

# The Oban Times

## & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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## Driven around the bend

### Two A85 corners claim an accident a week

A MILE-long stretch of road on the A85 between Taynuilt and Connel, which sees at least one road accident a week, has been labelled 'a graveyard for cars'.

Two corners on the road, one opposite the entrance to Muckairn House and one at Dalnamac, at the bottom of Fearnoch Hill, have become accident blackspots according to local landowners, who have noticed a steady rise in the number of accidents in the past 10 years.

On Saturday morning, two female students and a younger girl suffered minor injuries after their car left the road at the Muckairn corner and last Wednesday a 17-year-old, who had passed his driving test that morning, crashed his car at Dalnamac.

Estate owner Lorne Nelson has lived at Kilmaraonaig House, adjacent to the road, all his life. For years he has had to replace fencing follow-

ing accidents at both corners to prevent his Luing cattle escaping. He described the situation as 'a living nightmare' and called for anti-skid surfacing to be laid on both corners. He said: 'We have to be ready to repair the fence at any time because if the cattle escape we know there is likely to be another accident. The latest repair will cost me up to £250.'

'The section at Muckairn in particular is like a graveyard for cars.'

A resident of Eltham Cottages, on the roadside at Muckairn, said: 'I've been here for three years now and there is a least one crash a week - sometimes two a day.'

Inspector David Ferguson of Argyll and Bute's road policing unit of Strathclyde Police said he was aware of 'a picture of accidents' building up and that Transerv Scotland, the trunk road maintenance contractor, was making investigations into the cause of the crashes.



RARING TO GO: Crazy For You cast members Tony Cave, Morvern Wright, Kate MacGregor, Alison Elliot and Stuart Smith. 09spot02

## Spotlight falls on group's most ambitious show yet

OBAN'S Spotlight Musical Theatre Group is taking on its most challenging production to date as it opens the all-singing, all-dancing Crazy For You.

Although the Oban pro-

duction is based on a 1992 Broadway remake, director Kevin Baker says the Corran Halls show will still have the 1930s Gershwin feel to it.

'This show is our most demanding physically and vo-

cally. This production is a big step up from amateur level. We've had the cast in four days a week and choreographer Louisa Hyde has really put them through their paces.'

The story of Crazy For You

follows lead character Bobby Childs, played by John Robinson, who is a banker sent to Deadrock, Nevada, to foreclose on a rundown theatre.

However, Bobby is stag-

estruck and falls in love with postmistress Polly Baker, played by Linsey McGlone. Bobby convinces Polly to put on a show to save the theatre. Crazy For You runs from March 5-7. Tickets are available from the Corran Halls.

## Woman distraught at loss of necklace

POLICE are appealing for the public's help in a search for a lost necklace which has huge sentimental value to its owner.

A woman from Dalgety Bay lost the necklace while in the Oban and Appin areas on Sunday. It is platinum with a single 1.4 carat diamond.

'It is valuable, but more importantly to the woman is its sentimental value,' said an Oban police spokesman.

'It was given to her by her father shortly before his death. She is absolutely distraught at its loss.'

Anyone who can assist police is urged to contact Oban police station. Telephone 01631 510500.

## EU error led to lost fishing

WEST coast fishermen lost nearly 30 days at sea in 2007 due to an administrative error by the European Commission (EC).

Following a complaint by Clyde Fishermen's Association the European Ombudsman has urged the EC to correct the error which it says has 'prejudiced' fishermen working on the west coast.

A reduction in days meant for the North Sea was wrongly applied to west coast waters and led to a reduction in the number of fishing days for vessels using demersal trawl fishing gear.

The ombudsman has called on the EC to correct its error in order not to risk any knock-on effects for subsequent years.



The car carrying two students and younger girl that went off the road at Muckairn on Saturday. 09crash01

## Man who bit off finger jailed for 15 months

AN OBAN man who bit off the top of another man's finger has been jailed for 15 months.

Sheriff Douglas Small described Euion 'Mick' Smith's actions as a totally 'barbaric act'.

Smith, sentenced on Tuesday, was convicted by a jury after a three-day trial last month of biting off Brian Edwards' finger to his permanent injury on July 12 last year at

Keil Gardens in Benderloch. The 32-year old pleaded guilty to maliciously damaging a car with a baseball bat belonging to his sister.

The jury found that there was insufficient evidence to convict Smith of attempting to strike or throwing an axe at Mr Edwards which he had denied.

The court heard during the trial that Smith had been drinking since early after-

noon and become angry after a fracas in his sister's house in Keil Gardens that evening and taken a baseball bat to the car, thinking it was his brother-in-law's.

Smith had then crossed the road to his mother's house where he picked up an axe and threw it at his brother-in-law's van.

Smith claimed he bit Mr Edwards' finger in self-defence as his victim had his fingers

in the accused's mouth and was pulling his cheek.

On Tuesday, defence agent Sandy Mitchell said his client had had problems which had led to time in jail but he had quit using illegal substances and come to Oban in 2005 for a new start.

'He has a problem at times with alcohol,' Mr Mitchell said.

He said Smith, a digger/dumper driver, of 24A Shuna

Terrace, Soroba, Oban, had expressed 'deep regret' at the pain and injury he caused Mr Edwards.

Sentencing Smith, Sheriff Small told him: 'You had had far too much to drink.'

'Your actions on Mr Edwards were a totally barbaric act.'

He also sentenced Smith to 60 days for the act of vandalism to run concurrently with the other jail sentence.



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## Elbow Mull it over

BRIT AWARD winners Elbow, pictured, may have opened the NME Shockwave awards last night (Wednesday) but the boys say they would prefer to be on the Isle of Mull.

Rock band brothers Mark and Craig Potter are no strangers to the island village of Salen - they did most of their growing up there.

It was their base while they attended music school in Lancashire. Mum, Cilla, a teacher, and dad Gareth, a rugby coach, originally from

Bury, were popular residents of the island.

The band left the island to go to The Brit Awards last week after a songwriting session that laid down the foundation for their, yet unnamed, new album.

Mark said: 'People don't treat us any differently on Mull. It is the most beautiful place on Earth.'

Last summer islanders described how the band fished with locals and enjoyed cooking their catch on the beach.

## Dinner lady's fury at shock redundancy I learned from paper that I'd been sacked

A DINNER lady who discovered she was being made redundant through the pages of *The Oban Times* is demanding an apology from Argyll and Bute Council.

Christine McNeill has been the school cook at Colonsay's Kilchattan Primary School for two years and had no idea that there were plans to scrap her job.

She explains: 'On Saturday morning my husband was reading me the budget report in *The Oban Times*. When he read out the six schools who were closing their kitchens, I couldn't believe my ears, so I got him to repeat it and it was true I was losing my job.'

Christine immediately phoned her catering manager who was also unaware of the job cuts.

It was not until she managed to speak to the head teacher of the island school that she had it confirmed - her kitchen was closing.

'I have been treated appallingly.'

'It is not only the kiddies that I am worried about. I make meals for the elderly every week. When the pensioners come into the school they

Exclusive by LOUISE GLEN-LEE

teach the children Gaelic and take time with them to teach them about the old ways. When will they get a chance to do that now?

'I am appalled that the council has not got the manners to tell me that I was losing my job. I still haven't got anything in writing. I have been told it is in the post. They should say sorry for the shock they have caused.'

Confirmed

The council confirmed that Mrs McNeill was not informed of her job loss, stating: 'The information was in the budget pack but until a decision was taken we were unable to advise anyone. We told staff as soon as we possibly could.'

It is understood that parents with an entitlement for a free school meal, one of the SNP's manifesto promises, will now be offered money to provide a packed lunch for children at school.

Other premises losing their school meal service are Glenbarr, Lismore, Lochdonhead, Rhunahaorine and Skipness.

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### Teenager faces firearms charges

AN OBAN teenager appeared in private at Oban Sheriff Court last week in connection with alleged firearms offences.

Ross MacLellan, aged 18, of Colonsay Terrace, was charged with having a firearm in a public place, being drunk in charge of a firearm, causing violence with a firearm, breaching the peace and resisting arrest.

He was committed for further examination and remanded in custody.

### Singles will make a date for charity

ADVENTUROUS singles are invited to go along to the Royal Hotel in Oban on March 28 for a speed dating evening, and it is all in a good cause.

Rosann Ogden, who grew up in Oban, is returning to the town as part of a fundraising drive for Leonard Cheshire which supports people with disabilities. She will also be running the London Marathon in April with colleague Lorna Ronald originally from Campbeltown.

Tickets for the event at £15 and available from Rosann on 07725 812 728.

### Dumper fined £550

A FORMER electrical contractor who admitted dumping empty boxes, three storage heaters, a water heater and wire at Strone Hill car park near Dalmailly last October has been fined £550.

Robert Wylie, aged 45, 3 Gibb Street, Cleland, Motherwell, appeared from custody at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday after failing to appear for sentencing on February 3.

The court heard that the items had been discovered by a forestry worker and on investigation by an official from Argyll and Bute Council, the dumped material was traced to Wylie.

Sheriff Douglas Small told unemployed Wylie: 'People who dump rubbish are a scourge to people who enjoy the countryside.'

The court heard Wylie had missed his previous court appearance because his car had broken down at Luss on the way to Oban.

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Fiona Morrison of Sailability Scotland, left, and Irene Murray of Royal Highland Yacht Club present a cheque for £500 to Dave McBride of TACT as TACT members Ryan Challinor, Paul Garabet, Darren Napier and Stuart Brooks look on.

### Yacht club support will help make charity's work plain sailing

A CHARITY that supports people with learning difficulties has been given £500 to allow its members to complete a kayaking course.

TACT supports around 14 people in the Oban area and half of its membership has started the Scottish Canoeing Association star award, which will require kayakers to be assessed at the end of a training course.

In order to complete this, the TACT members have been given £500 from the Oban-based Royal Highland Yacht Club (RHYC) from its annual award scheme.

The idea to donate to TACT arose at a Sailability Scotland taster day in Craignish, where it was clear that there is a large uptake of watersports among people with mental and physical disabilities.

TACT support worker Dave McBride said: 'A large part of what we are doing at the moment is the Green C Kayak Project, where we support our members to do the Scottish Canoeing Association star award.'

**Self-esteem**  
'Some have been kayaking for more than a year and it is a massive boost to their self-esteem. It is such an inclusive sport. We are very grateful for the donation, which will go towards travelling expenses. This means the guys can complete their training.'

RHYC vice-commodore Irene Murray said: 'We choose a different charity each year to receive our annual award and it is nice to help a charity locally.'

### Chef drove while banned

A CHEF has been banned for three years for driving while disqualified.

Vilas Roberts, aged 48, was seen by police on patrol in the early hours of February 8 on Soroba Road, Oban.

It looked like he was on a mobile phone, so police followed him and stopped him after he turned into a car park without indicating, Oban Sheriff Court heard last week.

Roberts admitted he did not have any insurance and when his details were checked his 18-month disqualification was revealed.

Roberts had been in the process of moving belongings after securing a job in a hotel 10 miles north of Oban, the court heard.

Roberts of 42 Combie Street, Oban, was also fined a total of £533.

### Teenager admonished

A TEENAGER from Dalavich has been admonished after being of good behaviour for three months after appearing in Oban Sheriff Court for breaching the peace.

Nathaniel MacLean-Black, aged 17, 6 Dalavich, Kilchrennan, had picked up a knife and threatened his parents with it on August 18 last year at their home.

His sentence had been deferred for him to be of good behaviour.

### Tarbert man put on sex offenders' register

A 37-year-old Tarbert man has been put on probation and on the sex offenders' register after being discovered in possession of child pornography. James McGimpsey, of 19 Oakfield, had admitted that on December 7, 2006 he had in his possession four indecent photographs of children at an address in Tarbert.

Sheriff Ruth Anderson had previously called for reports on McGimpsey.

His defence agent told Campbeltown Sheriff Court on Wednesday last week that he was 'very depressed and very regretful' about the incident and that reports recommended that probation was the best course of action.

Sheriff Anderson ordered probation and notification to the sex offenders' register for three years.

'Were it not for people like Mr McGimpsey, there would be no market for this pornography,' said Sheriff Anderson.

## Councillors want fresh look at areas needing regeneration funding

# We have to find FAB way to spend £3 million

COUNCILLORS have expressed disquiet at the method and distribution of funds from the Fairer Scotland Fund (FSF) in Argyll and Bute.

Many of the projects that are to receive funding for the next year are continuations of projects historically funded through a variety of community regeneration schemes. The FSF is an amalgamation of four of the most recent funds and is not new money. Historically, the money was

allocated on a geographical basis where areas of poverty or need were identified but the FSF is to be allocated on a more general basis within the FSF criteria.

Over the next three years the Fairer Argyll and Bute (FAB) partnership plan will receive £826,000, £965,000 and £1,104,000 of money from FSF which is ring-fenced only until 2010.

The Argyll and Bute plan was conceived by a planning

group of officials representative of organisations on the Community Planning Partnership and was set up by the Community Planning Partnership management committee.

At last week's executive committee meeting of Argyll and Bute Council it was felt that more should be done to identify the areas of need within Argyll and Bute than just to continue to prop areas of service that had historically been supported.

Councillors noted that there was very little money going to Helensburgh and Lomond and Oban, Lorn and the Isles because, historically, areas of Bute and Cowal and Kintyre had benefited from community regeneration projects.

Councillor Duncan MacIntyre said he was disappointed: 'They should be looking at this from where we are today not 10 years ago. There are changing circumstances that are dire and we

have to deal with what is up and coming not 10 years old.'

Even the newly-appointed chairman of FAB, Councillor George Freeman, expressed concern that money was being used to maintain paid posts this year rather than being used for the priorities that the partnership had agreed upon.

Helensburgh councillor Elen Morton said after the meeting: 'If we were to move quite significantly to the new broader approach, current

beneficiaries might suffer the sudden loss of help they are getting.'

Equally, she added, just because a project was historically funded did not mean that it was the best use of resources. 'We need to find some kind of middle ground.'

The councillors agreed to the plan for this coming year but asked for work to start now at looking beyond historically-funded projects and taking on newer areas of need.

### Philip zooms in on fourth award

AN ARGYLL entrepreneur has won his sixth business accolade in only three years following recognition at the Scottish Countryside Alliance Awards.

Philip Price, of Kilchrennan-based Loch Visions, won the Best Rural Enterprise category at the awards ceremony in the Scottish parliament.

The young businessman received his award from Roseanna Cunningham MSP, who was conducting her first official duty after taking on the new post as minister for the environment.

Philip said: 'I am really chuffed to win the best enterprise company, especially

when you consider the other fantastic rural businesses that were nominated.

'One of the judges was from Cairngorms National Park, so I was delighted to be recognised by people like that at the cutting edge of environmental tourism.'

This was Philip's fourth business award and his sixth time as an award ceremony finalist. He will now go forward to represent Scotland at the Countryside Alliance's UK awards at the House of Lords on March 18.

Loch Visions takes visitors to an outdoor environment to study and photograph Argyll's wildlife close up.

He said: 'I think the business gets recognised because of its sustainability; I'm basically taking people out in the woods. No-one seems to be doing this kind of thing anywhere else, so I think it captures the imagination.'

Highlands and Islands MSP Jamie McGrigor congratulated Philip on his award, saying: 'His photographs are quite exceptional and give great publicity to the wonderful area which we live in.'

Another Argyll business, The Mini Market, Bruichladdich, Islay, was a finalist in the Best Village Shop/Post Office category in this year's awards.



Philip Price receives his award from minister for the environment Roseanna Cunningham.

### Council's forestry meeting postponed

A MEETING planned between the minister for the environment and Argyll and Bute Council over a proposal to lease 25 per cent of publicly-owned forestry has been postponed.

The proposals to sell off 75-year leases have sparked opposition, particularly in Mid Argyll and Kintyre, where large tracts of Forestry Commission-owned forest and land are held, over fears of unemployment, loss of control, the value of leasing and a lack of detail in the proposals.

The council had organised a meeting with the previous minister Mike Russell on Monday but as a result of the Scottish government cabinet reshuffle a meeting with the new minister Roseanna Cunningham had to be postponed.

#### Document

Leader Councillor Dick Walsh told last week's executive committee that instead the government had agreed to accept a document which was to be discussed with the minister as the council's response to the proposals in the Scottish Climate Change Bill despite the deadline for submissions being passed.

The council states in the document it shares communities' concerns 'regarding the potential economic, social and environmental impact' of the proposals and there was a need for further information.

Members were particularly keen for the issue of the impact on fragile rural roads of increased timber production to be taken into account and called for more investment in infrastructure in the area.

Other concerns raised included money from the venture coming back into Argyll and Bute, loss of partnership working, sustainability, land management, flooding issues, impact on communities and lack of added value to the area with timber being exported from Argyll and Bute.

Argyll and Bute has around 30 per cent of its area covered by forestry.

### Council voices concern over roads improvements

DISAPPOINTMENT has been expressed at a lack of timescales and detail on funding to improve Argyll and Bute's trunk road network.

Responding to the Scottish government's strategic transport projects review announced at the end of last year, Argyll and Bute Council's head of operational services Andy Law said that outside the specific projects mentioned there was a 'disappointing' lack of detail on the management of the rest of the network.

Apart from improvements to the A82, including widening at sections between Tarbet and Inveraman and

Corran Ferry and Fort William, the only other specific project mentioned was a 'package of work' for the A83, A85 and A828.

'I think the overall message coming out of the strategic review is where many routes in Scotland have a long term programme of improvements there will almost inevitably be a skewing of funding towards the major roads networks and it will be up to us to ensure that other road networks are maintained properly,' he told a meeting of the council's executive committee last week.

Transportation spokesman Councillor Duncan MacIntyre said while

the review seemed to be a 'genuine attempt' to put projects in 'some sort of order' it was dominated by major projects such as the A9.

He said it was disappointing there was no timescale and no financial figure given for other projects.

'A further disappointment was that Transport Scotland had no real consultation with the regional transport partnerships and local authorities and there was no consultation process to respond to.'

He said that there had been talks with the transport minister Stewart Stevenson in Rothesay recently about work at the temporary traffic

lights at Pulpit Rock on the A82 and the by-pass at Crianlarich.

'He wasn't sure of a start date but said the finish date would be 2012,' said Councillor MacIntyre.

Islay councillor Robin Currie said: 'We all talk about the A82 campaign and I do support it but our most important route is the A83 which serves the south, north and west of Argyll and Bute.'

The executive agreed to press the government and lobby MSPs to take into account projects for Argyll and Bute that had been highlighted as priorities by HITRANS, the regional transport partnership.

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### Top marks for keen young Gaelic learners

TOP MARKS were awarded to enthusiastic Gaelic learners at Lochaber High School who gave up a day of their long weekend to attend a Gaelic Masterclass in the school last Tuesday.

Alex MacDonald, better known by his nickname 'Valtos', the township near Uig in north Skye he hails from, was tutor for the day, and he was 'very impressed' with the commitment of the young people.

Thanks go to Lochaber College, where the group had an enjoyable lunch.



Left to right: Robert Robertson, tutor Alec MacDonald, Euan Wilkie, Catriona Rowantree, Mairi Jo Campbell, Brady Gillies and Caitlyn Cameron.

# Parents set to reject primary school merger

BANAVIE Primary School parents look set to reject a possible amalgamation with Caol primary under a Highland Council review of primary education provision in the greater Fort William area.

**EXCLUSIVE**  
By STEPHEN NORRIS

A questionnaire to all parents of 125 pupils, due to be returned next week, is likely to back a parents' open forum meeting on January 27, which came out heavily in favour of maintaining Banavie school where it is.

A show of hands among the 60 parents present was almost unanimous in rejecting a possible merger with Caol primary in a new school on a mutually agreed new site.

Banavie parent council, headed by chairman David Oxley, subsequently agreed

at its February 2 meeting that no formal stance should be adopted until all parents, not just those present at the meeting, got the chance to complete a questionnaire to establish their views. A firm case based on majority opinion could then be presented to Highland Council. Mr Oxley told *The Oban Times* the questionnaire asked parents whether they wanted a new community school combining Caol and Banavie, or whether they wanted to keep Banavie separate. A question on 'whether you would support the school whatever happens' was also included, he said.

Asked if there had been any pressure from council

chiefs to favour one option or another, he said: 'Not that I am aware of. We are trying to ascertain what parents' views are on the proposed merger.'

'The open forum meeting was very much in favour of retaining Banavie school as it is. That's what you would expect from the questionnaire, but you just can't tell. I'd rather wait until we have a mandate from the parents.'

The deadline for the survey to be returned is March 2. The parent council will meet the following evening to discuss the findings. A combined Banavie and Caol school, given current numbers, would see a roll of around 280 pupils. Caol school has 160 pupils and is Lochaber's largest. Banavie stands at around 60 per cent capacity, with Caol below that.

Councillors Eddie Hunter and Bill Clark stressed they would back whatever option Banavie parents decided on.

Councillor Hunter said: 'We made it clear that whatever the parents of Banavie school wanted we would do our best to support them. They have not yet come back to us and told us what they want.'

Martin Finnegan of Caledonian Economics Ltd will head the options appraisal for education provision in the greater Fort William area.

Highland Council is wrestling with tight budgets, deteriorating school buildings and static or falling school rolls, with most schools included in the review at or below 60 per cent capacity.

## South Skye residents win reservoir reprieve

SOUTH Skye residents have won a dramatic reprieve in their bid to place their claim on a local reservoir and land.

Sleat Community Trust (SCT) and Camuscross Community Initiative (CCI) persuaded Scottish Water at the eleventh hour to halt its sale of the former Allt Duisdale public water supply reservoir, which was due to be sold at a Glasgow auction house yesterday afternoon.

Scottish Water initially declined to withdraw the lot, but the Sleat groups' strong argument that they should be considered as potential buyers persuaded the utility to pull the one-hectare reservoir out from auction.

Now the community has time to submit a Registration of Interest in

Land, in which it will make its case to the community assets branch of the Rural Directorate in the Scottish government.

If successful, the purchase would be the first time a community body in the Isle of Skye has bought land under community right to buy legislation.

The Sleat people only found out about the intended sale through a local newspaper advert the week before and immediately set about registering an interest under the Land Reform (Scotland) Act. The act allows community trusts first option on buying any asset within its geographical area if it is put up for sale.

CCI secretary Susan Walker told *The Oban Times* it had not yet been

decided whether CCI or SCT was best placed to buy and develop the site.

'The sole aim is that the reservoir be developed for the benefit of the community of Sleat,' she said. 'We will start with investigating possible uses for the reservoir, with a site visit next Monday. A representative of Highlands and Islands Enterprise's Community Energy Company will be there to give initial advice about the suitability of Allt Duisdale Reservoir for the generation of hydro electricity. Another possible use for the loch is low-input fish production.'

The Sleat groups have two months to submit the necessary documentation to the Scottish government.

A spokesperson for Scottish Water said: 'We have asked the auctioneer

to temporarily withdraw this lot while we consider the legal position of the community's right to buy. When they originally contacted us we didn't feel we could withdraw it at such a late stage but it has become clear to us that their intentions are serious so given the specific circumstances we feel it is right for us to postpone the sale.'

'However, I must stress that the local interest group has a number of steps to take before we would be allowed to enter into discussions with them under the right to buy legislation. We cannot defer the sale indefinitely as we must dispose of this surplus asset in the interests of all our customers.'

Scottish Water is still selling off former treatment works at Ardgour and a reservoir at Sollas, North Uist.

### Addict admits killing mother

A CAOL mother died and her partner almost lost his life when they tried heroin for the first time.

Glasgow High Court heard how Sheila MacMillan, aged 39, and William Smillie, 49, were drinking with heroin addict Michael Kane in their home in Arkaig Crescent on January 11 last year when the couple decided to try the drug.

Kane injected both with heroin, which immediately rendered Mr Smillie and Miss MacMillan unconscious.

Paramedics managed to save Mr Smillie, but Ms MacMillan was beyond medical help. A pathologist's report found she died from a mixture of heroin and alcohol.

Kane, c/o HMP Inverness, had admitted killing Miss MacMillan by injecting her with heroin. He was remanded in custody and sentence was deferred for reports.

### Glenueg Inn goes green

A MOIDART hotelier has secured up to £182,340 of public money towards an environmentally friendly upgrade of the premises.

Glenueg Inn owner Steve Macfarlane is installing solar panels, insulation, heat exchangers and new bunkhouses with help from a grant from Highlands and Islands Enterprise. Mr Macfarlane hopes to reopen the renovated premises by late May and told *The Oban Times* qualifying for the maximum grant 'depended entirely' on all works being completed.

## Arisaig group moves to form community trust company

A NEW community development company for Arisaig is stepping closer after its 12-strong steering group met for the first time last Thursday.

The new group, Arisaig Community Trust (ACT), is currently applying for charitable status and will

form a board elected from local people who have signed up for membership.

All Arisaig residents will be encouraged to join ACT so that they can vote in the elections.

Ann Martin, elected as chairperson at the inaugural meeting, said: 'That was

hopefully the least interesting meeting we will have - working out the particulars of the memorandum and articles.'

'We have a couple of possible ideas in the pipeline and there will be a chance for everyone to be involved, not just those on the committee.'

CCI secretary Susan Walker told *The Oban Times* it had not yet been

'For each project we hope to have an advisory group, consisting of one director and those who have a particular interest or knowledge of the project.'

'It could be several months before the company is awarded charitable status and is incorporated, during which

time possible future projects will be considered.'

The move follows the visit to Arisaig of Henry Mains, secretary of one of Scotland's most successful community enterprises, Sleat Community Trust, which was exclusively reported in last week's *Oban Times*.

## Four hotels receive Eat Safe certificates

THREE Oban hotels and one on the Isle of Coll have been awarded Eat Safe certificates by Argyll and Bute Council's environmental health officers.

The Great Western Hotel, Oban Bay Hotel and Spa and Manor House Hotel in Oban and the Isle of Coll Hotel are the latest recipients of the award, with 20 Eat Safe certificates already being given out in Oban, Lorn and the isles this year.

The certificates were handed to chefs Craig Scott, Gregory Bultitude and Patrick Freytag and owner and chef of Isle of Coll Julie Oliphant by John



Pictured, from left, are: Gregory Bultitude, Oban Bay Hotel and Spa; Craig Scott, Great Western Hotel, Oban; John Fortieth of Forteith Foodservice; Julie Oliphant, Isle of Coll Hotel and Patrick Freytag, Manor House Hotel, Oban. 1099ea01

Fortieth at the Forteith Foodservice trade show last week in the Corran Halls, Oban.

The Eat Safe award, promoted by the Food Standards Agency, is given to those establishments which have gone

that extra mile to achieve a high standard of food hygiene.

The certificate is awarded following an inspection from environmental health officers and encourages premises that

prepare food to go that extra step and also gives customers a benchmark.

Premises continue to be inspected and if standards fall below the Eat Safe standards, the award can be withdrawn.

## New experience for PC Harrison

HAVING spent the past few years in the Govan district of Glasgow, police constable Kevin Harrison is experiencing something of a culture shock in his new post on Tiree and Coll.

The 33 year old is settling into his new job and is already aware of the differences between city and island policing.

He said: 'In my previous job my typical day would involve warrant enquiries, giving evidence in court and bail checks. We would also run a stop and search on people to look for drugs and offensive weapons. I would also be on duty at Ibrox football stadium at most home games.'

'There is a huge difference between that job and my new one. In the short time I've been here I think I have seen the nicer side of policing.'



PC Kevin Harrison.

down too well here.'

PC Harrison moved to Tiree in December with his wife, Anne-Marie and his two children, son Keelan, aged 10, and daughter Amy, aged seven. He sees similarities between himself and his predecessor Danny Lapsley, who also came to the island with a young family but has settled there in his retirement.

'Danny has been giving me the dos and don'ts. He spent more than 15 years here and will be a hard act to follow.'

'He became an integral part of the community but he came to the island with a similar background to me and with a young family.'

PC Harrison said he was aware of the immediate issues affecting Tiree and Coll but was looking forward to getting to know more people from both islands.

## Divers' surprise find

DIVERS in the seas around Coll were surprised to dig up what they thought was a modern hand pistol.

After handing the pistol into the Coll Hotel for safekeeping, police were called.

Constable Kevin Harrison was able to confirm that the gun, a ball bearing pistol, was a child's toy.

## On the move

STRATHCLYDE Partnership for Transport's mobile travel centre will be in the Pitt Stop car park, Arrochar, between 10am and noon on Friday, March 6.

The centre provides people in rural areas with information on local rail and bus services, express and long distance coach services, short-stay breaks and ferry services.

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## Strathclyde Police Pipe Band to continue for the 'foreseeable future'

STRATHCLYDE Police will allow its pipe band to play at all five major championships this season, despite widespread rumour it was to be disbanded.

An online petition and two accounts on social networking site Facebook were set up after the potential demise of the world-renowned grade one band was made known publicly. More than 2,000 people worldwide

joined the Facebook groups following news that band members who were working police officers may be assigned to different shift patterns. That would have meant the whole band could rarely play and practice together.

However, Strathclyde Police has denied the band is to break up and will play at all five major competitions at least.

A police spokeswoman said: 'The pipe band will continue for the foreseeable future, however it must be remembered that it is made up of police officers and members of police staff and that they have a responsibility to provide policing to the people who live and work in the Strathclyde Police force area. The pipe band will continue to compete in major competitions and support

community events throughout the force area. Additional requests will be balanced against operational commitments and other planned major events.'

Strathclyde Police Pipe Band, formed in 1883 as the Burgh of Govan Police Pipe Band, is the oldest civilian pipe band in the world and has won the world championship 14 times.

## Wind farm firms blow life into lifeboat funds

PORTREE lifeboat has received a £500 donation from AMEC and RJ MacLeod, contractors to the Vattenfall-owned Edinbane Wind Farm.

The companies will be donating £500 to local charities every three months for the duration of the contract after meeting stringent health and safety targets. AMEC's project manager on Edinbane Wind Farm said: 'We aim to complete many more three-month periods accident free so that we can support local charities on Skye.'

Portree Lifeboat operations manager John Cameron said: 'It makes a pleasant difference to benefit from wind instead of battling against it as the lifeboat often does.'

Nominations for local charities who could benefit from the fund can be made in writing to RJ MacLeod (Contractors) Limited, Edinbane Wind Farm, Glen VicAskill, Balmeanach, Isle of Skye, IV56 8FH.



Portree Lifeboat crew with AMEC and RJ MacLeod representatives at the cheque handover.

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By submitting your photographs you agree that Wyvek Media Ltd may publish your photograph, on more than one occasion, in any of its publications. To be eligible for the prize draw your photograph must be taken locally and fall into one of the specified categories. Normal Oban Times rules apply. The editor's decision is final.

# Ceilidh raises awareness of epilepsy in a rural area

£3,200 collected for charity

THE MULL-based chief executive of Epilepsy Scotland has vowed to raise awareness of the illness in Argyll as she collected £3,200 on behalf of the charity.

Lesley Young collected the donation from Donna Bennett and Euan Dewar, who organised a recent ceilidh in the Skipinish Ceilidh House, Oban, to raise the sum.

Ms Young, who lives in Bunessan, said: 'There is a lot of value in an event such as the ceilidh organised by Euan and Donna and Epilepsy Scotland is extremely grateful to them.'

'As well as raising money it has highlighted epilepsy in a rural area, which is important.'

'The money will be used to support not just the work we do at present, but the many new ideas we have. These include heightening awareness of the different faces of epilepsy - the impact of the illness can be temporary or require someone to have 24-hour care.'

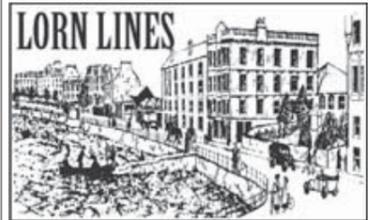
'In Argyll, most people are aware of epilepsy but Epilepsy Scotland needs to be reaching its members in all areas of Scotland, including Argyll.'

Ms Young pointed out that the charity's Faces Campaign aims to do just that.

Dr Bennett said: 'We are delighted with the support we received from the community and we hope the £3,200 will be of great use to the charity.'



Epilepsy Scotland chief executive Lesley Young accepts the cheque from Euan Dewar and Donna Bennett. 108epi01



You can email your Lorn news to [lornlines@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:lornlines@obantimes.co.uk)

TWENTY one-act plays will make up the schedule at this year's Lorn Drama Festival on March 30 to April 3.

The festival, which will be held in the Corran Halls, has a history of producing a large variety of plays and will this year be adjudicated by Richard Ellis.

Martyn Gibson, who has taken on the role of festival secretary this year said that everything was in place for a fantastic five days of drama.

□ □ □

THE NEW operations director of CalMac, Phillip Preston, is to speak at the Conservative Lunch Club tomorrow (Friday).

Visitors to the group are very welcome to attend the meal and talk at the Regent Hotel in Oban at 12.30pm. Further information from Sara Rutherford on 564230.

□ □ □

THE CURATOR of Glasgow Botanic Garden gave a fascinating talk to members of the Lorn Garden Club.

Paul Matthews was welcomed by members to Lorn Resource Centre last Tuesday and he brought a wealth of horticultural experience to a good turnout of members and visitors.

Mr Matthews focused on the original design and recent refurbishment of the Kibble Palace which re-opened to the public in 2006. Kibble is a prestigious Victorian glasshouse of beautiful curvilinear wrought iron.

The curator explained an intriguing history, including the glasshouse's move from its original site on Loch Long to Glasgow in the late 1800s and associations with famous people such as Benjamin Disraeli and Gladstone.

Mr Matthews fired the imagination of the listeners as he described the wonderful array of plants housed in 'The Palace' including the National Collection of Australasia tree ferns.

In response to an inspirational evening it was agreed the garden club would visit Glasgow Botanic Gardens later in the year. There are many other trips organised by the club and anyone is welcome to join. The next talk is on March 10. For more information call 01852 300563.

## Dunbeg drug dealer awaits sentence

A MAN is awaiting sentence after admitting possessing Diazepam with intent to supply in Oban and possessing cocaine.

David Ogilvie, aged 23, of 12 Camus Road, Dunbeg, was found with the drugs at an address in Oban on December 1, 2007.

Sentence was deferred at Oban Sheriff Court last week for background reports until March 9.

## Connel man put hand on boy's leg

A MAN who put his hand on the leg of a 12-year-old boy in a sauna and made sexual remarks to him and a 13-year-old girl and another female has pleaded guilty to breaching the peace.

Robert Didcock, aged 42, Flat 2 Greenacre, Connel, admitted the charge last week at Oban Sheriff Court and had his sentence deferred until March 9 for backgrounds reports.

Didcock made sexual remarks towards the boy, girl and other female, who cannot be named for legal reasons, in the sauna of a hotel in Oban, on October 5 last year as well as placing his hand on the boy's leg, placing them all in a state of fear and alarm. Didcock had previously pleaded not guilty to the charge but changed his plea on the day of the trial last week.

## Woman fined after party

A YOUNG Oban woman has apologised after finding herself on the wrong side of the law after a night out.

Lisa Brown, aged 21, of 10 Polvinister Gardens, last week admitted breaching the peace and resisting arrest by kicking police officers in the legs at an address in Combie Street, Oban, on June 21 last year.

Oban Sheriff Court heard officers had been called to a noisy party at the address and while trying to send people on their way, Brown had started shouting and swearing at them and refused to stop.

Defence agent Sandy Mitchell said Brown was 'sorry' about the incident and had initially thought her drink that night had been spiked but investigations had failed to find any proof.

He said the hotel receptionist had had a combination of drinks which meant she could not remember being at the party but accepted that she was. 'My client has been extremely distressed by the incident from the beginning,' he added.

Brown was fined a total of £330.

## Autism report criticises council

ARGYLL and Bute Council has been criticised over the support it gives adults with autism.

The council has been ranked one of the worst local authorities in Scotland alongside Dumfries and Galloway by the National Autistic Society (NAS).

The report outlined the progress made over the past 12 months by Scotland's 32 councils in two areas: whether they had a clear number of how many adults with autism

are in their area, and whether they had named a person in charge to meet their needs.

Argyll and Bute Council is one of two local authorities to show no evidence of progress in those areas, according to the NAS report.

### Study

The study formed part of the charity's 'I Exist' campaign.

A council spokeswoman said: 'Argyll and Bute Council is committed to providing high quality services including those to people with autism.'

'The learning disability service is being reviewed and the council will look at what data we hold in relation to service users with autism.'

She added: 'Contrary to claims in the report, Argyll and Bute Council does have a named contact with responsibility for autism and the National Autistic Society Scotland were made aware of this in early November, well in advance of publication.'

Carol Evans, NAS director for Scotland, said: 'Autism

is much more common than most people think. There are more than 50,000 people in Scotland with autism - that's one in every 100.'

### Ignored

'Most adults with autism in Scotland are isolated and ignored and unable to access the support they require.'

She added: 'Our research revealed that more than 90 per cent of local authorities do not keep a record of how many adults with autism there are in their area.'

## A west coast life in poems

TAYNUILT and Tobermory are featured in a book of poetry published by a west coast author.

Lorn Macintyre's book, A Snowball in Summer, is a collection of work based on the author's life growing up in Taynuilt, Connel and Tobermory.

The title of the book is based on an account of the Macintyre clan who paid the Campbells of Breadalbane the rent of one snowball from Ben Cruachan for Glen Noe.

Copies of the book published by Argyll Publishing can be purchased for £6.99 from all good bookshops.

## Retired QC seeks to tackle banking giant over shares loss

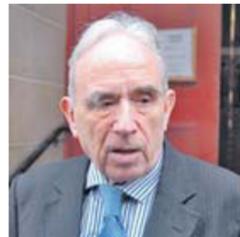
# 'Little man' wants to take on the large in court

By DAVID WALKER

A RENOWNED retired QC from Argyll is claiming the Royal Bank of Scotland was insolvent when it promoted a £12 billion share issue in April last year.

Eighty-three-year-old Ian Hamilton has raised a small claims action at Oban Sheriff Court against Royal Bank of Scotland alleging negligence in that the bank was insolvent when it promoted the share issue in June 2008.

Mr Hamilton and his wife bought nearly £1,300 in shares from the issue in June last year. The 640 shares were worth £2 when purchased but are now



Destined to cause a stir: Ian Hamilton.

worth around 20p.

Ian Hamilton, one of a group of students who removed the Stone of Destiny from Westminster Abbey in 1950, urged other shareholders to join him in

the action against the bank saying that 'it shouldn't be left to an 83-year-old retired man'.

A preliminary hearing on Wednesday, February 18, in front of Sheriff Simon Pender heard from counsel for RBS, Joyce Cullen, who said that the case should be held in a higher court.

Ms Cullen said: 'The claim raises complex questions of law and facts of exceptional complexity.'

However, Mr Hamilton, who found himself the centre of huge media attention, said: 'If this is a property owning democracy then there must exist a court where the little man can defend his property against the big

beasts that prowl about in our society.'

'I read directly from a letter I received from the bank which states that their defence shall be that it relied upon statements by its auditors as to its solvency and to advice from financial advisors in relation to the contents of the prospectus about the rights issue.'

'This is a defence which I am familiar with from the criminal law robbing rooms where we called it the 'it wisnae me, a big boy did it and ran away' defence. In this country we are all equal in the eyes of the law, but in George Orwell's words, some are more equal than others.'

Ms Cullen said: 'The bank's

defence will be that it was at all times solvent and will be referring to accounts and interim results for 2008.'

If Mr Hamilton was successful in his action, it could result in similar claims by all the other investors who bought into the share issue.

Sheriff Pender adjourned the case until today (Thursday) when he will rule on whether the case stays in the small claims court.

The bank is now 68 per cent owned by the taxpayer after a £20 billion bail-out by the Government but is also soon expected to post a loss of around £28 billion when it publishes its full year results.



Ian Hamilton outside Oban Sheriff Court last week.

## Council hopes to balance its books

DESPITE still facing an overspend in its budgets partly because of high fuel costs last year, Argyll and Bute Council is predicting its books will balance by the end of March.

Bruce West, head of strategic finance, told members of the council's executive committee last week that as of the end of December, it had still been forecasting an overspend of £844,000.

There was a £900,000 overspend in fuel costs in operational services and community services, but this had been offset by underspends in other areas of the council. Mr West said that spending was being controlled to bring budgets into balance for the end of the financial year.

## Student must resit driving test

A STUDENT has been told he has to resit his driving test after pleading guilty at Oban Sheriff Court last week to failing to comply with road markings and driving with no insurance.

Jamie Hill admitted the charges, from August 17 last year while driving on the A85 at Dunbeg, when he appeared last week at Oban Sheriff Court. Hill, aged 18, of 25 Linacre Court, Sunderland, was also fined £100.

## Research vessel opened to the public

THE RESEARCH vessel Calanus will be a centrepiece for a Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) open day.

For the first time in many years, members of the public will be able to go aboard the vessel and see some of the hi-tech scientific equipment used to explore the seabed and waters around Scotland.

There will also be interactive displays, including the Arctic Zone, where visitors can don clothing worn by polar researchers, examine their research equipment and watch video material of their work.

Other zones will focus on climate change research and developments in marine technology.

The open day will be held on March 7 between 11am and 5pm.

## Huge boost for Gaelic language

GAELIC language is to be promoted in national organisations thanks to a government action plan.

The introduction of Gaelic language into day-to-day usage was boosted when eight large Scottish organisations including CalMac and VisitScotland agreed to prepare a language action plan.

Bord na Gaidhlig said: 'Organisations who produce the plans are making a commitment to enhance the use of Gaelic in day-to-day life. The plans are vital for the promotion and increased use of the language.'

Caledonian Maritime Assets Limited, NHS Western Isles, NHS Highland, Scottish Natural Heritage, the Crofters Commission and the Forestry Commission have also committed themselves to preparing a plan.



Jim Kilpatrick and Ronnie MacKillop of Oban and Lorn Horticultural Society admire Medwyn Williams' Welsh seedling leeks. 108vege01

## Oban gardeners inspired by Welsh prize-winner

Lorn growers to broaden their horizons with lilac and green cauliflowers, rainbow-coloured carrots and aubergines

A CROWD of 60 gathered to hear an illustrated talk on how to grow prize-winning produce by Medwyn Williams.

The Welsh 10-times Chelsea gold medallist has been growing vegetables for competition since 1972 and now runs a successful seed business. Oban and Lorn Horticultural Society were only able to secure this top speaker as he was visiting long-time friend Hugh MacLeod, Benderloch.

He shared trade secrets on cultivating vegetables, including how he grows four foot long carrots in wheelie bins and his reliance on a pressure hose to harvest parsnips.

Mr Williams encouraged Lorn growers to broaden their horizons, recommending lilac and green cauliflowers, rainbow-coloured carrots and unusual varieties of aubergine.

After the guest speaker had answered questions, Jim Kilpatrick gave a vote of thanks and presented him with a bottle of Oban whisky. A total of £152 was donated on the night for the RNLI's Oban Lifeboat.

**Kyle of Lochalsh**  
Your correspondent is Charlie MacRae: 01599 544359

**Work starts on new houses**

WORK on 24 new houses at Burnside, Plockton, finally started on Monday February 23. Les Taylor has the contract, which will be completed in 2010. The first turf was cut on Tuesday February 17.

**Castle for sale**

DUNCRAIG Castle, bought by the Dobson family from Nottingham in 2002, is up for sale.

**Fans return**

TEN RUGBY fans from Plockton are back from Paris after their eighth trip to watch Scotland. But they have yet to see them winning! Original member and organiser Kenneth Gollan, who was on the previous seven trips, didn't make it this year as he is recovering from two hip operations.



Left to right: Iain Melvor, Lochalsh and Skye Housing Association Development Services Co-ordinator; Catherine Will, Plockton Crofters secretary; Iain MacLean, Lochalsh and Skye Housing Association chairman; Charlie M MacRae, Plockton and District Community Council chairman; Donald MacKenzie, Lochalsh and Skye Housing Association treasurer, and Iain Turnbull, National Trust for Scotland, at the cutting of the first turf for 24 new houses at Plockton.

**Islay**  
Your correspondent is Susan Campbell: 01496 850215

**Lambing, calving and dog-walking**

AS THE year comes round towards springtime and more

people are outdoors enjoying the countryside for recreation, it's time to take extra care that family dogs don't harm sheep and cattle. Livestock can be in fields where they may not at first be seen. It is essential, especially in these weeks when lambing and calving is starting, that dogs are kept on leads under strict control in areas where livestock may be grazing. Even if dogs frighten sheep

and cattle and make them run, the stress caused can cause the pregnant female to abort her young. If livestock start to run it's in a dog's hunting nature to give chase, and if the dog escapes its handler/owner the results can be serious. Dogs can also be injured, as cattle especially are very protective of their 'babies'. The safest plan is to keep dogs completely away from livestock, especially during

springtime. For further advice see the Scottish Outdoor Access Code dogwalkers area. **An Comunn Gaidhealach Islay Mod** INTENDING participants are reminded that the Islay Mod will take place on Saturday June 6 at Islay High School.

Details are available from Mod secretary Neil Woodrow, telephone 01496 810291. **Paths for All grant applications** THE PATHS for All Partnership has announced that it has funding of up to £40,000 available to fund new and innovative ways of promoting walking for health. Applications for large grants close on April 6. For more information visit www.pathsforall.org.uk.



Members of Appin's Gaidhlig san Dhachaidh.

**Growing numbers of Appin adults want to learn Gaelic**

A SECOND Gaelic class has been set up for adults in Appin, to cope with the number of people wanting to learn the language.

Members of Gaidhlig san Dhachaidh (Gaelic in the Home) attend a training day led by Fiona MacLeod every Tuesday. Described as total immersion for adults,

groups meet in members' homes for two hours each week. In addition to the courses, the more informal Gaelic Interest Group meets fortnightly.

**Mull Community Council**

AMONG items discussed at the January meeting of Mull Community Council were the following:

**Police matters:** Sergeant McDonald confirmed that Christmas and New Year policing had been well organised with no major incidents. Officers are currently very busy with ongoing issues.

**Keep Mull Moving:** Councillor Devon said more information is required regarding the request for financial help.

**Removal of 1pm CalMac sailings on Tuesdays and Thursdays:** Following the NFU meeting, the chairman confirmed that farmers had only requested a late sailing on sale days - Tuesday. Councillor Devon stated that many people thought the late sailings to be more beneficial. Ronnie Campbell suggested that concerned individuals should attend the ferry liaison meetings to air their views.

**Mail deliveries:** The chairman confirmed that the letter had not been sent because the pre-Christmas improvements in delivery had been to suit Royal Mail not Mull people. Jim Corbett suggested that a letter should be sent stating that the pre-Christmas service had been excellent and asking if it can be done for that period, why not for the rest of the year?

**Roads and transport:** The chairman reiterated that numerous sections of the main roads of Mull were in an appalling and dangerous condition and that repairs and resurfacing should be funded in priority to new projects. Councillor Devon confirmed that Argyll and Bute Council had stated that there was no money for improved road maintenance despite admitting that the state of Mull roads was the worst in the area.

**Proposed road upgrade - Salen to Tobermory:** An engineers' report had been received and was tabled for viewing.

**Forestry Commission sale of land:** Notification of a possible sale of two forestry sites at Glen Forsa and Tiroran was discussed. It was confirmed that the Forestry Commission office in Oban had closed at the beginning of December 2008.

**Parking charges:** Issues relating to proposed parking charges in Tobermory were discussed and it was confirmed by Sergeant McDonald that parking was not a policing

issue provided there were no contraventions of road traffic law.

**Housing and development:** A number of planning issues were discussed. Councillor Devon stated that Mull community councillors should monitor planning applications closely.

**CalMac:** Remedial work to Iona slipway should be complete shortly. The issue of proposed ferry fare increases was raised and it was noted that the price difference between Mull and the areas receiving RET could become even more extreme.

**Mull and Iona Community Trust report:** Graham Brown reported on the following: Craignure Business Resource Centre - Progress has been held up while funding discussions are ongoing. Pennyghael Hall - Alternative funding to the council shortfall is being sought. Scout Hall, Tobermory - funding is being sought for a replacement building.

**Roads and transport:** Tony Proud reported that a file had been kept on road damage caused by Scottish Water. The company says it will repair the damage.

Ronnie Campbell reported a recent serious accident on the road approaching Bunnassan. Sergeant McDonald confirmed it had been due to driver error.

Various improvements to road safety/signs in the area were discussed, and Sergeant McDonald confirmed that a representative from the council roads department could visit the spot to assess and recommend any improvements.

The appalling state of repair of many of the Mull roads and the lack of response to reporting of damage was reiterated by councillors. The chairman asked that every member of the community council write a letter of complaint to MSPs and councillors.

Graham Brown agreed to investigate and implement an e-petition in protest at the state of Mull roads.

**Councillors reports:** Councillor Devon confirmed that the petition for retention of the Tobermory toilets had been signed by around 300 people, from a population of around 1,000.

Councillor Devon reported that residents of the new development in Salen had requested better street lights. Steve Willis is to investigate.

Jim Corbett, Lochbuie: The surface of the Ardura road has been washed away, leaving a deep rut.

Bert Leitch, Ulva Ferry: In addition to the appalling state of road surfaces, ditches and offshoots are blocked causing water to flow along roads.

Ronnie Campbell, Bunnassan: The chairman confirmed that the original plans for the bus shelter had been scaled down, but revised plans had been re-submitted to Argyll and Bute Council.

Paul Forster, Salen: Letter of resignation tendered. Paul thanked community councillors past and present. The chairman thanked Paul and wished him all the best in his new venture. Steve Willis was welcomed as the new co-opted councillor for Salen.

Tony Proud, Dervaig: Confirmed arrival of materials for the construction of the new recycling site.

Graham Brown, Tobermory: The community council sub-committee to discuss parking charges was reconvened with Graham Brown elected as chairman. A copy of the letter of response, which asked for concessions and some guarantees, was handed to Linda Cameron.

It was confirmed that residents have mixed opinions regarding the proposals and that if nine objections are received, further consultation and investigation will be required.

Fiona Brown, Pennyghael: Confirmed that roads all throughout Pennyghael were in an awful state. Fiona also expressed her extreme disappointment at the loss of Leader match funding for Pennyghael Hall.

Linda Cameron, chairman: Reported the horrendous state of the Knockvologan road with numerous huge potholes. This situation had been reported before Christmas, but no action had been taken.

**North Uist**

**New centre looks likely**

COMANN na Mara is confident that its project to build a community centre will go ahead, following the completion of a feasibility study.

The society commissioned the £10,000 study last autumn and plans to take the project forward to its next phase.

Dr John A J MacLeod of Comann na Mara said: 'The feasibility study is very positive. This is an exciting time for us and we look forward to the end of March when the second stage is presented to us.'

The group is continuing its regular work, sampling water from Lochmaddy Bay, on behalf of the Fishery Research laboratory at Aberdeen.

Comann na Mara also plans to hold two public talks and help Balivanich and Lochmaddy schools with their marine projects.

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**Pupils power ahead with fund-raising**

Pupils from three Lorn primary schools have been busy fund-raising for a combined outdoor activity week in Lochgoilhead. Achaleven, Dunbeg and Lochnell primary seven pupils recently held a soup lunch in Connel Village Hall and will complete a sponsored walk from Ganavan to Dunbeg and back. A final fund-raising effort will be a bag pack at Tesco. The pupils have received tremendous support from their communities.

**Around the Rurals - Lochawe**

FEBRUARY'S meeting of the Lochawe branch of the Scottish Women's Rural Institute took place in Lochawe Village Hall. On a very wintry evening, Mrs Terry Orr introduced June Taylor, Dalnally, the demonstrator for the evening, on working with felt. She explained the use of a special needle, which pierced the wool, laid on a felt background placed on a sponge. The finished articles she brought along, such as bags and pictures, were beautiful. Members present 'had

a go' and enjoyed themselves immensely. Competition: Six peppermint creams: P MacLeod, Gold; J Ogden, Silver. Old favourite photograph: P MacLeod, J Wyllie, V Williams, J Ogden, T Orr, C Milne, all Gold. A lovely tea was provided by hostesses for the evening Mrs J Ogden and Mrs C Milne. Next meeting will take place on Wednesday March 4 at 7.30pm in Lochawe Village Hall. Everyone welcome.

**TIMES FORUM**

We want to hear your views. Contact us at www.obantimes.co.uk

Sentence deferred on store embezzler

SENTENCE was deferred on an employee of a sandwich shop in Fort William who admitted embezzling more than £480 from the company.

James Ewen MacRae, aged 24, of 50 Drummada Terrace, Corpach, admitted taking the money over a number of occasions between June 3 and September 9 last year while an employee of Subway in High Street.

Sheriff Douglas Small said: 'He has previous convictions already and has served a custodial sentence for dishonesty.'

Defence agent Hamish Melrose said: 'The sum of money we are talking about on this occasion is less than the previous occasion. It can be repaid in full today if need be.'

Sentence was deferred until March 19.

Film fun for village seniors

ACTION for Seniors in Kinlochleven is joining forces with Age Concern Scotland for a nostalgic fundraising event in The Venue at the Leven Centre, tomorrow (Friday) afternoon.

The film 'Easter Parade', starring Fred Astaire and Judy Garland, will be shown at 4pm, with filmgoers invited to donate at least £1 instead of paying for a ticket.

A donation will entitle contributors to a special Age Concern 'Silver Star' lapel badge.

The event is being supported by Active Lochaber 50+ as part of its 'Beat The Winter Blues' campaign, partly funded by NHS Highland.

The Venue hosts the Leven Centre Film Club on the first weekend of every month.

Anyone interested can contact Kirsteen Hine on 01855 831119 for further details and costs of the club events.

Police rescue elderly lady in Mallaig

POLICE were called to a house in Mallaig on Sunday after an elderly lady fell and became locked in.

The alarm was raised by friends of the lady who had called to check on her safety.

The lady was taken to Belford Hospital, Fort William, for treatment.

# Unique trust deal saves south Skye Post Office services



Sleat Community Trading takes over management of Ardsvar Post Office. Duncan MacInnes, left, accepts the keys from Jan Moulding, previous post-mistress for Ardsvar, with directors Donald Angie MacLennan and Sam Graham. Archie MacCalman, manager, tries on the postman's hat for size. Photograph by Steve MacKenzie.

## Sleat Community Trading keeps business open

UNDER-THREAT Post Office services in a part of south Skye have been saved thanks to a unique deal involving the local shop, filling station and sub-post office.

Sleat Community Trust (SCT) bought Ardsvar petrol station, garage building, shop and its accommodation in late 2007 through a Big Lottery grant.

But when sub-postmistress Jan Moulding expressed a desire to retire in late 2008, the future of postal services was thrown into doubt.

When Ms Moulding heard SCT might be interested in taking over, she held off for a few months so that negotiations could take place between the trust and the Post Office.

The Post Office had initially reduced opening hours to six per week, but the trust knew that this would have been uneconomic and of no use as a local service.

With business statistics and the support of the signatures of more than 400 people, both parties came to an arrangement for the counter to be open for at least 20 hours under SCT management.

The move has seen retail sales in

the shop where the counter is sited rise and fuel sales at the filling station next door are also up.

Moving Post Office business in with fuel sales has saved the service and made the whole enterprise more viable, said Duncan MacInnes, chairman of Sleat Community Trading Limited, which manages the business on behalf of the trust.

Mr MacInnes, technically now the new sub-postmaster, told *The Oban Times*: 'When I joined the trust as a director I did not think it would lead to being interviewed by the Post Office for the job as sub-post master, but we are delighted with how Sleat Community Trading is expanding.'

**Viable**  
Archie MacCalman, employed by Sleat Trading as shop and post-office manager, said: 'This move has certainly made both the retail and Post Office services more viable.'

'The shop is now a busy place with locals and visitors looking for petrol, stamps and information about the trust and the area.'

Mr MacInnes said it would be 'daft' not to sell stamps outside opening hours, so in effect the community has a full-time Post Office again.

## Long-lost cousin admits breach of the peace

A MAN who lost his mobile phone at a party started banging on doors, shouting and swearing and demanding to be let into flats in a Kinlochleven road.

Gavin Peter Lawrie, aged 42, of 103 Rosehaugh Road, Inverness, admitted two charges of breach of the peace on Glendale Road, Kinlochleven, on November 8 last year.

Procurator Fiscal Alison Smith said: 'Witnesses were made aware of Lawrie thumping at the door of a house and shouting through the letterbox. They saw him kicking the door and shouting. He walked to another flat on the same road and was shouting and banging on the door and demanding it be opened.'

Defence agent Hamish Melrose said: 'He has connections in Kinlochleven. He was visiting friends and had too much to drink. In the morning, while still under the influence of drink, he was trying to backtrack his steps to find a missing mobile phone. He had gone to houses he had been the previous night looking for the phone. When the door was opened by one occupant he was given a hug and welcomed as a 'long-lost cousin.'

The court heard that Lawrie had a history of drink-related problems and a criminal record dating back to 1982.

Sheriff Douglas Small ordered Lawrie to perform 60 hours of community service.

# Former chef had offensive weapon in railway station

A FORMER chef on the Isle of Skye was jailed for six months after being found in possession of an offensive weapon at Fort William Railway Station.

Mark James Cowan, aged 25, whose address was given in court as 48 Waverley Crescent, Livingston, admitted possessing a 'bradawl' at the railway station on August 11 this year.

The court heard that the chef, who had been working in Skye at the time of the

offence, had 37 previous convictions, including five for assault.

Procurator Fiscal Alison Smith told the court: 'The accused went to the station to find out information about a train.'

'He was drunk and as a result of an exchange with the person working behind the counter the police were called.'

'He was searched and the bradawl was found in his trouser pocket.'

'It is five-and-a-half inches in length

with a one-inch sharpened metal section. It is used for boring or punching holes in upholstery.'

Ms Smith added that when questioned by police about what he used it for he replied, 'eyeballs, ha-ha'.

Cowan's defence agent said: 'He recalls seeing the bradawl in his hotel room in Skye.'

'He packed in something of a hurry. How it came to be in his pocket I cannot tell

you and he cannot tell me, but he accepts all responsibility. It wasn't in any way produced or brandished.'

Sheriff Douglas Small said: 'There is only one sentence that I can impose in relation to an offence like this and to someone with a record like yours.'

After being sentenced to six months in prison, Cowan directed a comment towards Sheriff Small saying: 'That's just pointless, mate, d'you know what I mean.'

## Drink drive Claggan man banned from wheel for three years

A CLAGGAN man has been banned from driving for three years after admitting being over the limit behind the wheel.

Peter Fraser, aged 34, of 89 Carn Dearg Road, Claggan, admitted driving at Black Parks Road, Fort William, on November 17 last year with 76mcgs of alcohol in 100mls of breath.

Fraser also admitted a charge of breach of the peace on December 25 2008 at an address on Lochaber Road, Fort William.

Procurator Fiscal Alison Smith said: 'On Christmas Day between midnight and 1am he was drunk, banging on the door and the

police were called. On the drink-driving charge a taxi driver came across his car which had clearly been involved in an accident and was on fire.'

'Police were called and 25 minutes later Fraser was tracked and seen in a phone box on Montrose Avenue. He was very drunk.'

Defence agent Stephen Kennedy said: 'Both incidents have cost him his marriage. His wife just refused to let him in because he was under the influence. It has also cost him his job because he was formerly employed as a driver.'

'He has started to attend Alcoholics Anonymous and is to attend a 14-week residential programme in Inverness.'

Sheriff Douglas Small said: 'You have come to the point where you have to take stock of where you are going. If you continue the way you are going there is no doubt that you are going to end up a very lonely man.'

Fraser was ordered to perform 120 hours of community service on the breach of the peace charge.

On the drink driving charge he was banned from driving for three years and fined £400.

## Council Tax freeze agreed by Comhairle nan Eilean Siar

COMHAIRLE nan Eilean Siar has set its 2009-10 budget, unanimously agreeing to freeze Band D Council Tax at £1,024, the lowest in Scotland.

A proposed change to cut eligibility for free school travel to one mile was reversed, meaning the Comhairle keeps its policy of providing transport for all pupils who live up to two miles from school.

Leader Angus Campbell said the comhairle aimed to continue to provide high levels of services for communities 'within a best value framework and at a time of economic challenge'.

He added: 'However, there are serious challenges ahead, not least in education and how we provide the best possible service and facilities against a background of falling school rolls, deteriorating buildings, tightening financial constraints and the new curriculum.'

Last week education secretary Fiona Hyslop rejected the comhairle's bid to close Lionel, Shawbost, Paible and Daliburgh junior secondaries because of inadequate consultation. The comhairle rejected the claim.

Na h-Eileanan an Iar SNP MP Angus MacNeil said: 'This year our average Council Tax in the islands would have been over £100 higher had the SNP's freeze on the Council Tax not been in place.'

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# My Village

## Tyndrum

What makes the village special for you?

It has been my home for 72 years. My grandparents farmed here, and my family grew up here. I have many friends in the village, and friends who once lived here and have moved on. I have walked most of its hills looking for sheep, and had a dram in many of the houses.

Does it have an interesting history?

All Highland villages have interesting histories. The house where I was born is at least 300 years old and was a tacksman's house. He would have collected rents from small holdings in the area and also collected money from drovers on their way to markets from the north-west and the islands going to markets in Crieff and Falkirk.

Lead mining was carried on around the village for about

THE SMALL village of Tyndrum is a familiar place for Highland motorists and walkers, with its businesses supported by through traffic from the A82 road and the West Highland Way. Although recognised as a handy pit stop between the Highlands and the central belt, the former mining village, steeped in history, is now full of forward-thinking groups determined to modernise and improve the area. The Oban Times spoke to farmer John Burton to find out more.

150 years and the mines and mills can be clearly seen.

Further back, 700 years in fact, Robert The Bruce, retreating from the battle of Methven, had a skirmish with MacDougal of Lorne in the field beside my house.

How important is it to Strathfillan? What does it offer that other villages in the area can't?

The Strathfillan Community Development Trust, which works for the whole of Strathfillan, is based in Tyndrum Village Hall.

How would you describe

the village to someone who has never been there?

It is small, some 250 people live here, but it is an important hub. Edinburgh and Glasgow traffic pass through on their way to Oban and Fort William.

There are two railway stations, one for traffic to Oban and the other to Fort William. We have thriving businesses – the famous Green Welly Stop, of which everyone has heard, The Real Food Café which serves the best fish and chips in Scotland, two large hotels, a state-of-the-art hostel on the West Highland Way and several bed and breakfast houses. We have a village hall, which houses the office of the Strathfillan Community Development Trust, the Internet Café and hosts a variety of activities throughout the year. We have a smart Tourist Information Centre and an excellent village shop.

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

I was born three miles from the village and have lived here all my life, though I went to Edinburgh for my schooling.

How much has the village changed since you were a

youngster?

It seems like the mountains, rivers and valleys, which dominate the village, are the only things that have not changed. We have no school or church now. We have a large, new hotel and all the businesses look prosperous. There is new housing and play areas at Mansefield. The road gets busier every year.

Do you have a favourite place or building in the village?

Of course my farm at the foot of Ben Lui is a special place for me, and Ben Lui is a beautiful mountain.

What do you have a favourite time of the year in village?

As I get older I like the winter months less, though a crisp, frosty winter's day with the sun shining on Ben Lui is hard to beat. May is often the best month before the midges

'The scenery all around is magnificent and there are mountains to climb and walks to discover'

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

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What do visitors like about village?

Visitors enjoy the hospitality in the bed and breakfasts. It is a welcome stop for those walking the West Highland Way, and for cars passengers

wanting a break. The scenery all around is magnificent and there are mountains to climb and walks to discover.

The lead mining interpretation boards are of interest.

Is there anybody famous from the village?

Everyone in our village is famous!

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

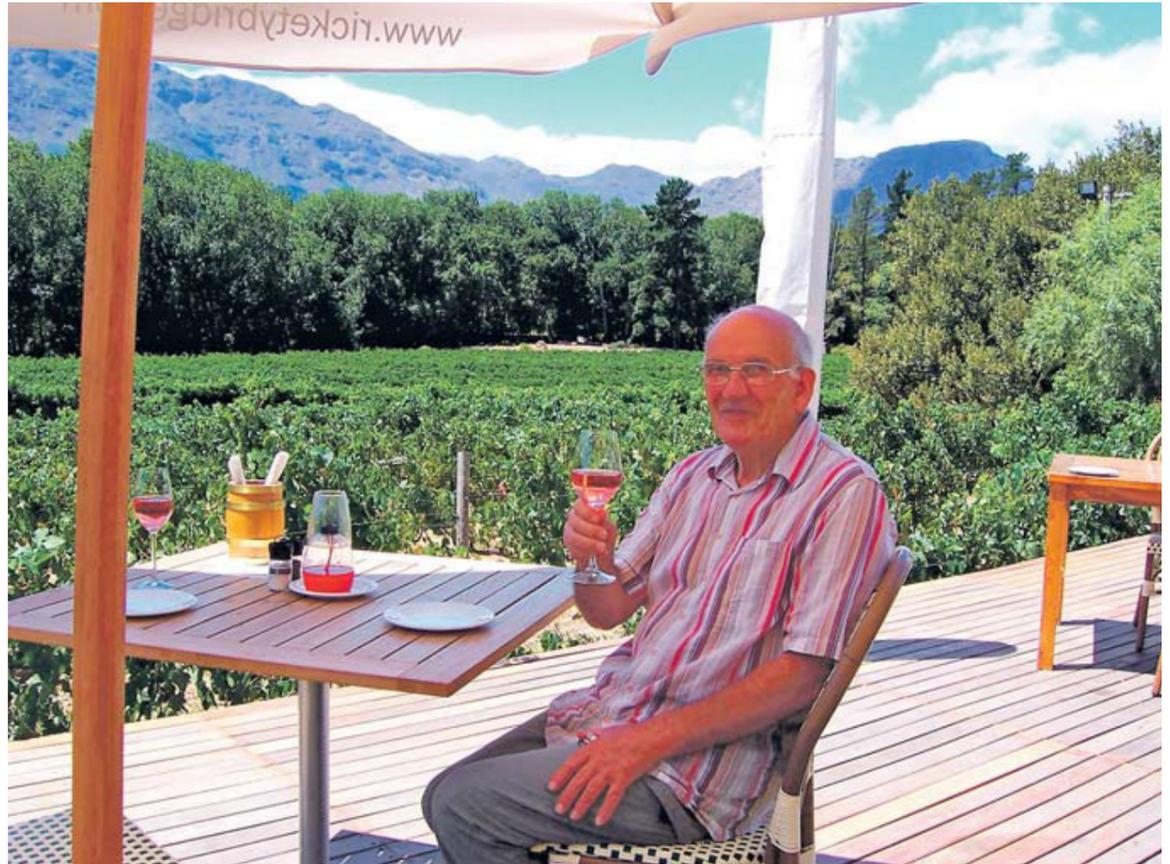
There are challenges large and small. We would welcome a 30mph speed limit and a reduction of signage. Litter too, is a problem. Our medical centre is in Killin, which is 16

miles away and hospitals are as far away as Stirling and Falkirk.

As a farmer, I am saddened by the reduction in the number of sheep, and those that work with them. Gathering in the sheep used to be a social thing – now it is a struggle to get enough people with dogs willing to help.

Perhaps there is not enough for the young people to do.

As a lad I was never bored, even with no television. I was a keen curler and I fished and helped on the farm. Nowadays the youngsters want more from life.



John Burton enjoys a relaxing moment on a beautiful summer's day at his farm at the foot of his beloved Ben Lui.



Tyndrum's location means it heavy falls of snow in the winter are not uncommon. ©09tynd1

### Councillor highlights ferry fuel pollution

AS THE Scottish government carries out its ferries review, a Highland-based transport consultant and councillor has compiled a briefing on the high level of CO2 emissions produced by ferries in Scotland.

According to Councillor Ron Pederson a recent study by Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) reveals that 15.7 per cent of all CO2 emissions in the Highlands and Islands emanate from ferries – around 1,600 tonnes of CO2 per year.

The briefing singles out Northlink's *Hannavae* ferry, on the Stromness to Scrabster route, which consumes 1,830 litres of sulphurous fuel per hour.

It also claims that CalMac's Dunoon to Gourock ferry consumes more fuel than the nearby Western Ferries' fleet of four ferries combined.

Councillor Pederson says that efficient medium-speed catamarans could half the fuel costs of the Scottish ferry fleet.

A CalMac spokesman said:

'Issues such as fuel efficiency of ferries across Scotland and their environmental impact is being covered by the Scottish government's ferries review and we look forward to playing our part in that.'

'It is worth adding, however, that we are fully aware of our environmental obligations and have in place an Environmental Management System certified to ISO 14001, which helps us manage the impact of our operations on the environment.'

### Grateful climber relives mountain fall ordeal

# I want to repay rescue team for giving me a second chance

A CLIMBER who narrowly escaped death after a 200-foot fall will undertake a gruelling nine-day climb in May to raise money for the mountain rescue teams that saved his life.

Policeman Michael Tunney broke his neck, hip, arm and seven ribs after the fall on Beinn Achaladair, near Bridge of Orchy, in November 2006.

His 16-year-old son, also Michael, was climbing with him and had also fallen while trying to get to his injured father after phoning the emergency services.

In a remarkable stroke of luck, their rescuers from Oban and Arrochar mountain rescue teams were alerted to the exact location of the casualties by the light from Michael junior's mobile phone, as both climbers had lost all their equipment in the fall.

As a thank you to his rescuers Michael senior will climb a route known as the Scottish 4,000ers.

The route stretches 100 miles from Aviemore to Fort William and includes nine 4,000 foot peaks, as well as 14 other Munros along the way.

Michael, who lives in Perth, is also taking donations for the Northern Police Treatment Centre in Auchterarder, which he visited during his recovery.

Michael said of the rescue: 'I remember seeing the head torches coming towards me that night – it was such a relief.'

'When I heard the helicopter come overhead it was the best sound in the world.'

'The mountain rescue team members from Oban were the first there and I remember them talking to me. After that, I can't remember anything. People have told me I must have hung on until help arrived, for the sake of my son. The last thing he needed was me falling unconscious.'

'After four days in hospital, once the morphine had worn off, I realised why

'He looked like a bag of bones...with half his back exposed'

The following is an extract from a narrative on the rescue, written by Oban Mountain Rescue Team depute team leader Ross Lilley:

'All the way up Ian Campbell, Kenny Harris and I had been in relaxed, good humoured spirits. We were expecting to find two reasonably fit and well climbers with a couple of injuries.'

'Despite training for the worst case scenarios warm and healthy volunteer casualties can never act like the real thing. So I think we all took a second to recover from the initial shock of finding what was clearly the real thing. We all exhaled a few unrepeatable expletives as we took in the scene!'

'From that point on my memory of events at the back of the coire is a bit of a blur. Kenny and Ian were more experienced medics than I, so they immediately took responsibility for the two casualties.'

**Need**  
'My attention was drawn mostly to Michael Tunney because he was obviously in the most immediate need of attention.'

'Basically he looked like a bag of bones huddled in a semi-feotal position with half his back exposed to the elements.'

'The most response anyone got from him was occasional grunt and moan which at least meant he was alive, breathing but obviously in a lot of pain.'

'Meanwhile, his son was sitting up on a nearby boulder. We kind of expected him to become animated with the relief of our arrival and prospect of help. But he didn't. He was probably still in shock, exhausted with the weight of responsibility for his Dad, cold and in pain from his own injuries.'

'Ian was struggling to get him to respond to his questioning about what had happened.'

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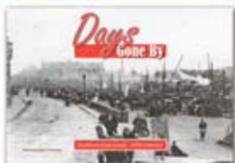


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Michael Tunney is raising money for the mountain rescue teams that saved his life following a 200-foot fall on a mountain near Bridge of Orchy.

I was there and that I must have survived the fall. That was overwhelming.

'I was still in hospital when I heard that two students had died in the Cairngorms. I kept asking, 'Why did I survive?', but soon realised I was incredibly lucky to have been given a second chance and that I had to keep climbing.'

'In November last year I went back to where it all happened. It was emotional but I concluded that the fall wasn't my fault and that it was just an accident.'

Ian Campbell, a deputy team leader with Oban Mountain Rescue Team, said: 'We are delighted Michael will be raising much-needed funds for us and a number of team members will be joining him on parts of the journey.'

As well as raising money, Michael hopes his epic trek will increase awareness of safety in the mountains

– something he feels is lacking among many climbers.

He has already produced a safety leaflet in partnership with the Mountaineering Council of Scotland and will be lobbying MPs and MSPs.

He said: 'In 2007, 33 people were killed on Scottish mountains and there have been so many accidents this year already. Some of these people were just unfortunate but others were unprepared. I was out climbing recently, walking through thick snow on top of a mountain, and I passed people wearing jeans!'

Michael's climb has already gained the support of Celtic rock band Wolfstone and a number of organisations and businesses from around Scotland as well as the Mountain Weather Information Service, which gives weather reports for climbers. He will be contacting other businesses in the coming months.

# Rising prices mean desperate choices

## Three years ago the price of electricity was just over £16.50 per megawatt hour, now it is an incredible £57.70

THE price of electricity in the UK is rising fast and the effects on households and businesses can be devastating.

Three years ago the price of electricity was just over £16.50 per megawatt hour, now it is an incredible £57.70.

A decrease in the production of North Sea Gas, coupled with rising demand for electricity in the UK, is a major reason for the price hike as nearly 40 per cent of the

UK's electricity is produced by gas-fired power stations.

The effect on households in the UK is extremely worrying, particularly for old age pensioners and those on low incomes. Some people now face a desperate choice of whether to 'heat or eat' as rising energy prices swallow household budgets.

Allan Asher, chief executive of consumer organisation, energywatch, says the decision to introduce competition into the energy mar-

ket in the UK has led to the present situation.

'Just 10 years ago, the UK energy market was revolutionised,' he said.

'In the early years, with intense competition, prices fell significantly. Now though, the number of energy suppliers has fallen from more than 20 to just six.

'So they have a major influence on setting both the wholesale and retail price of the power we use.'

Over the past five years gas

and electricity bills have been rising steeply. At the end of 2007 when oil prices went through the roof and wholesale gas prices followed suit, five of the big six suppliers wasted no time in increasing prices.

In a sudden flurry over five weeks at the beginning of this year, five of the big six suppliers hiked gas and electricity prices.

The problem in rural areas is compounded by the fact that competition does not

work in areas where there is no gas supply or real choice between suppliers.

Consumer Focus Scotland (CFS) say a disproportionate number of Scottish consumers fall into the groups most often forced to pay too much by the companies; those paying by cash, by cheque or pre-payment meters; and those in rural Scotland with no mains gas who use electricity only.

Trisha McAuley of CFS said: 'A recent Ofgem report

shows that instead of competition helping disadvantaged consumers, they have been discriminated against on the basis of how they pay and whether they buy gas alongside electricity, and whether they buy it on the internet or through a bank account can make a tremendous difference to the price paid.

'It is now time for Ofgem to think again. CFS believe the regulator must now be given legal powers to punish suppliers who discriminate.'

## Energy prices could be the death knell for village centres across the Highlands

'We are having to look at alternative sources of power'

MALLAIG and Morar Community Centre Association is warning crippling electricity charges are threatening the popular venue's long-term future.

Bills have gone up 26 per cent in the past year, forcing the MMCCA to almost exhaust a precious savings fund simply to remain solvent.

Efforts to cut power costs have had little impact, forcing the MMCCA to look at generating its own power.

A public meeting in Mallaig is planned later this month on installing two nine-metre wind turbines on waste ground next to the car park.

Power bills eat up 60 per cent of £10,500 the MMCCA earns annually from community lets, meaning the centre is losing £2,500 a year.

Administrator Claire Gunner told *The Oban Times* power companies' sky-high energy prices could be the death knell for local village centres across the Highlands.

She said: 'They are just going to close these small community places which are there for the people of the area. If these places go it just makes little communities more ostracised than they are already.'

'We are a charity organisation and we really just can't afford these huge charges. Our last bill for December and January was £1,026 - last year it was £800 for the same period. We have been open for five years and we need to know that we can stay open for the next five years.'

'When the hall was set up we had a contin-

## 'I am paying twice the cost for electricity as I am paying for my council charge'

SHIFT-worker John Kerr only lives in his house two weeks in his house two weeks in his house but has seen a dramatic increase in his electricity charges.

The Caledonian MacBrayne employee is outraged that his bills have risen from £2 per day to £8 after he had a pre-payment meter installed in his house last October.

He explained: 'When the engineer fitted the meter he explained that it had been a while since my meter had been checked so I might notice a slight increase in the price.'

But John was not prepared for a meter in the cupboard that was constantly needing fed.

'I came off shift on Tuesday and put £50 on the card. Within three days I only had half of my money left.'

'I use a fridge freezer, a washing machine, a small TV and my PC for around five hours a day, alongside lights and my storage heating. I cannot for a minute believe that I am using up so much money every day.'

'I thought that I would turn off the meter at night and see if the street lights went out.'

'I am paying twice the charge for electricity as I am paying for my council charge. There has to be something wrong.'

A Scottish Hydro Electric spokesman said: 'We are

sorry to hear of the problems that this customer has been having and are happy to look into it for him.'

A letter shown to *The Oban Times* from Scottish Hydro Electric tells Mr Kerr that they have undertaken an assessment of his usage and that they are satisfied that he is on the correct tariff.

The spokesman agreed: 'Customers who pay using a pre-payment system' such as key cards 'will inevitably pay more over the winter months. But will never find themselves in debt as keys can be automatically updated with up-to-the-minute fuel prices every time the card is charged at a pay point.'

## OBAN HIGH SCHOOL NEWS



### Coach development

Oban High School runs a successful and extensive extra-curricular sporting programme which is delivered by a large team of dedicated and motivated coaches including both senior pupils and teachers.

Last weekend saw this team of coaches take part in a wide variety of courses at the Argyll and Bute Coaching Conference aimed at improving their already impressive coaching skills.

All coaches gained new skills and knowledge from their courses while also achieving some impressive awards, special mentions go to Lucy Nicholson and Jennifer Gillies for passing their Level 1 Swimming award whilst Kelsey McMahon was the only female to complete her Level 2 Football award (Coaching Young Footballers).



### Senior girls football

The senior girls football team finally kicked off their season on Friday in the third round of the Scottish Cup.

Dalkeith High offered the opposition and having scored 13 goals in their last two games they would prove to be tough opposition. Having been given byes through the first two rounds and with this game already being re-scheduled twice due to the weather the Oban girls were keen to show what they were made of and started the game at a high tempo and controlled the majority of possession.

Despite their early domination Oban suffered a set back after 10 minutes when they failed to deal with a corner and the ball was smashed into their net from six yards.

This seemed to only lift the girls further and within 10 minutes the home side were level following an excellent driving run from Cherrmaine MacLaughlan who slid a pass across the penalty box to Kelsey McMahon who calmly turned and fired the ball into the bottom corner. The girls followed this up with another two well worked goals through Danielle MacDonald and Kayleigh Tennant which allowed them to go in at half time with a comfortable advantage.

Dalkeith started the second half much hungrier than the home side and cut the deficit within two minutes of the re-start when from a seemingly harmless position on the touchline 30 yards from goal the Dalkeith midfielder struck an effort towards goal which caught Shelley McCuish by surprise and despite getting a strong hand to it she couldn't quite keep it out.

This scare sparked the home side back into life and the midfield trio of Zoe Fleming, Kayleigh Tennant and Kelsey McMahon combined tough tackling and skilful dribbling to control possession once again and create numerous clear cut opportunities which unfortunately weren't taken. Instead, Oban increased their lead when Claire McCuish and Danielle MacDonald capitalised on mistakes made by the Dalkeith backline.

Dalkeith made the score 5-4 with 10 minutes to go setting up a nail biting finish but the Oban girls held strong, marshalled with confidence at the back by Frances Young and Cherrmaine MacLaughlan. This was an excellent victory for Oban with their teamwork and athleticism proving too much for the visitors on this occasion.

The senior girls will now travel to face Selkirk High on Thursday in the quarter final of this year's competition. The Junior girls will also be in action when they travel to Currie High School (Edinburgh) on Friday, also at the quarter final stage.

**TIMESFORUM**  
Have your say on the forum at  
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Audrey Campbell claims she has seen a 50 per cent increase in her electricity prices. 109mctef01

## 'It costs as much to heat your house as it does for your mortgage'

AN OBAN woman is paying a huge amount of her disposable income just to keep the frost off the windows of her two-bedroomed home.

Audrey Campbell, a single parent who works full time, is outraged at the cost of her heating.

She said: 'I would be as well flushing my money down the toilet. My direct debit continues to go up and yet I am not using any more electricity. It isn't even as if the house is any warmer, in fact it is freezing.'

'I have a coal fire and only one heater in the hall. I pay a direct debit of £40 a week. This has risen from a direct debit of only £25 per week last year.'

'I have started keeping a list of all my meter readings. It works out at more than £5 per day to light my small flat.'

'I have made countless complaints to my electricity provider asking them to reassess the meter. I am using the same amount of units as others but I seem to be paying so much more than anyone else I know.'

'What annoys me is that the fat cats are getting richer while we are getting poorer.'

'It is getting to the stage where it costs as much to heat your house as it does for your mortgage.'

Electricity company Scottish and Southern explain: 'We reassess customers' direct debits every six months automatically. If someone is

paying too little or too much we will alter the payment so that they will rarely be in the position of paying too much.'

'Direct debit is one of the easiest ways to manage a bill. It allows the costs of electricity to be spread out throughout the year.'



John Kerr can not believe that his electricity prices have risen more than three-fold since this time last year. 107elec01

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**From Friday 27th February for 7 days**

**SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE** Cert 15 120mins  
DAILY - 4.00(scen1), 6.15(scen1), 8.30(scen2)  
SAT/SUN MATINEES - 1.45(scen2)

**THE CURIOUS CASE OF BENJAMIN BUTTON** Cert 12A 165mins  
DAILY - 8.30(scen1)

**BOLT** Cert U 103mins  
DAILY - 4.30(scen2), 6.30(scen2)  
SAT/SUN MATINEES - 1.30(scen1)

**FROM FRIDAY 6TH MARCH**  
**WATCHMEN - 18**

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**Your Stars with Patrick Arundell**

**ARIES** Mar 21st - Apr 20th  
Venus remains in your sign, and continues to make sweet music with the dazzling Jupiter. This and the fab duo of Mercury and Mars can also light up your social prospects. Yet the Quarter Moon suggests that you shouldn't let over-confidence rule the roost. As much as you can be bubbling with enthusiasm, someone fickle may try to trip you up.  
(Mar 21 - Apr 20)  
090 6612 4520

**TAURUS** Apr 21st - May 21st  
Professional considerations continue at the top of your agenda, or is it your role in life? You'll want to feel that people respect you, rightly, but offering the hand of friendship and co-operation will take you more speedily to the summit. Taurus. In love, someone's wise words of advice should be heeded, even if they're not ones you want to hear. Call me for your love scope in full...  
(Apr 21 - May 21)  
090 6612 4521

**GEMINI** May 22nd - Jun 21st  
If you travel this week Gemini, you can have great fun, enjoying both the adventure and escapism from the every day grind. However, a trip may also be related to work, and a role may require you to relocate, or to accept a short term contract. Even if these options are not initially appealing, they could lead to other opportunities, further down the line. Call me now for more astral advice...  
(May 22 - Jun 21)  
090 6612 4522

**CANCER** Jun 22nd - Jul 23rd  
If I said you may need to speculate, to accumulate, you might think that I was out of step with the prevailing climate. Yet even in such straightforward times there will be those who see chances that others don't, and you could be one. The stars don't encourage you to be reckless, but to back your hunches - if you apply a good degree of common sense. Call me now for your in-depth forecast...  
(June 22 - July 23)  
090 6612 4523

**LEO** Jul 24th - Aug 23rd  
This is not a good time to over idolise anyone, but it's said that Leo's prefer it when people idolise them. Yet you may find it hard to get away from the conclusion that time spent with one person is proving rather special. You have a way of making people feel amazing - when you shine your innate goodness on them, but someone may do this to you now. Call for your in-depth forecast...  
(July 23 - Aug 23)  
090 6612 4524

**VIRGO** Aug 24th - Sep 23rd  
The Sun is urging you to be conscious of other people's needs, as much as your own. While a collection of planets in the most self-sacrificing part of your 'scope can see you very giving. Be conscious of the politics within your generosity. Or are you trying too hard to gain approval? The Quarter Moon urges you to be straightforward in your dealings. Call me for more astral advice...  
(Aug 24 - Sep 23)  
090 6612 4525

**LIBRA** Sep 24th - Oct 23rd  
Mercury and Mars give you fantastic mental rigour. Librans are seen as being obliging, and while that can be part of your nature, there's another part of you which is very self-expressive - and just bursting with ideas. Don't hold back in promoting your talents or interests for you can articulate yourself brilliantly. A relationship also looks very promising. Call me for your love scope in full...  
(Sept 24 - Oct 23)  
090 6612 4526

**SCORPIO** Oct 24th - Nov 22nd  
Any issue in the emotional, family or domestic spheres can benefit from being ventilated. You're inclined to mull things over, but even if it's a contentious or sensitive subject, it really can be a case of better out than in. True, others may be evasive or try to make light of your observations, but this is a time when your strong willpower can count for a lot. Call me now for more advice...  
(Oct 24 - Nov 22)  
090 6612 4527

**SAGITTARIUS** Nov 23rd - Dec 21st  
If you're attracted to someone, you could find it hard to hold back from telling them. But as much as they may be flattered, the seduction process still comes down to tactics, and for a natural person like you, this can go against the grain. Yet if you can factor into your approach around this or any other communication, a little patience, it will pay off. Call your special prediction line for more...  
(Nov 23 - Dec 21)  
090 6612 4528

**CAPRICORN** Dec 22nd - Jan 20th  
Your values and those of someone you get talking to, can come into stark contrast. But there is the potential for a trap because you can feel strongly about something, but before you speak out, ask yourself this question, have you got all the facts straight? If you haven't, you may end up looking dogmatic. Yet you can stand up for your rights around cash. Call now for your financial forecast...  
(Dec 22 - Jan 20)  
090 6612 4529

**AQUARIUS** Jan 21st - Feb 19th  
Aquarians often love a good debate. Does this chime with you? If so, you could find yourself in something of a ding doing this week. But what to you can be a welcome chance to vent your spleen could, to someone else, seem like a fearsome onslaught. Fortunately, Venus can just help to soften the edges and one flirtatious encounter can really please you. Call me for your love scope in full...  
(Jan 21 - Feb 19)  
090 6612 4530

**PISCES** Feb 20th - Mar 20th  
Thoughts and feelings can breeze through a Pisces person, unlike just about any other sign. That's because your feelings are fluid and you can see situations in lots of different colours and textures. However, that can, at times, see you oscillate between different positions. Consider this if someone or something jars on your senses this week. Call your special prediction line for more advice...  
(Feb 20 - Mar 20)  
090 6612 4531

SP: Pronto Ltd, PO Box 52785, EC1P 1TY  
Calls cost 60p per minute from standard landline  
For entertainment purposes only

**At the Cinema**

**SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE** CERT '15'

The Multi award winning and Oscar dominating film phenomena finally hits Oban. Directed by Danny Boyle and written by Simon Beaufoy ("The Full Monty") It's the uplifting story of Jamal Malik, an 18 year-old orphan from the slums of Mumbai, who is just one question away from winning a staggering 20 million rupees on India's 'Who Wants To Be A Millionaire?' Arrested on suspicion of cheating, he tells the police the incredible story of his life on the streets, and of the girl he loved and lost. But what is a kid with no interest in money doing on the show? And how is it he knows all the answers?

**BOLT** CERT 'U'

Walt Disney's super powered canine hero, Bolt (voiced by John Travolta) has no idea that he's a TV star. He is spoon-fed life, just like Jim Carrey in The Truman Show. He wakes up performs amazing feats and goes to sleep convinced that he's saved Earth. When he is accidentally shipped from his Hollywood sound stage to New York, he begins a cross-country journey through the real world to get home to his owner armed only with the delusions that all his amazing feats and powers are real. Along the way he is joined by two unlikely travelling companions: a jaded, abandoned house cat named Mittens and a scene stealing TV-obsessed hamster in a plastic ball named Rhino.

**THE CURIOUS CASE OF BENJAMIN BUTTON** CERT '12A'

Based on a fabbed short story by F Scott Fitzgerald, The curious case of Benjamin Button chronicles an old man who physically ages backward. At age 50, Benjamin (Brad Pitt) falls in love with 30-year-old Daisy (Cate Blanchett) and then must come to terms with the relationship as they liter-

**Local Producers Market**  
Thursday 5th March  
Kintaline Farm, Benderloch,  
1 mile along the Tralee road  
10 am to 3 pm  
LOTS TO EAT AND DO  
Every First / Third Thursday  
Interested Producers contact  
01631 720223  
Local Origins Rural Network  
www.lorn.org.uk

**HELP YOUR COMMUNITY COMPOST**

**Become a Isle of Mull Master Composter**

The GRAB Trust is looking for volunteers to take part in its new Master Composting Project in Argyll & Bute.

There will be a training event in Craignure Village Hall on Saturday 14th March from 10.00am - 3.30pm (Lunch will be provided)

Volunteers will be trained in successful home composting techniques. They will then use this knowledge to encourage and support others in their local community to compost effectively.

To book your place contact The GRAB Trust on:  
Tel: 01631 569188 or 01546 600165  
e-mail: julie.fairbrass@argyll-bute.gov.uk

The Oban Times  
**Social Scene**  
To buy photos, contact The Oban Times office on 01631 568000



There were more than 70 guests at the anniversary dinner held within Ardbeg Distillery on Saturday night.



Auctioneer Ally Logan was in full swing as he helped raise £2,600 for the club.



Calum Sharp and John Connor.



Former British Lion Ian 'Mighty Mouse' McLaughlan.



Islay Rugby Club president Simon Coughlin



Colin McMillan, Andy Wiggins and Ian Torrance



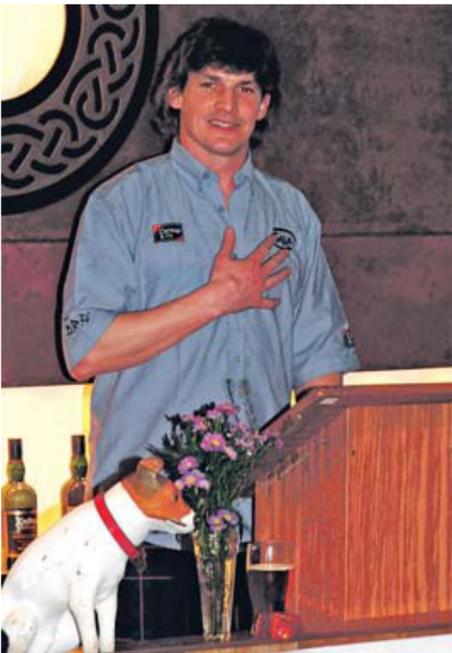
Left: SRU president Jim Stevenson.

**Lions on the prowl at Islay Rugby Football Club's 25th anniversary dinner**

FORMER British Lions Rob Wainwright and Ian 'Mighty Mouse' McLaughlan were two of the special guests at Islay Rugby Football Club's 25th anniversary dinner. A total of 70 guests, including Scottish Rugby Union president Jim Stevenson and Robbie Glen, former governor of Barlinnie Prison, enjoyed a fantastic night at Ardbeg Distillery where players past and present reminisced about the early years. The event on Saturday evening was the climax to the 25th anniversary celebrations and everyone present agreed it was a successful night, aided by the excellent speakers. An auction, where lots included a Scotland rugby strip and special Bruichladdich malt whisky, raised £2,600 for the club. Pictures by Roddy McEachern.



Myra Mundell bought a special 25th anniversary bottle from Bruichladdich Distillery in the auction



Former British Lion Rob Wainwright addresses the audience at Islay Rugby Football Club's 25th anniversary dinner.

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**Savour Scotland**  
is a feature running in The Oban Times highlighting some of the best local places to eat out.  
To put your restaurant on the map call Tamara on 01631 568000  
The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

See page 22 for details on how to **Win a Rugby Jersey**

**TIMES FORUM**  
We want to hear your views. Contact us at [WWW.OBANTIMES.CO.UK](http://www.obantimes.co.uk)

Notes from The Oban Times community forum at <http://forums.obantimes.co.uk>:

'I drive about 25,000 miles a year for work all over the West coast and the roads are a complete nightmare. Have you tried the A82 alongside Loch Lomond recently? I have the misfortune of having to use it two or three times a month. It's not just awful, it's dangerous. I use the Dalmailly-Inverary-Arrochar roads whenever I can but they're slowly crumbling away into a slalom track of pot holes. It's not just the road tax, it's the tax on fuel, the vat for the car and the ludicrous insurance tax that we all pay...it seems that a tiny proportion of money raised from motorists actually gets invested back into the road infrastructure.'

'I pass the Windfarm at Taynuilt from all sides in my fishing travels - doesn't spoil my enjoyment of the landscape. In fact, most people don't even know it's there!'

'So new new cycle path is all singing all dancing from Ganavan to Dunbeg - have you tried it?'

Did you see ALL THE COWS?? They are on the path, and the whole path is full of cow dung! It's like a minefield!'



# Notes and quotes

## Red Hot Chilli Pipers

With two nights at the Pitlochry festival theatre already sold out on a seven date Scottish tour and the new album Blast selling really well it has been a great start to 2009 for the Red Hot Chilli Pipers and they are coming back to Oban to celebrate!

After the 'Blast' that was the Oban Hogmanay gig, the Corran halls at the end of March will host what is sure to be a red hot evening.

Stuart Cassells has formed an amazing band with another two pipers and Stevie G on the electric guitar. They are complemented by a great percussion section featuring a twice world champion snare drummer and a magnificent rock drummer at the rear.

For those not fortunate enough to have witnessed the band in action they are all energy and quality.

A spectacular lightshow accompanies the band throughout performances that nod toward Freddie Mercury and Queen in one breath then through Deep Purples 'smoke on the water' with another and on to meet the 'Jazz badger', the latter showing that the pipes can bend a note as well as any jazz trumpeter might manage.

Absolutely compelling stuff!

After appearing onstage at the Corran Halls on the 28th, the band then move on to Dunoon for the following evenings repeat extravaganza. It is real treat for the two Argyll towns.

## Box Club

After three pipers can we trump that with four accordianists? If we can, you have Box Club.

Full of energy, the front band members, four virtuoso players, create a great evening of reels and jigs, polkas, airs and strathspeys. Front man, Gary Innes from Spean Bridge has just taken delivery of a new box 'Little Vegas' complete with crossed camans and a shinty ball above, imprinted on the bellows, reflecting his other love.

Angus Lyon, John Somerville and Mairead Green join the Lochaber man at centre stage for Box Club and with guitar, bass and drums completing the ensemble at the rear it is a fine spectacle to behold.

The band's debut album will be showcased on tour during March as West Highland gigs in Portree (18th), Spean Bridge (22nd), Ullapool (23rd), Eigg (25th), and Applecross (26th) are the included in a 14 date tour that will also venture North to the Lemon Tree in Aberdeen (28th) and East to The City Halls in Glasgow (15th).

## Asassenach

I caught the opening tracks from the twosomes gig at the Waterfront Bar in Oban on Friday last and was well impressed with covers of Steve Earle's 'Copperhead road' and Del Amitri's 'Nothing ever happens' as well as 'Hey Johnnie Cope' from the traditional wing of songs.

Banjo and guitar worked well together and passionate delivery bode well for the bands future. Not sure where they got their name though - Loch Asassenach perhaps.

## Laura McGhee

Laura tells us the new album 'Celticana' will be with us soon to preview before the official launch in May. The album has been recorded in Nashville and Glasgow and has the benefit of some fine session musicians and instruments to augment Laura's fine voice and fiddle playing.

The UK tour will follow on from the US tour in August and while no dates have been confirmed as yet we hope to welcome her and her top class band back to Oban, once more.

# WELCOME to the SEA LIFE Annual Pass

FOLLOWING the success of last year's annual pass scheme, the Scottish Sea Life Sanctuary and The Oban Times have teamed up again to bring you another great offer.

Collect the SEA LIFE PASS token from each of the next three weeks of The Oban Times and enjoy huge savings on an annual pass.

To get this very special deal-collect a token each week over the next 3 weeks

When you have all 3 tokens (3 per person) take them to the Sea Life Sanctuary at Barcaldine near Oban along with two passport size photographs, and ask for your special deal on a SEA LIFE Annual Pass.

With your tokens, an annual pass will cost £6 for children under 14 (normally £20) and £8 for adults (normally £30) - you can now enjoy 12 months unlimited entry into 10 UK Sea Life centres and Sanctuaries.

With your new membership you can dive beneath the sea without getting wet at any of our UK SEA LIFE centres and Sanctuaries\* - choose from Birmingham, Blackpool, Brighton, Great Yarmouth, Gweek, Hunstanton, Loch Lomond, Oban, Scarborough and Weymouth!

Not only will you get 12 months unlimited FREE entry into the 10 UK SEA LIFE centres and Sanctuaries\*, you can also take advantage of other discounts exclusive to SEA LIFE Annual Pass holders:

- 20% off Gift Shop
- 20% off hot drinks in the café
- Half Price Guide Book
- £5 off entry into York and Edinburgh Dungeons
- Special events onsite for pass holders

If you have not provided a photo to us there are a few things you need to do to activate your new SEA LIFE Annual Pass:

- Ensure you have signed the card
  - On your next visit using your SEA LIFE Annual Pass, you must take along two passport sized photographs so that our dedicated team can activate the card
- \*\*Please note that without two passport sized photographs to activate your card, entry into SEA LIFE will not be permitted

Finally, enjoy your visits and we hope to see you soon!

\* SEA LIFE Annual Pass is not valid for entry at SEA LIFE London Aquarium

## The Scottish Sealife Sanctuary has teamed up with The Oban Times for their new passes



Pipe Major Ian Hurst, fear-an-tighe Ritchie Robb, Riona MacInnes, Anna Currie, Morag Smith, Paul MacCallum and Donnie Files with Eilidh MacInnes dancers Samantha Robinson and Hayley Higgins. (09day01)

# Taynuilt hosts another first class ceilidh

YET another first class ceilidh took place in Taynuilt Village Hall last Saturday night with an appreciative audience in attendance.

The evening, hosted by An Comunn Gaidhealach Meur Chruachain, began with introductions by fear-an-tighe

Ritchie Robb followed by Pipe Major Ian Hurst playing some rousing pipe tunes as well as providing the accompaniment for dancers Samantha Robinson and Hayley Higgins from the Eilidh MacInnes school of dance.

The evening, hosted by An Comunn Gaidhealach Meur Chruachain, began with introductions by fear-an-tighe

lovely well-known songs and Donnie Files enthusiastically played the accordion for dancing and sets.

Riona MacInnes performed some melodic Gaelic songs with Anna Currie providing some fantastic fiddle playing.

The 'piece de resistance' was Mod Gold medalist Paul MacCallum, probably Gaelic's best tenor ambassador of the moment.

The vote of thanks was given by Peter Henderson and the ceilidh was closed with *Soraaidh Leibh*.

# Theatre group get in on the act

A THEATRE group from Oban got in on the act when a film company came to shoot in the town.

Fifteen members of Spotlight Musical Theatre Group became cast and crew for the short feature film, *Voyage of No Return*, created by artist Ergin Cavusoglu.

Not only did they provide extra manpower but the theatre group also came to the rescue when the film company gave them an unusual request.

Production manager Susan Doak explained: 'Ergin's film would not have been possible without the help and support of the people of Oban, too numerous to mention. The theatre group also helped to supply one of the props we thought we would have the most difficulty in sourcing - the shell of an upright piano. The piano is pushed up the hill leading to McCaig's Tower in the film and forms quite an integral part of the visuals in the film.'

The film is shot in and around Oban and deals with the notion of a city and its harbour which sees many people depart, never to return.

Ergin said: 'Migration is a particularly poignant subject, especially in the Year of Homecoming.'

'I was inspired by the striking landscape around Oban - the function of its port as the Gateway to the Isles and the fact that it has a history of departures was particularly relevant to the work.'

*Voyage of No Return* can initially be seen at the Threshold artspace in Perth Concert Hall until March 3.

## Craignish set to salsa

LATIN rhythms and fiery salsa will set Craignish alight next week, when international group Rumba Caliente make an appearance at Ardfern Village Hall.

The ten-piece band includes Salsa Celtica's Toby Shippey plus Venezuelan Lino Rocha and Cuban Ricardo Fernandez Pompa on lead vocals. The spicy music will be accompanied by spicy snacks and a bar.

Craignish Community Company has arranged the event, on Saturday, March 8 at 8pm, as a fundraiser for local projects.

Tickets are £10 and available from 01852 500 689.

# COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD

Sunday 8th March 2009  
**Kilmartin House Museum INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY**  
For further details contact 01546 510278 [www.kilmartin.org](http://www.kilmartin.org)

**NORTH LORN DRAMA FESTIVAL**  
24-27 March 2009  
7.30 pm  
Appin Village Hall  
£3 each evening or £10 for season ticket  
Child's ticket £1 each evening

SCOTTISH WILDLIFE TRUST  
**"BATMEN & A DARK NIGHT - THE NATIONAL TRUST FOR SCOTLAND'S BATS"**  
LYNDSEY MACKINLEY  
Nature Conservation Advisor  
N.T.S  
THURSDAY 5TH MARCH  
DUNSTAFFNAGE MARINE LABORATORY  
7.30PM  
ALL WELCOME

**A.B.C.D. QUIZ NIGHT**  
Friday 6th March  
Royal Hotel  
at 7.30 for 8pm  
£2 per person  
Raffle and team prizes

**SAMS open day**  
Saturday 7th March  
11 am - 5 pm  
Dunstaffnage Marine Lab, Dunbeg  
**Fun and information for the entire family**  
Call Helen on 01631 559430 for details

Oban Accordion & Fiddle Club  
**Monthly Club Night**  
In Argyllshire Gathering Hall On  
**Thursday 5th March 2009**  
8pm  
Supporting Players & Audience Welcome  
Special Guest Artist  
**Matthew MacLennan**  
and his Scottish Dance Band  
Adm. £3  
Come along and enjoy the music

**RUMBA CALIENTE**  
SAT 7th MARCH  
CRAIGNISH VILLAGE HALL  
ARDFERN  
8PM : £10  
01852 500 689

Comunn Gaidhealach Obain  
**Ceilidh**  
Masonic Hall Albany St, Oban  
Sat 7th March 7.30pm  
Seumas Campbell M.G.M.  
James Macdonald M.G.M.  
Kirsten Graham M.G.M.  
Morag MacNeil - Trum. Singer  
Angus MacCall - Piper  
Robert Robertson - Accordion  
Bean an Taighe - Karen Campbell  
Adm. £5

**Fun & informal Charity Speed Dating**  
Royal Hotel, Oban  
Proceeds to Leonard Cheshire Disability  
Sat 28th March  
At 7pm  
£15 pp  
info/places tel/txt  
- Lorna 07766056771  
Rosanne 07725812728.

FORT WILLIAM ACCORDION & FIDDLE CLUB  
Musical Evening  
on Tuesday 3rd March, 2009 at 8pm  
GUEST ARTISTS:  
**Bill Black**  
Railway Club Inverloch  
All Welcome  
Admission £3.00 ... Tea & Raffle Extra  
IN THE EVENT OF A LAST MINUTE CANCELLATION BY ANY GUEST ARTIST THE COMMITTEE WILL FIND AN ALTERNATIVE ARTIST

Oban U3A  
University of the Third Age  
Monthly Coffee Meeting  
Tuesday March 3rd  
10.30am  
Caledonian Hotel, Oban  
All Welcome.  
Come and find out about our daytime activities and interest groups

**FAIR TRADE FASHION SHOW**  
Cuan Mor, Oban  
Thursday 5th March 2009  
7.30pm  
An evening of fashion, food and wine to celebrate fair trade fortnight!  
Call Katy on 01866844088 for info

**CRAZY FOR YOU** 5th 6th 7th MARCH  
CORRAN HALLS  
STARTS 7.30pm  
Tickets: Adult £8.50, Conc. £5.50, Family £22.00  
The New Gershwin Musical  
SPOTLIGHT Musical Theatre Group  
RESERVED SEATING  
CORRAN HALLS BOX OFFICE: 01631 567333

To advertise in the **WHAT'S ON COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD**  
Telephone: **01631 568000**

**Benmore Botanic Garden**  
*Magnificent Mountainside Garden*  
Opening for 2009 season on 1 March  
"Visit our new exhibition: Trekking to Everest"  
Open daily 1 March to 31 October from 10am  
Adults £4 | Concessions £3.50 | Children £1 | Families £9

**The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES What's On Guide**  
Various art courses available at Airdeny Chalets, contact Jennifer on 01866 822648  
**Wednesday 25th February**  
An evening of hair and make-up at Eleanor's, The Hair Salon from 6.30pm onwards  
**Saturday 28th February**  
Backbeat Beatles, Corran Halls, 8pm  
**Thursday 5th March**  
Local Producers Market, Kintallen Farm, Benderloch 10am - 3pm  
Scottish Wildlife Trust @Batmen and a dark night' Dunstaffnage Marine Lab 7.30pm. All welcome.  
**Wednesday 18th March**  
The Enemy, Corran Halls, 8pm  
**24th - 27th March**  
North Lorn Drama Festival. 7.30pm, Appin Village Hall  
**Friday 27th March**  
Red Hot Chilli Pipers, Corran Halls, 8pm

**Top piper at Netherlorn recital**  
ONE OF the world's most notable pipers, Dr Angus MacDonald from Skye, was guest piper at Netherlorn Piping Society's February recital.  
Dr MacDonald, one of three piping brothers, who hail from Glenuig, played in front of a large crowd in Oban's Argyllshire Gathering Halls last Wednesday.  
He was supported by Oban High School Pipe Band members, who gave confident solo performances: Kyle Orr, D J MacDougall, Aaron Hossain, Harry Stage, Ross McNiven and Keith MacRae.  
Dr MacDonald said: 'It has been a number of years since I last played in Oban but I enjoy coming here.  
'It was great to see so many people taking an interest in piping in this area.'  
The final piping recital of the season will take place on March 25 in the Argyllshire Gathering, when guest piper will be Fred Morrison.  
Netherlorn Piping Society president Alistair Dewar said: 'Fred will be supported by Pipe Major Angus MacColl and the Oban High School Pipe Band. This will be a piping extravaganza not to be missed.'

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The Oban Times & West Highland Times

Caught with a net loss

THE popular phrase 'time is money' has perhaps become one of a number of much over-used clichés but, in the case of west coast commercial fishermen, restrictions on the amount of time they can legally spend at sea directly affects their 'brass in pocket'.

This week we learn that an EC directive designed to restrict the number of days a certain style of fishing vessel can trawl in the North Sea was also being incorrectly applied to west coast waters.

There is little likelihood of capturing compensation for the 30 days lost, but calls from the European Ombudsman to have this daft directive amended must receive total support or our west coast boats will continually face a net loss.

Glasgow Letter

Tradition at the Glasgow Skye

IT WAS the staple diet of most Highland homes many years ago and it is still a favourite of many as shown by the good attendance at the recent Buntata's Sgadan of the Glasgow Skye Association.

Organising such an event is quite a challenge nowadays with salt herring being such a rare commodity but the home village of Portree came up trumps and provided the goods for an excellent meal.

The post meal ceilidh dance was sustained by accordionist Robert Nairn with Gaelic songs from Iain Carmichael. This completed an evening of quality food, with mince for the non traditionalists, and entertainment.

Clydebank ceilidh

COMPETING with the Annual Gathering of the Glasgow Mull and Iona Association was probably a contributing factor to the lower than usual attendance at the recent Clydebank ceilidh but it was a most enjoyable night of entertainment.

With George Paul, a member of the association in the chair, the artists travelled from far and wide. Charlie MacColl and Jimmy Cameron, from Fort William, and Nicola Pearson, from Carnoustie, were the Gaelic singers while Anne Hepburn, accompanied by Anna Cameron, was the Scots singer.

Susan MacFadyen, from West Kilbride, played accordion selections and the piping was in the capable hands of Andrew Caulfield.

Stirling ceilidh

THE FEBRUARY ceilidh of the Stirling branch of An Comunn featured Stirling Gaelic Choir under the baton of Chris Bonar.

As well as choral performances, soloists from the choir sang, as did the folk group *Gleusda*.

Lorna Duke, accompanied by Chris Bonar, played Highland airs on the horn and Maggie Hannah played violin

selections. Add in piping from choir member Sandy Campbell and the Cluaran Dancers and you will see that chairwoman for the evening Karen Campbell was in charge of an evening of excellent and varied musical talent.

Glasgow Islay Annual Gathering

THE ANNUAL Gathering and Dance will take place on Friday March 6 in the Glasgow University Union with the concert starting at 7.30pm.

Artists for the evening are the Islay Pipers, Kirsteen MacDonald, Kerrie Finlay and Lyle Kennedy plus a selection of musicians.

Iseabail Mactaggart will chair the concert and Charlie Kirkpatrick's Band will play for the dance.

Diary dates

**Friday February 27:** Glasgow Islay Gaelic Senior and Junior Choirs' Annual Concert, Kessington Hall, Bearsden, 7.30pm. Glasgow Uist and Barra Association ceilidh dance, Whitefield Community Hall, Ibrox, 9pm. Helensburgh and District Highlander's Association ceilidh dance, Commodore Hotel, 7.30pm, with Hector MacFadyen's Band.

**Saturday February 28:** Glasgow Lewis and Harris Association buffet ceilidh dance, Partick Bowling Club, Fortrose Street, 7.45pm. Glasgow Argyll Association buffet ceilidh dance, Hillhead Sports Club, 7.30pm.

**Friday March 6:** Glasgow Islay Association Annual Gathering and Dance - see above. Nils Oakland and Catriona MacKay, Tolbooth, Stirling, 8pm.

Pub scene

PARTING Glass will play in the Islay Inn on Friday with Crooked Reels on Saturday while in the Park Bar it will be the Burns Brothers on Friday and Pneumatic Drills on Saturday.

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



The late Archibald Campbell

Margaret Megson of Evanton, Ross-shire, submitted this week's flashback photo which was found in her late grandfather's photo album. To the best of Margaret's knowledge it includes her grandfather's brother, the late Archibald Campbell, born Bunnass, Isle of Mull, on January 18 1885. He died in the West Highland Cottage Hospital, Oban, on New Year's Day 1927 as the result of injuries sustained on board *SS Hesperus*. Further to Dugie Carswell's photo of fishing boats in Oban Bay which was published last week, Margaret's husband thinks it was taken in the 1950s or '60s. We would like readers to send in photographs of *The Oban Times* being read in far flung places and flashback photographs. Please send prints to *The Oban Times*, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB, or email editor@obantimes.co.uk. Prints or emails must be accompanied by a caption, name, address and telephone number. Anyone wishing their prints returned must supply a stamped addressed envelope.

Letters to the editor

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

www.obantimes.co.uk

Telephone: 01631 568000  
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Road repairs don't last

Sir,  
If Argyll and Bute Council was to adopt 'best practice' when filling the pot holes on Mull, then perhaps they wouldn't have to keep returning to refill the holes they filled a couple of weeks ago.

It would be nice to see the roads department do experiments to determine the length of time that a repair lasts when it is done under current practices and when they undertake the repairs using the 'best practices' for road repairs.

Name and address supplied.

Good forestry agenda

Sir  
I'd be interested to know whether the projected harvest of 90,000 tons, forecast by the Forestry Commission in 1994 was reached - *The Oban Times* February 12, 'Those were the days' 15 years ago.

If it was, then this would be a very good reason for the Scottish government to put 25 per cent of forest land out to lease.

The facts are: Westminster is not going to give as much money as Mr Salmond thinks is due. Leasing forest brings in a big chunk of money without any real detriment. The companies that take the lease cannot harvest trees that are not ready. To do so would lessen the area of carbon retention, which could not be recouped, except by excessive planting which would probably cost more than the price attained for the harvest.

I'm afraid Mr McKenzie's sawmills will not start up again for a long time. The pulp mills are closed because we've recycled so well we've now got paper stockpiles that are too costly to shift.

I believe the Forestry Commission has set a good agenda for future husbandry and anyone who leases would, if they want to make money, be wise to follow it.

**George Doyle, Ellenabeich, Isle of Seil.**

Are wardens police officers?

Sir,  
I notice that the two Oban traffic wardens have the word 'Police' clearly displayed on their high visibility jackets.

Are these wardens now police officers? If by chance one should witness a bank robbery or murder on the Oban streets, one would assume they, as indicated on their jackets, particularly to an unfamiliar foreign tourist, would take charge of the situation and carry out all the necessary investigations to apprehend the culprits. I assume they have gone through the training required by police officers? Probationary periods in any occupation no longer apply, I think, because of EC regulations, but goes under a new name - basic training. Perhaps the constabulary and traffic wardens are immune to these regulations? Ambulance personnel, firemen, refuse collectors, lifeboatmen, helicopter pilots, cyclists and pedestrians will now surely

have to identify themselves to the general public as to their occupation and reason for being on the streets.

Without doubt the world has gone 'PC mad'.

I noticed in a newspaper, in some stations one cannot kiss a loved one goodbye without driving to a designated car park where you will no doubt be charged for the privilege of a small gesture of affection.

I never miss a week of *The Oban Times*.

I enjoyed the recent article on an Englishman enquiring about Gorten Railway Station on the Rannoch line which I knew of more years ago than I care to remember, aged six at the time.

He replied to me and was very appreciative of my information proving the point of the value of *The Oban Times* nationwide.

Once again many thanks for your excellent publication and hope you can find a little space for my letter and any resulting comments regarding 'police' traffic wardens.  
**Tom Kirsop, North Ballachulish.**

Islay Letter

Elders' training

KIRK elders from throughout the island gathered in Ionad Chaluim Chille Ile for a training course on February 14.

The course leader was Douglas Weatherhead, now resident in Iona, and the morning session was devoted to the general role of the elder in the life of the church while the afternoon section concentrated on pastoral responsibilities.

The guest speaker was introduced by Duncan McAuslan, session clerk at St Kieran's Church at Port Charlotte, and the moving force behind the one-day conference.

Gaelic drama

THE CHILDREN'S theatre group Meabh Chuileag entertained and informed pupils at Bowmore Primary School's Gaelic unit when they performed their play 'An Eilthreachd' which deals with various aspects of emigration in both an amusing and thought provoking manner.

Further drama was enjoyed when a representative from Feisean nan Gaidheal added polish to the pupils' entry in the drama festival which takes place in Fort William at the beginning of May.

Local Mod

THERE are a number of changes to the syllabus for the local Mod which is being held in the island high school on Saturday June 6.

The organisers have introduced a new open competition for quartet singing and have decided to discontinue the competition for former medal winners. The song for the Gilbert MacPhail

Memorial Trophy continues to be prescribed and this year's choice is 'Caite an caidil an ribhinn an nochd'.

Last year's Mod winners are asked to return their trophies to any member of the local Comunn Gaidhealach branch before April 17. The organisers have chosen as this year's Mod adjudicators: Music, Barbara Alexander, Barbara MacLeod, Raibeart MacCallum and Russell Cowieson. Gaelic judges are Mary MacKinnon, Beathag Mhoireasdan and Alan and Seumas Campbell.

First minister

PRIOR to the opening of the Round Church and the founding of the village of Bowmore in 1767, residents in the area worshipped at a small, one-storey church building between Ardlarach and Gartbreck on the eastern shores of Lochindaal.

Ministering to this small and scattered flock was the Rev John Murdoch who became the first minister at the new Round Church following the establishment of the parishes of Kilarrow and Kilmeny.

Sadly, his shoreside congregation did not welcome this move and, along with other undercurrents, they vented their fury at the minister and threatened to stone him.

Matters reached such a pitch that the minister went into hiding at the Bruthach an Dubhraidh area two miles from his church.

The minister's paranoia may have exceeded his parishioners wrath as peace was eventually restored and the move to the Round Church took place without further incident.

Murdoch proved to be an able and generally popular minister who greatly

enjoyed the patronage bestowed on him by his Campbell of Shawfield superiors. He certainly knew how to keep on the right side of the Campbells as is evident in the often overly fulsome praise he heaps on them in his statistical accounts penned during his 29-year ministry.

John Murdoch died in harness in 1769 and is buried in the now disused Kilarrow cemetery at Bridgend. Following the opening of the Round Church, the former place of worship at Ardlarach fell into disuse and no visible trace of the building remains.

School trips

TWENTY-FIVE students of Islay High School set off on Sunday for a six-day residential trip to the Outward Bound Centre at Loch Eil near Fort William.

There they will enjoy a variety of outdoor pursuits while also enhancing their team building and leadership skills.

Funding for the trip continues to be largely provided by parents and wellwishers in the community. Further skills were enhanced and polished when 36 members of the high school ski group took to Italian slopes at Pila in the Aosta Valley during last week's mid term break.

Congratulations

CONGRATULATIONS to Andy MacDonald, former manager of Ionad Chaluim Chille Ile, on his appointment as the locally-based tidal energy project development officer for Islay Energy Trust. Meal ar naidheachd.  
**Hugh Smith, 4 Flora Street, Bowmore, Islay, PA43 7JX. Telephone: 01496 810658.**

A VIEW FROM THE TOWER  
By McCAIG

Fairtrade continues to grow

FAIRTRADE Fortnight began on Monday this week and there appears to be no downturn in support from many parts of the world despite the dreadful state of the world's economy.

Why mention this? The answer is simple: Fairtrade items are generally slightly more expensive than their western world counterparts.

'Why, you may ask?' Quite simply at each stage of processing the ethically grown tea-leaf or coffee bean there is a fair wage for the farmer in Africa similar to that which anyone growing raw materials in the Western world receives.

The whole purpose of the Fairtrade movement is to lift people in the poorest parts of the world out of abject poverty to enable them to earn a fair wage and contribute to the improvement of living standards. In turn they can help those who are living a hand-to-mouth existence to start on the hard road to having a decent wage, schooling for their children, education for those who will be leaders of their communities, and eventually to enable whole nations to get out of poverty.

Now that may be a very facile illustration of what is a very serious problem. I remember interviewing the last Chief Constable of Strathclyde about the drug problem.

'Help those less fortunate'

WHATEVER belief we share, be it Christianity, Judaism, Mohamadism, or none at all, we all know that we have a conscience which whispers urgently: 'help those less fortunate than ourselves'.

There are the materialists out there who will scoff at such ideas.

To them, their faith is 'man mind thyself and let the poor in every country go to the wall'.

I'm glad to say that those who support Fairtrade are winning hearts and minds all over the world and the Fairtrade movement continues to flourish and grow.

For it, the fact that the supermarkets are prepared to stock and prominently display Fairtrade products all-year round tells its own story.

And we must remember that as the movement grows so do the number of Fairtrade products.

This week in Oban, there will be a display of Fairtrade products and information about them each morning in the Co-op and next week, in Tesco.

Local volunteers will be on hand to answer questions and politicians, local and national, will make sure they're there to be seen and openly support a worthy cause, a cause that Argyll and Bute has embraced as has Oban which is officially a Fairtrade Town.

But it's not all serious and moralistic.

During the next two weeks, for instance, there is to be an attempt to set a world record

to see how many bananas can be eaten in 24 hours. Why not join in and help create a better life for those with very little but a burning desire to create a better life for their families?

The Scottish drink problem

THE FACT that far too many Scots drink too much is not new.

After all, if it were not so, why would cartoonists find the red-nosed, staggering, kilted male so easy to draw for instant recognition.

This weekend, new statistics show we are in a league table we should not want to be in.

'The Old Firm' of the soccer world won't be proud of this statistic: 'Age-standardised alcohol-related mortality rates in Scotland per 100,000 of population, by gender, years 2000-2005: Glasgow Ibrox (men) - 176; (women) 58.9; Glasgow Parkhead, 94.6 and 34.7.'

This is not to suggest that Rangers' fans are bigger drouths than Celtic ones, only that more of them live in close proximity to the home of their favourite team.

Now that may be a very facile illustration of what is a very serious problem. I remember interviewing the last Chief Constable of Strathclyde about the drug problem.

He was perfectly frank that neither his force, nor any other force in Britain or the United States, had managed to get the taking of illicit drugs under control.

But he added: 'While this a desperately worrying problem it pales into insignificance when the abuse of alcohol is taken into consideration. If we could get that under control we could reduce the number of police officers in Strathclyde by at least 50.'

Is there a solution?

LET'S face it, every public body condemns the over indulgence in alcohol and hopes some magic wand can be waved so that drink is only enjoyed in moderation.

But there is no formula to bring this about.

Parents are blamed if they ban alcohol in the home and criticised if they try to teach their children to drink sensibly.

Let's remember, prohibition in the USA didn't work. It only encouraged an incredibly lucrative black market.

The Scottish government is well aware of the problem but hasn't got a solution.

Perhaps the First Minister should award another £1 million Saltire Prize to tempt someone to come up with a solution, if there is one.

McCaig

TIMES FORUM  
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Your letters

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

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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.

Letters to the Editor

Help centre get better equipped

Sir,  
I live in Oban's Dunmar Court sheltered housing complex.

For four months I was going to the town's Atlantis Leisure complex twice a week for exercise in the pool under the tuition of Aiki.

I went from clinging to the side of the swimming pool wall to walking with confidence with the help of two small floats.

Then, following a spell in hospital, I became paralysed. Unfortunately the lack of proper equipment for disabled people using Atlantis then became apparent to me.

There are no proper holding bars for people who cannot stand. I had to hold onto the shower pipe while my carer helped me change into my swimwear.

When I was put in the pool chair, it could not be adjusted for my height - 5 feet three inches - and by the time I got to the pool the circulation was cut off as the front edge of the seat was cutting into the back of my legs.

Finally, I was lowered into the pool using a hand-operated hoist.

I think it would be a good idea to get proper hand holds and a new hoist.

I approached Oban's stroke committee and they were delighted to donate to this venture. I have also been to the Mobility Shop. A representative from there has agreed to come with me to the Oban and District Disability Forum and Access Panel and is going to speak on my behalf on Oban FM.

I have also asked Oban Rotary Club for a donation.

I would dearly love to get back to exercising and encouraging other people to do the same - but we need better equipment.

Kate Winton, Dunmar Court, Oban.

Out of touch with people

Sir,  
With its determination to pursue the implementation of the unpopular, unnecessary and ineffective ID card scheme, even as we enter recession, the Westminster government yet again proves how out of touch with people and with economic reality it really is.

Argyll and Bute's share of the cost of the ID card proposals amounts to £7.77 million. Add to this our share of the annual cost over the next 30 years of replacing Trident at £3.35 million per annum and our share of the UK Treasury's soon to be imposed cuts to public expenditure at around £18 million and we begin to get a feeling for the true and imminent cost to Argyll and Bute of the much-vaunted



The Oban Times in far flung places



This week we bring you two photographs from our popular file of readers with The Oban Times in far flung places.

Pictured above are Terry and Moira Cullip of Pine View, Benderloch, reading their paper overlooking Mount Vesuvius and Naples Bay from Castle St Elmo.

Pictured left are Ronnie Needham, Robert Hamilton Suttle and Robert Fisher all passionate readers of The Oban Times and regular visitors to Argyll reading their copy in front of the famous Robin Hood statue, next to Nottingham Castle.

**TIMES FORUM**

We want to hear your views. Contact us at WWW.OBANTIMES.CO.UK

Misleading report

Sir,  
'Doughnutting' is the political device, usually employed by MPs at Prime Minister's Question Time, of getting in the picture by positioning themselves on the benches around and behind the Prime Minister so that their smiling and applauding will enhance their profile with the voting public.

This description should be expanded to include politicians who continually pop up at all sort of public events, disasters and official openings, whether they have anything to do with any of it, and push themselves into press photos.

I am in receipt of the latest photographic Parliamentary report from our MP in which he attempts to imply some consequence on a number of issues on which he has no interest and has had little or no effect whatsoever.

An ever more cynical public sadly assumes that accuracy and truthfulness are now secondary considerations for our political leaders. I believe that should not be the case.

A political party or figure distributing material which is of dubious accuracy is no longer a huge surprise given the example we have all seen of our last Prime Minister on matters of huge international importance.

I do, however, take serious exception to the public purse paying for a Parliamentary report which includes unacceptable party political attacks on other parties by means of totally misrepresenting their positions.

In his latest publicly funded report Alan Reid MP accuses the SNP Government of a plan to sell off Scotland's forests.

This is completely untrue. There is no suggestion whatsoever in the SNP's forestry consultation to sell any of Scotland's forests.

I will be passing this Parliamentary report to the appropriate authority for judgement.

David McEwan Hill, 1 Tom Nan Ragh, Dalinlongart, Argyll.

Scottish Water charges

Sir,  
While Scottish Water claims to have lower charges than its English counterparts this fails to recognise that its water and sewerage infrastructure is vastly inferior to English water companies.

Scottish Water still loses around half of the expensively treated drinking water it produces through leaks and pumps and treats masses of surface water from paved areas which could be drained directly by gravity to sea or watercourses.

The only way forward to rectify these problems and limit charges is to mutualise Scottish Water sooner rather than later.

Dave Petrie, Duncraggan Road, Oban.

Central heating programme

Sir,  
Readers may not be aware that the deadline for applying to the Scottish government's current central heating programme is March 31 2009.

I urge everyone eligible for this scheme to apply to ensure they do not miss out on a new central heating system that could save them around £275 a year on their energy bills.

Those aged over 60 who own or privately rent their home and currently have no central heating should call the freephone number below to see if they qualify for a new central heating system.

Those who are aged over 60 with partial or inefficient heating should also call although they may need to be in receipt of the guarantee element of Pension Credit to qualify.

The freephone number to call is 0800 316 1653 and callers will also get a free benefit health check to ensure that they are getting all that they are entitled to.

Jim Mather MSP.

Epilepsy Scotland ceildh thanks

Sir,  
On behalf of Epilepsy Scotland, we would like to thank everyone who came to the recent fund-raising ceildh and dance at Skipinnish Ceilidh House.

We'd also like to thank those who donated money and raffle prizes prior to the night.

The total raised on the night for Epilepsy Scotland was £3,123.67 which greatly surpassed our expectations. We held an auction during the ceildh and it alone raised £1,000.

Among other things, the charity helps to fund Epilepsy Nurse Specialists, providing support and information for patients with epilepsy and their families and education for health professionals.

Epilepsy Scotland also funds research and lobbies the Scottish Parliament on issues affecting people with epilepsy.

So thank you again. The support from the community was greatly appreciated.

Euan Dewar, Alistair Dewar and Donna Bennett.

Excellent hospital care in Oban

Sir,  
May I express through your columns, my sincere thanks to all staff, nurses and doctors at Lorn and Islands District General Hospital, Oban, for their care and understanding during my wife's recent illness.

The treatment my wife received was second to none and I was extremely impressed with the friendly manner in which the staff carried out their duties.

In what is a very demanding

and pressurised environment, it is comforting to know that the staff took the time to make her feel welcome and reassured. In addition to the excellent personal care she received, the hygiene and cleanliness throughout the hospital was outstanding. All in all a first class service from the NHS. Thank you one and all.

Stewart McGougan, Campbelltown.

Multi ward councils the way forward

Sir,  
The way forward in my opinion for all council wards has to be changing to multi wards.

All community councillors should consider the view proposed by Argyll and Bute Council and the Scottish government. The move to multi wards is common sense as we have 56 too many. Multi ward proportional representation is the way forward, two from each ward and the chairperson and secretary rotating each year and a payment on the same par as an elected member.

The wider workload would make sense and bring communities together and give us more clout on a variety of issues. There is no need for 56 community wards, which are poorly attended by members of the public, and in some cases elected members. We must also have a good relationship with the officers and elected members of Argyll and Bute Council.

Thirty six out of 56 community council memberships can't continue. Failure to consider bringing it into the 21st century will be the nail in the coffin for wards, having no representation in the community, as it is in some cases at the moment.

Shifting certain responsibilities to the new wards, matters like pot holes, dog fouling, grass cutting and litter problems could be part of the community council remit and powers in enforcing it.

Elected members also have a duty to care to our constituents, so best value in my opinion is multi wards which will save rural communities that could be under threat or we will be stuck in a time warp.

Just like the present situation, why not just have a review of elected members and have two members from the new multi wards serving the constituency.

I am sure the crop of professional community councillors are unpaid and are the unsung heroes of our communities. Long may this continue within the multi ward structure if this is given the green light. Bringing communities together, also elected members, better communication with Argyll and Bute council, providing a service for all communities concerned and best value all round for communities throughout Argyll and Bute Council is the way forward.

Stephen Johnstone, Ardentinny.

**25 Years Ago**

Those Were The Days  
The Oban Times  
Thursday February 23, 1984

**Station complex go-ahead**  
OBAN is to get a second supermarket, despite fears small traders in the town and throughout Argyll could be hit.

Argyll and Bute's planning committee last week voted 7-5 to give outline planning consent to British Rail to re-develop Oban station. Plans could include a travel/tourist office encompassing British Rail's booking office and the local tourist board office.

An area between platform three and Shore Street will contain flats. The supermarket will occupy the area of the present wooden station building and will extend to the existing Clydesdale Bank.

**Showdown on school cuts**  
A RASH of public meetings has been held throughout the Western Isles to fight the £1m cuts proposed by the council in next year's education budget. The savings could mean school closures, the loss of 50 jobs, no nursery school and a death-blow to the council's bilingual policy.

At its last meeting, when 300 members of the public crammed into the chamber and the corridors, the council was faced with making cuts of £2.5m. Even then the rates would still have gone up by 10.5 per cent to 156p in the pound, making them the highest in Scotland.

While it was agreed to make cuts of £1.5m from the other departments it was decided by 15 votes to 14 to defer the package of education cuts until a special meeting. While the blame has been laid at the door of the Secretary of State, who reduced the council's anticipated rate support grant by £1.3m in January, strong criticism has also been levelled at the council.

**Daily mountain weather forecasts**  
THE PROVISION of daily mountain weather information suitable for climbers and hill-walkers has been introduced as a pilot scheme in Lochaber. Proposals for what is being described as 'the Lochaber Mountain Weather Project' have been formulated by Terry Small, director of training at the Loch Eil Outward Bound Centre near Fort William. It follows the involvement of centre staff in the assessment and interpretation of weather patterns, as part of the operation of various mountaineering and sailing courses.

Mr Small said: 'It seemed to me that since we have this information at the Loch Eil centre it would be a good idea for us to make it generally available to members of the climbing, walking and sailing public.'

**Computer tourism service piloted**  
BOOKING the right holiday in the Highlands and Islands is child's play from now on.

Eleven-year-old Anita Stewart made the point by demonstrating Hi-Line, Britain's first computerised holiday booking and information service to Lord Gray of Contin, Minister of State at the Scottish Office with responsibility for the Highlands and Islands.

The Oban Times GENERAL KNOWLEDGE DOUBLE CROSSWORD No. 576

**ACROSS**

- Comedy by Ben Jonson (3,9)
- Indian stringed musical instrument (5)
- In Greek mythology, a nymph dwelling in a lake, river, spring or fountain (5)
- South American plant of the genus Oxalis cultivated for its edible tubers (3)
- Italian Renaissance painter born Antonio Allegri (9)
- Bay is a long inlet of sea on the Atlantic coast in Kerry, Republic of Ireland (6)
- 'Monkey', novel by P.L. Travers (6)
- The Islands are a group in the S.W. Pacific Ocean in the Bismarck Archipelago (9)
- Long narrow inlet of the sea coast found especially on the coasts of S.W. Ireland and N.W. Spain (3)
- 'The Man', novel by Graham Greene (5)
- Max, German painter who developed the technique of collage (5)
- Book of the Old Testament ascribed to Jeremiah (12)

**DOWN**

- 1931 novel by Pearl Buck (3,4,5)
- Biblical character whose wife was changed into a pillar of salt (3)
- Capital of Zimbabwe (6)
- Third largest city in Mexico, capital of Nuevo Leon province (9)
- Singer/actor formerly with pop group The Police (5)
- Imprisoned sea-captain in The Count of Monte-Cristo (6,6)
- European country whose capital is Madrid (5)
- Samuel Taylor, author of the poem Kubla Khan (9)
- Wading bird similar to the heron (5)
- 'The -', 1994 film based on a John Grisham novel (6)
- Miss Shearer, ballerina and actress who appeared in the film The Red Shoes (5)
- The ledge or ridge at the upper end of the finger-board of a violin or cello (3)

**SOLUTIONS TO LAST WEEK**

**GENERAL KNOWLEDGE - Across:** 4 Bristol; 8 Imogen; 9 Michael; 10 Godwin; 11 Dawson; 12 Runcible; 18 Caroline; 20 Carrot; 21 Greene; 22 Prairie; 23 Fedora; 24 Bragina.

**Down:** 1 Niagara; 2 Holding; 3 Gemini; 5 Reindeer; 6 Sphinx; 7 Ocelot; 13 Bactrian; 14 Firefox; 15 General; 16 Farrar; 17 Irving; 19 Oerter.

**QUICK - Across:** 4 Abridge; 8 Enough; 9 Sloping; 10 Tiring; 11 Edible; 12 Alphabet; 18 Handicap; 20 Mirage; 21 Devour; 22 Corrode; 23 Pliant; 24 Include.

**Down:** 1 Bestial; 2 Corrupt; 3 Agenda; 5 Bulletin; 6 Impair; 7 Gentle; 13 Beheaded; 14 Acrobat; 15 Operate; 16 Disown; 17 Barrel; 19 Deeply.

**QUICK CLUES ACROSS**

- Uneasy (12)
- Beneath (5)
- Fire-raising (5)
- Consume (3)
- Set apart (9)
- Crowd (6)
- Offer (6)
- Incessant (9)
- Dandy (3)
- A tenth part (5)
- Put off (5)
- Banishment (12)

**QUICK CLUES DOWN**

- Genuineness (12)
- Conclusion (3)
- Madden (6)
- Brazen (9)
- Prospect (5)
- Stoppage (12)
- Spook (5)
- Stupid (9)
- Put off (5)
- Chief (6)
- A flower (5)
- Gratuity (3)

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'Green' potatoes heralded as the future

SCIENTISTS at Dundee claim to have developed an 'environmentally sound' potato which needs less water and fertiliser than other varieties. The Vales Sovereign was created at the Scottish Crop Research Institute. It is being hailed as a 'farming milestone' by supermarket chain Tesco who will stock the vegetable in their stores. The oval-shaped potato is also said to be resistant to high levels of disease and is cheap and easy to grow. Jonathan Corbett, the supermarket's potato buyer, said: 'This potato is a milestone in farming history as it will allow growers a large yield for a relatively small outlay while being environmentally sound. 'It is also a real coup for Scotland where it was bred and may one day go down in agricultural history.'

Suffolk prime hogs to £108 at Stirling

UNITED Auctions sold 4629 prime sheep including 3131 hogs and 1497 ewes and rams at Stirling last Thursday. Suffolk hogs from Easter Middleton sold to £108 with Texels from Cherryfield to £91.50. Suffolk hogs from Lenaig sold to 178p per kilo with Texels from Harviesmailing to 202p per kilo. Texel ewes from Easter Cash sold to £98 with Half Breds from Clochkeil to £82 and Blackface from Rynaclach to £57.

Scottish farming well placed to weather storm, Lochhead tells union conference at Aviemore

'It is better placed that any other sector to buck the trend of this recession'

THE SCOTTISH farming industry is 'strongly positioned' to weather the current economic storm, according to Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs Richard Lochhead. Addressing the National Farmers Union Scotland's (NFUS) AGM in Aviemore last Friday, Mr Lochhead told farmers that 10 years of devolved government had enabled decisions to be made in the best interest of the Scottish industry. These decisions have matched the energy and drive of the Scottish industry and moulded a distinct agriculture policy for Scotland which reflects farming's crucial role in the economy. Mr Lochhead said: 'The economic backdrop to today's conference is the most severe that we have faced for many years. But, while farming is not immune to the effects of the credit

crunch, it is better placed than any other sector to buck the trend of this recession. 'Cattle prices in 2008 were 16 per cent higher than the year before and lamb prices in the markets were up almost 40 per cent. Strong prices reflect strong consumer demand for our products and this demand is going to remain strong. 'Farming is facing a window of opportunity and must invest now to ensure it is in an even stronger position to tackle the challenges of the future.' During a wide-ranging address, the Cabinet Secretary outlined a number of initiatives being put in place to strengthen the sector, including an expansion to the new entrants measure within the Scotland Rural Development Programme to support investments in livestock by new farmers; a new agricul-

ture subsidy appeals procedure, administered through the Scottish Land Court, to begin in the summer; five 'Climate Change Actions' to provide farmer centred solutions to tackling climate change. These will cut costs by improving efficiency and offering new business opportunities; publication of the results of a study into the administrative burdens faced by farmers and creation of a pilot project to reduce red tape; and publication of research into pig-meat labelling. The five 'Climate Change Actions', to be announced shortly, build on the work of the Agriculture and Climate Change Stakeholder Group on which the NFUS played a full part. The five actions are: Optimising the application of fertilisers and manures Improving livestock manage-

ment and storage of waste Locking carbon into the soil Using energy and fuels efficiently Developing renewable energy The results of a study into the administrative burdens faced by farmers will be published shortly.



Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs Richard Lochhead.

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Tony Willox (right) being presented with his trophy for Young Shepherd of the Year at the NSA Scotland sheep event in 2008.

Young Shepherd of the Year 2008 says shearing courses can make all the difference

'Young people with high standards of stockmanship skills will be needed'

THE long-awaited 'upturn' in sheep values is firing enthusiasm among up-and-coming shepherds - and according to a past winner of the Young Shepherd of the Year competition, learning how to shear sheep to a high standard is a skill that's sure to be in demand in the future. Mastered skills Tony Willox, 25, from Aberdeenshire started shearing sheep when he was a teenager on the family farm Rothienorman but says he really mastered his shearing skills after he attended training courses organised by the British Wool Marketing Board. And with bookings now being taken for this season's series of courses being held nationwide, Tony reckons young people determined to make a success of a career with sheep should consider how much they could learn from some expert shearing tuition. 'I've been shearing sheep for as

long as I can remember but I'd really recommend anyone with a serious commitment to making a future for themselves in the sheep industry to go on a wool board shearing course. 'You don't just learn how to shear correctly and more efficiently but the courses stop you getting into bad habits that can be hard to break if you don't deal with them at an early stage,' says Tony. As well as running his own flock of sheep, Tony is currently putting all his sheep management skills to the test as a freelance shepherd - skills that certainly impressed the judges when he won the 2008 Scotsheep Young Shepherd of the Year title. Although now able to shear 30 sheep an hour - a rate that he hopes will bring him some success in shearing competitions this year - he says shearing sheep to a high standard is not just about 'speed'.

'The British Wool Marketing Board courses aren't just about getting the wool off the sheep as fast as you can. It's about making the best possible job if it and doing it efficiently and professionally. Pride 'At the end of a course you really start to see what you can achieve and it gives you a real pride in your work.' Tony couldn't even guess how many thousands of sheep he'll be shearing this year but from the beginning of June to early August he'll be joining the increasing number of young Scottish shearers making a name for themselves with a skill that is certainly no longer the preserve of the visiting Kiwi shearing gangs. 'Sheep farming looks like it's heading into a new era and young people with high standards of stockmanship skills will be needed,' says Tony.

Kintyre Ayrshire breeders club host stockjudging

MORE than 100 competitors took part in the Kintyre and District Ayrshire Breeders Club annual stockjudging competition held at Clochkeil Farm, by kind permission of J and M Barr. Malcolm Ronald, Ormsary Farm, acted as master judge for the evening and complimented the Barr family on the very high quality of their stock. Of particu-

lar note was the fact that a large number of the six classes of four animals each were the progeny of home-bred sires. Prize winners Prizes for the evening were presented by Margaret Barr. In the Gents section, first equal and joint winners of the Ayrshire Cattle Society Cup were Archie Armour Jnr, Killarow and John Lines, Kilocraw Elizabeth Irwin, West Drum-lemble won the Ladies section while Thomas J Cameron, Gartvaigh took the Alta Genetics Cup as winner of the class for young farmers. In the juniors, first was Arran McCallum, Campbeltown; second Cameron Reid, Arnish and third Jenny Semple, Kilkeddan.

Foxhole heifer sells to 220.1p per kilo at Dingwall

DINGWALL and Highland Marts Ltd sold 463 store cattle and 58 Over 30 Month cattle at Dingwall last Wednesday. Bullocks averaged 179.4p and sold to 215.0p per kg for a pen of 200kg Limousin crosses from Morile, Tomatin, and £990 for a 620kg Charolais cross from Brae of Cantray Farm, Croy. Heifers averaged 168.5p and sold to 220.1p per kg for a 259kg Limousin cross from Foxhole, Kiltarlity, and £935 gross for a 575kg Simmental cross from Lochdhu, Nairn. Young bulls averaged 147.0 and sold to 171.4p per kg for a 315kg Charolais cross from Tressady, Lairg, and £740 for 540kg Limousins from 2 Easter Kinkell, Conon Bridge. Bulls sold to £1,080 for a Limousin from Lochlait, Abriachan. In calf cows sold to £800 for an Aberdeen Angus cross and a Limousin cross, both from Gordonhall, Kingussie.

Cattle trade up, sheep trade down at Dingwall prime sale

DINGWALL and Highland Marts Ltd sold 80 prime cattle and 1,495 prime sheep at Dingwall last Tuesday. Prime bullocks averaged 169.5p (+0.8p) and sold to 180p per kg for a 625kg Limousin from Drummond Farm, Evanton, to John M Munro Ltd., Dingwall, and £1,261.60 for a 760kg Charolais cross from Shantullich, Munloch, to Woodhead Brothers, Turriff. Prime heifers averaged 166.4p (-1.0p) and sold to 180p per kg for a 535kg Limousin from Clyth Mains, Occumster, to Fraser Brothers, Dingwall, and also for a 570kg Limousin from Drummond Farm, Evanton, to John M Munro Ltd., and £1,201.20 for a 770kg Charolais cross from Clyth Mains, to Woodhead Brothers. Old season lambs averaged 169.5p (-15.2p) and sold to 187.2p per kg and £88 for 47kg Beltex crosses from Torgorm, Conon Bridge, to Fraser Brothers, Dingwall.

Toward Limousin bullock sells to 226.9p per kilo at Stirling

UNITED Auctions sold 1,220 store cattle and 987 store hogs and grit ewes at Stirling last Wednesday. Bullocks averaged 176.04p (+2.88) and sold to 226.90p per kg for a 250kg Limousin cross from Toward and £1,140 for a 740kgs Charolais cross from Claish Heifers averaged 167.44p (+2.61p) and sold to 200.50p per kg for a 364 kgs Limousin cross from West Auchencroft and £980 for a 632kgs Limousin cross from Low Boydston. Forward cattle averaged 144.35p to 165.70p for a Limousin cross from Croftintygan and £885 for a Limousin also from Croftintygan. Calf cows averaged 117.14p and sold to 141.50p from Whitsome Laws and £1,145 for a Simmental cross also from Whitsome Laws. Suffolk hogs from Malling and Down hogs from Croft sold to £62 with Cheviots from Carie to £57 and Blackfaces from Letar to £48.50. Cheviot/Mule gimmers with scanned twins sold to £97 while Texel crosses with twins sold to £86.

Little Glenshee Cheviot hogs top Perth prime sale

UNITED Auctions sold 2505 prime sheep including 2,303 hogs averaging 160p per kilo at Perth on Monday. Cheviot hogs from Little Glenshee sold to £93.50 and 187p, with Texels from Airleywright to £92. Suffolk cross ewes from Barbarfield sold to £80 with Texels from Connachan to £63; Cheviots from Westhall to £52 and Blackfaces from Balnaguard to £48.



Market report

STIRLING United Auctions

**Bullocks**  
Up to 250kgs Rashiehill £525, 210p;  
251-300kgs Nethersheids £630, Toward 226.90p;  
301-350kgs Dyke £750, Longyester 222p;  
351-400kgs Buteland £830, Dyke 220.30p;  
401-450kgs West Thomaston £880, 204.7p;  
451-500kgs West Thomaston £930, 202.20p;  
501-550kgs Craigend £945, Hardens 183.30p;  
551-600kgs Claish £1045, 180.80p;  
601-650kgs Claish £1035, Low Boydston 166.90p;  
651-700kgs Craigmire £1050, 154.40p;  
701kgs+ Claish £1140, 154.10p  
**Heifers**  
Up to 250kgs Hardhill £370, 178.70p;  
251-300kgs South Brownhill £535, Toward 194.90p;  
301-350kgs Longyester £610, Craigend 181.50p;  
351-400kgs West Auchencroft £730, 200.50p;  
401-450kgs Oatfield £765, 179.60p;  
451-500kgs West Thomaston £910, 185p;  
501-550kgs West Thomaston £970, 182.30p;  
551-600kgs West Thomaston £940, 168.50p;  
601-650kgs Low Boydston £980, 155.10p;  
651-700kgs Causewayhead £960, 139.90p  
**OTM Bulls**  
Craigmire (Char) £1115, 100.50p;  
Oatfield (LimX) £1345, 130.60p  
**Sheep**  
Hoggets Malling (Suff) and Croft (Down) £62; Croft (TexX) £61; Riverside (ContX) £60; Carie (Chev) £57; Fossoque (Mule) £55; Pitcastle (Swal-eX) £50; Letar (BF) £48.50  
Grit Ewes Burnbank (Chev/Mule gimmers scanned twins) £97; Burnbank (Chev/Mule 1 crop ewes) £96; Tullygorm (TexX ewes - twins) £86; Tullygorm (SuffX ewes -twins) £80; Tullygorm (Mule ewes - twins) £77; Tullygorm (BF ewes - twins) £46; Tullygorm (BF ewes - singles) £37

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Forteith's huge two-day trade show proves a must for area's suppliers and customers

# Best of everything - under one roof

A MOUTH-WATERING range of sights and smells greeted customers and clients of Forteith Foodservice at last week's two-day trade show in Oban's Corran Halls.



Trade stands, exhibitors and customers filled Oban's Corran Halls for the Forteith Foodservice trade show. ©09fort04

food producers from Argyll and Lochaber as well as those from further afield and big brand names under one roof.

It gives businesses from guest houses and hotels, restaurants and cafes to retailers and even ferries operator CalMac, the chance to view products, try out new ones, make contacts, pick up new ideas and plan for the season ahead.

Distributors Forteith Foodservice have been running the trade show for 30 years and it has the largest number of food stands of any trade show in Scotland under one roof.

Every available space was used in the Corran Halls with samples of everything from wines and spirits, soft drinks and fruit juices to burgers and venison to seafood and chips to a scrumptious selection of cakes, sweets and puddings.

With a 1,500 customer base in Argyll, Lochaber and Arnan, Forteith Foodservice's John Forteith explained that it made sense for the distributor to bring its suppliers and customers under one roof.

And with 50-60 new suppliers being added to its portfolio last year, it was decided to do two consecutive shows, rather than the usual every two years to allow those new suppliers the chance to reach Forteith's customers.

Andrew Collier, retail operations manager for CalMac, said: 'It's a great show. John has given us great access to a range of suppliers.'

He explained that CalMac was keen to use local suppliers and having Forteith's as a single contact point for those suppliers made it easier for them to place orders and receive them.

'It is difficult for people like CalMac to get access to local producers. We can't deal with thousands of producers throughout the network, and

producers need to get wise and deal with people like John, which makes our work as a buyer much easier.'

John said he believed in offering added value to the company's customer base rather than trying to compete for customers outside Argyll and Lochaber, which meant sourcing products locally that his customers could then promote, whether it is biscuits from Mull or Argyll venison prepared in Forteith's own butchery.

Those attending the show were hoping for a good season this spring and summer in Lochaber and Argyll in the back of the Homecoming 2009 promotion, people holidaying within the UK and the weak pound making it a cheaper destination than before for foreign visitors.



Brian Carr, general sales manager, and John Forteith of Forteith Foodservice. ©09fort01



There was a wonderful selection of food for drink for potential customers to sample. ©09fort02

## MSP welcomes cut in prescription charges

A FURTHER reduction in prescription charges has been welcomed by Argyll and Bute MSP Jim Mather. Charges are expected to fall from £5 to £4 from April 1 and should be phased out altogether by the Scottish government by 2011.

Medication for a four-month period or 12 months would also be reduced. 'These are very worthwhile objectives that will assist those with long-term medical conditions to manage their health and ensure that prohibitive cost is no longer a barrier to them obtaining medication that is urgently required,' said Mr Mather.

## Plenty on for a fortnight

TO MARK Fairtrade Fortnight which started this week, Oban is playing host to a Malawian fair trade expert as well as holding a fashion show. Towera Jalaski from Malawi will be joining Scottish Fair Trade Forum co-ordinator Betsy Reed in visiting a number of Oban schools on Monday March 2 to talk to pupils about fair trade and the

kind of difference it can make to people's lives. Events A number of different events will be taking place throughout the town, from fair trade members giving out samples at the Co-operative Superstore and Tesco to Oban Chocolate Shop running a Fair Trade Friday this week to a fashion show on March 5 at Cuan Mor.

## Businesses taking more time to pay tax bills

A TOTAL of 83 businesses in Argyll and Bute have taken advantage of a new arrangement to get more time to pay their tax bills. The Business Payment Support Service was announced by the chancellor Alistair Darling at the November pre-budget report, which provides a 'fast track' service to

support businesses that need more time to pay their bills for corporation tax, VAT, PAYE, income tax or national insurance contributions. They can quickly agree terms with HM Revenue and Customs over the telephone. Tax arrangements totalling £600,000 have been agreed in Argyll and Bute.

## Retained status for stations

VOLUNTEER fire stations in Tyndrum and Crianlarich, the last two volunteer stations within Central Scotland Fire and Rescue Service, will gain retained status as of April 24. The change in operation will mean investment and more training time for the crews. A spokesman for Central Scotland Fire and Rescue Service said: 'The role of volunteer firefighters at Crian-

larich and Tyndrum stations has evolved to the extent that their job is indistinguishable from that of a retained duty system firefighter. The stations already operate to the highest standard required in providing a frontline service.' While there will be no need to recruit more firefighters, the service will be creating two crew manager posts from within the units.

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Salary £31,821.00 (per annum) with 8% company pension contribution and essential car users allowance.

**1 F/T SENIOR PRACTITIONER (currently funded for 2 years)**

We are looking for an energetic and motivated worker who will lead the Womens Service Team in delivering a high standard of planned support to women experiencing Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women issues.

Salary £24,942.00 (per annum) with 8% company pension contribution and essential car users allowance.

Applicants for both posts must have a sound understanding of the effects and issues surrounding Domestic Abuse and Violence against Women issues with a willingness to participate in ongoing training and a full clean Driving Licence with use of own vehicle.

Posts subject to Enhanced Disclosure, two satisfactory references and 3 month probationary period.

These posts are exempt under the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 (2) (d) and (e). Women only need apply.

Application packs available by phoning Fiona MacLean Voluntary Action Lochaber on: 01397 706055

Closing Date: Friday 27th March 2009

A Charitable Company Limited by Guarantee  
Charity Number: SC034484 Company Number: 330605

**Mary's Meals/SIR Charity Shop Manager**

Our charity is growing fast and our Mary's Meals campaign is now providing over 350 000 of the world's poorest children with a daily meal in school. We are looking for a new key member of staff to join us.

A challenging and rewarding role awaits the successful candidate. They should enjoy working with volunteers in a warm and friendly environment; have a hands-on approach to management and excellent interpersonal skills. They must be highly motivated to achieve goals and meet targets as set by the Retail Manager.

Closing date: 7th March  
Location: Oban  
For further information please call Mandy Murray T: 0141-336-7094

**KEYLINE BUILDERS MERCHANTS LTD**

**Temporary driver / Store person required**

**Minimum 3 months employment for our Lochgilphead Depot. A class 2 HGV licence and forklift experience essential. Please forward copy of CV by email to lesley.christie@keyline.co.uk or in writing to Keyline Builders Merchants, Kilmory Industrial Estate, Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8RR**

**Local Powerdown Officer, Isle of Tiree**

20 hours per week  
Salary up to £26,000 pro rata depending on experience

The Community Powerdown Project involves 27 communities across Scotland, including Tiree. The project aims to assist communities to reduce their carbon emissions through a range of locally-specific actions. On Tiree the Powerdown Project will help make buildings more energy-efficient, improve recycling facilities, reduce the carbon emissions from local tourism

Candidates should be able to demonstrate enthusiasm for green issues. Specific technical qualifications are less important than an ability to communicate clearly with businesses, individuals, community groups and government agencies. Experience of project planning and management and access to appropriate transport are required.

A full job description is available from TRD@tireebroadband.com or call 01879 220677. Applications must be received by 2nd March 2009. Short-listed applicants will be interviewed on Tiree on 11th March, with recruitment taking place as soon as possible thereafter.

LOCAL ACCESS, GLOBAL OUTLOOK

**hial**  
Highlands & Islands Airports

**FIRE-FIGHTER - Islay Airport**

Salary £16,016 rising to £20,021 per annum plus allowances

Do you have what it takes to become an airport fire-fighter? HIA has a vacancy at Islay Airport and applications are invited from both men and women for this rewarding and challenging role.

Successful applicants will initially be required to attend the Fire Training College, Teesside, for a six-week residential fire-fighter course. Further training courses will be completed locally to achieve full competency. You will also have to pass the HIA's medical/fitness standards.

A full and current driving licence is essential. An LGV licence is also essential but full LGV training will be given. Airport Fire Service staff will be required to provide a Criminal Record Check for security clearance.

If you think you have what it takes, please apply for an application pack. Closing date for completed application forms is Friday 13 March 2009.

For more information, please visit the Careers Section of our website or contact:-

Human Resources Department Telephone: 01667 464314  
Highlands and Islands Airports Limited Fax: 01667 464209  
Head Office, Inverness Airport Email: recruitment@hial.co.uk  
Inverness, IV2 7JB Website: www.hial.co.uk

**ARGYLL & BUTE WOMEN'S AID**  
Children & Young Person's Support Worker

Fixed Term Contract until March 2011 (funded by Scottish Government)

35 hours per week  
Salary - £25,674.81  
Plus 9% pension

The post is to provide a service to Children & Young People throughout Campbeltown/Kintyre who have experienced domestic abuse. As well as raising the profile of the service with children and young people, it will involve the planning, delivery and evaluation of support in a variety of setting including refuge.

Candidates should have an understanding of the feminist analysis of domestic abuse and experience of interagency working.

It is essential that applicants have experience of working with vulnerable children and young people and possess either a SVQ3 Early Years Care & Education, HNC Childcare & Education, NNEB or equivalent.

The post is subject to Enhanced Disclosure.

Since the post will involve flexible working hours including evenings and weekends access to own transport would be advantageous.

For application pack contact:  
01369 70 6636  
E mail: argyllwomensaid@btconnect.com

Or write to  
**Argyll & Bute Women's Aid,**  
Office: 56B Hunter Street,  
Kilmory, Dunoon, Argyll,  
PA23 8DT

Closing date for request of application is 6th March 2009.  
Women only need apply under sections 7 (ii)(d)(e) of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975

**G McNaughton & Son**

**CLERICAL ASSISTANT REQUIRED**  
for busy plant hirer and contractor office

Applicant must be computer literate, be able to work on your own initiative and have a flexible approach

Please apply in writing with a CV to:

G McNaughton & Son  
Site 20, Kilmory Industrial Estate  
Lochgilphead, PA31 8RR

**Sense Scotland is a dynamic, forward-thinking organisation, working with disabled children and adults, and their families across Scotland.**

**Support Workers 1-3**

**Glenfinnan. (Ref: H/01/GF) £7.17 - £8.72 per hour.**  
Various full, part time and relief posts.

Are you looking for a new career which will present you with unique challenges and rewards? Do you have the qualities required to support someone with a learning disability to live in the community? If this applies to you come and work for Sense Scotland in our service in Glenfinnan. Experience is not essential as training will be given.

Closing date: Monday 16th March 2009.  
Interview date: Wednesday 1st April 2009.  
CONTACT: Robertson House, Shore Street, Inverness IV1 1NF  
SMS: 07781 480597 - Text Ref, your name, address and/or email address  
Hotline: 01463 725955 Fax: 01463 718229  
Email: recruitment@sensescotland.org.uk  
Website: www.sensescotland.org.uk

We are an equal opportunities employer. Successful applicants will be subject to enhanced disclosure checks. Registered in Scotland No. 147570. Registered Scottish Charity No. SC022097

**CAFE FISH**

We are looking for a someone with a passion for cooking to come to join our busy cafe. We can provide separate accommodation, and the opportunity to live and work on the beautiful Island of Mull.

Applicants should be enthusiastic, happy, hardworking and be able to work in a fast paced environment. Training in our style of cooking will be given.

Contact 01688302631 for more information.

**CARER**

Help needed to assist lady with M.S getting up in the morning.

2 hours per day  
Monday - Friday  
Kilmore, 6 miles south of Oban.  
£8.50 per hour  
Tel 01631 770264  
between 5 -7pm

Caring person urgently needed to enable elderly lady to remain in her home in Ardfern. Variety of shifts including sleepovers.

Telephone 07795052656

**SSMEI Project Officer (Temporary)**

£22,994 - £25,147 Oban, Lorn & the Isles Ref: DSP03025T

Sound of Mull marine management project

01546 604286

Closing date 13 March 2009.

To apply visit our website

www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/jobs

**OBAN & LORN RIDING FOR THE DISABLED LTD**

Require **ADMINISTRATOR**

28 hours per week rising to 35 October 09

Job Share Considered  
Funded post till October 2010

Experience required  
Excel/Word  
Enhanced disclosure required

Apply in writing to  
L Carmichael, Achnalarraig Stables, Oban, PA34 4QA

**FYNE POLISHING CLEANING SERVICE**

**Staff required**

full-time and part-time all year round  
Driver Essential

Telephone 01499 302184 or 07789346020.

**HGV DRIVER REQUIRED**

To Work from **OBAN to GLASGOW**  
Preferably Class 1

Contact: Barra Atlantic  
01871 890341  
9am - 5pm

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**Oban Times RECRUITMENT**

**MacAuslane - Chisholm**

Sandra MacAuslane and Jamie Chisholm, both of Erracht Terrace, Caol, were married by Pastor John Penney on Loch Linnhe, aboard the *Soutar's Lass*. They held a reception in the West End Hotel, Fort William.  
Photograph by The Write Image.

**Ross - Murray**

Morag Ross, daughter of Graham and Elspeth Ross, Braes, Skye, and Iain, son of Neil and Catherine Murray, Jordanhill, Glasgow, were married in St Luke's Church, Milngavie, by the Rev Ramsay Shields. The couple held a reception in Milngavie Town Hall with *Skipinnish*. Iain's grandparents came from Waternish, Skye, and Ness, Lewis.

**The Oban Times Wedding Album**

**Gordon**

Julie and Ray Gordon, pictured left, were married in Arisaig. They asked for donations to Breast Cancer Care instead of wedding gifts and raised the magnificent sum of £1,970.

**Liy - Forbes**

Pasi Liy of Monterrey, Mexico, and Michael Forbes of Oban, were married in Oban Registry Office. A religious blessing and reception took place on Luna Beach, Riviera Maya, Mexico. Michael is the youngest son of Mike and Grace Forbes, Oban.

Send your wedding photos to The Editor,  
PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB, or email editor@obantimes.co.uk

**MacKenzie - McCulloch**

Mhairi-Anne MacKenzie of Luing and Ayr, and Scott McCulloch, Ayr, pictured left, were married at Glasgow University Memorial Chapel. The couple held a reception at the Western House Hotel, Ayr.

**Campbell - Feggans**

Elizabeth Campbell, Caol, and Neil Feggans, Fort William, pictured right, were married at Fort William Registry Office. They held a reception at The Imperial Hotel. Photograph by Anthony MacMillan, Fort William.

**HIE**  
Highlands and Islands Enterprise  
Iomairt na Gàidhealtachd 'n nan Eilean

**HIE INTERNATIONAL MARKETING AND WEB 2.0 WORKSHOP**

HIE is extending its successful international trade development programme with free one day workshops. These are designed to help Highland based businesses seize the global initiative and take advantage of significant opportunities for growth, profitability and job creation.

**THURSDAY 12TH MARCH / CORRAN HALLS, LISMORE SUITE, OBAN 2PM-4.30PM**

How to develop an online marketing strategy using Web 2.0 technologies to reach potentially thousands of new customers and contacts without costing the earth.

**SPEAKERS /**  
Dr Jim Hamill / University of Strathclyde Marketing School  
Alan Stevenson / AS Business Solutions

The workshops are free to Highland based organisations, and include detailed course notes and refreshments. To reserve a space or for further information please contact John Mackenzie T/ 01463 244520 E/ john.mackenzie@hient.co.uk

[www.hie.co.uk](http://www.hie.co.uk)

**Annual General Meeting of Friends of Oban Hospice to be held in**

The Church Centre,  
Glencruitten Road, Oban  
at 8 pm on  
Thursday 19 March, 2009.

**CROFTERS COMMISSION**  
SUIOBHARR NAH CROFTAIREAN

The following decrofting Direction has been granted:

**Croft House Site and Garden Ground**  
**7 NORTH BALLACHULISH, KILMALLIE**

Direction dated 18 February 2009 granted to Mrs Jean Robertson. Area ext to 0.060 Ha.

Condition: Complete enclosure of the site with a stockproof fence or barrier within 4 months of the date of granting the Direction.

Case Number: 4.85.15875

**8 BOHUNTIN, KILMONIVAIG**

Direction dated 19 February 2009 granted to Donald Joseph Kennedy. Area ext to 0.28 Ha.

Condition: Complete enclosure of the site with a stockproof fence or barrier within 4 months of the date of granting the Direction.

Case Number: 4.85.15858

**GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE**

John A MacNiven trading as J.A.M. Drilling of Manora, 42 Morvern Hill, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4NS is applying for a licence to use Argyll Commercials Ltd, Glenshellach Road, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4PP as an operating centre for 1 goods vehicle. Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hill Crest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds LS9 stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A guide to making representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office.

**CROFTERS COMMISSION**  
SUIOBHARR NAH CROFTAIREAN

Mrs Elizabeth J MacDonald is applying to decroft part of the croft at 1 Bunavullin, Morvern extending to 0.583 ha being the site of an existing dwellinghouse. Ref: 4.86.16408

If you consider the decrofting of this area will adversely affect your crofting interests or that of the local crofting community, please make written representations to the Crofters Commission, Castle Wynd, Inverness IV2 3EQ by 16 March 2009 quoting the above case number. If you are interested in the tenancy of the croft, please advise the Crofters Commission as above

Representations will be copied to the applicant. Comments on any earlier applications cannot be taken into account.

**THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL COMHAIRLE NA GÀIDHEALTACHD**

**PRE-SCHOOL ENROLMENT NOTICE FUNDED PRE-SCHOOL PLACES 2009/2010**

All children born between 1 March 2005 and 28 February 2007 are entitled to a funded pre-school place during the session 2009/2010.

Enrolments will be accepted during the week commencing Monday 9th March 2009 for all funded pre-school places.

If you wish to enrol your child for a place please contact your local Primary School, Playgroup or Nursery for information on registered centres in your area and the enrolment procedure.

Gaelic Medium provision is available in certain areas: please contact Highland Council Childcare Information Service for details.

Information is available from:  
Highland Council Childcare Information Service on 0845 6011345 or email childcareinformation@highland.gov.uk

Information Leaflets are also available from Highland Council Service Points.

**Please Note:** Remember to take your child's birth certificate or other official confirmation of birth with you when you go to enrol.

**FIOSRACHADH AIR CLÀRADH RO-SGOILE ÀITEAN RO-SGOILE LE MAOINEACHADH 2009/2010**

Tha càir aig pàisde sam bith a rugadh eadar 1 Màirt 2005 agus 28 Gearran 2007 àite ro-sgoile le maoinachadh fhaighinn anns an t-seusan 2009/2010.

Thèid clàraidhean a ghabhail seachdain a tòiseachadh Diluain 9 Mart airson gach àite ro-sgoile.

Ma tha sibh airson ur pàisde a chlàradh, bu chòir dhuibh bruidhinn ris a' bhunsgoil, croileagan no sgoil-àraich ionadail gaibh mu ionadan-clàraichte agus an dòigh-clàraidh.

Gheibhear seirbheis tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig ann an a' àitean sònraichte: Bruidhinn ri Seirbheisean Chùram-Cloinne Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd.

Gheibhear fiosrachadh bho:  
Seirbheis-fiosrachadh Cùram-Cloinne Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd air 0845 6011345 no post-d childcareinformation@highland.gov.uk

Bileagan-fiosrachaidh bho ionadan-frithealaidh Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd.

Cuimhnicibh: Thoiribh leibh teisteanas-breith ur pàisde nuair a tha sibh a' clàradh.

[www.highland.gov.uk](http://www.highland.gov.uk) - 01463 702000

**National Forest Land Scheme**

Forestry Commission Scotland wishes to notify community and environmental groups that it is considering sale of the following properties:

**Name:**  
a) Corroun b) Camisky

**Areas:**  
a) Approx 1,850 ha b) Approx 43 ha

**Grid References:**  
a) NN 397792 b) NN 181804

**Locations:**  
a) south of A82 and east of Tulloch station  
b) north of A82 between Achnabobane and Achindoul

Enquiries to John Mackenzie, Acquisitions and Disposals, Forestry Commission, Tower Road, Smithton, Inverness IV2 7NL. Full details have been sent to the Community Council and Non-Government Organisations.

[www.forestry.gov.uk/scotland](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/scotland)

**Oban & Lorn Youth Pipe Band Association A.G.M.**

Oban High School Pipe Band

Monday 9th March 7pm  
Oban High School, Assembly Hall

All players, parents and interested parties welcome.

[www.ohspipeband.org.uk](http://www.ohspipeband.org.uk)

**TIMESFORUM**  
Have your say on the forum at [www.obantimes.co.uk](http://www.obantimes.co.uk)

**THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL**  
**Notices Under the Town and Country Planning Acts**

The applications for Planning Permission listed below, and Environmental Statements where appropriate, together with the plans and other documents submitted with them may be examined at the AREA PLANNING OFFICE, FULTON HOUSE, GORDON SQUARE, FORT WILLIAM PH33 6XY between the hours of 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday and at the location where listed below during normal office hours.

Written comments (whether supporting or opposing the applications) may be made to the AREA PLANNING AND BUILDING STANDARDS MANAGER at the address below by the dates listed below.

Applicant Name & Development Address Reference Number	Proposal Description	Location where application may be inspected & reason for Advertisement
Clydeboyd Fort William Ltd Annat Pier Corpach Fort William 09/00033/FULLO	Additional Sunday stevedoring working time for 6 Sundays per annum for loading/unloading vessels	Corpach Post Office Section 34 of the Act (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](mailto:planning.lochaber@highland.gov.uk)

**The Oban Times & West Highland Times**

**Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES**

**Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES**

**Expression for Tender Lochaber Forest District**

Lochaber Forest District  
Interested parties who have the necessary resources and experience are invited to tender for the Grass Cutting Contract of five Picnic Sites throughout the Fort William Area.

For further details and a tender pack, please contact Derek Mair, Forest Works Supervisor, Forestry Commission, Lochaber Forest District, Torlundy, Fort William PH33 6SW, tel: 01397 702184 or email: [lochaber.district@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:lochaber.district@forestry.gsi.gov.uk)

[www.obantimes.co.uk](http://www.obantimes.co.uk)

**Stewart Consulting**  
moving to larger premises on Friday 27th February 2009 at

**1 Victoria Buildings 34 Union Street Lochgilphead Argyll PA31 8JS**

The Office will close for business at 5.00pm on Thursday 26th February and re-open on Monday 2nd March 2009.

All contact numbers remain the same

[www.stewartconsulting.co.uk](http://www.stewartconsulting.co.uk)

**Operational Services**

**VARIATION OF CHARGES AT OFF STREET PARKING PLACES IN THE TOWN OF OBAN**  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Argyll and Bute Council in exercise of the powers conferred on them by section 35C of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 hereby varies the charges payable in respect of vehicles using the car parks listed below with effect from 1st April 2009.

Car Park	Existing Charges (until 31st March 2009)	Revised Charges (from 1st April 2009)
North Pier, Albany Street, Tweeddale Street, Market Street, Corran Halls No. 1 and No. 2, Esplanade and Rockfield School Car Parks	20 minutes 30 pence 40 minutes 50 pence 1 hour 70 pence 3 monthly charge £110.00 6 monthly charge £205.00 9 monthly charge £295.00 Annual charge £385.00	15 minutes 20 pence 30 minutes 40 pence 45 minutes 60 pence 1 hour 80 pence 3 monthly charge £113.00 6 monthly charge £210.00 9 monthly charge £302.00 Annual charge £395.00

**VARIATION OF CHARGES AT OFF STREET PARKING PLACES IN MULL**  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Argyll and Bute Council in exercise of the powers conferred on them by section 35C of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 hereby varies the charges payable in respect of vehicles using the car parks listed below with effect from 1st April 2009.

Car Park	Existing Charges (until 31st March 2009)	Revised Charges (from 1st April 2009)
Iona Ferry No 1 and Iona Ferry No 2 Car Parks in Fionnphort	20 minutes 30 pence 40 minutes 50 pence 1 hour 70 pence Seasonal Charge £85.00	15 minutes 20 pence 30 minutes 40 pence 45 minutes 60 pence 1 hour 80 pence Seasonal Charge £87.00

**VARIATION OF CHARGES AT DESIGNATED ON STREET PARKING PLACES IN THE TOWN OF OBAN**  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Argyll and Bute Council in exercise of the powers conferred on them by section 46A of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 hereby varies the charges payable in respect of vehicles using the designated on street parking places on the roads listed below with effect from 1st April 2009.

Road Name (Inner Zone) Limited to 2 hours maximum stay	Existing Charges (until 31st March 2009)	Revised Charges (from 1st April 2009)
Albany Street (part), Argyll Street, Argyll Square, Campbell Street, Combie Street, Craighard Road, High Street, Queens Park Place, Rockfield Road(School Brae)	70 pence per 40 minutes	80 pence per 40 minutes

Road Name (Outer Zone) Limited to 4 hours maximum stay	Existing Charges (until 31st March 2009)	Revised Charges (from 1st April 2009)
Albany Street (part), Breadalbane Street, Drimvargie Road, Glenshellach Terrace, Lochside Street, Shore Street (part), Dunollie Roads	70 pence per 40 minutes	80 pence per 40 minutes

Residents Permits	Existing Charges (until 31st March 2009)	Revised Charges (from 1st April 2009)
Annual Charge	£75.00	£77.00
Quarterly Charge	£27.00	£28.00

Andrew R Law, Director of Operational Services, Manse Brae, Lochgilphead, Argyll

**69%**  
of the business community read the regional press

**Regional Press**  
closer to home

Source: Business Choice II, The Newspaper Society

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us @ [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk)

**Argyll & Bute COUNCIL**

**PLANNING**

**TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997, RELATED LEGISLATION PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**

Take notice that the applications in the following schedule may be inspected during normal office hours at the location given below, at 67 Chalmers Street, Ardrishaig and by logging on to the Council's Website at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk) and clicking on Online Planning Applications. Anyone wishing to make representations should do so in writing to the undersigned within 14 or 21 days of the appearance of this notice, whichever is applicable as indicated below. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

**SCHEDULE - DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION OF PLANS**

● Ref No: 09/00183/COU  
Applicant: Mr And Mrs R Johnson  
Proposal: Change of use, alterations and extensions of existing garage/store to form semi-detached property (one dwelling house and one office unit)  
Site Address: Garage/Store Balaclava Croft Port Ellen Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute  
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Port Ellen  
Section 34 and Article 9 Advert 14 Days

**Area Team Leader Development Control, Planning Services, 67 Chalmers Street, Ardrishaig, PA30 8DX**

**TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997, RELATED LEGISLATION PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**

Take notice that the applications in the following schedule may be inspected during normal office hours at the location given below, at Lorn House, Albany Street, Oban and by logging on to the Council's Website at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk) and clicking on Online Planning Applications. Anyone wishing to make representations should do so in writing to the undersigned within 14 or 21 days of the appearance of this notice, whichever is applicable as indicated below. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

**SCHEDULE - DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION OF PLANS**

● Ref No: 09/00186/DET  
Applicant: Mr And Mrs W Addison  
Proposal: Erection of 4 flats and 4 dwellinghouses  
Site Address: Bal Na Keil Kirk Road Dunbeg Oban Argyll And Bute  
Location of Plans: Oban Area Office  
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days

● Ref No: 09/00173/REM  
Applicant: Mr And Mrs Neil MacDonald  
Proposal: Erection of dwelling house  
Site Address: Land South Of Muircroft Lochdon Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute  
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Craignure  
Section 34 and Article 9 Advert 14 Days

● Ref No: 09/00161/DET  
Applicant: New Look Retailers Ltd  
Proposal: Proposed new shop front doors and re-decoration.  
Site Address: 30-32 George Street Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 5SB  
Location of Plans: Oban Area Office  
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days

● Ref No: 09/00154/OUT  
Applicant: Linnmont Limited  
Proposal: Site for the erection of 5 dwelling houses  
Site Address: Land South Of Muircroft Lochdon Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute  
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Craignure  
Section 34 and Article 9 Advert 14 Days

● Ref No: 09/00075/DET  
Applicant: Amenity Services  
Proposal: Proposed new cafe and public toilets  
Site Address: Car Park Ganavan Road Oban Argyll And Bute  
Location of Plans: Oban Area Office  
Section 34 and Article 9 Advert 14 Days

**Area Team Leader Development Control, Planning Services, Lorn House, Albany Street, Oban**

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT CONTRARY TO DEVELOPMENT PLAN) (SCOTLAND) DIRECTION 1996**

The following planning applications have been lodged for determination with Argyll and Bute Council and are available for inspection during normal working hours at the local area office/Post Office identified below and by logging on to the Council's Website at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk) and clicking on Online Planning Applications. The proposals contained in the application are considered to be a departure or potential departure from the Development Plan for the area concerned.

Anyone wishing to make representations about any of the applications identified below should do so in writing within 21 days from the date of publication of this notice to the Area Team Leader Development Control at the address below.

Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

**SCHEDULE - DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION OF PLANS**

● Ref No: 09/00163/OUT  
Applicant: Mr C James  
Proposal: Site for erection of dwellinghouse  
Site Address: Site C South East Of Inverlussa Lochdon Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute  
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Craignure  
A18 Local Plan Potential Depart Adv (21)  
Potential Departure from Policies RUR1 and RUR2 of The Mull, Coll and Tiree Local Plan

● Ref No: 09/00162/OUT  
Applicant: Mr C James  
Proposal: Site for erection of 2 dwellinghouses  
Site Address: Site A East Of Lussa Cottage Ardrusa Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute  
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Craignure  
A18 Local Plan Potential Depart Adv (21)  
Potential Departure from Policies RUR1 and RUR2 of The Mull, Coll and Tiree Local Plan

● Ref No: 09/00140/OUT  
Applicant: Mr C James  
Proposal: Site for erection of dwellinghouse  
Site Address: Site B North West Of Inverlussa Lochdon Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute  
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Craignure  
A18 Local Plan Potential Depart Adv (21)  
Potential Departure from Policies RUR1 and RUR2 of The Mull, Coll and Tiree Local Plan

**Area Team Leader Development Control, Planning Services, Lorn House, Albany Street, Oban, PA34 4AR**

Any letter of representation the council receives about a planning application is considered a public document.

Please therefore note that representations will be made available for public inspection and, under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act, will be copied on request. They will also be published on the council's web site.

The author of such a representation is solely responsible for its content and accuracy.

Anonymous representations will be "shredded" and those marked confidential will be returned to the sender. Neither will be taken into account when the application is being considered.

Details of representations we receive on planning applications can be viewed on the council's website at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/publicaccess](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/publicaccess)

**OPERATIONAL SERVICES**

**VARIATION OF CHARGES AT OFF STREET PARKING PLACES IN MULL**  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Argyll and Bute Council in exercise of the powers conferred on them by section 35C of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 hereby varies the charges payable in respect of vehicles using the car parks listed below with effect from 1st April 2009.

Car Park	Existing Charges (until 31st March 2009)	Revised Charges (from 1st April 2009)
Iona Ferry No 1 and Iona Ferry No 2 Car Parks in Fionnphort	20 minutes 30 pence 40 minutes 50 pence 1 hour 70 pence Seasonal Charge £85.00	15 minutes 20 pence 30 minutes 40 pence 45 minutes 60 pence 1 hour 80 pence Seasonal Charge £87.00

**VARIATION OF CHARGES AT DESIGNATED ON STREET PARKING PLACES IN THE TOWN OF OBAN**  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Argyll and Bute Council in exercise of the powers conferred on them by section 46A of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 hereby varies the charges payable in respect of vehicles using the designated on street parking places on the roads listed below with effect from 1st April 2009.

Road Name (Inner Zone) Limited to 2 hours maximum stay	Existing Charges (until 31st March 2009)	Revised Charges (from 1st April 2009)
Albany Street (part), Argyll Street, Argyll Square, Campbell Street, Combie Street, Craighard Road, High Street, Queens Park Place, Rockfield Road(School Brae)	70 pence per 40 minutes	80 pence per 40 minutes

Road Name (Outer Zone) Limited to 4 hours maximum stay	Existing Charges (until 31st March 2009)	Revised Charges (from 1st April 2009)
Albany Street (part), Breadalbane Street, Drimvargie Road, Glenshellach Terrace, Lochside Street, Shore Street (part), Dunollie Roads	70 pence per 40 minutes	80 pence per 40 minutes

Residents Permits	Existing Charges (until 31st March 2009)	Revised Charges (from 1st April 2009)
Annual Charge	£75.00	£77.00
Quarterly Charge	£27.00	£28.00

Andrew R Law, Director of Operational Services, Manse Brae, Lochgilphead, Argyll

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"The Nissan LCV business is in a phase of expansion even in these challenging financial circumstances," said Andy Palmer, Senior Vice President, Global Product Planning, Nissan Motor Co., Ltd. "We aim to expand our business with smart new products and services that meet the needs of our customers, both in Europe and around the world."

He added: "The NV200 is our proposal for a global small van. It offers outstanding utility and smart convenience with low cost of ownership, packaged in a highly functional design. With this vehicle, Nissan aims to meet the needs of customers looking for a functional, adaptable light van. We will launch the NV200 in Japan before summer, in Europe in autumn 2009 and then in China and other markets."

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Woman robbed in violent attack

POLICE in Fort William are looking for a violent thief after an assault and robbery on a lone female in Caol.

The woman was struck in the face by the assailant and had her handbag stolen in the attack between 2am and 2.30am on Saturday, February 21 in Glenkingie Terrace.

A male, described as five foot eight inches in height, with very slim build and wearing dark coloured jeans and clothing, ran on to Kilmallie Road after the attack.

Driving crackdown

POLICE officers across Strathclyde will be out in force tomorrow (Friday) in a bid to crackdown on driving offences.

As part of a national campaign police will be looking out for speeding drivers, people using a mobile phones and those not wearing seatbelts.

Change will end long walk for the many elderly in village  
**Dunbeg wins eight-year battle for bus route**

RESIDENTS in Dunbeg have finally succeeded after an eight-year campaign for a bus service to the Lochnell Road area of the village.

The previous West Coast Motors 405 Oban to Dunbeg bus service only went as far as Lorn Road and did not go further into the heavily populated Lochnell Road area. Many elderly residents in that part of the village, most of whom have bus passes, were more inclined to get a taxi into Oban as the walk to Lorn Road was too far.

Dunbeg Community Council chairwoman Gwyneth Neal said: "This is a great addition to the Dunbeg bus service, which is excellent on the whole."

"A lot of people have been looking forward to this day for a long time."

"We would like to thank Argyll and Bute Council and West Coast Motors for providing this service."

Representatives of the community council and Oban



Russell Dods of West Coast motors, left, Councillor Duncan MacIntyre, second from right, and Dunbeg residents welcomed the first bus of the new Lochnell Road service. t09bus02

North and Lorn councillor Duncan MacIntyre, who have been behind the campaign, were among those present as the first bus of the new service

arrived in Lochnell Road at 10.09am on Monday. First passenger on board was May MacLean, who welcomed the extension of the service to her

street because a knee problem made it difficult for her to walk long distances. Councillor MacIntyre said: "Elderly people and those

with no cars from parts of the village have had to use taxis in the past and this is great news for them.

"But this should also encourage drivers to use public transport a bit more."

"I hope people will use this service. I accept there may be some refinements to make to the service as time goes on."

One of these 'refinements' will be the need for official bus stops. Until these are installed residents can catch the hourly bus service at the Lochnell Road car park or flag down the bus at any point on that road.

Community council members stressed that because Lochnell Road was so narrow in parts, it was important that drivers adhered to road markings when parking, so as not to block the bus route.

In another change to the 405 service timetable, the journey departing Oban Railway Station at 5.05pm has been extended from Connel to Benderloch.

Councillor's fury over cuts to low paid staff

HIGHLAND Council chiefs on big wages should be part of a controversial job evaluation which has seen hundreds of council employees on low incomes lose money, a Lochaber councillor is demanding.

Caol and Mallaig member Bill Clark told *The Oban Times* Lochaber clerical and administration staff have been leaving their workplaces 'in tears' after finding their already low salaries had been cut in the regrade.

"You can bet they will all appeal," he said. "They say only 12 per cent of staff are affected, but I think they must all be in Lochaber."

"Those councillors that have the same view as myself, we are going to fight their corner

and put up a case for them. "Many members of our lower paid staff earning between £15,000 and £19,000, some with 30 years experience and loyal service are finding they are dropping anything from £1,000 to more than £2,000 per annum."

Mr Clark has asked that senior council officers' salaries should also come under scrutiny.

He said: "Top earners would never miss that reduction in the same way as people whose every penny is budgeted for. 'We can't cut the salaries of frontline staff without reviewing the position of extremely well paid senior officers.'"

The salary cut will not come into force until April 2011.

Disabled Karen will tell how she conquers all

A WHEELCHAIR-bound athlete, who has conquered some of the world's toughest terrain, is to be a guest speaker at the H2O centre in Lochavullin, Oban, on Tuesday.

Aged 21, Karen Darke, a keen outdoor sportswoman and runner fell from a cliff and was paralysed from the waist down.

left some of the world's leading climbers and adventurers in awe with her travels across the Greenland ice cap and the Tien Shan and Karakoram mountains of Central Asia.

Karen is a leadership trainer and has written a book, *If You Fall...*

Her talk is in the H2O centre at 7.30pm. Tickets are available from Atlantis Leisure.

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STROLLER DOUBLE BUGGY hardly used, £40. Telephone 07775 808582.

TANDEM BUGGY never used, cost £120, accept, £70. Telephone 01631 564886.

TODDLER PRAM SEAT babydan toddler pram seat. Fits many prams up to 44cm, holds children weighing up to 15kg, easy to attach and remove, £18. Telephone 01546 606635.

TRAVEL COT folds into carry bag, can be used as travel cot and playpen, can deliver to Oban, £10. Telephone 01631 730260.

BOOKS

15 MARILYN MONROE books, each, £3. Telephone 01546 606387.

BUILDING / DIY

GARAGE DOOR single white standard up and over garage door, North Connel collection, £45. Telephone 07974 768148.

STRUCTURAL TIMBER 12 x 4.8m lengths of regularised C16 10x2 (45x245mm) timber. Priced per metre. Job lot sale preferred. Buyer collects, £4.00. Telephone 07909 661857.

WOOD PLANE Stanley Bailey wood plane No4, £15. Telephone 07932 635849.

WOOD PLANE Stanley Bailey wood plane No 4 1/2, £20. Telephone 07932 635849.

CARAVAN EQUIPMENT

QUANTITY OF UTENSILS Cutlery, kitchen utensil, plates, kettle etc, for caravan/camper, £15.00. Telephone 01855 821482.

CD'S, DVD'S AND VIDEOS

MARILYN MONROE dvd box set, £5. Telephone 01546 606387.

STAR WARS 35 Star Wars video tapes, £40. Telephone 07932 635849.

CLOTHES, SHOES AND ACCESSORIES

KILT Man's kilt, Black Watch, Size 42, never worn, £10.00. Telephone 01855 821482.

REGATTA JACKET ladies Regatta jacket, size 18, never worn, lilac and green, was £42, £25. Telephone 01546 606612.

WALKING BOOTS Meindl Super Crack Pro, 4 Season Walking boots, Size 8, Suit Size 7, ex cond., £49.99. Telephone 01838 200615.

DOMESTIC APPLIANCES

DISHWASHER Can deliver locally (Lochgilphead), £49.99. Telephone 07887 716149.

MINI OVEN AND HOB in good condition, £48.00. Telephone 01855 831525.

STANLEY COOKER super star 75000 BTHU, oil fired, in full working order, light brown/beige finish, adjustable baffles for central heating, hot water, and oven/heating plate, ready for collection by buyer, £900 or best offer. Telephone 01680 300536.

VAX ESSENTIAL pet bagless hoover, only a few months old, £35. Telephone 01631 710067/07500 556179.

VAX ORANGE CARPET CLEANER good working order, with attachments, £49.99. Telephone 01880 820004.

VAX UPRIGHT HOOVER needs a filter inside, cost £90, £30. Telephone 01586 810278.

DOMESTIC PETS

BLACK LAB PUPS KC reg, excellent work, pet, £350, two tan Cocker pups, dogs, £400. Telephone 07533 084389.

FIREARMS

AIR RIFLE Whireach HW80 .22 air rifle, max power, Hawk zoom scope, shoulder strap and bag, all as new, (Campbeltown), £250. Telephone 07814 709993.

AIR RIFLE .22 Air Rifle with telescopic sight, FAC req, £75. Telephone 07932 635849.

FIREWOOD

FIREWOOD for sale in bags, delivered free Ardishaig / Lochgilphead area charges apply beyond, for details call. Telephone 07770 832562.

FIREWOOD 8'x4' trailer load, well seasoned, delivered free 20 mile radius of Connel, £49.99. Telephone 07920 116297.

FREE AND SWAP

PIANO Upright. Suitable for beginner. Was tuned regularly. Must be up-lifted. Telephone 01631 562274.

FURNITURE

BED SETTE weary but functional, office hours, £9. Telephone 01631 564848.

BEDROOM FITMENT 2 double wardrobes with 3 drawer mirrored vanity unit with light and top cupboard in maple effect, £30.00 Telephone 07786 436433.

BEDSIDE CABINET oak carved, office hours, £12 Telephone 01631 564848.

BEDSIDE UNITS 4 bedside units, good solid finish, ex 4 star hotel quality, £12 each. Telephone 01631 562746.

BROWN LEATHER settee, old but in good condition, very comfortable, £30. Telephone 01880 820763.

BUNK BEDS pine framed, clean, office hours, £19. Telephone 01631 564848.

BUTTERFLY TABLE with storage for 6 folding chairs, chairs included, good condition, £49. Telephone 01631 710541.

CANE CONSERVATORY SUITE 2008 model, 2 seater sofa, 2 armchairs high backed, luxury deep filled Chenille cushions, sheer comfort, all unused and still wrapped, purchased for show home, cost £1500 will accept £495. Telephone 07766 773131.Can Deliver.

CHEST OF DRAWERS small on legs, office hours, £5. Telephone 01631 564848.

CHILD'S ROCKING CHAIR dark wood, under 4years, £10. Telephone 01631 710067.

COFFE TABLES modern, two matching, office hours, £9. Telephone 01631 564848.

COFFEE TABLE love-lily hardwood, low and square, cost £300, accept £100. Telephone 01631 564886.

DINING TABLE Modern grey steel glass topped dining table and four chairs, office hours, £49. Telephone 01631 564848.

DINING TABLE and four chairs, office hours, £12 Telephone 01631 564848.

HARVEYS SOFA 2 chairs, blue fabric, vgc, cost £1200 accept £400. Telephone 01631 564886.

LOYD LOOM CHAIRS pair, collectable, office hours, £18. Telephone 01631 564848.

LOUNGE SUITE modern, dark blue, good order office hours, £39. Telephone 01631 564848.

LOUNGE SUITE Ercole quality wooden framed, office hours, £49. Telephone 01631 564848.

NEST OF TABLES modern, glass topped, office hours, £9. Telephone 01631 564848.

PINE COMPUTER DESK 5ft long, has cupboard in drawer inclosed, cost £150, £49.99. Telephone 01586 810278.

ROUND DINING TABLE & 4 CHAIRS Solid pine dining table & 4 chairs, can deliver locally (Lochgilphead), £49.99. Telephone 07887 716149.

SINGLE BED Metal Bed Frame with aluminium colour finish. Wooden slatted base for support and rigidity. W 98.5cm L 201cm H 91cm V.G.C., £30.00. Telephone 01631 565135.

SINGLE BEDS 3 Single divans and mattresses in good condition, 3ft wide, £15 each. Telephone 01631 562746.

THREE PIECE SUITE in good condition and quality fabric, 1, 2 & 3 seater, £49.99. Telephone 01631 562746.

THREE SEATER SOFA Dark terracotta with removable machine washable covers. Excellent condition, £49.99. Telephone 01631 567420 07787 133074.

GARDEN

HEDGE TRIMMER Challenge Extreme, electric hedge trimmer, nearly new, £15. Telephone 01855 821482.

GREYHOUNDS

The Retired Greyhound Trust have beautiful dogs and bitches suitable for adoption. These dogs are fully vaccinated and spayed/neutered. If you feel you could offer one of these ex-racers a home please contact Northern Division on 01470 511705 or 01465 255696. The RGT is a registered charity No 269668. A donation is required. Look forward to hearing from you.

HEALTH AND FITNESS

ABS EXERCISER Lounger Exerciser, good condition, £49.99. Telephone 01855 821482.

HEATING, FIRES AND FIREPLACES

FIRE GRATE black iron, fire grate for insert, traditional look, must be seen, 50cmx26cm, £49.99. Telephone 01631 710067/07500 556179.

WOODEN FIRE SURROUND

WOODEN FIRE SURROUND in good condition, £49.99. Telephone 01631 565478.

HOBBIES AND CRAFTS

SEWING MACHINE Electric Singer sewing machine black and gold colour, £35. Telephone 07932 635849.

HOME ENTERTAINMENT

17" COLOUR TV Philips good working order, needs new remote control, £20. Telephone 01631 710067/07500 556179.

BASSGETTOBLASTER Philips Turbo Bass getto blaster with CD player and remote control, £30. Telephone 07932 635849.

DVD RECORDER with hard disc drive, boxed, never used, £100. Telephone 01880 820772.

JVC CAMCORDER JVC Everio Camcorder with dvd burner, additional battery, and charger and carrybag, spare used once, £205.00. Telephone 01880 820772.

LCD TV 19" LCD Widescreen television with built in Freeview, still boxed never used, £100. Telephone 01880 820772.

SANYO BASS EXPANDER CD/tape, ariel for radio broken, £5. Telephone 01631 710067/07500 556179.

TECHNICS CD PLAYER part of stack system, £15. Telephone 01631 710067/07500 556179.

HOME FURNISHINGS

CREAM CURTAINS plain cream with swirl and square pattern, fully lined, tie backs, 2200mm drop, £10. Telephone 07776 490221.

ROUND KITCHEN TABLE Solid wood antique pine effect round kitchen table, D106cm, H74cm, £30.00. Telephone 07786 436433.

STORAGE DRAWERS 4 Antique Pine Under Bed Storage Drawers on castors for easy movement, would sell singly, £49.99. Telephone 07900 445034.

HOME OFFICE

COMPUTER DESK large with matching small side table, office hours, £9. Telephone 01631 564848.

DELL COMPUTER with screen in full working order, good condition, £49.99. Telephone 01631 562746.

OFFICE DESK kneehole and drawers on each side, office hours, £9. Telephone 01631 564848.

KITCHEN AND BATHROOM

3 KITCHEN UNITS 1 wall and 2 base units with sink, £20. Telephone 07528 769012.

PINE BATHROOM CABINET 54x18, £25. Telephone 07775 808582.

LEISURE AND LIFESTYLE

ART PRINTS OF BIRDS: Lovebirds, Budgies, Parrots, Owls on 4 types of art-prints, 15 1/2" X 11 3/4", the lot for £49. Telephone 02392 431503.

SUNBED in need of small repair, new bulbs (worth £150), £49.99. Telephone 01631 562746.

MAIL ORDER

SCOTTISH FIELD CALENDARS, HALF PRICE SALE featuring spectacular photography of some of our most scenic lochs, rivers, beaches and mountains. Always a popular gift for family and friends at home or abroad. Order on-line at www.scottishfield.co.uk/calendar 2009.

OBAN TIMES WEST HIGHLAND CALENDAR, HALF PRICE SALE fabulous views of the West Highlands portrayed in this handy and conveniently sized calendar. Ideal for home offices or as a gift. Order on-line at www.obantimes.co.uk/calendar 2009.

MISCELLANEOUS

CHILD'S QUAD BIKE needs some repair, £49.99. Telephone 01855 821431.

MATSUI CD/TAPE mini hi-fi system. Good condition, £10. Telephone 01546 510381.

SLEEPING BAGS 2 Snuggly Down sleeping bags, will zip together to make double, vgc, £15 each. Telephone 01855 821482.

MOTORCYCLE EQUIPMENT

LADIES JACKET Ladies leather motorbike Jacket with elbow and shoulder protection. Only worn twice, £45. Telephone 01546606635.

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

ACOUSTIC GUITAR £30. Telephone 07932 635249.

OLD SHEET MUSIC FOR PIANO lots of classical, some for learners, £15.00 Telephone 01855 821482.

VIOLIN £48. Telephone 07932 635849.

OUTDOOR SPORTS EQUIPMENT

BINOCULARS Ultra-travel deluxe, in case, 20x50, ex cond., £40.00. Telephone 01855 821482.

CHILD'S SKI SUIT great condition, suitable for child up to 116cm, £20 Telephone 01546 606353.

SKIS Head skis, SP radial 195, Look bindings, little used good condition, £25 Telephone 01852 500638.

SKIS Dynastar Affault, 190 bindings Tyrolia free flex (Very safe), good condition, £40 Telephone 01852 500638.

PRINTING AND STATIONERY

ENVELOPES - Any size, any colour, plain or window, sold individually or boxed. Contact Krisp Printing and Stationery, Burnbank, Campbeltown. 01586 554975.

Laminating - Preserve your child's favourite drawings, A4 - £2, A3 - £3, Contact Krisp Printing and Stationery, Burnbank, Campbeltown. Telephone 01586 554975.

TICKETS FOR SALE

METALLICA TICKETS 3, SECC 26th March 2009, standing £90 each, Telephone 01546 600208 evenings, Telephone 07708 294645 01546 600208.

TOYS AND GAMES

DOLLS TRAVEL COT with swing, sling, and bouncing chair in blue check, £10. Telephone 01586 810278.

KIDS SLIDE steel frame, green and blue, 3 steps, £15. Telephone 01631 710067/07500 556179.

WANTED

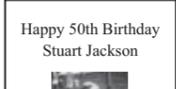
ELECTRIC SINGLE BED adjustable, in good condition. Telephone 01631 740254.

SCRAP METAL all types of scrap metal, we uplift cars, call Mr Cook, West Coast Scrap Metals. Telephone 01499 500638 07787 991636.

WINKLES WANTED, number ones £8 per stone, number twos £7 per stone. Telephone Malcolm 01586 553062.

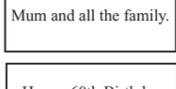
PERSONALS

Happy 50th Birthday Stuart Jackson



Lots of love Mum and all the family.

Happy 60th Birthday To the twins



Love from All the family.

The Congregation of Oban Free High Church are grateful to all who supported their recent fundraising lunch. The sum of £1034 was raised.

Thank you all.

CONDITIONS OF ACCEPTANCE FOR ADVERTISEMENTS

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**THE OBAN TIMES**  
West Highland Times

THE REGIONAL NEWSPAPER FOR THE WEST HIGHLANDS, ISLANDS AND ARGYLL



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desired to Anti-Slavery International Stableyard, Broomgrove Road, London, SW99TL.

**FENWICK** - Peacefully at home in Keills, Islay, on February 16, 2009, Davie aged 78 years, beloved partner of Kathleen MacDonald and much loved friend of John. Funeral Service was held in Caisteal A Ghlinne on Thursday 19th February and Cardross Crematorium on Friday 20th. Very sadly missed.

**FISHER** - Peacefully at the Lynn of Lorne Nursing Home, Benderloch, on February 19, 2009, Catherine Ann Fisher, (née MacKellar), in her 92nd year, formerly of 8 Cairnbaan Cottages, Cairnbaan. Beloved wife of the late Donald Cameron Fisher and much loved mother of Alastair and Donald. Treasured grandmother and great-grandmother. Dear neighbour and friend to many. Funeral service was held in Kilmartin Parish Church on Wednesday, February 25, followed by interment at Kilmartin Cemetery. Forever in our thoughts.

**MACKENZIE** - Elizabeth (Beth), Peacefully, after a short illness at Marie Curie Hospice on Sunday, February 22, 2009, Beth, loving wife to Alister, much loved mum of Alasdair, Fiona and Ronald, mother-in-law to Catherine, Clair and the late Roy, grandmother to Kirsty, Nicholas, Charlotte, Fraser, Alice, Lewis, Blair and Michael, dear sister of Kenneth and William. Funeral service on Thursday, February 26, at 1.15pm, at Muir Memorial Church thereafter to Daldoie Crematorium, arriving 2.15pm. Donations in lieu of flowers to Marie Curie Hospice.

**McEVAN** - Suddenly at home on Monday, February 23, 2009, aged 83 years, Agnes (née McKie) (Nancy), beloved wife of the late Duncan and dear mother of Duncan and Maurice. Funeral will take place from Church of Scotland, Glenclutten Road, Oban on Friday, February 27, at 1 pm, thereafter to Pennyfuir Cemetery. Family flowers only please. Retiring collection for Oban Hospice Ltd.

**McKILLOP** - Suddenly at her home, 13 Hill Street, Oban, on February 16, 2009, Robina, beloved wife of the late Ian McKillop, formerly of Corran Brae, Dunollie, Oban.

**O'HARE** - Peacefully after a long illness, at home with his family on February 19, 2009, aged 62 years, Gerry, beloved husband of Theresa, devoted father of Paul, Gerald, Kevin, Karen and Tess and a much loved Papa. Sadly missed.

**ROBERTSON** - Peacefully at Stirling Royal Infirmary on Tuesday, February 17, 2009, after a short illness, Iain (Retired, Royal Bank of Scotland, Oban) dearly beloved husband of the late Mary. Much loved dad of Susan and Alasdair. Loving grandpa of Fiona, Katrina and Neil. Funeral service took place at Logie Kirk, Stirling on Wednesday, February 25 and thereafter at Logie Cemetery. Donations if desired to Cancer Research UK.

heartfelt services and also to Hamish Hoey and Sons for excellent caring funeral arrangements. Grateful thanks for cards and flowers received.

**PERT** - The family of the late Laura Pert, would like to thank neighbours and friends for the many kind expressions of sympathy extended to them on their recent sad bereavement. Our thanks is extended to Rev John Fraser, Fort William and Rev Ian Miller, Clydebank, doctors and nursing staff of the Belford Hospital, home help and carers and Mike McFall for funeral arrangements.

**IN MEMORIAM**

**BROWN** - In loving memory of my dear husband Alasdair, who died February 25, 2005, also remembering my brother-in-law Hector, who died March 24, 2004, also remembering loved ones gone before and since. Gone are the days we used to share. But in my heart you are always there. Silent thoughts of times together. Bring memories that will last forever. - Margaret and family Canada

**GRANT** - In loving memory of our dear parents, Walter Grant, died October 1993 and Isabella Grant, who died February, 2005. - Remembered by all the family at home and away.

**MACCORMICK** - Treasured memories of a dear mum and gran Catherine, passed away February 27, 2002. Loved and missed more each year. - Colin, Flora and Graeme.

**MACCORMICK** - In loving memory of my dear mother Catherine, died February 27, 2002, and my dear father Peter, died August 1, 1980, and all those near and dear gone before and since. The special years will not return. When we were all together But with all the love within my heart You'll be with me forever - Mary.

**MACDONALD** - In loving memory of June, who died February 26, 2006, also remembering Martin, who died November 1, 1999. Lovingly remembered - Iain, Eddie and Kevin

**MACDONALD** - In loving memory of our dear mother Mary, who died on February 24, 1998. Loved and remembered everyday. - Mary, Jessie and Ian.

**MACDOUGALL** - Precious memories of a dear mum, mother-in-law and Granny Netta who died suddenly on February 26, 2008. You had a smile for everyone, a heart of gold. Always in our thoughts. Loved and remembered always. - Willie, Martine and family. Gone but not forgotten, Sadly missed. - Robbie, Sis and family. Missing you each and every day. - Janet, Brian and family.

**MACDOUGALL** - In loving memory of our Netta, taken from us on February 26, 2008. Quietly remembered everyday. - Auntie Lizzie, Jean, Sarah and Garry. x

**MAGGILL** - In loving memory of Donald MacGill, a loving husband and father who passed away on February 23, 1991. Always in our thoughts. - Nancy, Anne and Neil.

**MACLEAN** - Treasured memories of my darling husband, Calum, who died so suddenly on March 1, 1992. RIP. Calum, you are always in my thoughts. And will forever be in my heart. With all my love. - Chrissie xx.

**MACLEOD** - In memory of Captain Donald MacLeod, Kilchoan, who died on March 1, 1996 always remembered. - Inserted by nephew Hugh.

**MACMILLAN** - In loving memory of Flora a very dear mum and granny died suddenly on February 28, 2008. It's been a year since God took you away, but in our hearts you will always stay loved and remembered every day. - Donald, Linda, Gavin, Gareth and Laura.

**MACQUEEN** - In memory of my precious daughter, Veronica, who passed away on February 25, 2000. Though absent you are always near. Still loved, still missed and very dear. - Your loving mother. Just as you were you will always be. Someone special in our memory. - Jennifer, Karl and family.

**MACQUEEN** - In loving memory of our dear mum, Veronica, who died February 25, 2000. 9 years have passed since that sad day. You closed your eyes and slipped away. You left us quietly without a fuss. And broke the hearts of all of us. Love you always. - Yvonne, Richard, Michael and Innes. x

**MACQUEEN** - Treasured memories of Veronica a much loved sister and auntie. Memories are a gift To treasure Ours of you will last Forever - Love John, Janette, Trevor and Jacqueline.

**MACQUEEN** - Treasured memories of Veronica, a much loved sister and auntie, who passed away February 25, 2000. Loved and remembered always. - Violet and family.

**MACTAGGART** - Precious memories of my dear sister and loving aunt, Katie, who passed away on February 25, 2006. Loved and remembered everyday. - Joan and family, Port Charlotte, Keills and Drymen.

**MACVICAR** - Christina. In loving memory of my dear wife and companion Teena, who died March 1, 2007. You will never be forgotten so long as I am here. - Johnnie

**MACVICAR** - In loving memory of a dear mother and nana Christina, who died March 1, 2007. Loved dearly. - Catherine, John, John, Niall and Michael.

**McFADYEN** - In loving memory of our dad, Robert, who died February 25, 2006. Always in our thoughts Miss you everyday. - Love John, Lorraine and Michaela.

**McFARLANE** - In loving memory of a much loved mother and granny, Catherine, died February 23, 2008 and loved ones gone before. We miss you in so many ways. We miss the things you used to say. And when old times we do recall It's then we miss you most of all. - Betty, Archie and grandchildren, Mansfield, Port Ellen.

**MORTON** - In loving memory of a beloved wife and mother, Catherine, passed away February 24, 1995. Forever in our thoughts. - John, John and David.

**MORTON** - In loving memory of a beloved mum and nana, Catherine, passed away February 24, 1995. In our hearts and thoughts always. - Karen, Norman, Christopher xx and Lewis xx

**MORTON** - In loving memory of my dear daughter-in-law, Catherine, died February 24, 1995. - Sadly missed, Mum.

**ROWAN** - In loving memory of a dear dad and grand-dad, Alan, who passed away February 23, 1993. Miss you and will always love you. - Sandra, Gillesbuig and Lauren.

**STEWART** - Ivor M. First Anniversary. Remembering with love, tears and laughter, our "big pal" Ivor. - Duncan Mo and family xx.

**ECCLESIASTICAL NOTICES**

**SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH ANGLICAN COMMUNION**  
Sunday 1 March 2009  
Lent 1  
St John's Cathedral, Oban  
Holy Communion ..... 08.00  
Sung Eucharist ..... 10.15  
Sunday School and Crèche  
Loop System  
Large Print Hymn Books  
All welcome  
**Norman MacCallum**,  
Provost  
☎(01631) 562323  
**Kilbrandon Kirk**  
Holy Eucharist..... 15.15  
**St Columba, Gruline, Mull**  
Mattins ..... 11.00  
**St Columba, Bishop's House, Iona**  
Holy Eucharist..... 10.00

**LORN CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP**  
Sunday 10 a.m.  
The Well,  
Lochavullin,  
Oban  
All welcome  
Telephone  
**07876 735 794**

**ASSOCIATED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, OBAN**  
Campbell Street Church  
Sunday 1 March 2009  
11 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.  
Phone-In 'Worship Link' available  
**Rev. Archie McPhail**  
MA, MTh  
☎(01631) 567076  
All welcome

**CHARITY DONATIONS**



Shannon MacDonald, who shares her birthday with the day the Scottish Parliament was officially opened, will be celebrating her big day at Holyrood. t09shan01

## Shannon invited to parliament party

A SCHOOLGIRL, who usually celebrates her birthday with just her close friends and family, will be sharing her special day this year with as many as 161 other children at the Scottish Parliament.

Lochnell Primary School pupil Shannon MacDonald was born on July 1 1999, the day the Scottish Parliament was officially opened by HM The Queen at The Mound, Edinburgh.

And to celebrate the 10th anniversary, the parliament has invited Shannon and the other children born in Scotland that day to a special 10th birthday party in Edinburgh.

Shannon, who has always celebrated her birthday with a more modest party in her family's static caravan home at Ledaig Caravan Site, says she is excited about the forthcoming event.

She said: 'I'm looking forward to it. I got a letter inviting me to the party and it was read out in class; my friends at school said they wanted to go too.'

A spokeswoman for the Scottish Parliament said Shannon was, so far, the only child from Argyll and Bute going to the party and that plans for the big day were still being discussed.

### BIRTHS

**MAIR** - George and Nicola (née MacLean), are delighted to announce the safe arrival of George Edward, on February 14, 2009 at Raigmore Hospital, Inverness. Grateful thanks to Raigmore Hospital and Belford Hospital, Fort William.

**FRANCE** - Michael and Tracey (née Taylor) are delighted to announce the early but safe arrival of their son, Scott David, on January 21, 2009. A brother for Harry, grandson for Rena and Ian, Lochgilhead, and Marie and Jimmy, Oban. Special thanks to Dr K Adams and midwives and staff at Oban Maternity and Southern General, Glasgow.

**FREW** - Jimmy and Kate are delighted to announce the safe arrival of their daughter, Abigail, on February 13, 2009. A wee sister for Duncan and Harry.

### ENGAGEMENTS

**FLANNIGAN RUSSELL**  
Both families are delighted to announce the engagement between Aiden, eldest son of Gerry and Katrina and Anne-Marie, daughter of Rose and James.

### MACINNES CAMPBELL

Both families are delighted to announce the engagement on February 14, 2009 of Ashley, youngest daughter of Iain and Caroline, Nant Drive, Oban to Donald, son of Bobby and Flora, Drumadrochit.

### DEATHS

**BRYCE** - Peacefully after a long illness on February 16, 2009, Gair Bryce of Tobermory, Isle of Mull. Loving husband and father. Sadly missed by all the family.

**COOPER** - Suddenly, but peacefully, at the Royal Alexandra Hospital, Paisley, on February 17, 2009, Billy Cooper, aged 65 years, of Tigh-an-t-sruthan, Garvel Road, Tarbert. Much loved husband of Kathryn, loving dad of Andrew and Douglas and devoted 'grandd' of Zoe and Abby. A much respected father-in-law of Pauline. Dear neighbour and friend to many. Funeral Service was held in Tarbert Parish Church on Monday February 23, followed by interment at Carrick Cemetery. Sadly missed.

**ERRINGTON** - Reine (née Macaulay) died peacefully on February 19, 2009, following a stroke. Dear wife of Sir Lancelot Errington, devoted mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, in her seventieth year of marriage. Funeral in St Cross Episcopal Church, Appin at 2pm on Friday, February 27, 2009. Family flowers only. Donations if

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

**FRASER** - Roida, and the Fraser family wish to thank relatives and friends for their kind expressions of sympathy following the sad loss of George. Thanks to Mr John Fraser for his kind words and to Mr Mike McFall for efficient funeral arrangements. Special thank you to the staff of Belford Hospital, the Belhaven Ward and to Moss Park Nursing Home for their excellent care of George. Finally thanks to all who came to pay their last respects at Acharacle Church, the sum of £725 was raised for Chest, Heart and Stroke Association.

**HARROLD** - Christina, David and Donald would like to thank family, friends and shipmates for their support and kind expressions of sympathy. Special thanks to Sister Helen Clark and staff of Ward C Lorn and Islands District General Hospital to Dr Patricia Clark, Haematologist for their excellent care of David over the years. To Dr Colin Wilson and all at the Lorn Medical Centre. Much thanks to the Rev Dougald Cameron for

### MEMORIALS

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## Young volunteer goes from paint pots to jungle plants



Homebase worker Mary-Catherine Mackintyre is making her way to Costa Rica thanks to the support of Oban Youth Café. t08costa01

A YOUNG explorer is swapping paint pots for jungle plants in a bit to help those less fortunate than herself.

Seventeen-year-old Mary-Catherine Mackintyre, a DIY advisor, is setting off to a voluntary project in Costa Rica thanks to the support of her Mum and the town centre's Oban Youth Café.

The Homebase worker who was born and brought up in the town had not set foot out of the country until she took up her first challenge on the Tall Ships with help from the Youth Café. That journey took her from the west coast of Scotland to the Barbados where she got a taste for adventure.

Now Mary-Catherine is about to embark on a voluntary project in the rain forests of South America.

For 10 weeks the former Oban High pupil will work with Raleigh International. As a volunteer on a number of community projects including building clean water pipes and school buildings she will gain the experience she needs to get for a career in helping people.

The adventure starts in July and Mary-Catherine is hoping to raise £1,500 to help secure her place.

Fiona Rowan, a founder of Oban Youth Café, said: 'Mary-Catherine is so good at looking after others. We are chuffed to bits that she has been offered this opportunity.

'The staff and volunteers of the youth café will be supporting her all we can. But any donations would be gratefully accepted.'

## Last of Colonsay family line dies in Canada

DONALD Peter MacAllister, who died on November 26 last year aged 86, was the last of the family of MacAllisters, who were the first family to live at No. 3 Glassard, Colonsay, after the mass removal from and abandonment of the village of Riasg Buidhe further up the coast, in the 1920s.

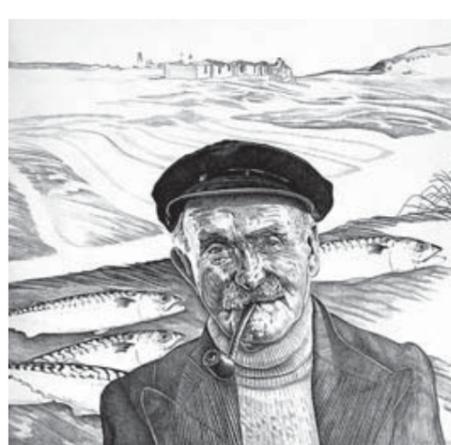
Donald left Colonsay for Canada in 1950 and was married there to a Latvian lady, Vija, whose own story of escaping from the advancing Russian army at the end of the last war is in itself very moving.

They had two children - Donald, who died some while ago and Iona, who is a primary school teacher in Edmonton, Canada. She has two children: Raelene and Sean.

Donald only ever made one return visit to Colonsay - in 1976 - but during his last years he thought, and spoke, often of his homeland and sometimes lapsed into the Colonsay Gaelic of his youth.

Donald was the first child to be born in the new Glassard houses as his family moved early because his mother was expecting.

Donald was one of the many



A sketch of Coll MacAllister, father of Donald Peter MacAllister, who raised his family at 3 Glassard, Colonsay.

## Glencruitten residents' garden trip

SOME of those involved in designing a new Oban community garden recently made a visit to two established gardens for inspiration.

Eight braved snow and poor driving conditions to view projects in Alexandria and Clydebank and met the volunteers responsible for them.

Kay MacDonald said: 'They were extremely helpful. We were inspired very much by the trip.

'We were inspired by the one in Alexandria because it made such a difference to the residents. But we took more ideas from the Moon Garden in Clydebank because it's more similar to what we want to do here.'

The committee will be discussing design ideas, colour and themes over the coming weeks and are hoping to secure funding to help develop the area on Miller Road to be known as Lynside Community Garden. Kay added: 'It's a blank canvass basically.'

The trip was organised with help from Argyll and Bute Council's community regeneration team and Kay also praised council's employability project and ACHA for all their support.

(8 or 9) children of Coll and Annabella (Belle Mhòr, nee McNeill) who were brought up at No 3.

Among them Katie, who lived at No.3 with her husband Jasper Brown, who was for many years Colonsay's roadman. Katie's sister, Kirsty, was married to Jasper's brother Hugh and their only son, Ivor is now living near Helensburgh.

Another sister, Barbara was married to Sid Satchel and they lived at Ardskenish for a while. Their grandson, Alasdair, is now running community drama projects on the island of Mull.

Donald Peter was a much-loved uncle of Callum, Morag, Niall and Ivor and the late Colin, Freddy and Mary.

# A game too far as Oban crash out of cup

Plenty of positives for Lorne but National Plate adventure over

OBAN endured a mammoth five hour journey to Ellon in Aberdeenshire for this Scottish Hydro Electric National Plate fixture against Aberdeen University.

Oban had travelled with a decent squad although Michael MacDonald, Alan Beaton and former Aberdeen student Lawrence Hindly were unavailable.

The men in green were on the back foot right from the start as the well drilled and pacy home side moved the ball around with confidence.

They soon made a breakthrough and scored an unconverted try through their right winger.

This was quickly followed by two other tries from their left wing and second row to give a 19-0 lead after 15 minutes had been played.

At this stage in the game Oban were making too many errors and were also guilty of giving away possession too easily.

The University side were able to capitalise on these errors and scored each time they had possession and looked like they would run up a big score.

To their credit the Oban team then rallied, led by the

**Rugby**  
**National Plate**  
Aberdeen University 41  
Oban Lorne 14

forwards who started to win good ruck ball which took the game to the home team.

The intensity of the game had been raised now and there were many big hits put in which led to a series of stoppages and replacements being called into action by Aberdeen.

Although Oban dominated the possession and territory for the remainder they could not break through for a score and they lacked the penetration in midfield to break down the home defence.

There was a great mazy run by Cammy Smith that did get in behind the defence but the opportunity was lost when the final pass did not go to hand.

Half time was reached with the score remaining at 19-0 with Oban now really battling for every loose ball and showing a great desire to score.

Oban resumed the second half with the same sense of purpose and continued to take the game to their hosts with excellent rucking and

commitment from the whole team.

However despite dominating possession again they perhaps tried to play too much rugby in their own half which unfortunately led to Aberdeen capitalising on handling errors to score two further tries.

At last the men in green had something to celebrate when Cammy Smith touched down beneath the posts.

This was converted by Captain Gary MacEwan to give a score of 31-7 which flattered the home side at this stage of the game.

There were a further two scores for the home team before Robin MacQueen grounded the ball from another strong surge by the forwards giving a final score of 41-14.

Despite the disappointment of going out of the competition there were a lot of positives for Oban.

The commitment and application of the team were excellent and the forwards provided a great platform to produce

scores. It was really a collective team effort although there were great runs from Andy MacDougall, Cammy Smith, and Robin MacQueen in the forwards while Martin Macdonald and Henry Hunter proved elusive in the back-line.

On the downside was the fact that too many scores were gifted and the tackling seemed to be weak at times.

The lineup also misfired meaning good field positions were then turned over.

The real damage was done in the first quarter and even allowing for the journey Oban started the game far too hesitantly which has often been a weakness of the team this season.

Plenty for coach Murray Hamilton to work with in training and the team have two weeks to regroup as the next league match is at Uddingston on March 7.

League points are now vital for Oban as they are too close to the drop zone for comfort.

**Oban Lorne:** M. Downie, D. Williams, R. MacQueen, D. Hunter, T. Smith, C. Smith, M. McTighe, A. MacDougall, G. MacEachen, C. MacDonald, S. Smith, G. MacEwan (c), M. MacQueen, M. Macdonald, R. Wright, H. Hunter, A. Munro.



Action from Etive Vikings' match against Cowal. (09mini02)

## Young Vikings host mini rugby

**Rugby**

TAYNUILT'S new mini-rugby team, Etive Vikings, hosted teams from Oban Lorne RFC and Cowal in their first home tournament at the weekend.

Established in August last year the new team are coached by Greig MacFarlane, Gordon Shearer, Ewan MacDonald, David Laurie and Martin Charlton and sponsored by Scottish Hydro Electric and Taynuilt Community Council. The team meet every Wednesday from 6-7pm and all primary school children in the area are welcome.



The new Etive Vikings side pictured with its team of coaches which include Oban Lorne RFC under-16 player Fergus Matheson and Allan Beaton. (09mini04)

# Young Lochaber side learn tough rugby lesson at Crieff

After long lay-off Lochaber given exacting test by higher league opposition

LOCHABER Rugby Club travelled over the hills for a rare foray south of the Highland line in the Scottish Hydro Electric National Plate competition.

However, they were routed by higher league opposition Crieff and Strathearn in a thumping 82-0 defeat.

At long last conditions for rugby were excellent after a frustrating spell of arctic weather meant pitches were unplayable.

It was a young Lochaber side which faced an experienced, well-drilled Crieff side.

**Rugby**  
**National Plate**  
Crieff and Strathearn 82  
Lochaber 0

Pavel Fronzec moved into the second row to make way for Ross Cameron to make his debut at outside centre.

Craig Macpherson joined him at inside centre and Davie Duncan and Stephen Traill moved to the back row.

Lochaber managed to hold Crieff out initially but gave away an easy penalty under the posts.

The Lochaber scrum was looking rickety and lost a ball against the head. Crieff then spun the ball out wide and

centre Warnes took an inside ball from Innes to carve his way through to score under the posts.

From then on in it was one-way traffic as the Crieff backs put on an awesome display of slick handling and support running. By half-time the home side were out of sight with a 37-0 lead. In the second half Loch-

aber staged a fightback and forced Crieff to defend in their own half. Pavel Fronzec and Ally Revitt made big charges up front and the backs led by stand-off Donnie Macdonald made some good breaks. However, they never really threatened the home side's try line.

As Lochaber tired Crieff brought fresh players off the bench and started to dominate once more. In the last 15 minutes they scored five more tries to make the final score

82-0. Crieff go on to play the Golden Oldies of Ayr, Millbrae, next week and the winners of that match will have Penicuik at home.

Lochaber meanwhile are back to league duty next week with a final away fixture against RAF Kinloss on Sunday.

The following week sees a friendly at Banavie against Hamilton thirds.

**Lochaber:** A. Revitt, R. Mackay, M. Davies, C. Mercer, P. Fronzec, S. Whitaker, D. Duncan, S. Traill, R. Wallace, D. Macdonald, D. Campbell, C. Macpherson, R. Cameron, K. Rigg, S. Cairns, A. Garrick, E. Jamieson.



Action from the Etive Vikings match against a mini-rugby team from Oban Lorne during the new Taynuilt side's first tournament held in the village at the weekend. All primary school pupils in the area are encouraged to attend the new team's training sessions which take place on Wednesday evenings. (09mini01)

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**NATIONS**  
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The Oban Times and RBS are offering you the chance to win an official RBS 6 Nations Championship supporters jersey to show your love for rugby. There are 10 shirts up for grabs - all you have to do is answer the simple question below. Please state your preferred shirt size which we will endeavour to send; subject to availability.

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ANSWER .....

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Tick here if you do not wish to receive emails from Wyees Media

**Entries to be in by 12 noon Monday 9th March 2009**

Usual Oban Times rules apply. The Editor's decision is final. Photocopied entries will not be accepted. The competition is open to residents off the UK mainland aged 18 years or over, except employees of The Royal Bank of Scotland PLC, their agents, families or anyone else professionally associated with the draw. Winners shirt colours will be selected at random and cannot be chosen by the participant. While every effort will be made to provide the size requested by the winner, there is no guarantee that the winner will receive their chosen size.



**NATIONS**  
**Rugby**  
**Jersey**

## Cup draw brings third repeat

### Womens shinty

LIGHTNING struck for a third time when the draw was made for the 2009 Valerie Fraser Camanachd Cup.

The senior women's shinty knockout competition will see holders Tir Conaill Harps face previous winners Forth in the semi-finals for the third consecutive season. And the other tie pits league champions Glenarray against old rivals Glasgow Mid-Argyll for the third year running. Both matches will be played on Sunday, June 7 at a south venue to be decided.

On the same day, the quarter-finals of the Caledonian Canal Challenge Cup for Division Two teams will be played – and the coincidences continued with the draw giving cup holders Badenoch and Strathspey a tie against Linlithgow, the team they defeated at the same stage last season. Full cup draws, which were made at a Women's Camanachd Association meeting in Perth last Thursday, were: Valerie Fraser Camanachd Cup, Semi-Finals: Glasgow Mid-Argyll v Glenarray; Tir Conaill Harps v Forth. Caledonian Canal Challenge Cup, First Round – Aberdeen University v Tir Conaill Harps. Quarter-Finals – Aberdeen University or Tir Conaill Harps v Dunadd; Cowal & Bute v Glasgow Mid-Argyll; Linlithgow v Badenoch & Strathspey; Lochaber v Strathglass.

## Devine goal gives Oban pre-season win over Lovat

### Shinty

FORMER Premier league team Lovat were visitors to Mossfield last Saturday for a pre-season match against Oban Camanachd with the odd goal in five separating the teams after 90 minutes.

With a strong wind behind them, Gleaner sponsored Oban Camanachd started the match well forcing Lovat to defend for the majority of first half.

Despite the rainfall, Mossfield was in excellent condition which helped the home side use width to open goal-scoring opportunities. Unfortunately, a lack of match-sharpness and composure in front of goal resulted in Oban's forwardline being limited to two goals in the first period.

The opener came when Craig MacMillan shot high into the net from distance and the advantage was quickly doubled when the Lovat goalkeeper deflecting the ball into his own net from a corner.

However, Lovat's fortunes were to change in the second period as, wind-assisted, they forced mistakes from the Oban defensive unit and were rewarded five minutes after the restart when the defence failed to clear and needlessly gave away a free hit. With defenders ball-watching, they failed to react to a run

from Callum McAulay who expertly despatched a fierce shot behind keeper Stobbart.

Oban Camanachd made five substitutions during the second half including a return to first team action for Ian 'Gussy' Campbell and David Devine.

Lovat then snatched an equaliser from long range as young Greig Matheson created space for a shot that beat Stobbart.

Shocked into action, Oban reasserted themselves and found a match-winning goal

from David Devine who reacted quickly to a poor clearance, turned the defence and scored low into the corner. This was to be the end of any notable action and both sets of players played out a fair and evenly-contested match, which was well marshalled by referee Angus Campbell.

Both clubs face difficult ties on match-day one and will hope to that this match and games against Skye and Glenurquhart next weekend will set them up for busy season ahead.

## Lochside Rovers share draw with Fort William at Mossfield

### Shinty

LOCHSIDE Rovers and Fort William shared a 1-1 draw at Mossfield in a pre-season match that showcased the youth development pathway of both clubs.

New Lochside coach, Neil MacIntyre introduced a number of new U17 players to his starting line-up. This approach was mirrored by Fort William's experienced coaching partnership of David Stafford and Peter MacIntyre who also look to develop the talented youngsters at the club and prepare them for first team action.

The first half started at frenetic pace with play flowing

from end to end. The opening goal from Victor Smith, a role model for all young shinty players, broke the deadlock between the young sides. Lochside responded well and hit Fort William's bar before Lewis Cameron levelled things.

The draw at Mossfield was an excellent warm-up for Lochside's opener against Inveraray and Fort William's first game of the season away to Glenurquhart. Both young sides will be eager to start the season with a win.



David Devine marked his return to Oban Camanachd with a match-winning goal in Saturday's pre-season match against Lovat at Mossfield. (©9caman03)

## Ferrier and Menzies leave association board

### Shinty

FOR THE second time in a matter of weeks, the sport of shinty has been rocked by resignations from within its governing body, the Camanachd Association.

At the beginning of the month, the director for club and volunteer development, Donnie MacKenzie, Spean Bridge announced that he was stepping down from the post as he couldn't agree with the direction that the Camanachd Association was heading.

Mr MacKenzie had been appointed to the board of directors in 2005 and had been influential in the development of the Association's child protection policy.

Two fellow directors, Stuart Ferrier and Alexander Menzies, have now followed Donnie MacKenzie out of the organisation.

Stuart Ferrier, Newtonmore also joined the board in 2005 and was active in leading the development of coaching initiatives and youth shinty through a period where the national agenda on performance and participation has grown.

Alexander Menzies joined the board as director for finance in 2007 and was re-elected for a three year period in 2008.

Both men are in dispute with the direction that the current leadership of the association is heading and have stated that they can no longer support the board.

'It is with regret that I stand down from the association,' said Stuart Ferrier. 'I believe we all have the best interests of shinty at heart but I do not agree with the approach of our chair and therefore have taken the decision to resign.'

Ferrier's words were echoed by Alexander Menzies who said: 'For the most part, I have enjoyed my two years supporting the development of shinty but I do not agree with, and cannot support, the direction the current leadership are taking the sport in.'

President of the Camanachd Association Duncan Cameron said: 'It is disappointing that Alexander and Stuart cannot support the decisions made by the majority of their fellow board members.'

'Their contribution to the work of the board were significant during their term in office.'

## Kilmallie celebrate new club sponsorship deal



Ewan Bowman, left, hands over a cheque to club chairman Hugh MacIntyre as part of his sponsorship of Kilmallie Shinty Club. Mr Bowman has also sponsored strips for the new season.

KILMALLIE have a new look for a new season after receiving kit sponsorship from local businessman Ewan Bowman.

Having despatched premier league opposition Bute by four goals to two in a friendly match last weekend the club now look forward to the an-

### Shinty

nual Torlundy Cup contest with Fort William.

The match will take place at Caol on Saturday.

In a big year for the club they have also put forward a funding application to Sport-

scotland for new changing rooms.

Club chairman Hugh MacIntyre said: 'It's a good sponsorship deal and it also gives us money for new strips.'

'The main thing now is to negotiate a new lease, it's a huge priority for us'

## Kingussie start defence of league title at Spean Bridge

### Shinty

THE NEW shinty season will start on Saturday, March 7 with several interesting fixtures across all six divisions.

In the sport's premier league, Kingussie start their defence of the Marine Harvest league crown away at Spean Bridge against a Lochaber team who will play this season under the direction of former Scotland manager Aly Ferguson.

The tight park at Spean has not proved a popular venue for the league champions in the past and the home side will be keen to take full benefit from home advantage.

Fort William start their 2009 campaign with a trip to Oban to meet Oban Camanachd, with the wide-open spaces of Mossfield suiting the playing style of both teams.

There are two South derbies - the first is at Inveraray where the home side entertain

their season in Glasgow where they meet Glasgow Mid Argyll.

There are two potential crackers in North Division Two, with a Badenoch derby as Kingussie are at home against Newtonmore under the watchful eye of veteran referee John Sloggie, while Fort William start their campaign at Drumadrochit against Glenurquhart.

South Division Two also starts with two potentially top ties as Taynuilt face near neighbours and local rivals Glenorchy while Kyles Athletic make the short trip over to Bute. Ballachulish have GMA at the Jubilee Park and ColGlen travel to play Aberdeen.

Top tie in North Division Three could be Strathglass and Lochaber meeting at Cannich.

## Women select players of the year for 2008

### Womens shinty

THE Women's Camanachd Association, meeting in Perth, chose their divisional Players of the Year for 2008, as voted for by the clubs.

The National Division One award went to Katy Smith (Forth); North Division Two winner was Kirsty Deans (Badenoch and Strathspey); and the South Division Two trophy was awarded to Jo Kelly (Cowal & Bute).

## WJ Cameron league final decider

### Shinty

FORT WILLIAM and Beaulieu will meet at An Aird this Saturday to see who will contest the final of the Under 17 WJ Cameron League against Lochaber.

At the semi-final play-off Fort William defeated Glenurquhart 5-1 after extra-time.

Last Saturday, Lochaber booked their place in the final with a 2-1 semi-final win over Newtonmore at the Eilan.

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# Spot the SHINTY BALL Competition

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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.  
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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, P.O. Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12 noon 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.  
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Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB



## Badminton the winner in Argyll

OVER 100 young players from throughout Argyll contested the Argyll and Bute Secondary Schools Badminton Championships at Atlantis Leisure in Oban.

### Badminton

Players from Oban, Lochgilphead, Hermitage, Islay, Dunoon and Campbeltown played in over 300 matches

spread over 15 events in the tournament.

Area schools organiser Sharon MacKechnie said the standard of play throughout the day was very high and trophies were won by players from all the schools involved.

Particular mention must go to Gregor Brydon from Oban High School who collected the under-14 Boys Singles championship and won the Boys Doubles event with Craig Livingston.

Gregor's brother Fraser Brydon won the under-18 boys singles title.

Rachel Martin from Lochgilphead High School swept aside the competition in the under-14 Girls Singles event, won the Girls Doubles with her partner Emma Dixon and also won the Mixed Doubles with her partner Alistair MacVicar.

Alexander MacDonald from Lochgilphead High School played to an exceptionally high level taking away the under-16 Boys Singles and winning the under-16 Boys Doubles with Darren Shankly.

Robyn Girvan showed real doubles spirit winning the under-16 Girls Doubles partnered by Claire Clark and the under-16 Mixed Doubles with Craig Anderson.

Sarah Muir from Campbeltown Grammar also had a clean sweep winning the under-18 Girls Singles, the under-18 Girls Doubles with Lorna Armour and the under-18 Mixed Doubles with Liam Renton.

Sharon added: 'Many thanks to all the volunteers who tirelessly organise junior badminton in schools and local clubs throughout the year.'



Winners and runners-up at the schools badminton event.



Wick's Gary Weir and Fort William's Simon Shields battle for possession during Saturday's match. Picture: James Gunn

## Fighting Fort battle to the end

FORT WILLIAM overcame their lack of match practice to put up a fighting performance - but came away from the far north empty handed.

On another day, Fort could easily have snatched a draw against mid-table Wick, but the old story of missed chances came back to haunt the Lochaber side.

Fort travelled to Wick having played the fewest games of any league side this weather-ravaged season - but shook off their lack of match practice to post a creditable performance.

Wick carved out several early chances but Fort reminded their hosts they were a force to be reckoned with when on ten minutes Sean Ellis neatly set up Kevin Ferguson to rifle a low shot inches past Wick goalkeeper James Mores' left hand post.

Five minutes later however

**Football**  
**Highland League**  
Wick Academy 2  
Fort William 0

Fort William fell behind when Stevie Cunningham lobbed MacLeod from 18 yards, although the keeper got a hand to the ball and almost kept it out.

Fort had much more bite about their game and almost levelled matters after 25 minutes when Sean Ellis - a thorn in Wick's side all afternoon - cut in from the right wing to find Michael Gillespie with a clever pass, but his effort flew just the wrong side of the post.

Play swung back to the other end and MacLeod kept Fort in contention with a brilliant save from a Macadie volley.

Fort stepped up their hunt for an equaliser in the sec-

ond half, but found the Wick defence a hard nut to crack, with only long-range efforts to show for their endeavour.

At the other end MacLeod saved from Manson before Fort almost grabbed the leveler they so desperately needed, when a Gillespie header looked a certain goal until Ross blocked it on the line with Mores well beaten.

Fort were still pressing but were caught with a sucker punch three minutes from time when Shearer headed home.

On Saturday Fort will look to build on last weekend's much improved showing when they host tenth-placed Fort Mechanics at Claggan Park.

Forres have only won once away from home all season. Fort Manager Calum MacLean declared himself well pleased with his team's efforts having had so few games to keep the squad match-fit.

Having matched Wick for 80 minutes, it came as no surprise when Wick's edge in fitness began to tell in the final stages.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'That's the best we have played all season, but they were dead on their feet at the end, to be honest.

'Our passing was good but we just could not take our chances. We passed them off the park in the second half, and that's encouraging.

'It was pretty positive, but we have to take that into the next game against Forres. They are a big strong side, so we will have to cope with them.'

## Oban Saints youth teams

### Football

OBAN Saints under 14s won 3-1 against Torrance with goals from Martin MacPherson and Ciaran Jackson (2) while the under 16s won 2-0 against Gourock with goals from Gregor Peacock and Sean Cooke.

The under 17s lost by a single goal to St Mirren BC.

**This Saturday's fixtures:**  
Ardencle v Under 13s; Under 14s v Blair Thistle; Meadowpark v Under 16s; Alban Thistle v Under 17s and Under 19s v Gourock.

### Alley Cats ahead

#### Bowling

IN THE LBS ten pin bowling league at the Nevis Centre, The Alley Cats are still ahead of the scratch league by a clear ten points over Tradewinds, who lead the handicap league by just four points.

Alley Cats did not have it all their own way on Monday when Fort William Golf Club gave them a good fight and took some important points off them.

True Blues are still fighting well in both leagues and are hoping to overtake Alley Cats and Tradewinds to take the titles, but with just five weeks remaining it will be a close run thing.

## All to play for

### Football

IT'S all to play with just four games left in the over-35s indoor football league this season with four teams still in with a chance of winning the title.

The Emergency Services team lead the way with just one game left with second placed Tainuill, who also still have to play third placed Trialists.

In the other two games Trialists play fourth placed Owen Sails while Appin play Clan Trees.

**Results**  
Clan Trees 2 Owen Sails 1; Emergency 2 Trialists 0; Owen Sails 6 Scil 3; Appin 10 Teachers 1; Clan Trees 2 Emergency 1; Scil 5 Teachers 3

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Emergency	6	4	1	1	13
Tainuill	5	4	0	1	12
Trialists	5	4	0	1	12
Owen Sails	6	3	1	2	10
Appin	6	2	0	4	6
Scil	7	2	0	5	6
Clan Trees	6	2	0	4	6
Teachers	7	2	0	5	6

## Five goal thriller

### Football

LIVERCAOL hung on to top spot in the Ali Young Winter League - but only after being given a serious fright by bottom club Russells Rovers in a five-goal thriller.

The table-toppers eventually prevailed 3-2, but Goon Squad kept up the pressure on them with an 8-0 thumping of Caley Boys.

Alcan edged out HWE 2-1, while Real Rotten built on recent fine form by holding Young Ones to a 2-2 draw.

Caol United, meanwhile, slipped up in their title bid when they drew 1-1 with a combative Funky Five outfit.

**Results**  
Alcan 2, HWE 1; Caley Boys 0, Goon Squad 8; Caol United 1, Funky Five 1; Russells Rovers 2, Livercaol 3; Young Ones 2, Real Rotten 2

**Fixtures**  
Sunday March 1 from 5pm  
Funky Five v Young Ones; Goon Squad v Caol United; HWE v Caley Boys; Livercaol v Alcan; Real Rotten v Russells Rovers.

## Oban pool league

### Pool

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Lancaster	16	26			
Balmoral A	16	24			
Markie Dams	16	24			
Lochavullin A	15	18			
Lochavullin B	15	14			
Lochnell	15	12			
Claredon	15	12			
Cellar	16	12			
Kelvin	16	4			
Gluepot	15	4			
Balmoral B	15	4			

## Tides

Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday, February 26, 2009 are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

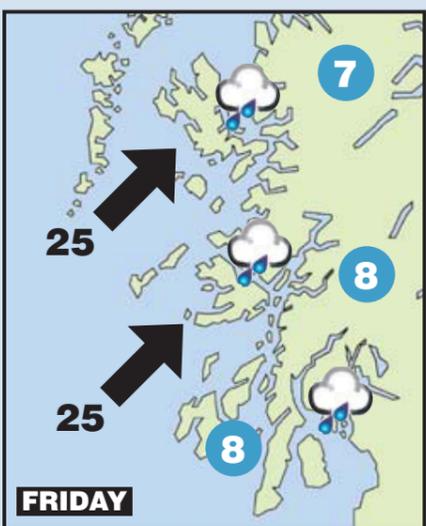
All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur	00.34 0.8 06.39 4.0 12.56 0.8 18.44 3.8	
Fri	01.01 0.7 07.06 4.0 13.23 0.8 19.07 3.8	
Sat	01.27 0.7 07.33 4.0 13.49 0.9 19.35 3.8	
Sun	01.57 0.8 08.02 3.8 14.20 1.0 20.07 3.7	
Mon	02.32 1.0 08.37 3.6 14.59 1.1 20.44 3.5	
Tues	03.14 1.2 09.19 3.3 15.48 1.4 21.28 3.3	
Wed	04.12 1.5 10.16 3.0 16.55 1.6 22.30 3.0	

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardershaig	-5.35	Lochboisdale	+0.30
Campbeltown	-5.30	Mallaig	+0.25
Crinan	-0.47	Portree	+0.55
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Tobermory	+0.16
		Dover	+5.30

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## the weather

Sponsored by **NANCY BLACK** Ships' Chandler

### Thursday

Expected to be cloudy with a mixture of sunny spells and showers. Winds moderate westerly to south-westerly. Temperatures 4°C to 8°C

### Friday

Again cloudy with some rain at times. Winds moderate to fresh south-westerly. Temperatures 7°C to 9°C.

### Weekend Outlook

Expected to be cloudy with a mixture of sunny spells and showers. Winds moderate to fresh north-westerly. Temperatures 1°C to 8°C.

### Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist - Moderate to rough  
Oban to Coll/Tiree - As above  
Kennacraig to Islay - As above

## Saints salute their hat-trick hero

### Football

**West of Scotland Cup**  
Oban Saints 4  
Stirling University 1 (after extra time)

STIRLING'S students must be kicking themselves this week as they were only two minutes away from knocking Saints out in the fourth round of the cup.

After a fine performance against Carrick last week manager Iain Jackson was looking for something of the same from his side, but for long periods of the game that just did not materialise.

Stirling's frontmen Neil Clydesdale and Stephen McFadyen caused the Saints rear-guard all sorts of problems and it was no surprise when the visitors took the lead.

Saints were caught napping at a short corner and Neil Clydesdale fired a good shot goalwards which took a slight deflection before whistling past the helpless Saints keeper Graham Douglas.

Gradually Saints upped the pace and Willie Gemmell was unlucky with a good effort before three great opportunities were missed - all from headers.

It looked as though it was going to one of those days for Saints, but with only two minutes left on the clock, the vital equaliser came.

Willie Gemmell fired a long

throw into the box which was flicked on by Alex Craik to Craig MacEwan who headed the ball home from close range.

Stirling's challenge looked to be over after only four minutes of extra time when Craig netted his second goal, a neat lob over goalkeeper Martin.

Three minutes later Allan MacKay veaved his way past three defenders before squaring the ball across the face of goal for MacEwan to grab his hat-trick.

The second period of extra time was only one minute old when Saints netted their fourth through MacKay.

Saints have been drawn away to either Scottish Cup holders Eddlewood or Broomlands in the fifth round.

This Saturday the Oban side return to league duty with an away game against Cambria.



Craig MacEwan - hat-trick.



Pupils take part in the first Oban primary school table tennis tournament.

## It's a knockout in Oban schools

PUPILS from Rockfield, Park, and Strath of Appin primary schools met last week for the first Oban Primary Table Tennis Tournament.

The event was the culmination of several weeks of practice and coaching in each of the schools through the Ac-

### Table Tennis

tive Schools Programme.

The children battled it out in the Gym Hall at the Oban Primary Campus who kindly hosted the event in an 'it's-a-knock-out' style tournament.

The winners each received

a prize from Active Schools which included a bag, water bottle, a table tennis bat and balls.

**Boys winner:** Finlay Sinclair  
**Runner-up:** Jamie Bate  
**Girls winner:** Ellie MacNiven  
**Runner-up:** Shannon Campbell (all from Rockfield Primary)

## Four remain unbeaten in primary leagues

FOUR teams remain unbeaten after the first round of winter league games in the Oban Express Primary Senior League last Sunday.

Lochgilphead Tigers again look like the team to beat as they were the only side to finish the day with a 100 per cent record.

Tigers had three comfortable wins against Saints, Stoddarts and Lochnell with Keir Whitefield the day's top scorer with five.

### Football

Rovers are close on their heels after narrow wins over Lochnell and Cobras.

Panthers are also unbeaten, ending the day with a victory over SSF Appin after draws with Rovers and Spartans, the fourth unbeaten team.

SSF Appin and Cobras both recorded two wins, Appin with a narrow win against Stoddy Boys and a more comfortable 4-0 victory over Saints.

Cobras 4-0 opening victory over Stoddy Boys was followed by a tight 3-1 win over Lochnell.

Stoddarts recorded their first three points with a 2-0 win over Stoddy Boys who remain pointless alongside the Lochnell team.

There are no junior league games this Sunday.

The senior league will return to Oban High School Community Pitch on Sunday, March 8.