 miles.....	£5,450
06 Peugeot 2007 Sport 1.4E, 3 door in blue, 31,000 miles.....	£6,350
06 Vauxhall Corsa Life 1.0, 5 door, red, 34,000 miles.....	£4,650
54 Renault Clio exp. 1.4 5dr, green, 32,000 miles.....	£4,850
54 Renault Clio exp. 1.2 5dr, black, 43,000 miles.....	£4,250
04 Renault Clio Dyn DCi 65, 3dr, blue, 46,000 miles.....	£4,350
52 Vauxhall Vectra LS 1.8, 5dr hatchback, 55k miles, blue.....	£2,650
52 Renault Scenic Expression Plus, 1.6, 5 door, blue, 69,000 miles..	£2,950
01 Renault Clio Grande, 1.2, 3 door, blue.....	£2,250
05 Fiat Ulysse Dyn JTD, seven seater, blue.....	£7,295

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new car index

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ISUZU S & S Services Old Bridge Road, Heathfield, Ayr Tel. 01292 880080 / 880440	SUBARU S & S Services Old Bridge Road, Heathfield, Ayr Tel. 01292 880080/880440
VOLKSWAGEN Hawco Caol, Fort William Tel. 01397 700900 www.hawco.volkswagen.co.uk	TO PROMOTE YOUR NEW CAR DEALERSHIP PLEASE CALL: 01631 568000

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08 MITSUBISHI L200 Diamond double cab pick up, auto, leather, canopy
06 TOYOTA HILUX Invinible, double cab pick-up, met green, leather, manual, 40k
07 MITSUBISHI L200 Warrior double cab pick up, leather, silver, 30k
07 MITSUBISHI L200 Diamond, double cab, auto, sat nav, leather, black, canopy
07 MITSUBISHI L200 Animal, double cab, auto, sat nav, leather, black
07 MITSUBISHI L200 Warrior double cab, black, leather, canopy, 20k
05 MITSUBISHI L200 single cab, 4WD, pick up, black, 40k
06 MITSUBISHI Shogun Sport Commercial 5 dr, silver, 38k
06 MITSUBISHI L200, Cab double cab pick-up, black, towbar, loadliner, 20k
06 MITSUBISHI L200 Animal double cab pick-up, silver, leather, 40k
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06 NISSAN Navara Outlander double cab pick up, black, 6 speed, cruise control.
05 MAZDA B2500 Baracuda 2.5TD, double cab pick up, leather, canopy, 50k
07 FORD Ranger, single cab pick up, 4WD, new shape, silver, canopy.
06 FORD Ranger Thunder, double cab pick up, grey, canopy, leather.
06 FORD Ranger, double cab pick up, silver, canopy, air con, 40k.
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54 Plate, 1 year MOT
6 months tax
Black
52 miles to the gallon
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MOUNTAIN BIKE ladies, Shimano, 15 gears, little used, £49 Telephone 01583 441352.

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with mirror and four drawers, £10 Telephone Oban 01631 564848 during office hours.

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COFFEE TABLE

small, square, good condition, £15 Telephone 07720 842068.

COFFEE TABLE

teak with beige tiles, £9 Telephone Oban 01631 564848 during office hours.

COFFEE TABLE very nice, green tooled leather top, 3' x 1'8", £30 Telephone 01631 710602.

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small dining room table, 27" x 27", mahogany, would suit small hotel or guest house, £30 Telephone 01631 565067 07771 708301.

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DOUBLE BED

with attached bedside cabinets, £45 Telephone 07720 842068.

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TV/VIDEO dark wood unit with two drawers, £19 Telephone Oban 01631 564848 during office hours.

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PERSONALS

Golden Wedding Anniversary Congratulations Donald and Isabel MacFadyen, Port Charlotte, Islay, on your 50th wedding anniversary on November 19, 2009

Love and best wishes from all the family.

HAPPY 40TH BIRTHDAY SALLY



From all your friends and family.

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BIRTHS

HODGKINSON - Paul and Ruth (née Mitchell), are delighted to announce the birth of their daughter, Callie Niamh, on November 13, 2009. First grandchild for Patrick and Sue, Cheltenham and David and Sheila, Oban.

STRUTHERS - GAGE - Findlay and Victoria are delighted to announce the safe arrival of Rosie Isabella Struthers, born at Edinburgh Royal Infirmary on November 11, 2009, third grandchild for Christine Gage, Letterwalton and another grandchild for Findlay Struthers, Grangemouth, East Lothian.

GOLDEN WEDDING

GALBRAITH-BARNETT - At Shawlands Cross Church, Glasgow on November 20, 1959 by the Rev Hamilton, Gal to Val, Glen Clova, Soroba Road, Oban.

DEATHS

CAMERON - Peacefully at Falls of Dochart Retirement Home, Killin, Annie Rorie Marquis in her 97th year, beloved wife of the late John Cameron of Inverhaggie and Crianlarich. Dear mother of Janet, Anne and the late Catriona, much loved grandmother, great-grandmother and great-great-grandmother. Funeral service will be held at Crianlarich Parish Church on Friday, November 20, 2009 at 11.30am thereafter to Killin Cemetery to which all friends and neighbours are respectfully invited. Family flowers only, donations if desired to Falls of Dochart Retirement Home.

FITTON - Alison Jane, aged 40, of Bumsall, North Connel. Alison died peacefully at The Lorn and Islands Hospital on November 14, 2009, after a long and brave battle against brain cancer. She was much loved by her husband Mark, her children, Lora, Katy and Ben, and her parents-in-law, Jen and Geoff. Private family funeral.

GRIERSON - Peacefully in the care of Cowal ward, Argyll and Bute Hospital, Lochgilphead on November 12, 2009. Hew McInnes, dear husband of Claire, much loved father of Hew and Isla and brother of Sheena and the late Margaret.

HOOD - Suddenly on Wednesday, November 11, 2009, Robert (Hoodie) aged 80, dear husband of Bessie and a loving brother to his sister Violet. Will be sadly missed.

MACDOUGALL - Peacefully in her sleep at Mossbank Care Home, Fort William, on November 13, 2009, Wilma, beloved wife of John, much loved mum of Pamela, Alisdair and Lorne. Sadly missed.

MOULE - Christina (Tina) (née Witherspoon). On November 12, 2009, peacefully in the Rutson Unit at the Friarage Hospital, Northhallerton, of Grassington Avenue, Northhallerton. Dearly loved wife of the late John, much loved mum of Alan, Julie and Anthony, grandma to Charmaine, Stephen, Rose, Sarah and Madeleine. Funeral service to take place at Harrogate Crematorium on Friday, November 27, 2009 at 1.40pm. Family flowers only please, donations in lieu to St Teresa's Hospice, Darlington. Plate provided at service.

PARK - Samuel Warnock (Drymen). Peacefully at Erskine Mains Home on Wednesday, November 11, 2009, in his 85th year, Sam, much loved husband of Irene, father of Sandy and John and loving grandfather of Christopher, Gordon, Jennifer and Andrew. Funeral service at Clydebank Crematorium on Thursday, November 19, at 11am to which all are respectfully invited. Family flowers only. There will be a retiring collection if desired, to Erskine Hospital. No Black ties please.

SPINK - Peacefully, on November 15, 2009 at the Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban, aged 83 years, Jessie (Livingstone), dearly beloved wife of the late Duncan Spink, much loved mother of Elspeth, loving sister of Mary, the late Peter and Johnnie and a dear aunt. Funeral will take place from Church of Scotland, Glencruitten Road, Oban on Monday, November 23, 2009 at 1.30 pm. Family flowers only please. Retiring collection/donations if desired for Cancer Research (UK) Scotland.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

BROWN - Alastair, Alison and family would like to thank all family, friends and neighbours for their kind expressions of sympathy, cards and telephone calls received following the death of our dear mother, Mrs. Margaret Brown, who passed away on November 17, 2008. In our lonely hours of thinking thoughts of you are ever near. God is our refuge and our strength. - Inserted by his loving mother Jessie and sister Anne, Borve, Barra.

DUNCAN - (Spider). Joan, Allan and Michael would like to thank relatives, friends, neighbours and work colleagues for all the cards, visits, calls and flowers received following the death of Spider. Special thanks go to the ambulance crew, A and E staff, ward B staff and the helicopter crew for all their effort, care and attention on Sunday. Grateful thanks to all who have cared for him over the last 2 years. We would also like to thank Catriona and staff at H Hoey and Son and the Rowantree Hotel for all their help and attention. A retiring collection of £889.64 was raised for Macmillan Nurses (Oban Branch).

FITTON

Mark and family would like to thank, most sincerely, Dr Bennett, Dr Fattah, the Macmillan Nurses and all the staff on Ward C of The Lorn and Islands Hospital. The care that Alison received during the final weeks of her life was absolutely exceptional and we can not thank them enough for all the support that was given to the whole family.

MILLER - Jean, Gail and Andrew wish to thank all family and numerous friends, many of whom travelled some distance, to pay their last respects to Tom. A special thanks to the ICU at Dunfermline's Queen Margaret Hospital, Shaun and the staff from Crosbie Matthew Funeral Directors for their professionalism and attention to detail and the Strathearn Hotel, Kirkcaldy for looking after everyone so well. Lastly, thank you to everyone who donated a total of £502 to be split between the RNLI and the British Heart Foundation.

SPEIGHT - Jean and family of the late Laurence H. Speight would like to thank friends and neighbours for their support and kind expressions of sympathy following their loss. Thank you to Angela Stather for comforting service and Jean MacAfer for dignified and caring funeral arrangements. Finally thank you to everyone who attended church and graveside.

IN MEMORIAM

BLAIR - Treasured memories of my dear husband Robert, who died on November 19, 1989. - Katie.

CAMERON - In loving memory of Iain "McGosh", a dear husband, dad, granddad and father in law, who passed away on November 16, 2004. November comes with sad regret. It brings back a day we will never forget. Another year has passed since that sad day. We watched you close your eyes and slip away. Gone is the face we loved so dear. Silent the voice we loved to hear. We miss you now and always will. Loved and remembered always.

- Cathie, Neil, James and Pauline, Iain and Evelyn, Eleanor and John, Neil, Polaidh-Anna, Graidhne, Elaine and Steven.

CAMERON - In loving memory of a dear husband, father and grandpa, Angus, died November 18, 1994. Your memory is our greatest

treasure to have, to love, to keep forever.

- Rosemary and all the family.
CAMERON - In loving memory of a dear husband and father, Alexander, (Allie), who passed away November 24, 1998. Loved and remembered every day.

- Inserted by his loving wife Florence and son David.
CAMPBELL - In loving memory of Chrissie, passed away November 18, 2006. A loving wife, mum, mother-in-law and granny. Always in our thoughts.

CAMPBELL - In loving memory of Iain, beloved son of Nan and the late Donald. Dear brother and brother-in-law of Ann, Flora, Paul and Calum. Much loved and loving uncle of Catriona, Mairi, Donnie, Roderick, Rhona, Chris and Abbie. Very sorely missed.

CAMPBELL - In memory of a much loved uncle, Norman, who passed away November 15, 2008. Loved and remembered always.

- From Donnie, Caroline and families.
COLLINS - In loving memory of my dad, Tom (Jumper). Loved and remembered every day.

- Susan, Andy, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.
FERGUSON - In loving memory of my dear son and brother, Donald, who died on November 17, 2008. In our lonely hours of thinking thoughts of you are ever near.

God is our refuge and our strength. - Inserted by his loving mother Jessie and sister Anne, Borve, Barra.

FOSTER - In loving memory of my dear husband, Denis Foster, died November 28, 2007. I will love and remember you always. - Inserted by wife, Catherine. Always in our thoughts dad. - Daughter, Wendy and family.

GOULD - In loving memory of Betty (née MacIntyre) our dear sister, sister-in-law and aunt who died on November 17, 1995, also Don our dear brother-in-law and uncle who died this year on June 8, 2009. Dearly loved and sadly missed.

- By all the family, Strontian and Glenshiel.
HENDERSON - In loving memory of my dear husband, Iain, who died November 22, 2002. In my heart you will always stay. Quietly remembered every day. Greatly missed.

- Isabel.
KEITH - Fondly remembering Neil who died November 19, 2002. - From Mary and family.

MACDONALD - In loving memory of my dear son and our brother, John Joseph, who died November 23, 2002. R.I.P. Many a lonely heartache. Many a silent tear. But always a beautiful memory.

Of one we loved so dear. - 118 Kilmallie Road, Caol.
MACINTYRE - 10th Anniversary. In loving memory of my dear mum, Margaret, who died November 18, 1999. Also remembering my dad, Neil, who died 1979.

A bouquet of beautiful memories. Is sprayed with a million tears. Wishing God could have given you just a few more years.

- Love Isabel, Johnnie and family.
MACINTYRE - 10th Anniversary. In remembrance of my dear mother, Margaret, who died November 18, 1999. Also remembering my father, Neil, who died 1979.

Time goes by. And life goes on. But in our hearts you are never gone. - Love Moira, George and family, Glasgow.

MACINTYRE - Treasured memories of much loved parents, parents-in-law and grandparents, Archibald (Baldy) and Mary (née Boyd), whose anniversaries occur at this time. Always in our thoughts. - Iain, Jane, Caroline and Boyd, Edinburgh.

MACINTYRE - Treasured memories of my beloved parents, Mary Elizabeth (Boyd) who died November 16, 2005, Archie (Baldy) MacIntyre who died December 17, 1989. If memories bring us close. We are never far apart. You are always with us. Forever in our hearts. - Susan, Jim and family, Fort William.

MACKAY - In loving memory of Christine, died November 18, 2006, much loved daughter, sister, auntie and sister-in-law. Christine, love and miss you always.

- Mum, Elizabeth, Nicola, John, Thomas and families xxx.
MACKAY - In loving memory of my dear wife, Christine. My heart still aches with sadness.

And sweet tears still flow. What it meant to lose you. No one will ever know. - Donnie x.

MACKAY - Treasured memories of our much loved mother and nana, Christine, who was taken from us on November 18, 2006. If I could have a lifetime wish. A dream that would come true.

I'd pray to God with all my heart for yesterday and you. You left behind my broken heart. And happy memories too. I never wanted memories. I only wanted you. - Donna, Scott and Finlay, xxx.

MACKAY - In loving memory of Christine a much loved mum and nana. Always in our dreams and thoughts. Miss you more each day. - Finlay, Leanne, Aidan, Neve and Katy, xx.

MACKAY - Cherished memories of Christine a wonderful mum and nana, who passed away on November 18, 2006. I do not need a special day. To bring you to my mind. The days I do not think of you. Are very hard to find.

- Rebecca, John, Ruairidh and Innes, xx.
MACKAY - In loving memory of Eddie, father and grandfather who died November 22, 1968. Always in our thoughts. - Family Inveraray and Canada.

MACNAB - In loving memory of Bessie, a much loved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, who passed away November 23, 2008. Always in our thoughts. Forever in our hearts.

- Agnes, Sandy, George and families.
MACNAB - In loving memory of my granny, Bessie MacNab, who passed away November 23, 2008. Sadly missed and forever in our hearts.

- Kate, Tori, Kirsti, Ross and the great grandchildren, Oban and Glasgow.
MAY - In loving memory of my dear mum, Cathie, who died November 23, 2006. Sadly missed and remembered every day.

- Love Steven. In memory of my dear mum. Always in my thoughts. - Love Norman. Treasured memories of my dear mum.

Though absent you are very near. Still loved, still missed. Still very dear. - Love Karen. Precious memories of a much loved mum and granny.

Sometimes it's lonely here without you. I miss you more each day. Because life is not the same to me. Since you were called away. If I could have one lifetime wish.

One dream that could come true. I'd pray to God with all my heart. For yesterday and you. Love always. - Sandra and Chris xx. Sweet Jesus, take this message.

To our dear Granny up above. Tell her how we miss her. And give her all our love. Remembering all our special times together. - Love Caitlin and Erin xx.

MORREN - In loving memory of a dear brother and uncle, John (Ian) Morren, who died November 20, 2007. Always remembered. - Ellen and family, Ron and Bess.

RICHMOND - In loving memory of our dear mother and grandmother, Agnes Richmond (née Paterson), 9 Lismore Crescent, Oban, who passed away on November 21, 1984. We did not know that morning.

God was to call your name. In life we loved you dearly. In death we do the same. It broke our hearts to lose you. You did not go alone. For part of us went with you.

The day God called you home. You left us beautiful memories. Your love will be our guide. And though we cannot see you. You are always at our side. - Inserted by her ever loving son Victor, daughter-in-law Anne, grandchildren Yvonne and John, Bermuda.

RILEY - Cherished memories of a special mother, gran and great-granny, Margaret, who died November 24, 2007, also

our father, Frank who died November 14, 1991. No longer in my life to share.

But in my heart you're always there. Loved and remembered everyday.

- Betty, Tam and all the family.
STORMONTH - In loving memory of our dearest Marshall who died on November 18, 1993. Daonnán nar smuaintean. - From Mum, Murray and Aileen.

TRAYNOR - Precious memories of my dear husband, John, who passed away November 22, 1994. Always in my thoughts. Forever in my heart. - Jessie.

TRAYNOR - Treasured memories of a dear dad and papa John. Always in our thoughts. Forever in our hearts. Never forgotten. - Jennifer, Karl and family.

TRAYNOR - Remembering with love our dear father and papa, John, who passed away November 22, 1994. Each of us in our own way. Have special thoughts of you today. Loved and remembered always.

- Violet and family.
TRAYNOR - Treasured memories of a much loved father and papa, John. Though absent you are ever near. Still missed, still loved and very dear.

- Janette, John, Trevor and Jacqueline.
WATSON - In memory of Janet, a loving wife and mother, who died November 19, 2007. Sadly missed. - Robin and Jim.

CHARITY DONATIONS

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ECCLESIASTICAL NOTICES

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH ANGLICAN COMMUNION
 Sunday 22 November 2009
 Christ the King
 Trinity 24
 St John's Cathedral, Oban
 Holy Communion.....08.00
 Sung Eucharist.....10.15
 Loop System
 Large Print Hymn Books
 All Welcome
 Norman MacCallum, Provost
 (01631) 562323
 St Columba, Gruline, Mull
 Holy Eucharist.....11.00
 St Columba, Bishop's House, Iona
 Holy Eucharist.....10.00

The value of the Community

so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. (Rom 12:5)

Unless you are one of those people who always reads newspapers from the back, by the time you reach this page you will be fully informed of all the latest events, scandals and calamities which have occurred within our community in the last week.

One of the most obvious ways in which a sense of community is manifested is our tendency to buy things from a certain shop or stick with a certain bank, not simply because it is closest or sells things at the cheapest price but because we know and trust the people who run it or work there. When we live in community, our purchases become more than just economic exchanges. They show that we value communication, trust, contact and mutual interest; they come to be about the people involved, not just the products.

Would we, however, go out of our way for the person who grows or makes something, not just the seller? Purchasing fairly traded goods shows that we value and respect producers who have worked hard to make things we enjoy; we believe they deserve to be empowered, not exploited.

All trade connects people but fair trade builds community. Through economic development systems such as fair trade we not only lift people out of poverty but show our trust and respect for them, acknowledging them as an important part of our life here. We are treating them with dignity and integrity, a Christian imperative, just as we would anyone in our community.

Linda Griffiths, Imani Development
 Imani Development is an economic development consultancy whose UK office is in Oban.

We work both in Scotland and various parts of Africa to promote economic growth.

Fair trade is only one of the means through which we do this.

Imani is a Swahili word meaning faith and confidence; this epitomizes the approach to our projects and clients.

Obituary Captain Norman Morrison, MBE

WITH the passing of Norman Morrison on October 13, Oban lost a well-known character. Always modest about his achievements his cheerful conversation concealed a colourful life.



Captain Norman Morrison MBE
 'for services to the safety of shipping around the Scottish and Isle of Man coasts.'

Norman was born in Harris in 1922. Soon afterwards his father helped to lead a land raid in Lingerbay intended to provide homes for several young families. Before their appearance at the Sheriff Court the men involved dug trenches in the turf that remained visible for years. They read, 'In God we trust.' Their independent spirit and regard for higher principles had a profound effect on Norman and many like him.

He learned to take responsibility at an early age, for he was the oldest of nine and his father spent much of the time deep-sea sailing. He did his share of cooking and baking as well as fishing, carrying bales of tweed, cutting peat, and the hard manual work of the crew.

When he left school at 14 he worked at lobster fishing. That inshore work developed the judgement and boat handling skills that made him a remarkable seaman.

It was a young and vibrant community. The village had neither road nor electricity. Consequently there was more face-to-face interaction than we are accustomed to. Norman's friendliness developed there.

In 1950 he came to Oban to work with the Northern Lighthouse Service, a job that would last for 36 years. His first ship was the Hesperus. He said, 'I loved that job. Every day was different.'

His family believed the challenge of sailing in difficult conditions attracted him as much as its variety. The Scottish coast is notoriously difficult, and their job was to sail in areas they did not want other ships to go. Many of the buoys they serviced marked rocks or sandbanks, and it required considerable skill to lasso the buoy while avoiding the underwater danger. Lighthouses were manned at that time and Norman was expert at manoeuvring the workboat among the treacherous rocks in order to relieve the keepers.

His last days were spent at home surrounded by his family. After many years working to help others he completed his life in peace. He leaves Mary Ann, his wife of 61 years, his daughter Margaret and his sons Angus and Derek.



Staff and volunteers from the MS Therapy Centre in Oban pictured at their Holly Tea.

MS Holly Tea raises almost £1,000

NEARLY £1,000 was raised for the Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Therapy Centre in Oban at a Holly Tea in the town. The annual event, held last Saturday, in Glencruitten Church Centre, is a major fundraiser for the charity and this year brought in £943.

Centre administrator Sandra Owens said: 'We are very pleased with this year's event, which had lovely home baking and lots of kind donations from people. We always receive great support from the community and I would like to thank them for that.'

Palestine talk for Oban Concern

AN ecumenical peace keeper who has worked in Palestine talked about her experiences to Oban Concern for Palestine group. Kate Aspinwall spent four months as an impartial peace observer in Palestine and Israel and agreed to talk to the group in the Church Centre, Glencruitten Road.

Her talk was followed by a question and answer session. At present the group has around 32 members who are interested in discussing ways forward for peace and justice in Palestine.

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Skye
Camanachd
win
London
Shield
after seven
year famine

Shinty

London Shield
Under 17 Final
Glenurquhart 1
Skye 2

SKYE won the Under 17's national final and the London Shield for the first time in seven years when they defeated Glenurquhart 2-1 at Lochcarron on Saturday.

In a match that threatened to boil over during the second-half, referee Evan MacRae sent off Glenurquhart's Sam Cumming, and book three, with others fortunate to see out the 90 minutes.

Skye opened the scoring after 18 minutes when Danny Morrison's shot was saved by keeper Ryan Brady, only for Ally MacDonald to net the rebound.

Skye were awarded a penalty minutes later when Brady kicked the ball, but Morrison's spot hit went over the Glen crossbar.

At the start of the second-half, a late challenge by Skye defender Martin Bruce led to an angry reaction by Glen's Calum Smith. Referee MacRae elected to yellow card both players following a word with his goaljudge - but both players could have seen red.

The incident sparked a period of scrappy and undisciplined play culminating in another heated confrontation, after which Glenurquhart's Kelvin MacKenzie was sent off, then recalled, and Sam Cumming red carded in his place. Cumming's late tackle on Shaun Hedley had instigated the fracas - with Hedley being booked for his part in the unsavoury scenes.

Despite having a man advantage Skye doubled their lead against the run of play with a neat interpassing move which ended with Stewart Grant scoring from 25 yards.

However, Glenurquhart came right back into the match when Ewan Brady's long ball from the flank deflected off a defender and into the Skye net.

Glenurquhart tried hard over the remaining period but found a determined Skye defence in fine form.

Final score Glenurquhart 1 Skye 2.

Inveraray and
Bute will decide
Lochaber's
Premier progress
**Lochaber
can only
wait and
watch**

Title decider goes to last game

Shinty

Scottish Hydro
Premier Division
Lochaber 0
Newtonmore 1

LOCHABER Camanachd face a nervous wait to see if they will be playing in the Scottish Hydro Premier League next season after they just failed to derail Newtonmore's title hopes.

Newtonmore may find that the two points from a single goal victory is just not enough to overhaul Kingussie with both teams now having one game left in their premier schedule.

Last Saturday, freeflowing shinty was at a premium on a soft and sticky pitch and early scoring chances were slow to appear.

Zander Ferguson flashed a shot passed 'More keeper Michael Ritchie's left hand post on 24 minutes then Angus Morrison made a smart stop from the ever-dangerous David Cheyne. Morrison repeated the save minutes later amid what was to prove an outstanding performance from the Lochaber keeper.

On the half-hour, Lochaber's Danny Delaney was hit in the eye by the ball as Ritchie cleared and the youngster was forced to leave the field after a long delay.

Lochaber readjusted, but Newtonmore dominated territorially and opened the scoring two minutes before half time when a crossfield ball from Evan Menzies found Danny MacRae unmarked 10 yards out and he rifled the ball passed the unprotected Morrison.

Fired up by the goal, 'More hunted a second before the break and Morrison stood tall to deny Menzies then Cheyne. Newtonmore continued to have the edge after the interval, but Lochaber gradually got back into the match, with Sean Nicolson impressive in midfield.

As play swung from end to end, Ben Delaney was denied by Ritchie before Morrison made a tremendous reaction save from Danny MacRae.

Newtonmore became increasingly nervous in the final half-hour as their single goal advantage looked fragile against Lochaber's growing confidence. Nicolson mis-hit a shot from 12 yards as the home side pressed ever-forward and they should have taken a point from the game inside the final two minutes when Ben Delaney broke clear of the Newtonmore defence, drew the keeper, then dragged his shot passed the left-hand post - and Lochaber's chance had gone.

Lochaber will now have to sit, wait and watch as Inveraray and Bute play-out a relegation dog-fight in a bid to overtake the Spean Bridge team.

Level on points at the top of the premier table, it appears increasingly likely that the league title will be decided between Newtonmore and Kingussie by goal difference.

Newtonmore are away to Inveraray this weekend and require to overhaul Kingussie's current four-goal advantage, while Kingussie are away this Saturday to a Kyles Athletic team that have proved a thorn in the league leaders side already this season.



Lochaber's James MacRae and Newtonmore's David Cheyne watch as Zander Ferguson moves in to cut out the throughball to Danny MacRae

Young Lochaber win
national under 17 sixes

Shinty

LOCHABER repeated their MacTavish Juvenile Cup victory when they deated Fort William in the final of the National Under 17 Sixes at Oban on Sunday.

Eight teams contested the final with Lochaber knocking out Oban Celtic 2-0 at the semi-final stage, and Fort William winning through against Glasgow Mid Argyll by a single goal.

In the final, Ben Delaney opened the scoring before a Stewart Callison double and a goal from John Sweeney clinched the trophy.

Oban Celtic's Gary McKerracher won the Player of the Tournament award.

Borthwick confirmed
as Kingussie manager

Shinty

STEVEN Borthwick has been confirmed as the new Kingussie first team manager following the club's AGM on Monday.

Borthwick will take over from Jimmy Gow at the end of the season.

Norman Dickson continues as second team manager.



Former Oban Camanachd forward Dougie MacIntyre turned the clock back on Saturday when he scored a spectacular goal to earn his side a 1-1 draw as the Oban Camanachd Scottish Cup winning team of 1996 played the 2009 Oban Camanachd side as part of the club's 120th anniversary celebrations

Taynuilt
celebrate
successful season

Shinty

Taynuilt Shinty Club's memorable season was officially brought to a close with a dinner dance in the Taynuilt Hotel on Saturday where the season's prizewinners were also announced. Pictured with the South Division Two trophy and a celebratory cake made at Cruchan Croft, depicting every player, are, from left: Player of the Year Willie Gillies, most improved player Ian MacDonald and Players' Player of the Year Gary Cameron.



Shinty leagues

Premier Division

Kingussie	17	12	4	1	77	28
Newtonmore	17	12	4	1	63	17
Fort William	18	9	2	7	39	20
Glenurquhart	17	8	3	6	35	19
Kyles Athletic	16	7	4	5	43	18
Oban Camanachd	17	8	2	7	30	18
Lochaber	17	5	3	9	25	13
Inveraray	15	5	1	9	31	11
Bute	15	3	3	9	19	9
Glenorchy	18	1	2	15	13	4

North Division 1

Lovat	16	11	3	2	46	23
Kilmallie	16	12	0	4	67	24
Skye	16	11	1	4	43	23
Caberfeidh	16	9	0	7	27	18
Kinlochshiel	16	8	2	6	46	37
Strathglass	16	7	1	8	44	37
Beaully	16	6	2	8	29	36
Inverness	15	2	1	13	11	6
Lochcarron	16	1	0	15	15	5

South Division 1

Lochside Rovers	12	10	1	1	47	21
GMA	12	8	2	2	44	18
Kilmory	11	7	1	3	27	15
Oban Celtic	12	4	2	6	35	38
Inveraray	11	3	1	7	26	42
Ballachulish	12	2	1	9	24	39
Tayforth	10	2	0	8	17	44

North Division 2

Glenurquhart	18	15	2	1	72	18
Kingussie	18	12	2	4	69	38
Fort William	15	10	2	3	55	21
Newtonmore	18	10	1	7	48	21
Lovat	17	9	1	7	55	44
Glenarry	17	8	2	7	45	36
Skye	18	5	2	1	40	12
Kilmallie	18	6	0	12	31	62
Kinlochshiel	18	3	2	13	26	7
Caberfeidh	17	2	0	15	33	7

South Division 2

Taynuilt	14	14	0	0	69	14
Aberdour	16	9	0	7	54	48
Kyles	11	7	1	3	35	19
Strachur	15	7	1	7	33	15
ColGlen	15	6	2	7	29	38
Bute	16	6	1	9	35	37
GlasgowMid Argyll	15	4	4	7	35	45
Glenorchy	13	4	2	7	21	27
Ballachulish	13	1	1	11	17	63

North Division 3

Beaully	18	15	0	3	72	15
Lochbroom	18	14	1	3	75	21
Aberdeen U	18	12	2	4	65	27
Lochaber	17	11	0	6	77	37
Strathglass	15	7	0	8	52	53
Boleskine	14	6	1	7	30	33
Inverness	17	6	1	10	30	53
Lochcarron	15	4	0	11	18	49
Ardnamurchan	13	4	0	13	31	75
Kincraig	15	0	1	14	11	92

Shinty fixtures

Shinty

Scottish Hydro Premier Division

Oban Camanachd v Bute
David Mitchell
Inveraray v Newtonmore
Derek Cameron
Kyles Athletic v Kingussie
Charles Young

Results

Shinty

Scottish Hydro Premier Division

Inveraray P Bute P
Kyles P Kingussie P
Lochaber 0 Newtonmore 1
Marine Harvest North Division 2
Fort William P Glenarry P
Marine Harvest South Division 2
Glenorchy P Strachur P
London Shield Final
Glenurquhart 1 Skye 2

SHINTY BALL

Spot the

Competition

WIN
£500

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE...

All you have to do

We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph opposite. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1.

If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.

The game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void. Prizes will be shared between those submitting correct entries.

If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

Easy to enter

Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to reach "Spot the Shinty Ball" Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon on Tuesday.

You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

Competition Rules

No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery. The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.

In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company.

The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time.

Employees of The Oban Times Limited, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.

I enclose £1 (note) for 20 crosses (tick box) The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules.

How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1.

Name _____

Address _____

Tel No. _____

Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB

We have a winner! Congratulations to L Wilson, Ardfuar, Taynuilt, Argyll who wins this week's jackpot of £600

Oban Camanachd match marks 120 years of history



Oban Camanachd players past and present, coaches and youth players gather before the match at Mossfield on Saturday. 07_147cam01

OBAN Camanachd's Scottish Cup champions from 1996 proved that they were far from over the hill with a 1-1 draw against the current Camanachd side at Mossfield on Saturday. The match, refereed by Taynuilt's Dougie Cameron, was played to mark the club's 120th anniversary. Aidan MacIntyre put the 2009 team ahead on the half-hour mark after a fast break but the unmarked Dougie MacIntyre crashed

Shinty

home the equaliser after a cross from the left by Fraser Inglis. Many in attendance said they were pleased to see that their 1996 heroes could still

13 years ago, minus the injured Ally MacInnes, who was replaced by Stephen Sloss. The club will donate the £100 raised at the gate to Oban Hospice. That evening the club held a dinner

dance in the Royal Hotel, where this season's award winners were announced: Development Player of Year (Primary) - Jamie Kilorn; U14 Player of the Year (Jason Will Trophy) - Alex Dunning and Malcom

Clark; U17 Player of the Year - Gary Lord; Lochside Rovers Player of the Year - Drew Walker; Oban Camanachd Player of the Year - Andrew Pearson. Long service awards were also given to Nigel Evans

Saints face Bannockburn battle

Football

OBAN SAINTS travel to Bannockburn on Saturday to take on high flying Caledonian League side Milton in the 3rd round of the West of Scotland Cup.

Milton are presently lying in top spot in the First Division. The game has to be finished on the day, so extra time and penalties, if required, will decide who goes through. The winners are at home to either Bishopton or Morton Thistle in the fourth round.

Last weekend's Jimmy Marshall Trophy match against Arkleston had to be postponed by the groundstaff on the Saturday morning after a pitch inspection found Glenruitten to be waterlogged.

Shinty league underway

Shinty

THE FIRST Shinty League got underway on Sunday afternoon at Atlantis Leisure in Oban with a good turnout of spectators.

After a good day's play Rockfield Rovers are leading the C league with Park Sparkies three points behind.

The B league is tied between Lochnell and Taynuilt with St Columba's just two points behind.

St Columba's A team are leading the A league. The next round is at Atlantis Leisure on December 6.

Saints youth results

Football

SATURDAY'S results: Under 13s v Westerton, postponed; Under 15s no game; Under 19s 1, Dumbarton Harp 2. Netting for Saints was Kevin Keene.

This Saturday's games - Under 13s v Clydebank Boys; Torrance Thistle v Under 15s; Under 19s v Johnstone Burgh.

Islay Golf Club results

Golf

November Medal: 1 Michael Kelly 87 less 20 net 67; 2 Alister Blair 82 less 14 net 68; 3 Scott Currie 84 less 13 net 71. Css71.

Winter League week two: 1 John Campbell 35pts; 2 Kenny Gillies 33pts; 3 Donald Gillies 32pts. Css 72.

Oban Pool League

Pool

Oban Pool League	P	Pts
Loch B	4	6
Lochnell Arms	4	6
Markie Dans A	4	6
Markie Dans B	4	6
Claredon A	4	6
Loch A	4	4
Gluepot	4	4
Kelvin Dale	4	4
Lancaster	4	4
Cellar	4	2
Balmoral	4	2
Claredon B	4	0

Willie evolves

Rally

OBAN driver Willie Bonniwell has upgraded his car to a group N Mitsubishi Lancer Evo 9 for the IRC Rally of Scotland.

The former Subaru driver will be partnered by co-driver Neil Ewing, who has raced with the late Colin McRae.

Willie's Evo 9 will also display slogans supporting Oban as a tourist destination during the televised event.

Tides

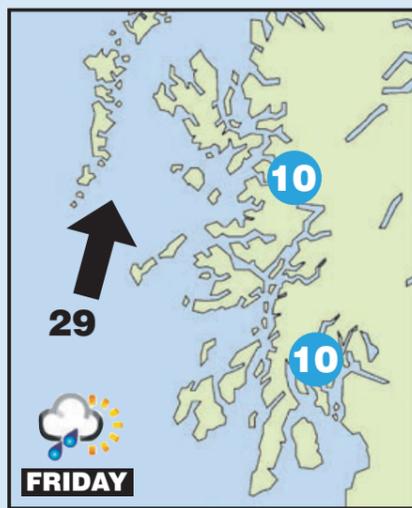
Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday, November 19, 2009 are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur 00.49	1.1 06.41 4.0 13.12 1.3 18.49 3.8	
Fri 01.27	1.2 07.18 3.9 13.50 1.5 19.25 3.6	
Sat 02.06	1.4 07.56 3.8 14.30 1.7 20.01 3.4	
Sun 02.48	1.5 08.37 3.6 15.15 1.9 20.40 3.3	
Mon 03.33	1.7 09.24 3.4 16.06 2.0 21.25 3.1	
Tues 04.22	1.9 10.19 3.3 17.04 2.1 22.23 2.9	
Wed 05.18	2.0 11.35 3.2 18.09 2.1 23.51 2.9	

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrihaig	-5.35	Lochboisdale	+0.30
Campbeltown	-5.30	Mallaig	+0.25
Crinan	-0.47	Portree	+0.55
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Tobermory	+0.16
		Dover	+5.30

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the weather

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Thursday

Heavy rain forecast with a 20mph south/south-westerly wind. Temperatures around 9°C.

Friday

Light rain and showers during the day but the sky should clear at night. Winds strong south/south-westerly. Temperatures 8°C to 12°C.

Weekend Outlook

Saturday will be sunny during the day but expect heavy rain by the evening and into Sunday. Winds west/south-westerly in direction. Temperatures 5°C to 9°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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Warriors gather in Oban

Monthly Argyll and Bute event attracts 66 of the county's best junior players

PLAYERS from the professional Glasgow Warriors rugby team were in Oban at the weekend as Oban Lorne RFC hosted the latest Argyll and Bute Youth Gathering.

The gathering took place on Sunday with a total of 66 youth players taking part and last Friday Warriors Jon Welsh and Pete Murchie put some of the Oban youngsters through a training session. The monthly gatherings have been set up to give the young players from all over the region the chance to come together and receive some additional coaching and more importantly the chance to play competitive games.

The Argyll U16 team which competes in the Glasgow West Youth leagues is drawn from players who have come through the Gathering system and the National Pathway System, which is a regional coaching programme looking to identify potentially talented

Rugby

players as early as possible. It is hoped that next season Argyll might be able to sustain more than just an U16 team and target the other age league age groups at U15 and U17 to enter teams.

At the gathering on Sunday the S1/S2 section featured Mull, Oban, Mid Argyll and guest team Lochaber.

Lochaber and Oban proved too strong for Mull and Mid Argyll and their head-to-head decided who would win the round robin event.

A very exciting game finished at four tries each and with Lochaber scoring one more try than Oban during the afternoon they finished on top of the group with Oban in second place.

Credit

Much credit is due to the coaches who are involved week in, week out training the S1/2 boys and regularly give up their weekends. From Mull: Alan Makeham, Oban: Ben Redfeam, Mid

Lorne bowled out

SHE National Bowl Round One Oban 13 Clydebank 15

CLYDEBANK made the trip west last Saturday with Oban Lorne hoping to get one back on their opponents after a 30-14 loss in the league only a few weeks ago.

Euan Wilson returned to the team at scrum half for this game and he was to give a man of the match performance, despite his side's defeat.

First blood fell to the home side who went 3-0 up thanks to a penalty from Robert Wright giving Oban an early lead.

This spurred the away side into holding possession and they found themselves on the front foot; hitting back with a penalty try awarded by the referee which was easily converted giving a score of 7-3.

Oban responded and

Rugby

prospect David Hunter scored a fantastic try, which included a 360-degree spin and the beating of several tackles. This was converted by Wright to edge Oban 10-7 ahead at the break.

The second half failed to break into life and continued like the first had started.

Oban, however, took advantage of some poor Clydebank discipline at the ruck and Wright slotted through his second penalty of the day which increased Oban's lead to 13-7.

Clydebank hit back shortly after with a penalty of their own and, with five minutes to go, took advantage of an overlap out wide to score a try and retake the lead at 15-13.

Oban are back in league action next Saturday with a home game against Wigtownshire at 2pm.

Record-breaking Nicola leads in Lochaber

APPIN'S Nicola Meekin smashed the female record at Lochaber's Drumm Fada race on Sunday by four-and-a-half minutes. The overall

record was also bettered by teenager Robbie Simpson. Craig Tomisen of Tobermory High School was third out of a record 74 runners.



Oban High School girls rugby team pictured with Glasgow Warriors players Pete Murchie and Jon Welsh. 07_147war01

Argyll: Duncan Aitken and Lochaber: Stuart Sandison. There were far fewer S3-and-over boys than expected on Sunday but, with 11 boys making the effort to travel from Campbeltown to get involved at a gathering for the first time, there was enough to play an eleven-a-side game.

The older group received coaching sessions from

Murray Hamilton from Oban and Tony Jones from Campbeltown, before splitting into two teams and playing a 40-minute game.

Argyll and Bute rugby development officer Billy Thomson said: 'It was disappointing that more of the older players from Mull, Oban, Mid Argyll and Cowal were not there, but great to have the Campbeltown boys

involved. If all the older players support the next gathering then it should be possible to have a proper 15-a-side game and it will also allow the coaches to work properly on the forward and backs unit skills and focus on positional play for individual players.'

The next youth gathering is planned for Mull on Sunday February 7.

Familiar names on sailing trophies

OBAN Sailing Club held its annual prizegiving dinner dance last month with a good attendance of club members, guests and Round Mull Race winners.

Billy Forteith and his team on *Shadowfax* swept the boards once again in the keelboat section as top yacht with *Tangle o' the Isles* second and *Hot Toddy* third overall in the club's racing series. Billy took home the coveted Rosebowl for a string of successes both in

Sailing

the aggregate series and the cup races.

For the first time in the dinghy section there were two champions - Jamie Chapman and Tim Bleazard. This was as a result of Tim being ineligible to compete in as many races as Jamie had entered.

Jamie also won the slow aggregate series overall as well as giving a creditable performance in the cup races

in his Laser 4.7. Tim was to the fore in the fast handicap section, also racing a Laser.

Andrew Chapman and Steven Forteith were also up there on the leader board; Steven taking a straight run of first places in nearly every race he entered bar a second in one but not competing in enough races to win the top prize overall.

After the prizegiving there was an excellent ceilidh dance to Neil Sinclair and his band.



Sharks and Thistle win primary league cups

Sunday was a happy day for Oban Express Primary Football League junior teams Sharks and Thistle, who won their first trophies of the season in the League Split Cup. The tournament, held at Atlantis Leisure on Sunday, saw the league's top and bottom half teams compete for two trophies.