

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine

DUNSTAFFNAGE, near Oban, was the sunniest spot in Britain during February. It had a total of 106 hours of sunshine over the month, ahead of the Scottish average of 80 hours and the normally overcast record for February.

Safety warning as bridge closes

WITH Soroba footbridge in Oban closed until March 15, members of the public are being asked to ensure they use the safe route into town from Soroba.

British Transport Police and Oban police are working together to urge people not to risk crossing the railway line as a short cut while the footbridge is being replaced and extra patrols are being made in the area.

Work started on the replacement bridge on February 15. Meanwhile British Transport Police and Oban police representatives have visited Oban Primary Campus and are arranging input into Oban High School to highlight the dangers of risking crossing the railway line itself and to promote the safest route.

Dunollie break-in

INQUIRIES are on-going after an alleged house break-in in the Dunollie area of Oban over night between Saturday night and Sunday morning.

Oban police said they were following a definite line of inquiry following the break-in during which property was stolen from the house.

Oban Bay project

CONFIDENCE in the planned marina project in Oban Bay is growing according to leaders of the community group behind the plan.

Chairman of Oban Bay Marine John MacGregor gave the view at Thursday's annual general meeting of the community group set up to provide short stay pontoons for yachts in the town.

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Loch Awe safety

A YEAR after four anglers drowned on Loch Awe a LochWatch scheme for the 27-mile long loch has been launched.

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Oban community leader caught up in South American earthquake zone

Trapped by Chile disaster

LAST WEEKEND'S massive earthquake in South America dominated world news as the death toll in Chile quickly rose to more than 700, and is expected to rise further.

Chile had been hit by one of the biggest earthquakes ever recorded - 8.8 on the Richter scale

Anxiously wait
In Oban, Catherine Hall, wife of Oban Community Council chairman and former Oban police chief inspector Fred Hall, could only anxiously wait for news of her husband who was on a 35-day tour of Peru, Bolivia and Chile.

With communications networks destroyed and media outlets reporting massive numbers of dead and injured throughout the region, it was a long and fraught wait for news.

Away from the epicentre of the earthquake, more than 400 bodies were found in the fishing town of Constitucion which was swamped by a tsunami following the quake - hour by hour the death toll rose.

Thankfully Fred Hall, although travelling into the

EXCLUSIVE REPORT by LOUISE LEE
lee@obantimes.co.uk



Oban Community Council chairman Fred Hall

centre of the quake, was safe and well and having an experience of a life-time that many would rather avoid.

Catherine Hall describes exclusively to The Oban Times how she found out that her husband was safe, but stuck, in Santiago

'EARLY ON Saturday morning my son, Graham, woke me up with the news that there had been an earthquake in Chile.

'Fred's sister Annette had been up during the night and heard about the disaster. She asked Graham to come round to wake me up so I would not get a shock when I heard it on the radio. But it was still a shock.

'At first I thought he was 400 miles north of the epicentre. We could not get through to

Fred said: 'The scale of destruction is amazing - without seeing it, you simply would not believe it.'

He remains calm and composed - almost casual, that he is in the centre of a global disaster zone.

'I was travelling in an overnight bus from La Serena to Santiago when we first realised there was something wrong,' he said.

'About 4am on Saturday morning the bus pulled off the motorway and I thought it was because of an accident. But it was smart thinking by our bus driver as the side roads are on the flat.

'As we approached Santiago in daylight I saw at least six buildings on fire, one of which was a large factory - and overhead pedestrian



More than 400 are estimated to have died in Constitucion which was affected by earthquake and tsunami

bridges had collapsed. 'It was then I realised it was an earthquake.'

Having avoided much of the initial earthquake, Fred and his fellow passengers arrived in the Chilean capital to be greeted by a series of powerful after-shocks.

'At 9am on Sunday morning the whole room shook. The bed shook and I thought it was another big earthquake coming.'

'We arrived at the bus station and, as I waited for friends who were on a second bus, a massive after-shock hit and the bus terminal was

evacuated. I made my way to our hotel which luckily only had slight damage.

'Santiago on Saturday was like a ghost town. Eventually we found a shop and bought cheese and bread etc, went back to the hotel and had a picnic in the foyer amongst rubble, plaster work, light fittings etc. The hotel was only open because a night porter worked on to look after guests.'

But there was more frightening after-shocks to follow. Fred said: 'At 9am on Sunday morning the whole room shook. The bed shook and I thought it was another big earthquake coming.'

'Great credit has to be given to Chilean authorities. Local services such as water, electricity etc are back up and

running and, thankfully for me, the internet allowed me some contact with the outside world.'

While many visitors have attempted to escape from the area as quickly as possible, Fred Hall was quick to realise that the Chilean people were coping with all that nature was throwing at them.

'The Chilean Government have announced that the airport will be closed for a minimum of three days,' he said. 'So I'm not sure when I will get back.'

'Some of the group I was with opted to escape via Argentina by bus. But I have decided that the best option is to stick it out here till normality returns.'

'Frustratingly, while I was trying desperately to contact

them, the British Embassy in Santiago on its first working day after the earthquake decided it was appropriate to treat it as any other working day and close for lunch. It has now been boosted by extra staff from Buenos Aires. The Chilean Government intend to partially re-open the airport by running it from a makeshift terminal in a marquee. They hope to be at 15 per cent capacity by the end of Tuesday and then work towards restoring it to full capacity.

'I'm hugely impressed with, and have faith in, the Chilean authorities, the resilient people and exceptionally able Government.'

On Tuesday, Fred secured the last seat on a flight from Buenos Aires to Heathrow - next Tuesday.

Island pensioners angry at free ferry travel withdrawal

'Our councillors are not fighting hard enough for us.'

ISLAND pensioners have reacted angrily on learning that they must now pay £1 per return on ferry journeys throughout Argyll and Bute - while free bus travel remains available to mainland pensioners.

The 'unfair charges' will be introduced in April after cash strapped Strathclyde Concessionary Travel Committee (SCTC) took the decision to start charging concessionary cardholders.

Long-standing agreement
Questions are to be asked of the Scottish government after the long-standing agreement that island pensioners and disabled users in Argyll and Bute should receive free ferry travel, to make the scheme equitable with mainland residents.

Community councillor Ronnie Campbell from the Isle of Mull said: 'If it is free to use the buses then it should be free for ferries.

Our councillors are not fighting hard enough for us.'

Complaints
MP Alan Reid says he has been inundated with complaints and is calling on the Scottish government to give SCTC, who manage the ferry fare scheme, enough money to keep ferry fares free for concessionary cardholders.

Mr Reid said: 'Cardholders throughout Scotland get free bus travel. Ferry travel should be treated in the same way. Residents of islands and peninsulas use ferries to make the same essential trips that people in the rest of Scotland use buses for.'

'The SCTC has not been given enough money to keep ferry travel free for concessionary cardholders. The Scottish government must step in and give them the money they need to keep ferry travel free for concessionary cardholders. Ferry travel should get the same

concessionary travel as bus travel does.'

A spokeswoman for Strathclyde Passenger Transport (SPT) said: 'Like other public sector organisations, we need to deliver more with less and we are looking at how best to do that. We are endeavouring to secure the long-term stability of an enhanced concession scheme within tight financial settlements.'

'If we do nothing, the cost of operating the scheme will continue to rise to well over £5 million and it is clear there is no additional money at this stage. Increasing the concessionary fare means we will continue to sustain the great benefits of the scheme and guarantee its long-term future.'

'This scheme is an enhancement in the SPT area on top of the national scheme for everyone aged 60 and over.'

Union fights Argyll and Bute Council over school staff cuts

CUTS to the hours worked by technical staff in Argyll and Bute schools is a step too far, claims Unite Union.

Proposals to cut staffing hours to term time only will mean a risk to the health and safety of pupils, teachers and school buildings says the union which is determined to fight the move, claiming Argyll and Bute Council is the only authority in Scotland to introduce such measures.

Gordon Casey of Unite Union said: 'No other council has approached us with term-time contracts. We still see these cuts as proposals as there has been no consultation with staff or ourselves, therefore the terms are still to be negotiated. Technical staff jobs do not stop when kids go on holiday - equipment, chemicals and computers have to be fit for purpose.'

Argyll and Bute MP Alan Reid said: 'I am very worried about the Health and Safety implications of this cut. Reducing the hours of support staff will put at risk child safety and protection as these issues are compromised.'



MP Alan Reid

'It will also mean that head teachers will be spending time on basic administration and healthy safety checks rather than teaching children.'

A spokeswoman for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'The decision to reduce the hours of school librarians and technicians to term time hours, which will save some £60,000 a year, was taken as part of the 2010/11 budget.'

'Education services is currently reviewing the issue of 'portable appliance testing' and the proposed reduction in technicians' hours will feed into that process. Meantime, all necessary health and safety checks will continue to be carried out at all schools.'

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Beachd Ailein

'Chan eil dad agam an aghaidh na Gàidhlig, ach...'

Nuair a tha teannachadh sam bith a' tighinn air ionnhas poblach nochdaidh gearan an aghaidh na thathas a' cur ri leasachadh Gàidhlig. Tha e tàireil agus tàmailteach dha luchd-taice gum feum iad a bhith daonnan a' dìon an cuid cànan is cultair nan dùthaich fhèin. Bha fios againn nach robh Achd na Gàidhlig dol a dh'atharrachadh bheachdan as a' bhaid, ach bha dòchas gum biodh beagan tùir agus tuigse a' nochdadh. Ri linn na deasbaid air feadh na dùthcha agus anns a' Phàrlamaid, an luib na h-Achd, bha dòchas gum biodh Buill Chomhairlean nas tuigsiche air àite na Gàidhlig ann an dualchas Alba. Shùilicheadh tu sin ri linn na taice a nochd na partaidhean poiliteigeach dhan Achd, gun ghuth air na tha Comhairlean air a chur romhpa fhèin ann am Planaichean Gàidhlig fo bhuidh na h-Achd.

Dh' fhaodadh tu leigseul aineolais fhàgail aig Comhairlichean nach d' rugadh air Ghàidhealtachd, ach gun teagamh 's e Gàidheil ag àicheadh an dualchais fhèin an sealladh as dòrainniche a th' ann! Agus dhan fheadhainn dha bheil Gàidhlig mar chànan màthaireil tha na h-ionnsaighean seo goirt da-rìribh, agus cuid de na tha nochdadh bho Chomhairlichean is eile air ire gràin-cinnidh! Tha lagh a' ceadachadh phartaidhean poiliteigeach le beachdan a tha a' cur an aghaidh chinnidhean, ach nuair a tha fios againn mu na beachdan sin tha cothrom againn taic àicheadh dhaibh. Ach cuin a chunnacas Comhairliche a' seasamh ann an taghadh le geall-tanas cur an aghaidh na Gàidhlig? Tha cus aca a' nochdadh na gràinne seo aon uair 's gum faigh iad a-staigh, agus tha an t-am aig luchd taice na Gàidhlig a bhith a' cur na ceist ris na tagraichean ach am bi am beachdan follaiseach ro làimh.

Tha mi-thuigse uamhasach a thaobh na thathas a cosg air leasachadh na Gàidhlig ann an Alba, agus tha e deatamach gun tuig am mòr-shluagh firinn meud na taice sin ann am farsaingeachd ionnhas poblach na h-Alba. Ged nach eil na h-àireamhan air an obrachadh gu mionaideach fhathast tha an £25 millean a tha an Riaghaltas a' cur chun na Gàidhlig an dràsta co-ionnan ri 0.07%, nas lugha na trì chairteal de aon as a' cheud, den bhuidseat iomlan aige!

Nam biodh an Riaghaltas a' cosg a-rèir àireamh luchd-labhairt na Gàidhlig dh' fheumadh iad 1.3% a chosg; còrr air £455 millean!

Gaelic users are thoroughly tired of regular attacks on Gaelic development whenever the public sector budget comes under pressure. Councillors who gave no hint of opposition to Gaelic in their pre-election campaigning suddenly become almost racist in opposition to the language.

Most of their rant alleges 'vast sums' being spent at the expense of other services. In reality the £25 million spent in developing this indigenous language of Scotland is only 0.07% of the Scottish Government budget.

If expenditure was to be in line with the 1.3% Gaelic speakers in Scotland, the budget would be an eye-watering £455 million!

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



Islay's Glen wins 'Scoop of the Year' award

POLITICAL journalist Glenn Campbell, who hails from Islay, has won a UK journalism award for Scoop of the Year.

Glenn and his producer, John Boothman, broke the story on BBC Scotland that the Lockerbie bomber, Abdelbast Al Megrahi, was to be released from prison in Scotland and flown back to Libya.

The Royal Television Society's journalism awards were held in the Hilton Park Lane, London, last Thursday and were hosted by news presenter Sophie Rayworth.

Glenn, from Bowmore, is a former pupil of Islay High School.

Head of News and Current Affairs at BBC Scotland Atholl Duncan said: 'It is a brilliant testimony to the work of Glenn Campbell, John Boothman and the entire BBC Scotland news team that our efforts on breaking this story and driving it on for many days has been recognised by the best in the business.'

'To win the 'Scoop of the Year' in British TV journalism is a tremendous achievement.'

Isle of Mull's future development halted by lack of water claim community council

HOUSE building on the Isle of Mull must stop – until something is done about over-stretched resources, says the community council.

That is the message from the stalwarts of Mull Community Council (MCC) but Argyll and Bute Council planners may disagree.

At the monthly meeting of MCC it was decided to actively seek support from Scottish Water and Argyll and Bute Council to improve water provision and improve the

infrastructure before any more applications are approved.

Tankers for Tobermory MCC representative Ronnie Campbell, Bunessan, told the meeting that last season, water was in such short supply in Tobermory that it had to be tankered-in from all over the island.

It is after a number of years of coping with water shortages and delays in house building that islanders are now demanding a sustainable plan for the island.

Councillor Mary-Jean Devon confirmed that Scottish Water did not object to specific planning applications but state that developers must find their own water supply.

One house builder, who did not wish to be named, said that her family had been waiting years to get services into their new build – and a solution still had not been found.

She said: 'The thing is if we do not get something sorted soon we may even need to move from the island to find

suitable accommodation.'

Argyll and Bute Council say it is aware of the problem and is looking into the issues with key agencies such as Scottish Water and HITRANS. It is doing this, it said, in order to 'prioritise new investment as we move forward to produce a new Local Development Plan.

A spokesperson said: 'Planning officers would be happy to visit communities on Mull to listen to their concerns and provide additional in-

formation on the new Local Development Plan process face to face.

'Community views at this time are also very important and the council is currently asking community groups and individuals to complete our on line survey which can be found at www.argyll-bute.gov/ldp.

'Further information on the review of the Local Development Plan can also be found in the newsletter at the same web link.'

Facelift restores views on world's greatest railway

CONCERN about the loss of views on parts of the 'world's greatest rail journey' has led to a joint effort to clear trees.

The West Highland Line passes through the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park, but the growth of vegetation beside the line has cut off breathtaking views of Loch Long, the Arrochar Alps and Ben Lomond.

This month, a joint project between the National Park Authority, Friends of the West Highland Line and Network Rail cleared 350 metres of trees and scrubs along key parts of the line near Arrochar and Tarbet station. The work cost £9,000, with most of the funds coming from the National Park's natural heritage grant scheme.

Norman McNab from the Friends of the West Highland Line said: 'This is a great result and the successful outcome could not have been achieved without the support of the National Park, the considerable help of their professional staff and, crucially, the positive co-operation and contribution from Network Rail.'

The partners will now look at other parts of the route which would benefit from clearance and natural regeneration to restore views between Glasgow through to Oban, Fort William and Mallaig.

North Uist school meeting ends in anger

Parents 'insulted' after councillors fail to attend meeting

A PUBLIC meeting in North Uist ended in anger as the public voted to cancel it because the promised Comhairle Nan Eilean Siar (CnES) representatives were not present.

The meeting, part of the 'conversation' CnES is carrying out with the Western Isles community over the school closures it is proposing as a cost-cutting exercise, was held in Lochmaddy primary school, one of the schools earmarked for closure.

The local community has been vigorously campaigning to save the school, claiming the research upon which CnES based the decision is wrong and Lochmaddy is a thriving economic area where the school roll is set to rise significantly over the next few years.

Present were Joan MacKinnon, newly appointed director of Education and Children's Services, Neil MacDonald, principal, Learning Community and North Uist councillor Uisdean Robertson.

North Uist councillor Archie Campbell, who is chairman of CnES sustainable development committee, introduced the meeting by saying that several CnES members were unable to attend, including South Uist councillor Gerry Macleod, who had not scheduled it in his diary, and Morag Munro, chairwoman of the Education and Children's Services Committee who was on the mainland. He explained that CnES leader Angus Campbell had suffered a bereavement.

Campbell Saxton, 40, of 14 Kersavagh said in view of the missing representatives, the meeting should be cancelled.

This was put to the vote and unanimously agreed by the public.

Mrs Mackinnon apologised to the meeting and said there was no intent to demean the community.

Mr Saxton, who grew up in Lochmaddy and recently returned to the island to bring up his family, said: 'We were short-changed this evening.'

'This issue means a lot to us and three key CnES officials failed to turn up. Morag Munro promised to be at this meeting

tonight and without explanation she is on the mainland. We were assured at our community council meeting two days ago that all the relevant officials would be in attendance.'

Lochmaddy resident Peter Rintoul, who is also North Uist Community Council leader, said: 'It was insulting that they tried to fob us off with the B team. There are important decisions to be made here and the decision-makers need to be here to justify their plans and to hear our concerns, not just about the school but about the whole community because this school is fundamental to the community.'

'The job of the council is to support and encourage local communities, not to slowly take them to pieces which is what they're doing here. We should not be paying the price for very bad policy decisions taken in Lewis. We don't deserve this treatment. People are angry and insulted.'

A CnES spokesman said: 'It is unreasonable and incorrect to refer to a B team. The chair of education was not scheduled to attend. The leader of the Comhairle had to cancel his attendance because of a bereavement and sent his apologies to the meeting. However the Director of Education and Children's Services was present.'

Councillor Gerry Macleod said: 'In my apology for not attending the meeting I explained that I didn't have my diary to hand when the date was announced so I didn't know it clashed with Health Board commitments in Stornoway. It had been some time since I attended a Health Board meeting so I felt duty-bound to go there.' Mr Macleod added that he thought the programme of school 'conversations' with the public was the wrong approach. He said: 'Consulting the community piece-meal about budget cuts is bound to be divisive.'

'We should be having conversations with the whole community, saying this is the money we have to spend, how would you have us spend it. Proposing to save £2 million by closing 18 schools seems misguided.'



Grim faced parents realise that Western Isles councillors will not be attending the meeting at Lochmaddy to discuss potential school closures

Tyndrum gold mine floats on London stock market in bid to raise £2 million

THE OWNERS of a gold mine near Tyndrum are hoping to raise £2 million on the Alternative Investment Market in order to tap into around \$170 million-worth of gold.

Scotgold Resources, which owns the country's only gold mine at Glen Cononish, hopes that floating on the London stock market will enable it to raise the money it needs to carry out further exploration and development of the mine.

But it will only be a fraction of the cost of putting it into production, which could be more than £12m.

Chris Sangster, chief executive of Scotgold Resources, said: 'We are in a very fortunate position that in 1997, when the project was due to have gone ahead before, most of the technical work had already been completed,

so we have picked up on that technical work, updated with a bit of new technology, and we are almost ready to roll.'

'Our current resource estimate has about 4.5 to five tonnes of gold and about 20 tonnes of silver. 'That's 150,000 to 160,000 ounces of gold, which at the moment is worth probably \$170m, with a bit of silver on top. That's what we know about at the moment.'

Scotgold Resources is registered on the Australian Stock Exchange and bought over Fynegold, which owned the mine previously, in May 2007.

The mine was previously abandoned in 1997, when the price of gold fell to under \$400 (£260) an ounce.

Scotgold Resources hopes that a high gold price of about \$1,100 (£715) an ounce will help make the

economics work for such a risky venture.

Tim Williams, director of mining and metals at analysts Ernst & Young, said: 'The Australians are very good at mining this kind of gold - narrow veins and so on.'

'In Australia and in Canada, you have this army of investors who will put their own personal money into these little companies and they understand the way the industry works.'

'There are about 150 of these junior mining companies on the AIM market in London but it is nothing compared to the thousands in Toronto and in Sydney.'

Mr Williams said an AIM listing allowed companies to raise money when they did not have the same trading history as they would need for a main board listing.



Julie Oliphant shows guests how to prepare some of Coll's fantastic seafood.

Isle of Coll cookery teach-in

COLL hotel co-owner and chef Julie Oliphant opened her kitchen up recently for the first time in 25 years.

Julie and husband Keith have owned the island's only hotel for quarter of a century and Julie has previously run cookery sessions for island children.

Splendid island ingredients

But the couple decided it was time to introduce guests to the delights of cooking some of the splendid ingredients that can

be found on the island and, of course, the seafood off its coast.

The three days of tuition were enjoyed by 12 guests but it wasn't all hard work as there was time for eating what was cooked with a couple of drinks and enjoying the island.

Julie said: 'It was marvellous to show our visitors the joys of cooking local produce and watching them enjoy the food they themselves had helped prepare.'

Kintyre beach body identified

A BODY found on a beach near to New Orelans Cottage, Campbeltown, on January 31 has been confirmed as that of Nilfloor Polvanderh.

The 51-year-old had been reported missing by staff at Stonefield Castle Hotel, Tarbert, Mid Argyll, on January 8 and was last seen in the Southend area on Monday January 11.

Strathclyde Police said there were no suspicious circumstances surrounding her death and a report was to be sent to the procurator fiscal at Campbeltown Sheriff Court.

Campbeltown town plan invitation

PEOPLE in Campbeltown and Kintyre are being invited to find out more about major projects in the pipeline for the town.

On March 10 project team managers and members of Argyll and Bute Council and its partners will be available all day at Campbeltown's Town Hall to discuss the projects.

These include: the redevelopment of Campbeltown Marina; regeneration of Kinloch Road, work to Campbeltown Harbour, Park Square; the route to Macrihanish to support the development of renewable energy technology; proposals for an all-weather pitch. There will also be representatives from Skycon available to talk about the factory at Macrihanish.



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Quarry workers' 'rage' at pay freeze

WORKERS at Yeoman Glensanda Quarries are said to be 'raging' after being told they will receive no bonus for 2009 and no pay rise in 2010 at a works council meeting held on Monday.

And to rub salt into the wounds, management and office staff will receive a five per cent bonus and an eight per cent pay rise this year.

One worker, who did not want to be named, said: 'The workforce are raging. We are the ones that do all the work and yet it is the bosses who are getting the bonuses.'

Lucky
'We were basically told, at the meeting, we were lucky to have jobs and there may be redundancies in the future.'

'We are very annoyed, everyone is up in arms and I wouldn't rule out strike action we are so angry.'

An Aggregate Industries spokesperson said: 'We held a works council meeting at the quarry to discuss a range of issues including pay increases and bonuses. 2009 saw some very tough trading conditions, yet despite the difficulties in employment across the UK in 2009, we successfully maintained the work force at Glensanda Quarry.'

Challenging
'The outlook for 2010 remains challenging for our industry, and staff across Aggregate Industries have forgone a salary increase this year. Bonus schemes across our organisation are specific to local sites and targets, some have achieved them in 2009 and some have not.'

Tributes paid to father of four killed in Kilninver road crash

TRIBUTES have been paid to a loving father, killed in a crash on the Lochgilphead to Oban road last week.

Collision with tanker
Lachlan McKellar died when his Land Rover Defender was involved in a collision with a tanker lorry on the A816 near Kilninver.

It is understood the 44-year-old shepherd, who worked in the Oban area, was driving home on Wednesday afternoon when the accident happened.

Emergency services attended and Mr McKellar was taken by ambulance to Lorn and the Islands District

General Hospital in Oban but died a short time later.

The 43-year-old tanker driver was treated for minor injuries but later released.

Mr McKellar is survived by his wife, Donna, and their four children.

Lochgilphead councillor Donnie MacMillan paid

tribute to Mr McKellar. He said: 'Once again the town is saddened by the death of a local man in a serious road accident.'

'It leaves a cloud of gloom over the town and my thoughts go out to his family and all those who knew him at this very

sad and difficult time.' A family friend, who asked not to be named, added: 'Lachlan was a devoted, loving father, and will be sadly missed by all who knew him.'

A full report will be forwarded to the Procurator Fiscal.

Enquiries are ongoing into the cause of the crash and Sergeant David Ferguson of the Road Policing Department in Lochgilphead is appealing to anyone who witnessed the crash or has information that may assist his enquiries to contact 01546 702200.

Pensioner dies in Dalmally crash

AN 85-YEAR-OLD woman died last Thursday following a collision between a car and a lorry on the A85 at Strone Hill near Dalmally.

The accident happened around 3.50am and the 61-year-old driver and her passenger are believed to have been a mother and daughter heading to Oban to catch the ferry to Tiree for a family celebration.

The driver was taken to Lorn and Islands Hospital in Oban and was later released following treatment.

The driver of the lorry was badly shaken but otherwise unhurt.

The A85 road was closed until lunchtime on Thursday.

Police inquiries are continuing and a report is being prepared for the procurator fiscal.

Loch watchers hope to prevent further tragedies

ALMOST a year after four anglers tragically drowned on Loch Awe a LochWatch scheme for the 27-mile long loch has been launched.

Representatives from across the spectrum, who were involved in finding a way of preventing such a tragedy happening again, met on Loch Awe-side on Monday for the formal

launch. Councillor Donald MacDonald, chairman of Oban, Lorn and the Isles Safety Forum which initiated the first meetings, paid tribute to all those involved in trying to make the loch safer and to more than 40 volunteers who had come forward to be loch spotters.

In particular, he paid tribute to Iain MacKinnon, a

member of the safety forum and a volunteer coastguard, whose idea the spotters' scheme was and who has worked tirelessly in the last year to get it all off the ground.

'Without his drive and energy nothing would have happened,' said Councillor MacDonald.

'I would also like to thank

the volunteers on behalf of the people who will be offered help or saved in the future.'

With the start of the trout fishing season just around the corner, LochWatch Loch Awe has seen volunteers from Eredine to Dalavich and Ederline to Lochawe village come forward to be spotters.

These people will report any incidents on the loch, provide emergency services with accurate detailed information on any incident and its location and keep a watch until incidents are resolved.

Several of the volunteers have boats on the loch and, depending on circumstances at the time, may be able to

help pending the arrival of emergency services.

The first point of contact will still be to call 999 but the loch co-ordinator, Donald Wilson of Loch Awe Boats, would receive calls from volunteers and alert spotters to incidents.

A website - www.lapb.org.uk - has been set up which includes safety messages, advice and links to fishing and boating sites as well as a private forum for spotters and an open day is to be held on March 14 at Loch Awe Boats, Ardbreckknish.

LochWatch packs, including maps of the loch, compasses and other equipment have been given to spotters thanks to the Loch Awe Rescue Boat appeal set up via The Oban Times.

The biggest contribution of £8,000 to the funds, however, came from Les and Anne Currie and their family and friends.

Their son Craig, aged 30, was one of the four men including Steven and William Carty and Thomas Douglas who died after trying to cross the loch at night in thick fog.

The provision of a dedicated safety boat on the loch is still under discussion.



Representatives of emergency organisations, politicians and members of the new LochWatch Loch Awe scheme gathered at Cruachan Power Station Visitor Centre. 15_r10watch01

Sport Relief celebrities cycle through Highlands

SOME famous faces cycled through Argyll and Lochaber on Tuesday, enduring temperatures as low as -15 °C overnight in the Highlands as part of the Sport Relief Million Pound Bike Ride.

Celebrities Fearné Cotton, Patrick Kielty, David Walliams, Russell Howard, Jimmy Carr, Miranda Hart and Davina McCall took turns cycling down the Great Glen through Fort William, to Tyndrum and Dalmally, turning off to Inveraray and heading off down the Rest and Be Thankful passing



Fearné Cotton through Cairndow along the way.

The team have been cycling a four-day 1,000-mile journey from John O'Groats to Land's End.

The team wants to raise £1m to help people living tough lives in the UK and internationally.

Doing the dirty on dog owners

TWO OBAN women are fighting back at the number of dog owners who are refusing to clean up after their pooches have done 'the dirty' on the street.

The ad hoc vigilant group, who do not want to be named, are determined that the streets will soon be cleaned up from the 'scourge of dog mess' that 'litters the streets'.

One of the women said: 'It is simply not acceptable for anyone to allow their dog to do its business and then not clean it up.'

'On more than one occasion I have had to walk up to people and say 'I think you have left something behind' and point to the offending mess.'

'Enough is enough - Oban is no place for dog mess.'

Her partner in cleaning-up crime said: 'People have started the despicable habit of getting the dogs dirt and then tying the bags to the fences along at Ganavan Sands. It looks dreadful and it is a filthy thing to do. I am personally looking for the perpetrators and I hope to deliver their little bags back to them.'

at fault by not having any dog loos or poo bins in the area.'

A spokesman for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'Argyll and Bute Council manage this situation in conjunction with Strathclyde Police.'

'Dedicated dog bins were removed some time ago, and all dog waste can be put into the general waste street bins. This change was made for health and safety reasons, and the fact that operatives had to uplift concentrated amounts of dog waste.'

'People responsible for a dog and who do not clear up after the animal and dispose of it properly can be fined £40 on the spot.'

The fine is payable within 28 days, and if it is not paid will increase to £60.

'While the vast majority take that responsibility seriously, there are some who don't. Our environment wardens will continue to be pro-active across the council area in a bid to catch and punish those dog owners who disregard the law.'

'According to the dog warden, four fines and several warnings have been issued over the last year.'

Heroin addict is convicted of supply

AN OBAN heroin addict was found guilty by jury last week of dealing in heroin after police found the equivalent of 60 'tenner' bags at an Oban address he had access to.

Colin Cornelius, aged 34, of Room 3, Solas, Oban, pled not guilty last week at Oban Sheriff Court to being concerned in the supply of heroin at 13 Polvinister Gardens, Oban, on September 17 2008.

But last Thursday a jury found Cornelius guilty by a majority verdict.

The court heard how five Oban-based police officers had gone to the Polvinister house to search for drugs and had found Cornelius standing by the front door with a key to the property.

Although he did not live there, he told police the house belonged to his former partner and that he had access to it.

Once inside, officers found three knotted bags containing 2.102 grammes, 3.262 grammes and 3.172 grammes of heroin; a box containing two Stanley knife blades, two sheets of glass and a roll of clingfilm. They also found tinfoil with resin

on it. The jury heard from Detective Constable Michael Miller of Strathclyde Police's drugs squad that the amount of heroin found could not have been for personal use, as was claimed by Cornelius.

Detective Miller said the two larger bags found were in weights of one-eighth deals, as in one-eighth of an ounce, which was how heroin was sold before being split into 'tenner' bags.

He said: 'If someone was in possession of an eighth my opinion would be that it is for onward sale or supply.'

Detective Miller also described to the court how Oban dealers were 'clubbing together' to buy it in bulk from Glasgow, Dumbarton and Helensburgh.

Defence agent Tom Mitchell called his own expert witness, William Percy, a former police officer with drugs expertise, who said that the weight of the bags, alone, was not enough to prove that Cornelius was concerned in the supply of drugs.

In summing up, however, procurator fiscal

Craig Harris told the jury that Detective Miller had more up-to-date knowledge on the west coast drugs scene than the Tayside-based Mr Percy, adding: 'Detective Miller says he has never heard of anyone having an eighth of an ounce for personal use, apart from the rich and famous.'

'Mr Cornelius is not rich and famous and, by his own account, is a heroin addict.'

Cornelius had previously pled guilty to possession of cannabis at his home address on September 17 2008.

Sheriff Douglas Small deferred sentence for reports until March 30 and granted bail.

Ryan's memorial trust helps youngsters achieve their dreams

A NUMBER of youth groups in and around Oban are several hundred pounds better off thanks to the Ryan MacPhail Memorial Trust.

Each year the trust, friends and MacPhail family members hold fund-raising events, the proceeds from which are distributed to youth groups in the town.

Amanda MacPhail, mother of Ryan who died in a tragic sledding accident in Oban in January



Alistair MacLean and Robert MacIntyre, members of the junior section of Glencruitten Golf Club, with Dougie MacIntyre. 15_r10macphail02

2003, gave out some very generous cheques on Saturday to six different organisations.

Oban Primary League received £600; Oban Otters, £300; Soroba Young Families Group, £600; Glencruitten Golf Club's junior section, £600; Netherlorn Piping Society, £600 and Oban Girl Guiding, £600.

'We try to give out around £6,000 each year,' said Amanda, 'and I do get a lot of pleasure from doing it.'

Netherlorn Piping Society applied to the trust for money to set up junior drumming competitions at this year's Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival in Oban.

Dougie MacIntyre, from Glencruitten Golf Club, said the money would help with everything from coaching to taking some of the 50-60 junior members away to competitions. He hoped that there would also be some work done with school children to encourage them to take up golf.

As it is the Guiding centenary this year, Oban Girl Guiding is running a number of events to celebrate, helped by their donation, including a concert for former Guiding members in the Corran Halls, Oban, on March 20, culminating in a big campfire sing-along at the end.

Soroba Young Families applied to the trust for some money to help the group set up a book corner at the centre in Soroba.

One of the major fund-raising events for the Ryan MacPhail Memorial Trust is the annual sportsman's dinner held in the Argyllshire Gathering Halls, which last year raised more than £4,500. This year the men-only event is on March 26.

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Mull Lines



THIS year's Mull and Iona Gathering in Glasgow brought back memories for one Mull woman.

Joan MacKay said: 'Yet again the organising committee surpassed themselves by organising a great ceilidh and dance. This brought back memories of the first Mull and Iona Gathering I attended in 1964.

'My father, Pibroch Mackenzie, was invited as a guest as were my sister Fiona, aged nine and I, aged 12. We were very excited at the thought of a trip to Glasgow. My mother made us practise some songs and also made us lovely blue matching dresses. We made our way to Oban on the MV Lochearn and then by train to Glasgow where we were met by Hamish and Mary Johnston who were great ambassadors for Mull.

'They took us to Govan Town Hall where the gathering was being held. We were very nervous when we saw the size of the hall as we had only ever sung at ceilidhs in Mrs MacKenzie's (Tui's) music room in Tobermory School, or the Aros Hall. We were amazed to see the Mull pipers lead the Grand March of the platform party onto the stage.

'This is when the nerves really kicked in. For two little girls it seemed there were hundreds and hundreds of people in the audience. We went forward to sing and the spotlights were focused on us. I looked down to the front row and spotted Aunt Mary Devon (Councillor Mary-Jean's mother) who gave us a lovely smile and a nod of encouragement and then we were on our way. We sang Dream Angus and we got such a big cheer

'Thankfully now the gathering is a more relaxed affair but the memory of the 1964 one will stay in my mind forever.

'Once again thanks to the committee and keep up the good work.'



HOLLYWOOD actress Anne-Marie Duff has named Mull and Iona as her favourite holiday destination.

An interview in Red Magazine reveals that she likes the island because she can enjoy peace and tranquillity.

Anne-Marie and her husband, actor John McAvoy, are known to holiday on the island a number of times a year. They are keen walkers and wildlife watchers.



ISLAND school children that have been without a school bus for a number of months are hoping that a practical solution may soon be in sight.

A contractor is employed to bring children to Bunesan school in the morning but during the daytime there is no school transport available to take children to essential trips such as gym hall and swimming lessons.

Mull Community Council heard that this is limiting the curriculum in the school. So they have decided to support of the provision of a replacement school bus for Bunesan. The community council has agreed to contact Argyll and Bute education and transport departments to seek a practical solution for the current situation.



PROVING that 'all the world's a stage' kids from Mull will be performing one of the West Ends' sell out shows.

The production of The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged) will see island youngsters take on the biggest from the Bard. And by all accounts it is a 'a hit, a very palpable hit'.

For one night only on Friday March 5, principal performers Lewis MacLeod, Kate Stevens and Dexter Govan of Mull Youth Theatre will attempt the 'quickest show in the west'. The Complete Works... is directed and produced by Andi Stevens while Gill Govan made the set and the props and the music are by Gordon MacLean.

The curtain goes up at 7.30pm and ticket reservations are from Druimfin Box Office 01688 302 828



To sponsor Mull Lines please contact Isla at 01631-568000

Concerns about Argyll and Bute respite bureau plan

A NEW system for organising respite care in Argyll is being rushed in, according to a prominent group representing carers' centres.

Pilot

Argyll and Bute Council plans to set up a 'respite bureau' to help carers and users make choices about respite care. The council is seeking a voluntary sector group to run the bureau, under a pilot public social partnership.

An information meeting in Inveraray last week gave carers the chance to hear how it will work. The system is designed to allow more flexibility, including traditional residential care, respite provided at home or help to go on holiday together.

But Catherine Paterson, chair of the Argyll and Bute Carers' Network, raised concerns about the proposals, including why the council

was not running it itself, the risk of losing existing respite options and the cost to clients of some of the new options being proposed.

She said: 'We are not confident that the whole process has been thought through carefully and we feel that Argyll and Bute is rushing into this new project with finances being the driving factor rather than people.'

'The timescale for the

project is very short and there was a lack of real detail given at the meeting. While this respite bureau is being established, can carers in Argyll and Bute be confident that their need for respite be met?'

Councillor John Semple, council spokesman for the third sector, said: 'This is a very exciting proposal which I am sure will be of great interest to many people in

Argyll and Bute. I am keen that we, as a council, seek new and innovative ways of delivering services, such as this, through social enterprise.'

Groups have until March 19 to apply to run the bureau and a new partner is expected to be picked by April. The bureau is to be launched initially in one area before being rolled out across Argyll and Bute.

Oban lifeboat lifts hospital patients off Isle of Mull

Storm force wind foils ferry from berthing

AFTER stormy conditions prevented the ferry from getting into Mull on Thursday, Oban lifeboat braved difficult conditions to take four medical patients off the island.

Caledonian MacBrayne's Isle of Mull ferry attempted to berth at Craignure at the 8am sailing from Oban but after trying to go alongside the link span several times in strong north-easterly winds and blizzards, had to abandon efforts and return to Oban.

The 10am and 12 noon sailings were cancelled and an attempt on the 4pm sailing to berth at Craignure was again aborted.

Four patients on the island had been expecting to go to hospital in Oban by ferry but when the last ferry failed to berth, Oban lifeboat was asked at 5.15pm to come and collect them.

Lifeboat Coxswain Ronnie McKillop, mechanic Jim Watson, four volunteer crew and Oban paramedic Kevin Devine arrived at Craignure at around 6pm to find waves breaking over the linkspan ramp, which the lifeboat usually berths alongside.

'It was about a Force 7 gusting Force 8,' said Ronnie.

'There is an old stone pier at Craignure, which is really not ideal to use but we went across to look at it as a 'do or die' alternative. There isn't a lot of water there and with the sea conditions the lifeboat was rolling quite a lot.'

The crew had to think on their feet as Ronnie took a window of opportunity to get alongside the pier, where it was slightly more sheltered

but with only 0.1metre under the lifeboat showing on the echo-sounder.

'We got alongside and once we were berthed at the pier we could see the waves breaking over the end of the pier but it wasn't too bad alongside,' said Ronnie.

But the lifeboat had only a short time to transfer the patients as the tide was on the ebb and while the first ambulance arrived with two patients, who were carefully transferred, the second took 10-15 minutes to arrive.

'My crew on the night were absolutely brilliant.'

Ronnie said he was grateful for the presence of paramedic Kevin Devine, who was technically on a day off but had agreed to help as one ambulance crew was already out of town, leaving one crew in Oban.

'To have someone of professional medical skills on board takes a lot of worry away about having patients on board because we are just first aiders,' he said.

Ronnie added: 'My crew on the night were absolutely brilliant. I had them set up to go alongside the link span and we only went along to the pier to look at it and they had to adapt very quickly - all that training is paying off.'

The lifeboat reached Oban at 7.15pm and the patients were transferred to Lorn and Islands Hospital.



Lifeboat Coxswain Ronnie McKillop praised the actions of his crew

Energy awareness roadshow comes to Lochnell Primary School

APRIMARY school and AL-nergy are coming together to host an energy awareness and conservation event.

Lochnell Primary School pupils are actively taking part in the event at the Victory Hall, Benderloch, on Friday March 19 as well as being on hand to help teach others about energy.

The event will combine with the farmers' market to show how locally produced and bought food can reduce the carbon footprint and will

include stalls and surgeries by ALnergy about energy conservation, alternative energy, schemes, grants, tariffs and other information.

Displays

Organisers hope to have a bike that will power a light bulb to show how much energy it takes to keep a light bulb glowing, displays on energy produced by other schools and stalls where experiments will teach children about renewable and other energies.

In the small hall it is hoped to have presentations on conservation and energy and a tea shop with food and drinks.

The day event, which local primary schools, Oban High School, community councillors, Argyll and Bute councillors, the local community, businesses, interest groups and voluntary organisations are being invited, will be followed by a film about energy in the evening.

Missing relatives of an Oban hero invited to celebration in France

Commemoration of an Oban-born war hero 70 years after his death

RELATIVES of a war hero, who died while helping to liberate people in France, are being invited to a commemoration to mark 70 years since his death - if they can be found.

Historian, Jonathan Ives has been searching for the family of Oban man William Kelman Burr Thomas, but has so far drawn a blank. Mr Thomas was a flying officer in the Royal Air Force who died in action over Pont Saint Martin on February 4, 1941.

Jonathan Ives has found two of the relatives of two of the airmen on the flight but Mr Thomas' family have remained elusive.



Relatives of William Thomas are invited to a commemoration of his actions

Mr Ives said: 'I am helping them to trace living relatives

of the crew. Four other airmen were on the aircraft and I have traced the families of two, but still need to trace William from Oban.

'William was born on April 4, 1914, at 2 Battery Terrace, Oban. His parents, Alfred Ernest Thomas and Christina Mason Sneddon Burr married in Glasgow on September 10, 1913. It appears that his mother then died abroad in the 1950s.

'I know that William's parents visited the site of his grave soon after the war, as the town in France.'

Anyone with further information about William or his family can contact Jonathan on 01252 616899.

Business leader praises Mary's Meals

DALMALLY-based charity Scottish International Relief (SIR) has been praised for changing lives by a top Scottish entrepreneur and philanthropist.

Sir Tom Farmer, founder of the Kwik-fit empire, was speaking to local business leaders in Lochgilphead last week. He said the impact of Mary's Meals should inspire other Argyll organisations and companies to make a difference and develop brands with a global reach.

He said: 'They are working in 16 different countries and some 475,000 children will get a meal today because of that organisation based in Dalmally in Argyllshire. We should all be proud of that.'

Sir Tom added he had just heard from his son, who is currently visiting SIR projects on the Thailand-Burmese border, about the difference the charity's work was making to people there.

New vehicles for Argyll charity

AN ARGYLL charity has a new fleet of vans, thanks to funding from Argyll and Bute Council.

Care and Repair helps pensioners and disabled people stay in their own homes by carrying out small repairs, home safety checks and making alterations. Now the organisation's housing support officers will have six new vans to transport their tools and equipment.

Alasdair Oatts, the charity's co-ordinator, thanked the council for help in buying the vehicles and said it demonstrated the positive partnership between the two organisations.

A council spokeswoman said: 'Argyll and Bute Council fully supports Argyll & Bute Care & Repair in the work it does in offering independent advice and assistance to help homeowners repair, improve or adapt their homes so that they can live in comfort and safety at home in their own community.'

A82 and A83 questions

THE SCOTTISH government has been urged to give a detailed timetable for improvements to the A82 and A83.

Highlands and Islands MSP Jamie McGrigor raised the condition of the roads at Scottish Parliament question time, asking for firm commitments to planned improvements to widen the A82, add climbing lanes and enhance junctions.

Transport minister Stewart Stevenson said work on the next phase of roadworks would begin south of Fort William shortly after Easter and last two weeks.

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Daliburgh school children learning how to cook with Fi Bird.

March is Marie Curie month

MARCH is Marie Curie month when daffodils sprout throughout Scotland to remind people to give a donation to support Marie Curie nurses.

All money raised helps to provide free nursing care for people with cancer and other terminal illnesses.

Collections will be made in Oban's Tesco store on March 5-6 and Oban's Co-op Superstore on March 13.

'Last year we provided

over 26,000 nursing hours to 339 patients in Highlands of Scotland and this means we have to raise around £250,000 every year to cover this cost,' said community fundraiser Vonnie Carson.

'We have nearly 40 collections points throughout the month and we need an army of volunteers to help to make them a success.'

Visit www.mariecurie.org.uk/daffodil for more information.

New cookery book maintains link with South Uist school

Daliburgh School pupils impress author with their knowledge of healthy eating

SOUTH Uist pupils who 'road-tested' a children's cookery book prior to publication last year had the chance to cook again under the watchful eye of its author.

Scotland's leading children's food campaigner, Fi Bird, selected Daliburgh School pupils to put the recipes in her Kids' Kitchen collection through their paces, and returned to the school last week to teach them more culinary skills and tips.

Angus-based Mrs Bird became a protegee of Nick Nairn after reaching the Masterchef finals in 2001, and went on to create 'Stirrin' Stuff', an organisation working in partnership with schools and nurseries to teach children to cook from scratch.

of laminated recipe cards designed to inspire children to cook, and to educate them about the food they're eating.

She selected Daliburgh school pupils to put the recipes through their paces and spent a week in the school in 2008.

Mrs Bird said: 'I felt that schools in the Outer Hebrides don't always get the same opportunity as mainland schools in terms of home economics initiatives. We've been holidaying in South Uist for years, and have always loved coming here so I wanted to give local children a chance to get involved in my project.'

She added: 'Since last time I've found out that the older children have remembered exactly what they cooked during the testing, and continue to make the dishes at home. I've also been very

impressed with their knowledge of healthy eating.'

She emphasised that her philosophy is that cooking must be accessible to all.

She said: 'Masterchef is one thing, but it's not real when it comes to cooking for and with kids at home.'

Daliburgh school head teacher Graham Martindale said: 'Fi worked with all the children in the school, 110 at that time, two or three times each trialling the recipes. She is very keen on healthy eating and was able to introduce the children to the idea in ways that they hadn't thought of, and also check the practicalities of her recipes as the children made them. As a school we found the experience very useful and were able to build on it in our Health Week later that year, and eventually winning a Health Promoting schools gold award.'

Lorn Lines



Difficult driving conditions resulted in the A819 Inveraray - Dalmally road being closed last week after numerous vehicles got into trouble as heavy snow and freezing temperatures combined to create hazardous road surfaces. Even the snow plough required assistance after slipping off the road.

Picture - Kevin McGlynn



MEMBERS of Oban Speakers Club were entertained with subjects from Edinburgh Castle to The Great Wall of China at their last meeting.

The main speakers were Jim Fraser on Edinburgh Castle, Archie Macphail on 'Attention all Shipping' and Jim Young on The Great Wall of China.

The speakers and their critics, John Maclean, Alec Clark and Cameron Fletcher were introduced by Bill Leech.

A very entertaining topics session followed under the chairmanship of Frank Walton. His speakers were Eamonn Arthur, Bill Leech, John Maclean, Cameron Fletcher, Alex Clark and Willie Melville. Timekeeper for the evening was Guido Faccenda and the general evaluator was Roy Wood.



THREE free training events are coming up in Oban in March, organised by Argyll Voluntary Action (AVA).

AVA, which incorporates Argyll and Bute Volunteer Centre and Argyll CSV, has organised free third sector partnership training for the first three months of this year, covering everything from community skills training on the roles and responsibilities of committees to health and safety and risk management.

This month, the free courses are financial management and compliance for trustees/directors of community organisations; outcome training; and licensed premises staff/volunteer training for community groups.

All training is free of charge and AVA will also pay for travel and care costs to participants. For more information contact AVA in Oban on 01631 569545.



STRANGE flying objects have been sighted over Oban.

A witness said: 'I saw strange lights on Friday night at 10.05 pm. They were red and orange and seemed to come from over Soroba. They were high in the sky.'

'The lights stopped over the water plant and then shot away really quickly south, rising very quickly. Then they were gone.'

'I know helicopters come and go to and from Oban hospital. But this was different - it did not land and was very fast.'



A WORKSHOP on the future land use of Scotland is to take place in Oban, one of 10 across Scotland in March.

Invitations have been sent out to community representatives to take part in the workshop, which is part of the Scottish government's development of a land use strategy.

The government hopes to use it to assess whether or not the country can produce enough food, develop its own renewable energy capacity and protect its iconic landscapes and habitats.

The workshop in Oban will take place on Wednesday March 24 in the Caledonian Hotel.



AS OBAN charity slimmer George Berry hits the two stone weight loss he has picked up a new good habit - the Sunday afternoon walk.

George, accompanied by wife Caroline, is setting out on a regular weekly walk and invites anyone who cares to join them for an invigorating stroll.

The walks will begin at Energie Fitness at 1pm each Sunday and last for around two to three hours.

Caroline said: 'This week we had an American father and son join us.'

'There is always someone new joining us each week and everyone is welcome.'

'People are being very generous with their donations towards George's Man versus Mountain walk up Ben Nevis. Donations are coming in all the time.'

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Duke of Argyll fronts new tourism campaign

THE DUKE and Duchess of Argyll will be heading up a new campaign to attract visitors to Scotland.

The couple, who's ancestral home is at Inveraray Castle, are among 14 new 'faces' of Scotland being used by VisitScotland to represent the country's highlights in its biggest ever European marketing campaign.

Others chosen to represent the Scots include Skye ferry skipper Donnie MacDonald and Loch Ness expert Adrian Shine.

The Duke of Argyll, Torquhil Ian Campbell, said: 'It's fantastic to be involved in this campaign, representing the themes of seasonality and scenery. We welcome visitors to Inveraray Castle from all over the world, and love sharing our passion for Scotland's scenery and stunning gardens with them.'

'Whether enjoying Inveraray's blooming rhododendrons in May or wandering through Inverawe forest in all its Autumn splendour in October, Scotland abounds with beautiful scenery and

gardens, and VisitScotland's marketing campaign highlights this to the full.'

VisitScotland's £1.25million campaign aims to encourage Europeans to tour the country throughout the year by showcasing seasonal highlights.

VisitScotland's regional director, Scott Armstrong said: 'The campaign strikes a chord with Europeans who not only want the heritage, history and scenery, but also the feeling of connecting with Scottish people. Our research shows that the Scots character, humour and passion are widely recognised and admired abroad, and through this campaign, we can exploit those attributes when promoting Argyll, and Scotland as a whole.'

The new faces of Scotland will be used on dedicated websites and in the press.

VisitScotland believes it is weathering the economic downturn well and hopes the campaign will help to build on the current 1.8 million visits from European countries each year.



The Duke and Duchess of Argyll will be encouraging European visitors to come and meet the Scots.

Oban Bay marina project grows in confidence

'I FEEL more confident now than I have ever felt that this project will go ahead.'

This was the statement made by chairman of Oban Bay Marine John MacGregor at Thursday's annual general meeting of the community group set up to provide short stay pontoons for yachts in the town.

He conceded that the project had some hurdles - sustainability and technical details - to overcome before it would see the light of day.

Not least will be getting the case across to Argyll and Bute Council's programme board and Oban Project Board for CHORD, the council's capital investment plan to improve its town centres' waterfronts which has agreed in principle to put £900,000 into the pontoon project.

Mr MacGregor explained that consultants AECOM appointed by the council had

claimed that 50 pontoons and a breakwater would cost in the region of £3.4 million to install but that was based on £480,000 of contingencies and a break-water of pilings not anchors and chains.

'The consultants said quite clearly that this project was a necessity in Oban'

One of the technical difficulties had been CalMac's concerns about anchors and chains being near where their ferries berthed or manoeuvred.

Mr MacGregor said a meet-

ing the day before between Oban Bay Marine's engineer John Porteus at Wallace Stone and Philip Preston, managing director of CalMac Ferries Ltd, on this and other operational issues had been 'positive and in our favour'.

He said the borrowing costs to Oban Bay Marine could not be more than £800,000 otherwise the project could not be sustainable and Highlands and Islands Enterprise had appointed a business consultant to help them achieve that.

'The consultants AECOM said quite clearly that this project was a necessity in Oban; they said quite clearly that between the two piers is the best place for the pontoons; they said quite clearly that the economic return would be for every £1 spent we would get a return of £1.90,' he said.

'The technical and operational concerns they had can be overcome and if Oban Bay

Marine were only to borrow £800,000, the project is sustainable.'

He pointed out that the pontoon project, which had received the 'unstinting' backing of Oban councillors and the highest score of all the CHORD projects, was the only one that was required to borrow money and pay it back.

The board of directors at Oban Bay Marine has until April 2 to present their case to the Oban Project Board and the council's programme board which will make the final decision.

'We are very confident that we have a good chance of going ahead,' said Mr MacGregor, adding that he hoped work would start by next April.

The AGM of Oban Bay Marine, which has 149 members, was attended by 18 members with 15 sending in proxy votes.

Hogmanay party man who broke bail conditions is jailed

A MAN who went to a Hogmanay party with a woman he had been ordered to stay away from by Oban Sheriff Court has been jailed.

As part of bail conditions, Craig Munro, aged 29, had been ordered not to approach

or contact the woman but the court heard last week that the pair had attended the party in Oban together on December 31 last year.

Munro, 20H Shuna Terrace, Oban, got drunk, became aggressive and was asked

to leave but refused.

The court heard he did not remember much about the incident.

He was jailed for 72 days, backdated to January 4 when he was remanded in custody.



Sophie Bolton stands next to five foot high snow drifts which engulfed the road at Torloisk, on the Isle of Mull.

Mull road crew are praised for battling drifts

HEAVY snow last week on Mull saw roads cut off and households stranded. But one resident had nothing but praise for the road teams who came and dug her out. Especially as last time there was a big freeze, in January, some islanders were stranded for weeks.

Torloisk, said: 'Thanks to the roads boys for doing a great job clearing our road north of Torloisk on Mull, heading to Ensay.' Sophie sent The Oban Times a picture of what the road teams had to clear. Have you got pictures of the how the winter weather has affected your area? email: editor@obantimes.co.uk

Castle Toward re-opens

AN Argyll outdoor education centre has re-opened, after action to address safety concerns.

The doors at Castle Toward, near Dunoon, were closed to residential groups in November, prompting protests by parents and supporters. A series of talks between the centre's owners, Argyll and Bute Council, and its operators, Actual Reality Ltd, agreed it could return to full operation this week.

A council spokesperson said: 'The council and Actual Reality had a positive meeting on Wednesday February 24 at which all relevant issues were reviewed. The two parties have agreed that Actual Reality can recommence full operation of outdoor education services at Castle Toward, to include residential occupation, from Monday, March 1.'

The council also confirmed its intention to sell the building and anticipates that Actual Reality will make an offer to buy it.

North Argyll House gets musical visit from professional performers

NORTH Argyll House was alive with the sound of music last week when two Music in Hospitals charity performers dropped by.

Professional musicians, singer Emma Versteeg and pianist Robin Versteeg, delighted residents and their families and friends, as well as staff lingering in the background with a variety of classical songs, old favourites, American folk music and traditional Scottish music.

Music in Hospitals 'recruits' professional

musicians with a special affinity for communicating with their audiences and explaining the background to what they are singing or playing.

The charity's professional musicians play at more than 500 hospitals, hospices, homes and day care centres throughout Scotland.

Their aim is to make more highly quality music available to people who have little access to professional music performances because of age, disability or illness.



Emma and Robin Versteeg perform at North Argyll House through the Music in Hospitals charity. 15_109music02

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Kyle of Lochalsh

Your correspondent is Charlie MacRae: 01599 544359

Historical society

PLOCKTON Historical Society held its annual general meeting in Plockton Hall on February 15.

Louise Gale was appointed secretary and Maggie Byrne joined the committee.

Objectors invited to wrong address

A CONTROVERSIAL application to knock down a house in Plockton and rebuild it with a larger, eco friendly house had a bizarre twist on Friday February 19. The house is Tigh Beag at Rhu, Plockton.

Firstly the directorate for planning and environmental appeals addressed letters to the objectors inviting them to attend with the wrong address of the house.

And on Friday when around a dozen people attended the house at 12.15pm the reporter Philip Hutchison failed to turn up.

He did arrive at 2.15pm but by that time the representative from Historic Scotland, David Baldwin from Highland Council and most of the villagers had left.

Coffee cash

JANE MacDonald, The Shielling, Plockton, held two coffee mornings recently to raise funds for the Kyle Surgery defibrillator fund.

They were held in Plockton Hotel and Plockton Hall and the magnificent sum of £1,427.89 was raised.

Hockey club boost

A COFFEE morning in the Plockton Inn on Saturday February 20 raised £370 for Lochalsh Hockey Club.

Killin

Your correspondent is Judy Forster: 01567 820298

Killin Community Council

KILLIN Community Council met recently and among the items discussed were:

Village officer: Still ongoing. No input from councillors.

Playground and park: Drainage may be taken to Dall Lodge side of park and into river.

Benches: The bench at the police station is to be replaced by G Aitken and the position of a bench at Manse Road is still ongoing.

New turning area: Ongoing problems to be dealt with by F Kennedy.

Folklore centre: A meeting is to be arranged by interested parties.

Breadalbane Forum: Bruce Crawford is looking into access to the new hospital from motorway.

Glen Ogle: Barriers and anti-skid surface to be started in new financial year. Bollards appear to have reduced accidents.



Plockton rugby fans head to Wales to cheer on Scotland

Hats off to these ten men from Plockton, pictured setting off for their annual rugby trip to support Scotland. This year's destination was the Millennium Stadium in Wales where they enjoyed the match despite the score. Six ladies from Plockton made the long trip to Rome to watch Italy play Scotland on Saturday February 27.

Planning: An application has been made for a change of use of the proposed chalets at the Bridge of Lochay Hotel and demolition of Costcutters will take place after that situation has been resolved.

Replacement village signs at Bridge of Lochay: These have still not appeared and F Kennedy is to investigate.

Next meeting: Tuesday March 9.

Community Councils Forum

BREADALBANE Community Councils Forum is made up of representatives from Balquhider and Lochearnhead, Strathryre Community Council, Killin Community Council and Strathfillan Community Council.

It has been set up by the community councils as a joint working group that can tackle issues of common concern - a grassroots evolution from the more Stirling Council-led approach to area community planning.

Since its first meeting, letters have been written to express concern about the Glen Ogle road and meetings held with appropriate organisations. The response has been an extensive survey and safety measures proposed which should be carried out soon.

Access to health care services has been a priority common issue which led to a meeting with Bruce Crawford MSP. His intervention has helped to clarify some issues and ongoing support to try and resolve others. A further meeting specifically to discuss the problem of access to the new hospital at Larbert has been arranged. Other priority issues of common concern include access to lifelong learning, public toilets, village officer role and public transport.

Highland dancing

UNITED Master Plaque and Red Badge: Douglas Gammons; Eilidh Fleming; Becca Noble; Beth Kelly; Leila Kinvig; Larza Bainbridge and Ellie Graham.

United Red and Blue Badge: Seona Hay; Race Huggans. United Blue and Yellow Badge: Brogan Sutcliffe; Coral and Crystal MacTavish.

United Green and Orange Badge: Daniella Hay; Jadyn McCaffrey; Logan Mailer.

Top-ted: Iona Fisher. Intro Two: Emily Huggans; Emma Gemmell. Intro Three: Lesley Meek. Beginners Sword: Iona Fisher; Amy Jackson, Shona Donald.

Bronze: Catriona Gammons. Silver: Jordan Ferns; Ruth Palmer; Ella Jackson; Catriona Gammons. Gold: Caitlin McCaffrey; Emma Aitken; Nicola Craig; Livia Ridgewell; Anna Holden; Lois-anne Townsley.

Gold Bar Two: Ailsa Taylor; Lauren Third; Ishbel Hayes; Catherine Allen. Gold Bar Three: Ishbel Taylor; Lucie Ronald; Katie Holden.

Bronze Flora: Ishbel Hayes; Ailsa Taylor; Lauren Third; Ishbel Taylor; Lucie Ronald.

Silver Hornpipe: Katie Holden; Lucie Ronald; Ailsa Taylor; Lauren Third; Ishbel Taylor; Catherine Allen.

McLaren High School

THE TOP team for the session has been selected and is comprised of Head Boy, Tomasz Bukowicki; Deputies: Steven Smart and Andrew Hunter. Head Girl: Ailsa Woodley, Deputies: Polly Malloch and Eilidh Lindsay.

Coffee morning

PUPILS and staff at McLaren High School held a coffee morning and raised £327 for Macmillan Cancer Care.

Pink Day/ Jeans for Genes

A NUMBER of fund-raising events raised £767 for breast cancer and Jeans for Genes charities.

Killin Primary School

KILLIN Primary School has been working hard towards

gaining its Green Flag and the hard work involved was appreciated by the assessor who visited the school and awarded the Green Flag.

Energy workshop

PRIMARY 6/7 pupils spent an interesting afternoon with people from the energy agency and Killin Cutting Carbon Project.

During the afternoon the children learnt about ways to conserve energy.

Killin and Crianlarich Nursery

BOOKSTART Day was celebrated with Killin Nursery youngsters singing and reciting favourite nursery rhymes.

Killin Nursery Parents Group recently bought equipment with 'Awards for All' funding.

The under three's in Killin have been enjoying healthy walks and have been well supported by families.

Islay

Your correspondent is Susan Campbell: 01496 850215

Winter weather

THE WINTER weather on Islay recently hasn't been experienced on the island for many years.

Local weather-watchers reported only about 4mms of rainfall during the first six weeks of 2010; very different from the usual average total of about 250mms for January and February.

There's been glorious dawn-to-dusk sunshine on many days; hardly any resemblance to the usual seasonal rain and gales.

The windless conditions often allowed hard frosts to settle and ice once formed it scarcely thawed even in sunshine as daytime temperatures often stayed below freezing.

Although the weather has been very cold, Islay's scenery has been amazingly beautiful and many photos have been taken of unusually snowy local landscapes.

In Bridgend, walkers have been treated to the delightful annual display of wild snowdrops blooming in the wood.

Còisir Ghàidhlig Ìle winter activities

CÒISIR Ghàidhlig Ìle, Islay's senior Gaelic choir, has been making great progress since January, learning this year's new National Mod Prescribed songs and Own Choice songs and Peurt a beul for the mixed-voice choir.

These songs will be sung in this year's competitions and concerts. The ladies and men's choirs will make a start on their new pieces soon. Under the baton of Iseabail MacTaggart, with Gaelic tutor Robert Forrest and music assistant Dorothy Dennis, the choir goes from strength to strength, and numbers have increased this year to more than 30 singers attending practices each Thursday evening in Bowmore Hall.

Praised by BBC's Mary Ann Kennedy, adjudicator at last year's Lochgilphead Mod, as a 'choir that's going places', Islay's up and coming senior choir boasts a varied membership, including three sisters and a brother, three sets of mothers and daughters, a husband and wife, several in-laws, aunts and cousins and many neighbours and friends.

The choir is currently fund-raising for its trip to this year's National Mod in Thurso in October, which will involve considerable expense for travel and accommodation.

Recent fund-raising efforts have included a quiz night at the Port Charlotte Hotel, a beach-clean and a donation from a well-wisher, all of which will help the choir on its way to Thurso. Another beach-cleaning afternoon is planned for mid-March.

Islay Lions' final roar

IT IS with regret that the closure of the Lions Club of Islay is announced. All remaining monies

have been donated to local charities and good causes.

The 100 Club is now closed and a final draw has been made. Winners will be notified.

Thank you to everyone who has helped over the years.

Water aid for Nepal

MEMBERS of Islay and Jura Friends of Guiding and the Islay members of Argyll Trefoil Guild joined forces to produce a delicious variety of hot soups and delectable sandwiches and cakes which were very much appreciated by all who attended in the St Columba Hall, Port Ellen.

A sing-along which followed contained a mixture of guide songs and Scottish songs. There were singing rounds, songs with silly words, songs with very meaningful words and even a nod to Harry Lauder with 'A Wee Deoch & Dorus' and 'Stop your Ticklin' Jock.'

Organisers Dorothy and Cath would like to thank their many friends in Islay for the wonderful contributions of delicious baking, sandwiches and soup and to give a special thanks to everyone unable to attend but who sent donations, helping them to reach the magnificent total of £350 to be sent to the Water-aid for Nepal Appeal.

This was the group's contribution to The Girlguiding (UK) Centenary Challenge to help in 'Changing The World'.

Everyone was doubly grateful to all those who made the journey to Port Ellen from all airts and pairs of Islay through the morning's deep snow storm.

The group would be happy to welcome new members to Friends of Guiding and to The Trefoil Guild.

Scalpay
Your correspondent is Donald Morrison: 01859 540217

Good work

PROGRESS is being made on the island thanks to the good work of engineers from Hydro Electric and telephone engineers.

The work is bringing the electricity and telephone systems up to date.

Fishing

ONE OF our boats had a good haul of pollock just south of Glas Island Light. There has been a recent lull in the wind to allow boats to fish. Herring is still scarce but a couple of boats did try to net some in the bay of Harris and home waters.

On coming back, however, the boats reported their catches were very light. Let us hope holiday fishermen will not be disappointed.

Holidays

IT IS early yet to have many visitors to the island but we look forward to Easter when tourists arrive.

Grazing

THERE was scant feeding ground for sheep during the hard frost and they had to be sustained by hand feeding.

However, we couldn't complain about sheep getting snowed in like they did on parts of the mainland.

People can build bird boxes to help the small birds during the cold weather.

Around the Rurals

Dervaig

In January 'twas the weather Stopped the Rural's knit and blether;

But February soon came round

And in the Church Hall we were found.

First a belated New Year greeting

Then the official business meeting.

After that came time for tea,

The natter and the 'knitting bee'.

Some are clever, fingers deft

Use their wool 'til no more's left.

Knitting with their nimble fingers,

The stream of stitches never lingers.

Some others struggle with their task

And frequently for help must ask.

Before I stop, I should confess

My knitting efforts are a mess!

Fionnphort

THE FEBRUARY meeting was held on a very crisp evening at the beginning of the month.

Having dealt with business, members had a most interesting talk on airport chaplaincy from guest speaker Jenny Wright who worked for many years at a major metropolitan airport.

Everyone was surprised by the wide role of the chaplaincy in the daily affairs of the many airport staff as well as all nationalities and creeds of travellers, and in their preparations for any type of airport emergency.

Members then enjoyed a feast provided by Julia Schoenleber and Rita King which fortified everyone against the freezing weather.

Salen

MARGARET Black, president, welcomed members to the January meeting on a very cold, snowy evening.

The speaker was Margery Nelson of Glengorm who showed slides and talked about her walks in Peru and Africa. Her first walk was along the Inca Trail to Machu Picchu, a journey of 26 miles, which meant three nights of camping en route.

There were 60 walkers and 90 Peruvian porters who looked after the walkers. The porters set up the camps, prepared all the food and carried all the luggage up the stone paths.

The biggest challenge was the heat and altitude sickness, the highest point being 4,200 metres.

The slides showed the wonderful scenery and eventually the preserved remains of the houses and temples of Machu Picchu.

The second walk was up Kilimanjaro in Tanzania. This was a 10-day trip with six nights camping.

The climb was much harder because of the rain and height of 5,900 metres to a very cold summit.

Again the party was accompanied by African porters.

Both these walks were in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support.

Tiree

PRESIDENT Caroline Maclean welcomed 15

members and two visitors to the meeting.

After business matters were discussed, Caroline introduced corners for the evening.

Caroline Maclean demonstrated icing designs for fairy cakes; Eileen O'Dea grafting techniques and Jennie Niven demonstrated bead-making bracelets. Everyone had fun trying the different corners.

In the competitions, Morag MacKinnon was first with her salmon quiche and Annie MacKinnon with a circular crochet mat.

Tobermory

FEBRUARY'S meeting was a talk and demonstration by Ronnie the butcher who had a fund of entertaining stories.

He showed members how to make link sausages while still talking! Then he showed a simple and delicious way of cooking pork escalopes.

Business was dealt with and members planned their forthcoming visit from the Brownies.

Torosay

VICE president Cynthia MacFadyen chaired the February meeting.

She welcomed Angela Boocock, who gave a wonderful demonstration of Chinese cooking. The members sampled chicken, mushroom and cream of corn soup and sweet and sour pork which were wonderful.

Margaret Parker won the photograph competition.

Annual Federation quiz

THE ANNUAL federation quiz was hosted by members of Tobermory Institute on Thursday February 18.

The four teams from Tobermory, Torosay, Salen and Dervaig answered questions compiled by quizmaster Margaret Broad and the scorers were Anne Maclean and Jean Maclean.

There were seven rounds - Pot Luck, Famous People, Food and Drink, Around the UK, which included a bonus round of Federation badges which very few of the teams were able to name, Sport and Leisure, Written Word and Music.

At the end of these Torosay and Dervaig had the same score so this meant a nail biting 'sudden death' competition at the end of which Torosay team of Cathie Maclean, Diana Oldacre, Susan Campbell and Hazel Kirkham emerged as winners.

They were presented with the trophy by President Linda Paterson who thanked the Tobermory members for hosting the event and also providing a delicious tea.

Kilmore

PRESIDENT Isabel Smith welcomed members from Oban and Connel to an open night.

Speakers for the evening were two Marie Curie nurses who gave an interesting talk on the care of patients at home and palliative care in hospital. Donations from a cake and candy stall were given to Marie Curie.

Competition, Shades of Autumn painting: 1 Mrs A Sorley; 2 Mrs R Moore.

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Music festival soup lunch raises £500

KILMORE Hall was the venue for a soup lunch, which raised £500 for the Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival.

More than 100 people attended, including many locals, as well as people connected to the music festival. Organiser Margaret Farmer thanked the

friends of the festival committee, who helped make the event run smoothly, and musicians Neil, Sheila and Sileas Sinclair and Ruairidh Morrison who entertained the guests.

This year's Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival, the 27th annual event, will begin on April 29.

Oban High School news



OHS careers visit
WITH option career paths and choices in mind, 17 pupils, 15 from S4 and 2 from S5 attended Oatridge College, Broxburn for the day on February 25. They all took part in a variety of hands-on sessions on landbased and agricultural opportunities including greenkeeping, farriery, engineering and equine.

All pupils and staff felt the day was worthwhile and, despite inclement weather, the journey was made very pleasant by West Coast Motors staff.

Report time
SENIOR students from S5 and S6 will receive their progress reports tomorrow Friday, March 5.

Three top academic students are in the running for this year's Dux prize having achieved A passes in their five Higher prelims with another two very close behind - it's still all to play for as this year for the first time performance in the all important supplementary prelims will be taken into account. These additional assessments provide very important backup evidence should a candidate miss a final exam in May or June. Supplementary prelims are therefore very important for everyone and they are mostly taken just before the Easter holiday or up to two weeks after that.

The school has been encouraging all S5 students to focus and work hard to ensure that the year group that produced the best S4 results in the last seven years takes that success forward into S5. Attendance at supported study has been lower than in previous years and students have been urged to attend. Mr MacPherson, senior deputy, said: 'Work hard; stay focussed on your studies; prioritise them, and do your best.'

Well known author meets OHS pupils
THE English department and S3 students were privileged this week to be on the receiving end of a visit and talk by one Britain's award winning, and best known children's and young adults' authors.

Keith Gray, author of Creepers and The Runner amongst many other titles, gave the full assembly hall an extremely humorous talk on his life as a wannabe-sporting hero and, more importantly, as a writer.

S3 pupils study Creepers as part of the curriculum as well as watching the Keith Gray pod casts in association with the book

Birds of Paradise
STANDARD grade students from Oban High School's drama department attended workshops and watched a performance from visiting theatre company Birds of Paradise (BOP).

BOP are a professional company which works on an inclusive basis, with disabled and non-disabled cast members. S3 and S4 pupils attended workshops during the afternoon of February 24. Some students then took part in an evening visit to Taynuilt Hall to see a performance of Clutter Keeps Company by Davey Anderson. Everyone who attended the workshop and performance learnt a lot from the experience.

Top athletes
TWO girls from Oban high's Gifted and Talented in Sport Support Programme, achieved excellent results in the Argyll and Bute U15s Sports Hall Athletics meet over the weekend.

Kirsty Gillies performed extremely well with a first place and Kelly Lamont also had an excellent result with a third place. Well done to both these girls.

Oban War and Peace Museum looks forward to its 400,000th visitor

THIS YEAR promises to be a landmark year for the Oban War and Peace Museum as it expects to get its 400,000th visitor this spring.

The museum is well on its way to reaching that target after a brisk start to the

new season as visitors were waiting for the doors to reopen on Monday morning for the start of the 2010 season.

Alison Palmer, a volunteer with the museum, said: 'When the doors opened

at 10am this morning the museum watch keeper found two people waiting to get in.'

At the end of last year the museum needed only 8,017 more visitors through the door in order to hit the

400,000th visitor total.

Alison is keen to encourage local people to call into the museum as well as tourists.

She said: 'Although it is a war and peace museum there are so many other displays of interest to local

people. We have great sports displays and this year we have an exhibition to mark the 50th anniversary of the Cruachan Dam.'

The museum opened in 1996 and attracts around 31,000 visitors annually.

It is run by 70 volunteers, all providing a bright tribute to the town and people of Oban.

The museum is open seven days a week from March to the end of November and admission is free.

Government to review cold weather payments

THE UK government has said the cold weather payment scheme is to be reviewed.

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, Yvette Cooper, has said the review will include examining the way in which cold weather payments are administered in Oban and the surrounding areas.

The move comes after thousands of pensioners and vulnerable people in Argyll and Bute were left without their cold weather payments during the cold snap in January.

This occurred because the weather station used to trigger the payments for the PA34 postcode area is in Machrihanish, Kintyre - 90 miles south of Oban.

Machrihanish with its palm trees and mild climate does not reflect the situation of sub zero temperatures in Oban and North Argyll.

Alan Reid MP said: 'People in Inveraray and Ardishaig received five cold weather payments this winter whereas the people in Oban and Lochgilhead received only one.'

'Pensioners in Oban, Mull and Lochgilhead have been cheated out of £100 because temperatures have been taken in the wrong places.'

'If there is any justice in the world the temperatures will be taken closer to where people live.'

In a letter to Argyll and Bute MSP Jim Mather, Yvette Cooper said: 'The Department for Work and Pensions reviews the cold weather payment scheme before the start of the season (November to March each year).

'As part of this review representations from MPs and the public about postcode to weather station links are considered and forwarded to the Meteorological Office for their expert advice.'

Mr Mather had written to the Department of Work and Pensions seeking to change the way in which the daily temperatures are recorded for the area. He said: 'I have pointed out the present anomalies that exist and how these affect my constituents.'

Cold weather payments consist of £25 towards an eligible customer's heating costs for each seven-day period of average sub zero temperatures.

Protesters demand Luing fixed-link rethink

'Islands and the island way of living are dramatically altered when an island is joined to the mainland'

PROTEST groups are demanding a rethink on any proposal for a causeway between Seil and Luing.

Following an exclusive report in The Oban Times revealing Argyll and Bute Council's investigations into a causeway, there has been much talk on the island over the pros and cons of a fixed link.

At a packed meeting held last week and chaired by Lorn Environmental Action Forum (LEAF), fishermen, environmentalists, islanders and tour operators, discussed the impact of any such causeway. And they gave it an unanimous thumbs down - although, they may consider a high level bridge as acceptable.

After the meeting a spokesman said: 'LEAF feel that a closed fixed link should be completely ruled out due to its negative environmental impact, problems to navigation, safety of mariners, threat to local business, and increased risk of damage to property and the sustainability of the islands of Seil and Luing.'

'Islands and the island way of living are dramatically altered when an island is joined to the mainland.'

'Restrictions to the tidal flow will alter a much larger region than just the Cuan Sound. It would result in faster flows and could have catastrophic knock-on effects in neighbouring areas; such as the Clachan Sound, Seil Sound and Balvicar.'

'Southernly gales with low pressure systems would push up dangerously high waters causing flooding of houses, including the Balvicar store and post office. Storm surges might be catastrophic. The sustainability of the islands would be affected if residents sell up and businesses close.'

'LEAF feels that this matter needs further careful, impartial investigation.'

Islander Hugh May said: 'The question is, are we an island or not an island?'

'I speak on behalf of a

number of residents who are completely against this venture. In even considering the fixed link we are ignoring the costs and the recommendations of the Scottish Transport Appraisal Group (STAG) report. It recommended a high level bridge.'

'Our real need is for a replacement ferry in the immediate future.'

'It seems clear to me that if someone lives on an island then they should understand that there will be restrictions to life. It seems ludicrous to want change because they want to go to the Corran Halls for a show or because they have forgotten something from Tesco's.'

'The infrastructure on our island is too fragile, our roads are dreadful and it is unlikely that the increased traffic on the island could be withstood.'

'If the indigenous families of the island came forward and said they wanted to have a fixed link then I think we would support it, but as far as I know they do not want a fixed link.'

'Our real need is for a replacement ferry in the immediate future.'

A spokeswoman for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'The purpose of the survey was to determine the depth of water in the sound because some information had been provided which indicated that the chart levels were not accurate.'

'We recognise that there are a number of issues which have to be addressed if we were to go down the line of a causeway, and all these matters were raised at the recent meeting.'

'Argyll and Bute Council does not have any proposals at present to change the STAG Report preference from a high level bridge to a causeway.'



The last 'real-time' crash scenario was held in Oban at Glengallan Industrial Estate. This time it will be in Tesco's car park tomorrow (Friday).

Crash scene lesson aims to make drivers stop and think

A STRONG visual message is to be given to drivers in the Oban and Lorn area when Strathclyde Fire and Rescue stages a 'real time' crash scenario at Tesco car park in Oban.

The aim of the staged, but realistic, car crash is to make people stop and think about their driving - and to try to reduce the number of collisions and fatalities on Argyll and Bute's roads.

A common misconception is that young people are most likely to be involved in fatal accidents but statistics from

2006-08 in Argyll and Bute show that out of 37 fatalities the 41-60 age group had the highest number.

Postcodes have also been studied to see if road traffic collisions are more likely to involve visitors or residents in Argyll and Bute.

Eighty per cent were Scottish with only two per cent from overseas and a surprising 49 per cent of those involved in collisions had an Argyll and Bute postcode with Oban showing the highest cluster. On Friday, March 5, at

7pm, the 'crash' will involve all the emergency services pulling together to save two or three young people, one of whom will be trapped in the car and another will 'die'.

Fire fighters and other personnel will be on hand to explain the dangers and answer any questions following the 'crash'.

Strathclyde Fire and Rescue will bring two educational units with it, one with external video screens and an information unit for short presentations

on road safety. Argyll and Bute's road safety officer will also be available to give advice on fitting a child car seat properly to avoid injury in a collision.

This will be the fourth of six such 'real time' crash scenarios being carried out in Argyll and Bute.

They are preceded by community fire fighters visiting sixth year high school pupils to give advice on how they can improve their driving skills and observations.

Local politicians highlight search and rescue concerns

CONCERNS over the future of search and rescue services have been raised by Argyll and Bute's politicians.

Jim Mather MSP said plans to privatise the service and move its west of Scotland base broke promises.

'Two parliamentary answers, on the same day, from different government ministers appear to utterly

contradict each other and must leave staff and service personnel totally confused about how this disastrous decision will directly affect them,' he said.

'After clear promises that the SAR service would not be privatised and would not be based elsewhere it is in itself disgraceful the government has gone back

on both those commitments and decided to switch services from Prestwick to Glasgow.'

In London, Alan Reid MP asked for reassurances over a fall in number of helicopters and privatisation.

Scotland office minister Ann McKechnin said there were no degradation in service and new helicopters

would be faster.

Mr Reid said the private consortium, which will take over search and rescue from 2012, would have to be closely monitored.

'Search and rescue is obviously a vitally important service, particularly in an area like Argyll and Bute with our mountains and seas,' he added.

Oban teenager faces jail for carrying knife into police station

A TEENAGER walked into Oban police office with a knife and said he wanted to be jailed, Oban Sheriff Court has heard.

Ross McLellan, aged 19, of 19A Glencruitten Drive, Oban, denied having a knife without a good reason while on bail.

Two police constables told the court they had seen McLellan enter the station with the knife, put it on the counter and say: 'I hate Oban, I want the jail, I need to go to jail to sort my head out.'

He then said if he was not arrested he would return with another knife and threaten officers. Both officers said the accused seemed to be under the influence of alcohol at the time of the incident, around 5.40am on Saturday, January 23.

McLellan accepted he had taken a large kitchen knife to

Oban police office. However, he denied saying he wanted to go to jail. 'I know I'm not telling lies, I know they are,' he added. 'I was walking down Albany Street and came across it [the knife], lying just at the side of the pavement.'

McLellan said he picked it up and, fearing he had been spotted on CCTV with a knife, went to the nearby police station to hand it in.

However Sheriff Derek O'Carroll did not accept his version of events. Finding McLellan guilty, he said: 'I don't accept that you went into the police station to hand in a knife; I think that is a story you made up after the event.'

Deferring sentence to March 22 for reports, the sheriff added: 'I think a custodial sentence is highly likely.'

Taynuilt singer launches debut album in Glasgow

TAYNUILT singer Joy Dunlop has moved her singing career forward with the launch of her debut album at Glasgow's monthly Gaelic club, Ceòl's Craic.

The album, Dùsgadh (Awakening) is the debut release by Gaelic development officer Joy, one of Argyll's most prolific Gaelic singers.

Following the event, Joy said: 'I was really pleased with how the launch went. Everyone was on

great form and they were clearly enjoying themselves.'

'Ceòl's Craic was the perfect event for the launch, it felt like I was singing with friends rather than performing in front of an audience, especially when everyone joined in with the choruses.'

'I am really grateful to everyone involved for their support and hope that they enjoyed the night as much as we did.'



Joy Dunlop at the launch of her album. Picture courtesy of Fraser Purdie

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TURN OF THE CENTURY Up close and personal with rugby's record breaker, Chris Paterson

SOUTHEND DOWN THE DECADES
Photographs bring a Kintyre village's history vividly to life

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The new purpose-built DFS Store, designed to make shopping easy.

DFS customers brave blizzards to make huge savings

By GAVIN CAMPBELL

Sofa shoppers of the Islands and Highlands ignore the weather and beat a path to the new DFS store on Millburn Road, Inverness to save in the Grand Opening Sale.

With our region suffering from the worst winter in decades, many trains cancelled and roads closed the fantastic savings in the new DFS store at Millburn Road in Inverness still proved too tempting for many to resist.

Ignoring the atrocious conditions many hundreds of determined customers visited the new DFS store last weekend to choose from a wide range of sofas and take advantage of the last days of the money saving opening promotion.

Director Jonathan Sewell, who is head of DFS Scotland, commented, "Over the last few days the store has taken orders from customers as far afield as Thurso, Wick and Stornaway." He also confirmed that the company had received many, many telephone calls from disappointed travellers who, try as they may, found it impossible to beat the conditions and make the journey to DFS in time.

The great news is Mr Sewell has authorised a short extension to the company's special opening offers.



The Cantello
3 seater leather sofa.
Was ~~£1199~~. Save £600.

HALF PRICE £599



The Zina
3 seater sofa.
Was ~~£998~~. ~~£749~~. Save £499.

HALF PRICE £499

SPECIALLY EXTENDED!

GRAND OPENING SALE at Millburn Road, Inverness



HALF PRICE £599
Was ~~£1198~~. Save £599.

The Vogue 3 seater leather sofa, in a choice of 40 colours at no extra cost. Accent cushions optional extra. Matching 2 seater sofa, choice of chairs and footstool all with half price savings too.

**4 YEARS INTEREST FREE CREDIT WITH
NOTHING TO PAY FOR THE FIRST YEAR
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TYPICAL

0% APR

All finance is free at DFS

The Zina 3 seater sofa £499. Or take 4 years interest free credit with nothing to pay for the first year. No deposit and 36 equal monthly payments of £13.86 starting 12 months from date of order. Total £499. 0% APR. Credit subject to acceptance. Redhouse Interchange, Doncaster DN6 7NA. DFS may alter or extend promotions at any time. Higher prices offered at all other DFS stores. *Mobile charges may apply when calling 0800 110 5000.

Save time – order direct at
www.dfs.co.uk
or call **FREE*** on
0800 110 5000

Grand Opening offers specially extended – Last days to save.

It seems that it is the massive choice of sofas, in both leather and fabric, chairs, corner units, and motion furniture (settees that recline and tilt and chairs that swivel and rock) that's part of the huge attraction of DFS. The Millburn Road store, though big, has been thoughtfully designed to make it easier to shop with the furniture displayed in room settings that prompt inspiration.

As most readers know by now, DFS is a family-owned business founded 40 years ago with 3 factories in the UK allowing them not only to sell sofas but to manufacture them too. This means customers can choose from a totally exclusive, wider range of furniture than is customary in normal furniture stores. And with everything DFS makes carrying a reassuring 10 year guarantee.

While the opening offers have now been specially extended Jonathan Sewell says, "It can only be for a few days more." So for now anyway the red carpet is still out at DFS Inverness, the big savings still available and the champagne welcome awaiting.



The last couple of weeks have been amazing. We've helped so many people find their perfect sofa and the feedback from customers has been brilliant. It is fulfilling and

makes you feel great. Come along and see for yourself why so many people choose DFS.

Richie Cunningham Store Manager.



The Memphis leather corner double recliner sofa.

Was ~~£1594~~. Save £400.

SALE PRICE £1194

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**SPECIALLY EXTENDED
LAST DAYS
to SAVE**

LAST DAYS TO SAVE IN THE GRAND OPENING SALE.

You'll find a massive choice of exclusive designer sofas, from modern to traditional, at the new DFS sofa store in Inverness.

Everything in the Grand Opening Sale is reduced in price and there's also **4 years free credit** and **nothing to pay for the first year** on everything in store. So make sure you don't miss out!

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SALE PRICE £695

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The Cranford 3 seater leather sofa, in a choice of colours at no extra cost. Matching 2 seater sofa, chair and storage footstool all with massive savings too.

Everything in the Grand Opening Sale is reduced in price

Everything is **handmade to your order**

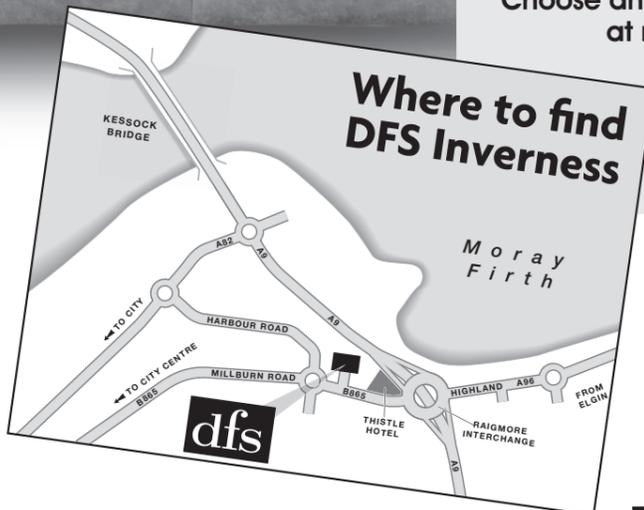
Over **40 years' experience** of helping people find their perfect sofa

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Special Opening Hours: Mon to Fri 9am to 8pm. Sat 9am to **8pm**. Sun 10am to **6pm**.

think sofas, think **dfs**

The New DFS sofa store is next to the Thistle Hotel on Millburn Road, Inverness, just off the A9.

Energy4All sets up new venture

THE SOCIAL enterprise behind the West Highland's biggest wind power co-operative has set up a new venture.

Energy4All piloted the Great Glen Energy Co-op (GGEC) through its successful launch in 2008, which saw almost 700 local people invest between £250 and £20,000 each to buy a £1.28million stake in the Millennium wind farm north of Invergarry.

Now it has emerged the renewable energy group has created a new co-op, Energy Prospects, to help small wind farm co-operatives get going.

Funds will be made available through Energy Prospects to the new community enterprises for environmental surveys, archaeological assessments and wind energy assessments.

Once planning permission has been secured, the projects will raise share capital through their own share offers, while paying Energy Prospects a fee.

Energy Prospects will itself be co-operatively owned and run, and a share issue is now underway offering people the chance to invest between £500 and £20,000.

Last week *The Oban Times* revealed that GGEC shareholders could be in line for an inflation-busting 7.4 per cent dividend on the full 12 months production since April 2009.

New house will be built in traditional style

FULL planning permission has been granted for a house and access road on the northern tip of Skye - despite the development being contrary to the Skye and Lochalsh local plan.

Ross, Skye and Lochaber planning committee approved Chris Jamieson's proposal to build the single storey home on land 140m northeast of 1 Bornisketaig, Kilmuir, after hearing the cliff-top building would be designed along traditional 'black house' lines with a turf roof.

Mr Jamieson had earlier been told a larger scheme was not acceptable.



Lochaber High School sixth year pupils included the London Eye on their sightseeing itinerary.

Lochaber High School students enjoy busy London trip

SIXTH year pupils and staff from Lochaber High School returned home last Monday from yet another successful trip to London.

The group travelled to London in two 'Pride of the Clyde' executive coaches with drivers Walter and Tom and were accommodated for three nights in the Meininger Hostel in South Kensington.

New visits this year included a guided tour of the Tate Modern and a visit to Wimbledon to see the Tennis Museum and Centre Court.

Regular visits included a Big Bus Tour, a visit to Arsenal's Emirates stadium, the Natural History Museum, the Science Museum, The Victoria and Albert Museum and the Imperial War Museum.

There were also visits to the Tower of London, St Paul's Cathedral, Madame Tussauds and the London Eye. There were meals out at Carluccio's Italian restaurant, Hard Rock Café and TGI Friday's with evenings taken up with the theatre or LaserQuesting in Guildford.

Spectacular musicals are always a high point and this year was no exception with groups seeing 'Chicago', 'The Lion King' and 'Legally Blonde'.

The London trip, now a regular part of school life, is a reward for senior pupils who have met requirements regarding progress, behaviour, attendance, dress code and contribution to school life.

Fund-raising throughout the year, including a January 30 Burns Supper which raised over £2,000, helped pay for the trip.

Police name climbers

POLICE have confirmed the identities of two men killed in an avalanche in Glencoe last Wednesday.

Mountain instructor Chris Walker, aged 29, from Keswick, Cumbria, died along with Robert Pritchard, 37, from New Moulden, Surrey, after the pair were swept 1,500 feet down from Curved Ridge on Buchaille Etive Mor.

A third man in the group escaped being engulfed and was helped off the mountain by other climbers. Glencoe Mountain Rescue Team recovered the men's bodies.

Two Edinburgh men, aged 32 and 26, escaped with their lives when they were carried 2,000 feet down Meall a' Bhuiridh near Glencoe Mountain ski resort on Saturday.

Jazz weekend

LOCHABER Community Wind Band is hosting a jazz weekend this Friday and Saturday with Richard Michael, Radio Scotland's broadcaster 'Mr Jazz'.

Participants in workshops will present an informal concert in the Nevis Centre foyer on Saturday from 5pm to 6.30pm, open to all.

Posters prompt further buyout ballot dispute

By STEPHEN NORRIS

SOUTH Lochaber Community Company (SLCC) could appeal the result of tomorrow's ballot on its bid to buy the former Glencoe Hospital from NHS Highland, it has emerged.

With only hours to go before the poll closes, SLCC hopes local voters will back its proposals to buy the building for £450,000 and renovate it as a tourism and business hub called The Strathcona Centre.

Ballachulish Community Council (BCC), led by chairman Mel MacAskill, strongly opposes the buyout on feasibility grounds and over the weekend put up posters round Ballachulish and Glencoe urging residents to vote 'no' because binning ballot papers would equal a 'yes' vote. But SLCC interim trustee Donald claims the posters, signed by Mr MacAskill, represent 'interference' in the ballot because they are misleading - and will consider an appeal depending on the result of tomorrow's count at Lochaber House.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'I have contacted The Highland Council about the irregularity. He is a

community councillor giving out erroneous information. They are going round the place saying that myself and fellow trustees are property developers and that it's our intention to sell the building and land for housing. For a start there is no curtilage at the hospital, and we would reiterate that our intended use is for the community. There is no way any one of us could benefit in any shape or form.

'If he is judged to be interfering with the election process we have the right of appeal to the Scottish Government. But if there's a healthy majority and a good turnout, I'm not going to bother.

'Highland Council says community councils have no locus in this process under the land reform act. It is each individual who has a vote.'

Buying the hospital would have no cost implications for local people, said Mr Stewart. NHS Highland running costs, excluding staff wages, he said, were £44,000 in 2008-09 plus £17,000 for general maintenance - far less than the £1million being quoted.

'South Lochaber Community Council will not be expecting the

community to pay anything for either the acquisition, repair or running costs,' he said. 'Should the venture fail several years down the line the property will revert to Scottish Ministers. The most anybody stands to lose will be £1.'

But Mr MacAskill rubbished claims of 'interference' in the vote and said BCC had every right to make their views public. He told *The Oban Times*: 'We want nothing to do with this bid and we want the public of south Lochaber to know we want nothing to do with it - that's why we put up the posters. For Donald Stewart to say this is interfering is ridiculous - everybody should be able to have their say.'

'The community company has used Highland Council to distribute his propaganda, yet our community council produced our own notices with our own money and put them up ourselves. How that can be construed as interfering with the democratic process is a ludicrous thing. 'It's no surprise to me that Donald would want to appeal if he loses the vote. If it wasn't about interference it would be about something else. In my opinion Donald has never taken

losing very easily. If Donald loses, South Lochaber will win.'

Mr MacAskill also challenged the view local communities would not be affected financially because they would not be funding the project.

If Heritage Lottery money were awarded to SLCC, he argued, South Lochaber's chances of winning funding for future projects could be damaged. He said: 'There's only so much money in the lottery pot and they have to share it between communities. If something as financially dangerous as this takes up a lot of money, everybody else is going to suffer.'

He added: 'There is obviously not the groundswell of opinion to buy the place that Donald is looking for. If the vote is overwhelmingly in his favour then good luck to him. If not, then I'm glad it will have been rejected by the public.'

Deadline for ballot papers to be returned to Lochaber House is midday Friday. The count starts at 2pm. Environment minister Roseanna Cunningham will rule on whether there is sufficient community backing for the plan to proceed.



Cindy Bond's tombola stall did a roaring trade on Saturday. Pictured, right, is Roy Bridge woman Catherine Carroll, who now lives in Cupar, Fife.

10_f10roy01

Joint community effort raises £1,000 for Haiti

ROY BRIDGE and Spean Bridge people joined forces to raise more than £1,000 for the Haiti earthquake appeal on Saturday.

Roy Bridge village hall was packed from 11am to 1pm with volunteers kept busy serving teas, coffees, home baking and manning a variety of fund-raising stalls.

Roy Bridge sub-postmaster Chris Bond was one of the many organisers and paid tribute to everyone who helped make the event, which was opened by Lochiel, such a success. Mr Bond told *The Oban Times*: 'Everybody mucked in. In was not Roy Bridge, it was not Spean Bridge - it was the whole community. The PTA came down to run the baking stall and the hall committee is washing up. Every single penny goes to the Disasters Emergency Committee.'

'The community effort has been great. There's just too many people and businesses to thank individually.'

At the time of going to press, the total raised stood at £1,295 with some donations still being counted.

Estate worker brands deer cull call 'cruelty'

By STEPHEN NORRIS

A GLENGARRY estate worker has branded a Scottish Wildlife Trust (SWT) call to restart the deer culling season as 'cruelty'.

The trust claims prolonged severe winter weather has left many deer starving and shooting them is the only humane answer.

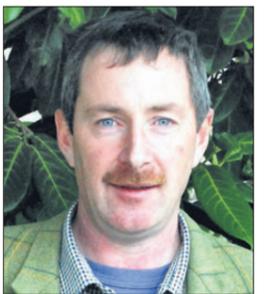
The stalking season for female deer ended on February 15, but the SWT says deer populations have reached 'unsustainably high levels' and wants culling restarted to remove animals in poor condition.

SWT chief executive Simon Milne said: 'I understand that this might surprise some people, but our reasoning is sound. Red deer numbers have been steadily increasing in recent decades to the point where, in some areas, they are causing damage to the natural environment.'

'In parts of Scotland large numbers of deer can currently be seen gathered at roadsides pawing the snow in an attempt to uncover the frozen vegetation. Rapidly losing condition due to exposure and lack of food, many will slowly starve to death.'

'Extending the culling season means that stalkers can continue to shoot any deer that are suffering or too weak to survive until the spring.'

But Kingie Estate stalker John Cameron, aged 46, who has 31 years experience stalking deer, says shooting female animals out



John Cameron.

of season when they are heavily in calf is strange advice coming from a wildlife group. He said: 'It's cruelty to start culling them again. For a wildlife body to come out and say that is surprising and disappointing. Why start hammering the deer again when they need to be left alone?'

'While most would agree with shooting any animal that was suffering, to do so from a group in the present weather would cause a welfare issue for the animals remaining, causing them to burn more energy running away, energy they can ill afford. Deer are starving because of frozen ground and snow denying them access to food in this hardest winter for 50 years - not because there are too many of them. It is strange why deer are always picked on by these bodies when they don't call for culls of all other animals and birds struggling in this weather.'



Moira Hartley, June Thomson, Avril Watt and Jayne Wilkinson at the KCT stall.

10_f10kinloch01

Community trust open day boosts bike park funds

KINLOCHLEVEN Community Trust (KCT) held a tea/coffee and home-baking stall at a joint community open day at the Leven Centre on Saturday to help raise funds for a bike park for young people in the village.

The open day, attended by local organisations including Lochaber College, KCT, the Two Lochs Project, Nether Lochaber Amateur Boxing Club, The Leven Centre and the library, gave local people the chance to view community initiatives and facilities at first hand and to comment on them.

KCT development officer Moira Hartley said: 'The fund-raising effort, which is ongoing, raised £150 which will be allocated to the bike park fund.'

'KCT are currently working closely with Phil Saxena, the consultant who led the Nevis Range development, on the design element of our project.'

'The bike park forms part of our village square regeneration project and will sit behind the village centre, which is presently under development.'

Ms Hartley thanked KCT members Avril Watt and June Thomson for preparing and manning the refreshments, Bob Diack who provided refreshments in the school and to everyone who very kindly handed in donations of home-baking and items for the fund-raising stall.

A well attended '80s night followed in the evening, hosted by The Leven Centre board.

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Crash inquiry hears lack of bright vest may have been a factor

EXPERTS have told a fatal accident inquiry that the death of a former cycling champion was down to driver error - but disagreed over whether Mr MacIntyre's clothing was a factor in the accident.

Fort William cyclist Jason MacIntyre, aged 33, died after a Highland Council pick-up truck, being driven by Robert McTaggart, aged 36, crossed his path on the A82 at the junction into Carrs Corner Industrial Estate on January 15 2008.

Mr MacIntyre died from a severe head injury sustained in the collision.

Mr McTaggart was fined £500 and banned for six months after admitting careless driving.

A fatal accident inquiry was ordered after Mr MacIntyre's widow, Caroline, criticised the Crown for not passing a more serious sentence.

Mrs MacIntyre has also raised a £500,000 damages claim against Highland Council at the Court of Session in Edinburgh.

During the inquiry, held between Monday and Wednesday this week at Fort William Sheriff Court, witnesses claimed there was no reason why Mr McTaggart should not have seen the cyclist as he prepared to turn into the industrial estate.

Turn

Mr McTaggart, a recycling loader for Highland Council, said he still could not explain why he didn't see Mr MacIntyre coming towards him on the southbound A82 carriageway, as he prepared to turn into the council depot at about 1.15pm, explaining that as he turned in, he heard a thump on the side of his Ford Transit.

He got out of the pick-up to find a bike on the road and Mr MacIntyre slumped over the side of the loader at the rear of the pick-up.

Other council workers came from the yard to help and contacted the emergency services.

Mr McTaggart said: 'I can't explain how it happened. It was a tragic accident that I have to live with as well.'

Another Crown witness, mechanical engineer Craig MacDonald, aged 26, who was driving behind Mr McTaggart, said he saw Mr MacIntyre coming from the north and had a view of him for five to 10 seconds. He said: 'I could see the cyclist coming towards us and my immediate reaction was that the vehicle in front would stop to allow the cyclist to go past, but that didn't happen.'

Solicitor Jackie Watt, representing Highland Council, asked crash investigator PC George MacAskill whether Mr MacIntyre's clothing played a part in the accident.

The cyclist was wearing a blue and white Scottish vest over a dark jacket.

Breach of the peace arrests

ONE man was arrested for an alleged breach of the peace at a pub in Oban at 10.55pm on Saturday night.

Another man was arrested in a separate incident involving an alleged domestic breach of the peace and taken into custody on Sunday evening.

A 15-year-old female was arrested at 11.50pm on Friday night after an alleged breach of the peace in Soroba Road, Oban.

Sometime between February 22 and February 27, a hydraulic system was taken from near Aros Park Lodge, Tobermory, Mull.

Police would like to hear from anyone who saw anything suspicious.

PC MacAskill replied: 'Yes. Bright yellow jackets or suits help people see things they're not really looking for. They force their visibility on people more than normal clothing.'

However, road accident consultant Paul Reilly, a former police officer who attended more than 300 serious or fatal road accidents, told the court the blue vest would have been noticeable, as it contrasted with the 'rural background'.

He concluded the fault of the accident was entirely with Mr McTaggart, who gave Mr MacIntyre no time to take evasive action.

Consultant pathologist Dr Rosslyn Rankin, who carried out the post mortem on Mr MacIntyre, said a helmet would not have saved his life.

The police came in for criticism for not closing the southbound carriageway of the A82 immediately after the collision. In giving evidence Sergeant Donald Ferguson admitted that with hindsight he would have done so.

Mrs MacIntyre, who wept in the witness box when a news report featuring her husband was played in court, said her husband always trained on public roads and he was always aware of what was going on around him.

Mrs MacIntyre also told the court of her husband's 'considerable presence' on a bike and she could always spot him in a bunch, not least because of his 6'2" frame.

The inquiry was due to end on Wednesday after the solicitors gave their final submissions.



Buried: the main Glasgow-Fort William rail link under hundreds of tonnes of snow after an avalanche swept down Beinn Odhar, burying the line at the horseshoe curve, two miles northwest of Tyndrum. Beinn Dorain lies behind.

Avalanches cause rail chaos

FORT William's rail link to Glasgow could remain closed until next week after huge avalanches buried the line in four places between Tulloch and Tyndrum.

All the snow slides occurred on Friday and each brought down around 5,000 cubic metres of snow.

Network Rail (NR) engineers continue to monitor the sites but deep snow above the track means further avalanches are possible.

Workers have started clearing the line and hope to have it reopened by Monday - but NR says this is subject to no further deterioration in weather conditions and assessment of any damage caused. The use of heavy plant, ploughs and snow blowers is proving problematic because of the continued avalanche risk.

Services between Glasgow Queen Street and Fort William remain suspended. Passengers wishing to travel to Fort William

and Mallaig should travel on Oban services to Crianlarich for a forwarding bus connection to Fort William.

Train services are operating between Fort William and Mallaig. A bus service will also be in operation between Fort William and Glasgow calling at all stations between Fort William and Crianlarich until further notice.

A Network Rail spokesperson told *The Oban Times*: 'This is quite an unusual event. One of the guys has been with us for three decades and said this is the first time he's seen something on this scale.'

'If we just cleared the snow we could just end up bringing more down. At this moment in time there's a question over whether we put in guys to clear it or use a train.'

There's a huge band of snow above the line in that area and there's a risk of further avalanches.'

Council told Skye leading the way

PROVOST of Lochaber Allan Henderson will urge all councillors to go on a fact finding mission to the south end of Skye 'to see the advantages of Gaelic to the Highlands' when Highland Council meets in Inverness today.

Mr Henderson will point to 'a remarkable turnaround' in the fortunes of that part of Skye over the past 20 years and will highlight the success of Scotland's Gaelic college

Sabhal Mòr Ostaig (SMO) near Armadale. 'It now has an annual turnover of £5.5m, 180 staff and 104 full time students, with a further 750 attending short residential courses and 230 on distance learning courses,' Councillor Henderson will say.

'The new £8m Fas Centre is equipped with a state-of-the-art television studio and is home to the multi-media company Canan and the Fas Mòr childcare centre and a

range of research activities.' The success of the area has also seen Highland Council invest in the upgrade of the A851 from Broadford to Armadale. Further development is proposed with a potential 70-home settlement at Kilbeg adjacent to SMO being promoted by the Clan Donald Lands Trust, which 'reflects increased economic and community confidence in the area', says Councillor Henderson.

Argyll and Bute Council announces changes to its heads of service

Two stalwarts of the previous administration missing from new list

THE appointment of the new reduced numbers of heads of service at Argyll and Bute Council has been finalised.

And the list of 12 does not include two stalwarts of the previous administration.

Stewart Turner, head of roads and amenities and Susan Mair head of legal services have not retained their positions, while new officers from other authorities are to be brought in.

The chief executives office will now include Bruce West

as head of strategic finance and Jane Fowler as head of improvement and strategic HR.

A slimmed-down community services will see the position of director of community services go to Cleland Sneddon, who is currently with Midlothian Council.

Adult care will stay with Jim Robb and head of children and families stays with Dougie Dunlop.

Head of education is now

Carol Walker, who was previously head of early years and primary, while Donald MacVicar will head up community and culture.

A move for Douglas Hendry sees him as director of customer services, Charles Reppke is now in charge of governance and law, Judy Orr is manager of customer and support services while Malcolm MacFadyen is head of facility services.

In the department of development and infrastructure

the director will be Sandy Mactaggart, head of economic development is Robert Pollock while Angus Gilmore will manage planning and regulatory services.

The post of roads and amenity services will remain vacant.

A spokeswoman for the council said: 'The new management team will be effective from 01 April 2010, with the exception of Cleland Sneddon who will join us in the middle of May.'

Postcode pledge put on ice

EXCLUSIVE REPORT By STEPHEN NORRIS

A ROYAL Mail pledge to give Morvern a new postcode has been put on ice following a last minute petition demanding a rethink, *The Oban Times* can reveal.

Campaigners who fought a 10-year battle to scrap the PA34 postcode the area shares with Oban thought they had finally prevailed when the Scottish Parliament petitions committee backed their fight and Royal Mail agreed to ascribe a new PA80 code to Morvern.

But it has emerged a new campaign demanding Morvern be designated with a PH code has forced Royal Mail bosses to reconsider - despite their letter to local people on January 22 that the new PA80 postcode 'will come into effect' on March 1. Residents have heard nothing since.

Lochaline woman Joyce Denness, who is leading the PH designation petition, says she was 'horrified' at learning Morvern would get a Paisley PA code as opposed to a Perthshire PH one. Ms Denness says local shop owner and sub-postmistress Lesley Jones is fully behind the new bid after being approached by customers 'equally upset' at news of the PA80 code. An unsigned circular was posted out to all local residents last week with a stamped addressed envelope inviting people to sign up against PA80 and send the attached slip to Morvern Post Office. A poster was also pinned to Lochaline's main notice board urging people to reply before 'before it is too late'.

Ms Denness told *The Oban Times* 250 letters were sent out and 40 to 50 people had replied.

She said: 'The letter informing us that our postcode would change on March 1 had not made it clear that we had any choice in the matter, but Lesley said she understood that if sufficient people complained, Royal Mail would have to consult us. I said I would be willing to help write out and print letters to enable people to voice their views. When the reply slips were received at the post office, they were forwarded to Royal Mail in batches.' Ms Denness said when Morvern Community Council petitioned the Scottish Parliament to

change the postcode there was 'no mention' of accepting another Paisley postcode. 'Had I known that this was what they had in mind, I would definitely have never signed the petition organised by Douglas Watt on behalf of the Community Council,' she said.

Royal Mail major address change officer Michael Hart confirmed the March 1 switch to a PA80 code had been delayed.

He said: 'We are having a word with managers to see whether they still want to go ahead or to have a look at it again. We have decided to have a proper look at it before we go ahead and make the change. We are trying to get things resolved as quickly as we can. People will receive notification in due course.'

Morvern Community Council member Douglas Watt led the long campaign to win Morvern a separate postcode from Oban. He said Morvern-bound mail would arrive quicker with a PA80 postcode because it would be sorted separately in Glasgow and catch the early morning ferry from Oban.

An angry Mr Watt said: 'I have no idea what this campaign is about. I think it's underhand - it feels like a stab in the back.'

'This certainly does not reflect the views of the community in the village. If people feel like that they should have broached it long before this. The new postcode is not the perfect solution but it was the best compromise we could get. It still gives us a unique identifier that identifies Morvern as Morvern. Post Office Ltd have said there was no way they would consider a PH postcode.'

In its response to the Scottish Parliament Petitions Committee Royal Mail refused to countenance a PH postcode, because routing mail via Fort William would mean most Morvern customers would receive their post at least two hours later than it is currently delivered.

'It would cost Royal Mail more to deliver a worse service in Morvern,' said the report. Therefore, changing Morvern to a PH postcode is not considered a viable option from Royal Mail's point of view.'

Digital clinics come to Argyll ahead of switchover

HELP is at hand for viewers with questions or problems as they get ready for the digital television switchover, due to hit Argyll on October 13, 2010.

Mull dates

A series of drop-in clinics will be held throughout the area, starting with three events on the Isle of Mull on March 9.

From 10am-1pm, the Digital UK team will be at Creich Hall, Fionnphort; between 2pm and 5pm, they will be at the Salen Hotel, Salen and from 6pm to 9pm, at the

Tobermory Harbour Association, Tobermory.

On March 10, there will be an Oban clinic at the Corran Halls from 12noon to 6pm and at Loch Awe Village Hall from 7pm to 9pm.

On March 11, drop in sessions will be held at the Kilmelford and Kilniver Village Hall from 10am-1pm and at the Crinan Hotel, near Lochgilphead from 2pm-6pm.

Further information is also available from digitaluk.co.uk or by phoning 08456 50 50 50.

Tobermory restaurant wins award

THE HIGHLAND Cottage on Mull has been awarded four Gold Stars by VisitScotland.

The 'restaurant with rooms' is celebrating this month as it re-opens for the 2010 season. The restaurant received its certificate a few weeks ago after an inspection from VisitScotland in November last year.

David Currie, owner of the Highland Cottage, said: 'We are delighted and in honour of the new award we have decided to refurbish the restaurant.'

In addition to its new VisitScotland accolade, Highland Cottage also has two AA Rosettes for its food.

New Mallaig High School hostel opens

MALLAIG High School's new £4 million residential hostel welcomed its first residents on Monday.

The hostel means pupils from Canna, Eigg, Knoydart, Muck and Rum can lodge together - meeting Highland Council's longstanding ambition to provide them with quality on-site residential accommodation. Previously, pupils had lodged in various locations in and around Mallaig.

Mrs Mairi Maclean, who has been looking after the children's lodgings over the past five years, will supervise the hostel. Council leader Michael Foxley recognised the important role played by former Mallaig councillor Charles King in promoting the project and welcomed the 'major investment'.

He said: 'Not only will the hostel provide pupils with a stable environment and certainty as to where they will be staying during their secondary school career, it will also be a useful community resource out with school terms for residential workshops and holiday accommodation.'

Caol and Mallaig councillor Allan Henderson said the hostel was 'one of the finest living environments' for pupils.

Martin Sullivan, head teacher of the 135-pupil school, said: 'We are very grateful to the families that our pupils have lodged with over the last 10 years.' The three-storey, 21-bedroom facility, designed by council architects, stands on an elevated site donated to the school by Sir Cameron Mackintosh and has provision for dining, quiet space and social areas, with fine views over the Small Isles. The hostel opens with 12 residents and will build up to its capacity of 30 over the next three or four years.

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what's on

CINEMA LISTINGS > Highland Theatre VALENTINE'S DAY Cert 12A Daily 6.15, 8.45 Sat/Sun Matinee 4.00 SOLOMON KANE Cert 15 Fri 9.00 Sat/Sun 6.30, 9.00, Mon-Thur 9.00 PONYO Cert U Fri 6.30, Sat/Sun 1.30, 3.45 Mon-Thur 6.30 PERCY JACKSON & THE LIGHTNING THIEF Cert PG Sat/Sun Matinee 1.30 Saturdays > Junior Ski Training Glencoe Mountain Ltd 10.30am - 2.30pm Tel 07854 688408 Saturdays & Sundays > Glencoe Discovery Glencoe Mountain Ltd Guiding service for intermediate skiers Tel 01855 851226 Thursday 4 March > Producers Market Kintaline Farm, Benderloch Thursday 9 March > Oban Music Society Concert St John's Cathedral 7.30pm Saturday 10 April > Jewellery Course Barcaldine House, by Oban

WHAT'S ON

in association with the Highland Cinema, George Street, Oban Tel: 01631 562444

gig argyll guide

your essential guide to live music in argyll

Friday 5th March > Ballochmyle The Woody Friday 5th March > Starsky Markie Dans Saturday 6th March > Danny Carrol The Woody Friday 12th March > George Noble The Woody Friday 12th March > Crooked Reel Markie Dans Saturday 13th March > Declan Live Band Markie Dans Wednesday 17th March > Finn Markie Dans Saturday 20th March > Brass Monkeys The Woody

YOUR STARS WITH PATRICK ARUNDEL

ARIES Mar 21st - Apr 20th 090 6612 4520 An issue which has been hidden can come to the surface. Yet what you learn can be reassuring, not necessarily because it's easy to digest, but because there can be a sense of relief that at least you know where you stand. With Venus travelling into your sign and your ruler Mars starting to move forwards, you can feel ready to bounce back strongly. Call your prediction line for more advice...

TAURUS Apr 21st - May 21st 090 6612 4521 You can feel much more hopeful. Discussions about a journey or holiday can move from speculative to full-on action. Family niggles can fade and any lack of personal motivation can be replaced by new found drive. Yet you can also feel nostalgic. A reunion can be discussed or you can search on-line for old buddies, or an old romantic partner. Call your prediction line for your love scope...

GEMINI May 22nd - Jun 21st 090 6612 4522 Jolly Jupiter urges your ruling planet Mercury along, and people can be keen to seek you out to share any knowledge that you have. If you are applying for roles in teaching or training, the prospects are promising. But you also can thrive on a business or management course. Socially, friends you've not seen recently can become more important once more. Call now for more news and astral advice...

CANCER Jun 22nd - Jul 23rd 090 6612 4523 If you have been weighing up the pros and cons of buying yourself a new car, this can be an excellent week to go out and sniffle your choice. Yet though there may be a local dealer who can provide this, you may find yourself going further afield. You may also import unusual consumer goods from overseas. A student exchange can be discussed. Call me for your in-depth forecast...

LEO Jul 24th - Aug 23rd 090 6612 4524 Finally, after months of astral hand-wringing the influential Mars does an about turn in your sign, and as he does, tightens a great link with Saturn. This alteration suggests that where there is application and perspiration, there will be results. With Venus moving too this week, a holiday can be mooted which can help revive or strengthen a love tie. Call now for your love scope in full...

VIRGO Aug 24th - Sep 23rd 090 6612 4525 Are you holding on to something from your past which is stopping you from moving forwards? That's not to say you should discount it but if you feel you're overwhelmed by this, talk to someone professionally. If you have been letting a problem fester, try a new strategy. It may do you a lot of good. Someone's generosity can also thrill you this week. Call me for more news and advice...

LIBRA Sep 24th - Oct 23rd 090 6612 4526 Your ruler, the swiftest Venus, moves into one of the most dazzling of sectors this week, sure to turn your love hopes back onto full, after what has been, potentially, a time of more practical considerations and some tensions. These are not quite at an end, so don't overburden yourself with responsibilities. Make time to have some fun and frivolity Libra. Call now for more astral advice...

SCORPIO Oct 24th - Nov 22nd 090 6612 4527 Each zodiac sign has influential planets, yours are Mars and Pluto. Mars ends a long backward drag, one which may have resulted in some tricky encounters at work, or with people from a different generation from you. With a little bit of give and take on both sides, things can however, start to improve but don't see compromise as a sign of weakness. Call for more news and astral advice...

SAGITTARIUS Nov 23rd - Dec 21st 090 6612 4528 There are still some things to do to shore up the foundations of your existence, at home or family wise, but none the less you can start to feel much more cheerful and outgoing. Venus is going to add a new, glowing dimension, and give you extra confidence around your personal appearance. You can also feel less bogged down by recent considerations. Call your special prediction line for more...

CAPRICORN Dec 22nd - Jan 20th 090 6612 4529 Many Capricorns can be ambitious, but not necessarily seeking traditional status symbols. Yet if comfort at home is important to you, and has been neglected, or is in need of a spring spruce up, it's a good time to get to it. If you have been very frustrated with the slowness of a property transaction or sale, here too things can start to speed up. Call your special prediction line for more advice...

AQUARIUS Jan 21st - Feb 19th 090 6612 4530 If it's felt as if the whole world has been ganging up on you since before the end of last year, Mars has probably had something to do with it. Especially if you have other Aquarian influences, beyond the Sun. Now your determination to stand up for what you believe in and not to buckle to trends or who's in vogue will stand you in excellent stead. Call me now for more news and astral advice...

PISCES Feb 20th - Mar 20th 090 6612 4531 Mercury pulls up alongside the lucky Jupiter, in your zodiac sign. This is going to give your personal communication a more fluid characteristic, and you can find yourself talking about everything under the Sun and with great confidence and no little wit. If you work with the public or in sales, you'll be on top form. New projects can gain traction Pisces. Call your prediction line for more astral advice...

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

Inveraray welcomes capacity audience for accordion and fiddle night

INVERARAY and District Accordion and Fiddle Club met for its monthly meeting in the Argyll Hotel on February 10.

Chairman, Niall Iain MacLean, welcomed a near capacity crowd and Fyne Folk got the evening underway in the usual fashion with Janette Gibson, Sally Hall, Alex John MacLeod, Jake MacKay, Duncan Crawford, Agnes Liddell, Grant MacDougall

and Calum Satchel. Other supporting players were, on accordion - Allan Clark, paying his first visit to the club from Lochearnhead, Janet Graham (Cumbernauld), Allan McIntosh and John Renton; on fiddle, Charlie Saune; Jake MacKay on 'moothie' and Gerry Boxall on drums, all making up duos, trios and quartets and was much enjoyed and appreciated by

the audience. The guest artists were the Susan MacFadyen Trio from West Kilbride, with Susan on accordion, her sister Shona on fiddle and Bill Buchan on drums and they entertained the crowd to a well-rehearsed programme, including a fiddle solo and a song from Shona. The girls are young and bring a very fresh air to their playing and

explained that their father hails from Tiree, hence their love of Scottish dance music. The evening was rounded off with a final set of reels and the chairman thanked all the artistes for another great night. Next week it's the turn of the Robert Menzies Trio from Dumfries to fill the guest artiste spot, for their first visit to the Royal Burgh.



More than 450 attend opening of new community hub on Loch Long



The Peninsula Karate Club hope to run a club night now the Three Villages Hall has opened.

MORE than 450 residents turned up on Saturday when the doors opened for the first time at a village hall which has been 10 years in the making.

Purpose-built The purpose-built Three Villages Community Hall is nestled on the shores of Loch Long and will serve a host of community groups in the Arrochar, Tarbet and Ardlui. After 10 years of planning and fundraising, locals were 'wowed' by the new facilities, which include an auditorium with a stage, meeting room and exhibition space, according to campus manager Liz Baillie. She said: 'This contemporary community hall has captured the imagination of local residents and transformed the area once occupied by a derelict toilet block and shabby, uncared for car park. This has been achieved by the sheer grit and determination of the whole community, taking many years to become a reality,

but in the end it has been well worth waiting for.' Already new activities are springing up, thanks to the facilities and space the hall provides, she added. And the community is looking forward to its first social gathering for many years. The party on March 12 has been made possible by the new hall and will be a celebration of its opening, with pipers, dancers and musicians. An official opening ceremony is also planned. The keys to the premises were handed over by builders M&K MacLeod on February 15 and the committee worked hard to get it ready to welcome the community for the first time on Saturday. The busy programme of events during Saturday's opensaw demonstrations by local clubs and groups, including the Peninsula Karate Club, as well as a chance to tour the building and enjoy coffee and home-baking served by the 1st Arrochar Scouts.

Oban and Loch Tourism Association www.oban.org.uk the definitive web guide to Oban that enjoys 20 million hits We can help you to help your business. Visit: www.oban.org.uk TODAY!

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD Inveraray & District Accordion & Fiddle Club Argyll Hotel, Inveraray Wednesday 10th March at 8.00pm Guest Artists From Dumfries Robert Menzies Trio Supporting players most welcome KILMARTIN HOUSE MUSEUM Printmaking Workshop Learn the basics of relief printing Saturday 20th March - 10am to 5 pm £35 per person For more information or to book call 01546 510278 or email admin@kilmartin.org

Lochaber Strathspey & Reel Society 24th Annual Fiddlers' Rally on Saturday 13th March at 7.30pm in Lochaber High School. Chairman Hector MacLean, Guest Singer Paul MacCallum Mod Gold Medalist. Tickets available from any member of the Society or telephone 01397 704062. Cost Adults £8, Concessionary £6, children & students Free

Oban Art Society Multi-Media Meditations Talk and Demonstration Val Hamilton Lorn Resource Centre, Soroba Road, Oban Friday 5th March 7.30pm Visitors Welcome Loch-Awe Village Hall Table Top Sale Saturday 6th March 12.00 - 4.00pm For table contact Rhona on 01838 200452

Comunn Gaidhealach An Obain CEILIDH In Masonic Hall, Albany St, Oban, Sat 6th March at 7.30pm Kirsteen Menzies Mod Gold Medalist Alison Rapson Mod Gold Medalist Myra MacNab, Charlie MacColl Music By Michael & Joanie Garvin Piper Ryan MacInnes Fear An Taighe Capt Eric Smith Adm. £5 10 Years On..... Presented By Na Cailleagan Phinc Clarsach Ensemble With Toni Russell Highland Dance School And guests Oban High School Choir Saturday 6th March Corran Halls 7.30pm Tickets from The Corran Halls Box Office £6 conc £4 All proceeds will be donated to Forthill Childrens Hospital

Advertise in the Community Notice Board for just £14.50 (plus VAT) This section is available to charitable organisations with a charity number. All AGM's will be placed on the Public Notice Page Please ask for details To advertise in the WHAT'S ON COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD Telephone: 01631 568000

Royal Yacht Britannia pictures wanted MEMORIES and old pictures of the Royal Yacht Britannia are in demand, for an exhibition this summer. Britannia cruised the Western Isles a number of times when it was in service as the royal yacht, accompanied by the racing yacht Bloodhound. Casey Rust, who is involved in organising the exhibition for the Royal Yacht Britannia, said: 'Britannia is a part of people's living history. They come on board and remember where and when they saw it. We want to put a plea out to readers to share their memories and pictures with us.' Anyone who would like to contribute can contact enquiries@tryb.co.uk or 0131 555 8800.

Needlework group meet on felt THE February meeting of the Oban and District Needlework Group watched a DVD and heard Ann Ross, a member of the International Feltmakers Association, talk about her trip to Mongolia along with other Scottish Feltmakers. She spoke, not only about felt-making aspects and techniques but the way of life, the country and the connections made with local women. Ann also brought along examples of the felt made by these ladies, some for sale, with the money being sent back to enable them to purchase more wool for the production of their felt. The next meeting, on Tuesday 9 March to be held at the Guide Hall, Soroba Road, Oban at 7.30 pm, sees Valerie Reilly attending to talk on the history of the Paisley Shawl. A lot of these shawls were produced in Scotland and exported worldwide and Valerie is particularly interested to see any shawls that people have had tucked away so you are invited to bring them along. Non-members welcome.

Talented trio have date with Oban Music Society RSAMD graduates to perform at St John's Cathedral THREE talented young musicians will be performing at the Oban Music Society concert within St John's Cathedral on Tuesday, March 9. The trio consisting of piano, clarinet and soprano all trained at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama and will be playing works by Schubert, Ravel, Gaubert, Walton, Debussy, McCabe and others. Alexa Mason, soprano is originally from Cumbria and trained at the RSAMD. Following graduation, she has performed Valenciennes (Merry Widow), Eurydice (Orfeo) and, most recently, workshoped scenes from Don Giovanni for the ENO under director Rufus Norris. In concert she performed with the Orchestra of Scottish Opera, and at the Edinburgh Festival with the Auricle Ensemble. Alexa is currently studying on the ENO OperaWorks/Baylis scheme, and will be performing in their showcase in June. Clarinetist Gemma Carlin began her studies at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama graduating with honours in 2005. In 2007, Gemma graduated gaining a Masters of Music with Distinction. She was also awarded the Peter Morrison Prize, awarded to one student every year who has shown overall excellence. While at the RSAMD,



Gemma played in all academy orchestras and attended master classes with renowned clarinetists, Micheal Arrington, Timothy Lines and Sir Anthony Pay. She now currently works at the RSAMD providing support for the heads of instrumental performance/brass/jazz, woodwind, strings and percussion. Her passion is chamber music and as well as playing with Tenacious T'weed, Gemma regularly deputises with The Acentejo Clarinet Quartet and is clarinetist with wind quintet Amici Winds. Christopher Baxter is originally from Aberdeen. Pianist Christopher began his studies there with Robert Howie at the Aberdeen City Music School. Having completed his BMus (graduating with 1st Class Honours) at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama, Christopher continued his studies there as a postgraduate, where he was tutored by Aaron Shorr and Graeme McNaught as well as receiving regular coaching from the renowned pianist, Nigel Clayton. As well as frequent appearances as soloist, Christopher is in constant demand as an accompanist and chamber musician, and recent performances include recitals throughout the UK, France, Italy, a tour of the Faroe Islands with trumpet player, Johan Hentze and a solo recital at the Erin Arts Centre on the Isle of Man. Forthcoming performances include recitals for the Edinburgh International Festival Fringe, Aberdeen International Youth Festival and a series of Cello recitals with Laura Sergeant. From September 2009, Christopher took up a position as Accompaniment Fellow at the RSAMD. The Oban Music Society concert will commence at 7.30pm and non members are very welcome,

BARCALDINE THE BLACK CASTLE, OBAN Mothers Day Afternoon Tea - Barcaldine Castle Make your Mother's Day extra memorable by treating her to our Special Mother's Day Afternoon Tea, overlooking Loch Creran and Glencoe on Sunday 14th March 2010. Reservations required. Barcaldine Castle, Benderloch, Oban, Argyll PA37 1SA Tel. +44 (0)1631 720598 enquiries@barcaldinecastle.co.uk www.barcaldinecastle.co.uk

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

Grumpy Gordie is not a happy 'snapper'

Aggressive turtle proves a character at Barcaldine aquarium

SCOTTISH Sea Life Sanctuary's newest attraction has been named Grumpy Gordy after the Prime Minister.

The sanctuary's new snapper turtle was given the name because of his aggressive behaviour.

The turtle has been placed in an isolation tank at the Barcaldine aquarium after bullying his fellow turtles in their communal tank.

Mark Hinds, Displays Curator at the sanctuary, said: 'We named him 'Grumpy Gordy' after reports of Gordon Brown's bullying tactics,

which has been all over the press lately. There is no better name for him.

Takes the huff

'He was bullying the other turtles in the tank and as a snapper he is a lot larger than the others.'

With his razor sharp beak, a shell covering 12 sq ins and weighing 30lbs Gordy posed quite a threat to his more docile counterparts in the tank.

There are a number of other species in the sanctuary including long neck and yellow-eared turtles

Mr Hinds added: 'Gordy's quite a character.

'He takes the huff all the time and hides his head behind the rocks in his tank when he's in a bad mood.'

Oban Sea Life Sanctuary agreed to take Gordy from a turtle sanctuary in Scarborough as it had become overcrowded.

Snappers are known to be more violent than other turtle species. Their razor sharp beaks mean they are particularly dangerous.

The life span of a common snapper is usually between 30 and 40 years and adults can grow to more than 40lbs in weight.



Snapper turtle Grumpy Gordie is quite a threat to his more docile neighbours

Silver medalist proves star attraction at Netherlorn piping recital

Winter weather fails to deter enthusiasts



Cameron Drummond from Edinburgh, one of the top young pipers in the country

THE WORST weather of the year did not deter Argyll's piping enthusiasts from making their way in large numbers to the Argyllshire Gathering Halls, Oban last Wednesday where Netherlorn Piping Society held their monthly piping recital.

It proved to be well worth the effort as the audience was entertained to an evening of great piping from Cameron Drummond from Edinburgh, one of the top young pipers in the country.

It became very apparent from his skilful playing why he was successful in winning the prestigious silver medals at both the Argyllshire Gathering and the Northern Meeting last year, a very rare feat.

Cameron was very ably supported on his evening in Oban by very enjoyable performances from a group of seven novice players and by several quartets from Oban High School Pipe Band, who are preparing for a competition on March 6 in Dumbarton.

Alistair Dewar, chairman of the Netherlorn Piping Society thanked most sincerely all the young players and the people who turned out on the night for their support of the piping society.



Above: Martha, Julie and Bethany MacFarlane-Barrow, who ran the tombola stall at the coffee morning for victims of the Haiti earthquake. 15_t10coffee02



Left: The Rev Liz Gibson, organiser Andrea Scott and Pam Gibson at the coffee morning to raise funds for the Haiti earthquake victims in Dalmally. 15_t10coffee01

Dalmally bake their best for Haiti fund

Christian Aid and Mary's Meals gain from coffee morning donations

THE COMMUNITY in Dalmally baked with a vengeance to help a coffee morning on Saturday organised by local Andrea Scott in aid of victims of the Haiti earthquake.

With help from the ladies of the Church of Scotland in Dalmally, the craftwork class, a tombola stall, baking stall and Fairtrade stall and many others, the coffee morning ran like clockwork, with all 24 seats full the majority of the time and donations pouring in.

'We all saw the devastation that happened in Haiti and that really touched me,' said Andrea.

'I thought I have to do something, what ever I can. I have had huge

support with donations and homebaking from the general community.

'The response has been magnificent,' she said.

A total of £450.80 was raised, with some donations coming from people unable to make the event.

The money is to be split between Christian Aid's Haiti appeal fund and the Dalmally-based Mary's Meals Haiti earthquake emergency fund.

Because the Dalmally coffee morning event coincided with Fairtrade Fortnight, all the tea and coffee served at the event, in the church hall in the village, was Fairtrade and the Fairtrade stall managed to raise £70 too.

A celebration of the best in Country Music

Win tickets to see the show at the Corran Halls, Oban

COUNTRY Music fans will be delighted to hear that an award winning show is coming to the Corran Halls on April 3. And five lucky readers have a chance of winning a pair of tickets to the show.

Awarded the Best Event at the British Country Music Awards, Solid Gold Country Legends brings the perfect mix of old and new country hits to the stage.

With a line up including the classics of Hank Williams, Patsy Cline, Willie Nelson, Tammy Wynette and Garth Brooks to name just a few, it will be a

night to remember.

Songs featured in this special evening of country music include Billie Jo Spears Blanket On The Ground, Johnny Cash's Ring Of Fire, Dolly Parton's Jolene and Kenny Rogers' Lucille among many others.

The show has toured in more than 20 countries and has had a run of eight years.

To win tickets to the concert fill in the coupon, right, and return it to the Oban Times by 12 noon on March 22.

QUESTION: Name one hit song that will appear in the show.

Answer.....
Name.....
Address.....

Send to: The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon on March 22, 2010.

Usual Oban Times rules apply. The Editor's decision is final.



OBAN MUSIC SOCIETY
Tuesday March 9th
CONCERT
PIANO, CLARINET AND SOPRANO TRIO

Works by Schubert, Ravel, Gaubert, Walton, Debussy, McCabe and others.
The concert will be in St John's Cathedral at 7.30.
Non members of the society are very welcome, admission, £8 (£7 concessions) and students free.
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FOR FURTHER DETAILS



Oban's Happy House Christian Pre-school held a coffee morning in Glencruitten Church Centre on Saturday, with help from parents of those who have children at the pre-school and toddler group, which was very well attended and raised more than £430 which will be used for resources for the children. 15_t10happy01

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'Watch' is welcomed

LOCH AWE, a jewel in the crown of Argyll, it is both beautiful and deadly.

The tragic deaths of four fishermen last spring shocked the community, not only because it was not the first time people enjoying the loch had lost their lives, but the nearest official rescue boat to come to their aid was in Renfrewshire.

Less than a year on from the tragedy, LochWatch Loch Awe, launched this week, is the first step towards improved safety measures, and a welcome one.

The 40 volunteer spotters are to be saluted for committing their time and energy to help make life around the loch safer. They will be able to respond fast when if an incident arises.

The Oban Times has supported the campaign for better safety measures on the loch from the start, collecting donations towards a safety boat.

This week's launch is not the end of the campaign but the beginning and a dedicated safety boat firmly remains the ultimate goal.

Glasgow Letter

Choir concert success

FOR ITS annual concert 2010, Glasgow Islay Gaelic junior and senior choirs returned to Kessington Hall, Bearsden.

They were rewarded with a full house, most gratifying for choir members at the end of a week of inclement weather.

Chairman for the evening was Sandy Sinclair who, until recently, was conductor of Govan Gaelic Choir and prior to that of Stirling Gaelic Choir.

The concert was one of varied musical items with both choirs performing individually and then jointly. There was even a novelty item when they both sang Kirsteen Grant's arrangement from *Oliver*, much to the delight of the audience.

From the senior choir Elizabeth Campbell, Doreen Smith and Robert McNair sang solo and Clare Ann McNeil accompanied her song on the clarsach. Na-h-Useagan, the quartet from the seniors, Elizabeth Campbell, Irene McGilp, Fiona Rae and Doreen Smith, also sang as did the ladies choir.

Junior soloists were Kristina MacDonald, Clare Campbell and Christina Gorman and Aimee Clark showcased her outstanding clarsach playing. In addition to their vocal contributions to the evening Meg Buchannan and Kristina MacDonald played the bagpipes as the choirs entered the hall and at the start of both halves of the concert.

According to reports from those present, this was one of their best concerts for many years.

Musical evening

FRIDAY March 12 will see Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association taking over Partick Burgh Halls at 7.30pm for an informal evening of traditional Gaelic music featuring the choir plus soloists and instrumentalists.

Clydebank dinner dance

AS USUAL this event was a great success with excellent food, terrific music from the Monach Isle Ceilidh Band and songs from Iain Carmichael and Anne Bone MacLean.

Stirling ceilidh

THEY don't make it easy at Stirling!

On her debut night with Stirling Gaelic Choir, new conductor Jane MacQueen, who is also conductor

of Glasgow Islay Junior Gaelic Choir, was one of the soloists who along with the choir entertained a capacity audience.

Also contributing to an excellent evening were folk group *Gleusda*, piper Dr Innes Smith and the Cluaran Dancers.

Oban High School FPs

A FINAL reminder that if you want to attend the dinner dance in the Bellahouston Hotel on March 13, you should contact Isabel Ross, telephone 041 563 9729.

Diary dates

Thursday March 4: Live at the Star, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm, John Hinselwood and Sandra Gellatly Band. Kieron Goss, Old Fruitmarket, 8pm.

Friday March 5: Glasgow Islay Association Concert and Dance, Glasgow University Union, 7.30pm, dance to follow. RSAMD Year 2 Student's concert, 7.30pm.

Saturday March 6: Clann Gaidhlig Concert, Wynd Centre, Paisley, 7.30pm.

Thursday March 11: Comunn Taobh-an-Iar closing ceilidh, Kessington Hall, 7.30pm. Live at the Star, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm, with Tich Frier. Gaelic Service, Partick Downvale Free Church, 7.30pm.

Friday March 12: Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association Concert - see above. Clydebank and District Highlander's Association ceilidh, Lesser Town Hall, 7.30pm. Perth Gaelic Society ceilidh, St Matthew's Church Hall, Tay Street, 7.30pm.

Saturday March 13: Glasgow Uist and Barra Association Annual Piping Competition, College of Piping, Otago Street, 9am to 6pm. Stirling branch of An Comunn ceilidh, Lesser Albert Hall, 7.30pm. Oban High School FP's Dinner - see above.

Sunday March 14: Blazin Fiddles, Old Fruitmarket, 8pm.

Pub scene

MUSIC in the Park Bar this weekend will be provided by Deoch 'n Dorus/Martin Pottinger on Friday, Pneumatic Drills on Saturday and Andrew MacDonald on Sunday while in the Islay Inn it will be Parting Glass on Friday with Saturday still to be confirmed.

The Park Bar has an Open Mike Night on Thursdays with the same in the Islay Inn on Sundays.

The Islay Inn has introduced a jazz/blues session on Sunday afternoons.

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



Onich Royal Observer Corps - World War II

Donald Cameron of Pitlochry, Perthshire, submitted this week's flashback photograph. It shows members of the Onich Royal Observer Corps at the observation post on Cuilcheanna Hill during World War II. Donald's late father, extreme left, middle row, was on duty at Cuilcheanna Hill on the day the British Aluminium works was bombed. He reported the German bomber flying overhead towards Fort William but Connel HQ would not accept his report as no other observation post had reported an enemy aircraft in the area. We would like readers to send in flashback photographs. Please send prints to *The Oban Times*, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB, or email editor@obantimes.co.uk. Prints or emails must be accompanied by a caption, name, address and telephone number. Anyone wishing their prints returned must supply a stamped addressed envelope.

Letters to the editor

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

Telephone: 01631 568000
Fax: 01631 568001

CalMac fare increases

Sir, While travelling between Islay and the mainland recently, I picked up a copy of the new Caledonian MacBrayne (CalMac) summer timetable.

I was startled to read that this summer the cost of a single journey for a vehicle or passenger travelling to Islay will increase by 20 per cent. Similar huge increases are to be imposed on the routes serving Arran, Bute, Colonsay, Mull, Skye and Raasay.

It appears that other routes are to be spared; the general level of increase across the rest of the CalMac network is to be around 2.5 per cent.

It is understandable that a lower level of fare increase is to apply on those routes participating in the Road Equivalent Tariff (RET) pilot but, curiously, some non-RET routes are also to be spared, including Gourock to Dunoon, Tarbert to Portavadie and Mull to Morvern and Ardnamurchan.

A further inconsistency is that the 20 per cent increases only apply to single journeys

- fare increases for multiple journey tickets on the same routes will be restricted to around 2.5 per cent.

Surely there is a real danger of these draconian fare increases having a damaging effect on the tourism economy of those islands which are affected. It is also likely to further distort the effect of the RET pilot; this has already shown a 30 per cent increase in traffic on RET routes and no doubt that will now increase even further and at the expense of those islands which are not part of the pilot.

CalMac is owned by the Scottish Government, of course, and it would be interesting to learn what justification MSPs can provide for allowing CalMac to single out certain islands for such harsh treatment.

School closure?

Sir, In her letter last week, Councillor Strong, the SNP councillor in charge of education in Argyll and Bute, accused me of 'scaremongering' because I referred to the fact the council has a secret list of

schools being considered for closure.

Councillor Strong denies this list exists, yet her fellow SNP Councillor Anne Horn has emailed me to say that the closure of Tarbert Academy is 'indeed included in the draft of next year's proposed efficiencies'.

Tarbert Academy is an excellent school and shouldn't be closed. Will Councillor Strong please put parents' and pupils' minds at rest by announcing that the council's SNP/Independent administration will not close Tarbert Academy?

That's the only sensible way to settle this matter.

Alan Reid MP, Dunoon.

More help needed

Sir, I write in response to the annual invitation from the Highland Council to help my business to recycle in line with its motto 'Towards Zero Waste'.

As a business we have to nominate how many litres of waste we wish to put to landfill each week, for which we pay, and the council will collect. In addition, we are 'allowed' to take our recyclable materials to the

'Recycling Bring Centre' in Fort William, 35 miles away.

However, we are limited to being 'allowed' to recycle only up to the same volume per week as that which the council collects. If we do some simple maths it is clear that the maximum recycling I am allowed to do will therefore be 50 per cent. These rules are exactly the same as last year and the year before. What right does Highland Council have to continue with the motto 'Towards Zero Waste' when its policy prohibits that from being achieved for at least three years in a row? I would like to recycle in excess of 80 per cent, leaving up to 20 per cent to landfill.

By my calculation, 20 per cent waste is much closer 'Towards Zero Waste' than the Highland Council's 50 per cent. In answer to my request at this time last year, the Highland Council senior manager responsible for waste informed me that if they took all of my recyclable materials, then they would have to do this for every business. Is that not the point of a 'Towards Zero Waste' policy? Steve Macfarlane, Glenuig Inn.

Islay Letter

Islay gathering

GLASGOW'S Ilich will be in celebratory mood when they meet tomorrow night, Friday March 5, at An Comunn Ileach's 148th annual gathering at the Glasgow University Inn.

The guest chairperson will be Catriona Bell, from Bridgend, a former editor of the *Ileach*, and she will be accompanied by her husband Donald, a former gathering chairman.

The association pipers will fill the opening concert spots and singing the songs will be Mairi MacInnes, Alasdair Whyte, Iain MacLean and Port Ellen's Marion Ramsay.

Also on hand will be accordionist Charlie Kirkpatrick and he and his band will also cater for the hoofers attending the ensuing gathering dance in the same venue.

Pulling all the strings will be association president Peter Campbell who will complete his three-year term of office in June.

It two years, the association will celebrate its 150th anniversary and a number of special events are planned to mark this historic milestone.

Broadcaster's award

BOWMORE'S Glenn Campbell, the BBC Scotland's political correspondent, has received one of the most prestigious awards in television journalism. He was presented with the 'Scop

of the Year' accolade at a star-studded ceremony organised by the Royal Television Society at London's Hilton Park Lane Hotel.

Securing the award for the TV personality was his breaking of the news story that the Lockerbie bomber Abdelbaset Ali Mohamed Al Megrahi was to be released from his Scottish prison and returned to his home country of Libya. Glenn's scoop preceded the official announcement of the release by the Scottish Government.

The winning scoop was described by the award judges as 'catching everyone by surprise, including some colleagues within the BBC, and its impact spread far and wide beyond its home turf'.

Well done to Glenn whose parents Jennifer and Lamont live in High Street, Bowmore.

Gaelic bingo night

THERE were loud shouts of 'taigh' from the lucky winners taking part in the island's first Gaelic bingo evening in Ionad Chalum Chille Ile on Friday.

More than 50 participants had their 'sùilean a-shios' and the winners' joy was unbounded.

Centre staff arranged the succulent supper, raffle prizes went to all airts and those in attendance expressed the wish that this would become a regular event. Whether St Columba would have approved is highly debatable! The Gaelic College will also be the setting for a Showcase Day on

Friday March 12 from 11am to 3pm. Pupils from Islay High School Gaelic department, along with pupils from Bowmore Primary School's Gaelic unit, will give a series of presentations ranging from drama, story-telling, topical discussions and the merits of Gaelic medium education. College staff will also give an insight into the workings of the centre and their day-to-day involvement.

That same evening, the pupils will be on stage with *Skerryvore* at a family concert in Ballygrant Village Hall. For more information contact Mairi MacKay on 01496 810239.

On the previous day, the *Skerryvore* musicians will visit the schools as part of the pupils' language and cultural studies.

Young farmers wanted

ATTEMPTS are being made to revive the once popular and active island young farmers' club.

Potential members, aged between 14 and 26 years, are sought and a farming or agricultural background are not now considered essential.

Anyone interested should contact Gemma Cameron on 07964 586236 or log on to www.sayfc.com for further details.

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

A VIEW FROM THE TOWER By McCAIG

The wrong question at the wrong time

WHEN SNP Leader and Scotland's First Minister Alex Salmond opened his newspapers last Sunday he could not have been happy.

The legislation he had dreamed of getting through the first Scottish Parliament with an SNP government - albeit with no overall majority - that put referendum proposals to the people offering them 'independence nothing less' had been derided and seen to be a loser in the opinion polls.

His deputy Nicola Sturgeon was even being forecast to succeed him much sooner than it was possible to contemplate even when she herself was in trouble just three weeks ago. What has brought this about?

Well, Mr Salmond has just himself to blame. His desire, even over-vaulting ambition, to be the sole instigator of Scottish independence, has compelled him to throw his sharp political judgement to the four winds.

His self-belief in his ability to be a sort of pied-piper leading to his life-long Scotland, independent and free from its closest neighbour and the other parts of the United Kingdom, to stand alone has led to a dramatic drop in electoral support in the opinion polls for the party and himself.

But it is not this Messianic craze which he and a few die-hard nationalists share that has brought about this sudden unpopularity. It is his ever-growing hectoring manner to every question put to him at First Minister's Questions and on every other possible opportunity that he can seize.

When the layout of the chamber was being considered it was agreed that it should not have two Front Benches - Westminster style - in place but what is there now.

This was supposed to do away with the very thing that Mr Salmond revels in, best described in topical terms as 'verbal bullying'.

It is known that the Presiding Officer has spoken to him about it but with no perceptible effect.

Can he be surprised that the leaders of the other parties don't want to even consider his referendum proposals?

After all, he had tried to get them to support a Referendum Bill which at least two of them - the Tories and the Liberal Democrats - might have done with considerable concessions, but his 'take it or leave it' attitude enabled them to deny him access to a majority vote at Holyrood.

To get round this he came up with the current proposal, which to get passed into law is reckoned to be going to cost at least £6 million - a considerable sum of cash better spent on creating new jobs and easing the burden that local authorities are about to impose on us.

No Alex, you are on a loser this time and it could

cost you your career and the SNP even participating in a minority government after our Parliamentary elections in 15 months time.

Not a good time to be in government

I HAVE often commented that Scotland is living beyond its means.

On the one hand, the First Minister and his Finance Minister - let's get rid of this Cabinet Secretary nonsense - have moaned never-endingly about Westminster doing us 'down' by around £500 million in this financial year. Yet at the same time both have been announcing some millions of pounds for this project or that one, not all of which could be said to be so urgent that they couldn't wait yet they cannot find cash to provide for the aftermath of one of the worst winters on record.

Ever since the Scottish Parliament was restarted in Edinburgh 10 years ago each local authority has had to make savings in their budget proposals each year. Just how much slack does the Government believe they can further extract from the local authorities?

As a sop, the current minority government offered a 'continuing deal' of freezing Council Tax to ingratiate themselves with the electorate, but at what price?

What next?

IS IT any wonder Argyll and Bute Council has been forced to contemplate privatising certain care facilities, including free full personal care for the long-term sick and the elderly?

To me it isn't, as I was in the Parliament the day Henry McLeish, then the First Minister, made the announcement that he would introduce legislation that would give 'free full personal care' to everyone eligible for it.

There was stunned silence as all the parties knew there would never be sufficient cash to meet that commitment and have been proved correct in that assumption.

I could go on and on with what will no longer be 'free' within the next year or two. The free-travel bus pass must be very near the top of that list.

Weight problems

JUST what should our 'fighting' weight be?

Ladies who wish to get into 'size zero' model dresses are ridiculed for the harm they are doing to themselves and those who enjoy their food are similarly chided, but our Minister of Food urges us to eat good Scottish produce.

I certainly don't support obesity, but I do support a good Scottish-food based diet.

McCaig

Your letters

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

PRESS POLICY

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

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

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

My Village Tyndrum

Elizabeth MacLellan, née MacKechnie, was born in Crianlarich in 1938 but six weeks later her parents brought her to live in Tyndrum where she has been ever since. From a small collection of houses in one lane, originally built to service the lead mine in the hills above Tyndrum, she has seen the village grow to include three hotels, two caravan parks, a shop, a fish and chip restaurant and the ever-expanding Green Welly Stop. But Tyndrum has always been a magnet to hill walkers and mountaineers as well as miners – although now it is gold rather than lead - and can still boast probably the smallest population in Scotland to have two railway stations, as once reported in the People's Journal of 1950.



Elizabeth MacLellan with her parents' house in the background. 15_110tyndrum01

Were you born in Tyndrum?

No, I was born in Crianlarich. I was about six weeks old when my parents, Ewan MacKechnie and Christina Cameron, moved to Tyndrum. I went to school in Strathfillan. I walked three miles to school because in those days there was no transport; there was the school, the church, and beyond, the school house. In 1951 I went to McLaren High in Callander and I boarded there until I was 16. I had never been away from home before and I was terribly homesick. My mother put me on the train to Callander from Tyndrum Lower – and I came straight back on the next train! I think she sent me back the next day. Once I made friends and got used to it, I loved it. When I left school I went to work at what is the Green Welly Stop but it was owned by the Buchanans, long before it became the Green Welly.

It was a post office and grocery and was part of the house. I left there to work at the Royal Hotel as a receptionist – what is now the Highland Heritage Hotel, the last one on the way out of the village towards Crianlarich. When the Gosdens came to Tyndrum and took over the shop and post office, 45 years ago, I would help out at the post office, because I knew what to do. But when Ian Cleaver took over the Royal Hotel I became housekeeper until I left in 1980 when I went to work in The Whisky Shop at the Green Welly until I retired five years ago.

How did you meet your husband? Donnie MacLellan was working for a contractor from Callander and I was living at the bothy at Auch Farm. I was receptionist at the Royal Hotel at the time, it was around 1957-58, and I was walking home from work one night and he stopped his lorry and said: 'Hello, how are you?' I said I was fine and he said: 'If I go home and get changed and come back in my car, would you go out with me?' and I said, yes. I just liked him. I liked him and hoped

it would work out and it did. He was a handyman and could turn his hand at anything. He died 17 years ago.

Do you have any family?

I have two sons and a daughter. Ewan, the oldest, stays in Bridge of Orchy and is the bailiff on the River Orchy; Colin is a fireman in Perth although he spent two or three years in Oban and my daughter Christina lives in Oakingham, Cambridgeshire.

I babysit for Ewan's two sons and I have three grand-daughters.

What makes Tyndrum special for you?

It's just my home and I could never live anywhere else. I don't think I would ever want to move away.

My cousin lives in Crianlarich and we go to a craft class and do different things; I'm an elder in the church and I do sales of work and things. There is a group of us

who meet once a fortnight in Crianlarich hall and we sit knit and sew and make cards and put them all together and sell them for funds for the church. It's an excuse for a chat and a cup of tea!

How would you describe the village to someone who hasn't been here?

There are lovely walks; the West Highland Way passes right through the village. I wish there was a sign to say how many people have been through here because it must be thousands. Even now, in the winter, there are people walking the West Highland Way.

There are lots of shorter walks too. You can walk from here to Cononish or to Bridge of Orchy. Lots of people stop just to walk their dogs here.

I would say it's a walkers' paradise.

What changes have you seen in the village?

The population, just now in win-

ter, is about 140-150. In summer it can get up to 500, between the buses coming to the hotels, the staff, the staff at the Green Welly and Paddy's [Tyndrum Lodge Hotel] and holiday homes.

Since 1960 about 40 houses have been built, and another hotel, two caravan parks and the Real Food Cafe.

It's alright in the summer time when it's busy but it can be lonely in winter. There are four holiday homes in the oldest street in the village, so in winter you don't see as many people. It's quite sad in a way.

Alma Cottage, where my parents lived, and Clifton Cottages were built by the lead mine's owner, who was from Clifton in England. The lead mine closed in 1923.

General Wade built the road through Tyndrum and he built Tighness House, which was owned by Mrs Stewart and now by the Wilkies [Green Welly Stop]. I think the Brodies [who own Brodies the shop] came in the 1930s when the new road was being built.

In these days all there was was farming and the railways. Each farm had two or three shepherds but now there are none. Hay was grown all around the village.

In 1950 it was described in an article which my mother kept as the village with 'Two railway stations for 60 inhabitants'.

The Ben Lui cottages were built in the 1960s by the council.

When I was in school in the 1940s there were about 15-16 children in the school although, of course, people had big families

then. The railway employed a lot of people; there was the station master, the signal man etc. It was all manual then.

The cattle and sheep were taken away to market by railway. The area where the By The Way hostel and campsite is now is where they used to gather all the animals and turn the trains.

We went to school on the trains and the railway ran to Callander until the 1960s. The school was taken away to Crianlarich and now my grandson, who stays in Bridge of Orchy, has to be dropped off here to catch the bus to Crianlarich to school.

There is no doctor - but there never was - we have to go 19 miles to Killin for a doctor or to Dalnally. The school's in Crianlarich, the police are in Crianlarich and the nearest bank is Killin.

Do you have a favourite place? The view from my window, where you can see Ben More, Stob Binnein and Cruach Ardrain.

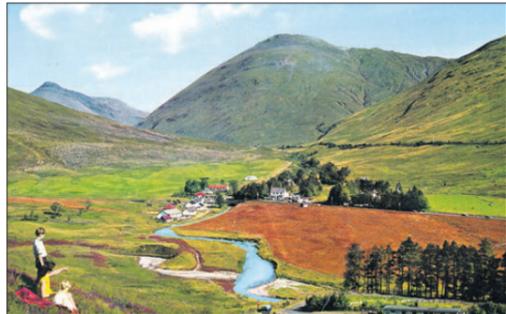
Do you have a favourite building? Strathfillan Church.

It was a beautiful church but it needed a lot done to it and the church couldn't afford to do it and it was sold off about 10 or 12 years ago. Our minister, Rev Liz Gibson, is based in Dalnally and we take it in turns between Crianlarich and Bridge of Orchy.

What is your favourite time of year? I like when it's busy in summer. I sit out on my garden seat and have a chat with people who are walking past. Summer is the best time of the year.



Mansfield, Tyndrum, homes which were built in anticipation of the last resurrection of the gold mine in the 1990s which never happened. 15_110tyndrum05



Tyndrum in the 1960s, with the grocery store and petrol pumps in the centre and Tyndrum Lower station in the foreground.



Strathfillan of many, many years ago, with the school in the foreground and church behind.



What used to be the Royal Hotel in Tyndrum. 15_110tyndrum03

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Tyndrum
TYNDRUM - or Taigh an Druim, the house on the ridge, is set at the meeting point of three glens or natural valleys.
The origins of the village dates back hundreds of years as it was the place where the cattle drove roads from the west and north met.
Today, it is still very much a focal point for travellers, whether by road, rail or on foot.

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15 Years Ago
Those Were The Days
The Oban Times
Thursday March 2 1995

Mines discovered on routine Navy exercise
ROUTINE exercises being carried out by three Royal Navy mine hunters off Oban at the weekend took on a more serious aspect when two of the vessels detected potential mines close to a busy shipping lane. The first of these was located by HMS Dulverton on her sonar equipment in around 85 feet of water near to Maiden Island at the north entrance to Oban Bay. Analysis of the sonar signal suggested that the object could be a Second World War mine and a remote controlled mine disposal vehicle was sent down to carry out further investigation. A Royal Navy spokesman said: 'At that stage it certainly looked like old ordnance, and a dive who was sent down to take a closer look confirmed this option.'

Cops come in from the cold
OBAN'S Boys in Blue were investigated by a team of Latvian CID officers last week. But there is no need to worry – no crime has been committed. The four CID officers from the city of Riga near the Baltic Coast of Latvia were visiting Campbeltown Police Office to investigate Strathclyde's way of policing. The group spent the week visiting police officers throughout Argyll and Bute as part of a month-long whistle stop tour of the region with the aim of taking home some handy hints. CID inspectors Olga Kazmina and Leonid Pugo, both 30, were accompanied by their CID chief inspector Sergey Larin, 35. The fourth member of the group Elita Nimande, 30, a police officer in the Latvian Ministry of the Interior, acted as an interpreter. The group were accompanied by Argyll and Bute traffic

inspector Paul Macfarlane. **The ferry millions** PLANS for a ferry link between Campbeltown and Ballycastle in Northern Ireland got a boost this week when the Northern Ireland Office announced it was putting money into the project. Northern Ireland Environmental Minister Mr Malcolm Moss announced on Wednesday that £4.5 million was being spent upgrading Ballycastle and Rathlin harbours. Although the main object of the upgrading is to improve the ferry link between the two points some of the facilities being created will also be used for the Campbeltown service. The improvements to Ballycastle include new slipways and extensions to the breakwater. Outline planning permission had already been given for a ferry terminal at the New Quay in Campbeltown. Meanwhile, one of the Highlands' top economic consultants is predicting that the proposed ferry link will not be economically viable.

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD

Across

- Where to find facts over the years (7)
- Come out (5)
- Settled (9)
- Reason for working! (3)
- Knack (5)
- Compound to control plant growth (7)
- Game played when one is in the dark? (9,4)
- More impenetrable (7)
- Ride in France (5)
- Coins or flowers (3)
- Plates of frozen matter (3,6)
- Join securely (5)
- Light flakes produced by a chippy (7)

Down

- Money in the bank? (5)
- Angry about the barrier (3)
- Not a good surface to slide on... (7)
- ...but these help prevent catastrophe if you do! (5,8)
- Electrical clothesline alternative (5)
- Something made as a left over (2-7)
- Me! (7)
- One made to be similar (9)
- Thin reading matter (7)
- By hook or by crook (7)
- Amalgam (5)
- Start (5)
- Australian runner (3)

Last Week's Solution

C	A	M	E	A	L	A	C	R	I	T	Y
A	I	A	I	U	S	A					
S	Y	N	O	N	Y	M	R	E	R	U	N
E	E	N	P	T	A	K					
M	I	R	R	O	R	I	M	A	G	E	S
E	U	D	I	L	V						
N	O	V	E	N	A	A	N	G	I	N	A
T	A	C	A	E	C	N					
S	P	R	E	A	D	E	A	G	L	E	D
H	I	M	I	L	L	E	V				
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L	A	V	E	T	T	E	S	T	H	U	S

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SPRING WEDDINGS IN THE WEST HIGHLANDS

The west Highlands must be the perfect place for a wedding – imagine exchanging vows in an idyllic old church or breathing fresh air by your favourite waterfall.

Then there is the mouth-watering local food, famous Highland hospitality and the liveliest music and dancing to help you celebrate. And spring, the time of new life, colour and hope after the long, cold winter, is the ideal time.

While there are a host of local traditions for bride, groom and guests, the other special thing is the couple can arrange their perfect day in their own way. Whether you want to roll up in a vintage motor or arrive by motorbike, find peace and tranquility or boisterous spirits, arrange an intimate do in an exquisite country manor or a hearty ceilidh in the village hall, you will find everything you need for your special day right here.

Our local hotels offer a huge choice of reception venue, with top chefs ready to cater to your every taste and a warm welcome to suit all budgets. Many couples are choosing to do things a little differently these days – starting with the location itself.

Scottish law means you can get married in any location. A host of beautiful and sometimes unusual venues have already been licenced by local authorities. In Argyll, these include grand castles, boats and gardens. One brave bride and groom risked the weather to tie the knot at McCaig's Tower with stunning views of Oban Bay.

Highland Council has granted permission for weddings at a ski resort, but it's the waterfalls at Caig and Spean Bridge which have lured most visitors seeking a magical natural setting for their special day.

And if the location is not an approved one, a licensed minister can conduct a wedding in any location.

It's not surprising that more and more couples are choosing to come to this area from elsewhere in the country for a special wedding.



A wedding cake is literally an edible piece of art, serving as the centrepiece of the wedding breakfast. The Oban Chocolate Company has made over 100 wedding cakes in the last couple of years and as cake-designer Helen admits, hardly any two are the same. 'Some cakes are smothered in chocolate and truffles, others are fruitcakes finished with marzipan, icing, sugarpaste drapes and fresh flowers, a few feature

chocolate dipped strawberries and some consist of 100 sparkly iced cupcakes'. Indeed when it comes to the cake, the choice is endless but Oban Chocolate Company is here to help. 'We can help you choose the right cake for you and our online gallery shows just a small selection of what can be done – we even set up the cake on the day at your venue, just to make sure everything is perfect!'



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Childbirth charity commends Oban hospital ideas

A CHILDBIRTH charity has praised Lorn and Islands Hospital for the quality changes it is trying to make to improve the experiences of pregnant women in Oban.

Following an Oban Times article on 'natural and dynamic' childbirth,

Sarah Edwards, area organiser for the National Childbirth Trust, was pleased that the hospital was committed to more women having their child at home or in the hospital.

She said: 'For so long women were encouraged to go to Paisley to have

their first baby and in some cases had very poor birthing experiences. Since Jaki Lambert has headed up the team in Oban we hoping for positive changes. It was good to hear that women are being placed right at the centre of the story in labour. And that more families

are encouraged to have a home births. 'When a hospital is not confident about the services it offers it can have a direct effect on women in labour. Jaki Lambert is an able and confident practitioner and I am sure she will have a very positive affect on her team.'

Rebrand for Argyll voluntary groups unveiled

Two volunteering and community groups merge

A NEW, more effective network for the voluntary sector in Argyll and Bute has been officially launched in Inveraray.

Two existing groups promoting volunteering and community groups, the Argyll and Bute Volunteer Centre and Argyll CVS, have merged into a new organisation - Argyll Voluntary Action.

David Price, chair of the new body, believes the move will strengthen the future of Argyll's voluntary sector in a tough economic climate.

'There are between 1,400 and 1,500 small charities and community organisations based in Argyll,' he said. 'Everybody is facing challenges. Anybody that delivers any kind of service will find it difficult to fund that.'

'If any one of those organisations needs help, whether its advice on child

protection or training, that knowledge is available to everybody equally. It leaves that organisation able to get on with what they are good at.'

Argyll Voluntary Action (AVA) will now provide support and training to small community organisations as well as individuals interested in volunteering. Mr Price said the new structure would allow them to cover more of Argyll and Bute and make best use of limited resources. AVA is also in discussions with other networks which support voluntary groups in the county to formalise co-operation.

The new body has also launched a new website and will run local forums for Oban, Lochgilphead and Campbeltown, Dunoon and Helensburgh.

Scottish actor records poem in Lochgilphead

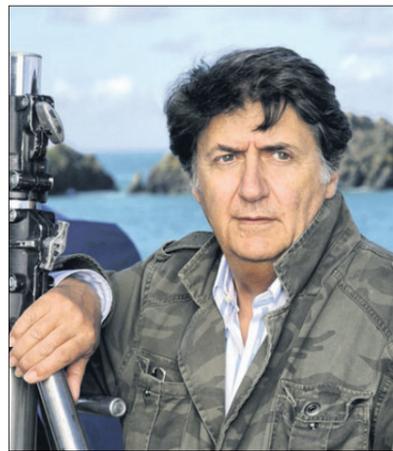
ACTOR Tom Conti made a brief visit to Lochgilphead to record a poem by a west coast poet.

The multi award-winning Paisley-born actor, known to millions through his film roles in Shirley Valentine and Heavenly Pursuits, has recorded the poem Yesterday I Felt Two Inches Tall.

The poem is an evocative tale of loss and longing, narrated by Tom Conti with original music composed and arranged by Argyll music producers Wild Biscuit.

Glasgow-based poet Sheila K Cameron said: 'The words for Two Inches Tall were begun while waiting at a bus stop in Glasgow trying to avoid a very cold wind.'

'I think it's about sad times in my own life and about the lives of other people who have to stand



Actor Tom Conti visited Lochgilphead to record a poem.

at bus stops and who know what it's like to lose someone they really loved.'

Appropriately, that the poem was recorded in Lochgilphead it was freezing. Yesterday I Felt Two Inches Tall is available on CD from www.sheilakcameron.com.

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Time capsule for cancer care centre

A TIME capsule will be buried in the garden of a new cancer care centre in Glasgow.

Maggie's £2.1 million unit at Gartnavel Hospital has been funded in principal by Walk the Walk, organisers of the Moonwalk in Edinburgh. And to thank the 34,480 people who have taken part in the walk over the last four years, their names will be included in a time capsule.

Also in the capsule will be a bra created by cartoonist, Malcolm McCormack featuring and signed by The Proclaimers, personal accounts from people who have visited and benefited from Maggie's, as well as lots of other memora-

bilia from both charities.

Laura Lee centre manager said: 'It is inspiring to think that when this time capsule is reopened decades down the line, that the centre will have supported hundreds of thousands of people across the region build a life with, through and beyond cancer.'

Walk the Walk are especially proud that due to their own scalp cooling project, which prevent people losing their hair, whilst undergoing chemotherapy, these special machines have already been placed within hospitals at Elgin, Skye, Alexandria, Greenock, Glasgow, Kilmarnock and Ayr.

To take part in the

Eye to Eye with John Wallace



Our seed corn

LAST week I was talking to a local primary school teacher about the problems with vision some of the children in her class seem to be experiencing.

These ranged from 'minor' problems reading through to an inability to clearly see her writing on the classroom white board. Amazingly, she told me that it appeared at least three quarters of the children in her class had never had an eye examination. Most had had a pre-school vision screening but, as I have mentioned many times in the past, these well intentioned screenings tend to give parents a false sense of security.

Clear comfortable vision for our children is one of life's essential requirements if our children are to receive the maximum benefit from their time at school. Our children are our seed corn for the future. With a world that is dominated by visual imagery it is vital our children can see clearly and comfortably. In this day and age there is simply no need for a child to go without clear vision.

NHS Scotland provide access to free regular eye examinations for children. They also provide a 'voucher' towards the purchase price of children's spectacles. Virtually all optometric practices in Scotland have a range of children's spectacle frames that are free to the child.

Our children should all receive regular eye examinations.

Your community optometrist will advise you on how frequently your child should have an eye examination. It could be as often as every six months but is typically every 12 months or sometimes even every two years. Children should have regular eye examinations throughout their school career. As they grow their eyes grow and their vision can change.

Don't throw away your seed corn. Give your children the best chance possible to succeed in life by having regular eye examinations.

John Wallace BSc (Hons), FCOptom, DipCLP
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Weddings



EDWARD - McLEISH
Julie Edward and Derek McLeish were married at the delightful Queens Hotel Oban, in the presence of their friends and family. The relaxed affair went on long into the night and was enjoyed by all.
Photograph by Perfect Images, Dunbeg, Oban



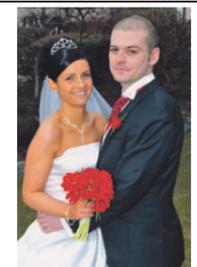
CASEY - ROSS
Karen Casey and George Ross were married at St Modan's Church, Benderloch. They held their marriage celebrations at the beautiful Isle of Eriska Hotel. Their marriage festivities had commenced earlier in the day when the bride and groom took part in a number of activities organised for themselves and their guests at the hotel, including clay pigeon shooting, golf, woodland walks and swimming.
Photograph by Perfect Images, Dunbeg, Oban



HENEAGHAN - MILLER
Lisa Heneaghan married Alasdair Miller at The George Hotel, Inveraray. They celebrated their winter wedding with family and friends at the beautiful hotel.
Photograph by Perfect Images, Dunbeg, Oban



McLAUGHLIN - IRVINE
Paula McLaughlin and Dugie Irvine were married at Oban Registry Office. The happy couple are photographed with the new addition to their family, their son Liam.
Photograph by Perfect Images, Dunbeg, Oban



MORRISON - OGILVIE
Kerry Morrison and David Ogilvie were married at the Christ Church, Corran Esplanade. The large gathering of family and friends enjoyed photographs at the Corran Halls gardens, braving the cold. They then went on to Oban Rugby Club where the several hundred guests partied into the night.
Photograph by Perfect Images, Dunbeg, Oban.



ROWENA & MARK
Rowena and Mark were married at Oban Registry Office. The small group of family and friends then went on for pictures and their evening celebrations at the outstanding Manor House Hotel, Oban.
Photograph by Perfect Images, Dunbeg, Oban.



KELSEY - MACPHAIL
Nicola Kelsey and Angus MacPhail were married at Skipinnish Ceilidh House Oban. They enjoyed a meal at the Waterfront Restaurant before returning to the Skipinnish Ceilidh House for their evening celebrations.
Photograph by Perfect Images, Dunbeg, Oban

Your Wedding in **The Oban Times**
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Spean Bridge house plan gets go-ahead

ROSS, SKYE and Lochaber planning committee has granted planning permission in principle to Mr and Mrs B Johnstone for a house plot 320m northwest of Achabobane farmhouse, Spean Bridge.

Acting on instruction from planners, the applicants submitted an indicative masterplan for a total of four plots, including the present plot, for a future small 'cluster' of homes compatible with the settlement pattern of the area. As yet, no applications have been submitted for the other three indicative plots.

'The Horse Boy' gets Lochaber showing

A FILM describing the remarkable improvement of an autistic boy thanks to his interaction with horses in Mongolia is to be screened at Lochaber College next Friday, March 12.

Dunfermline woman Gillian Naysmith has organised around 30 showings of 'The Horse Boy' across Scotland after she took her autistic four-year-old son Sam to a 'Horse Boy Camp' in Argyll. Details from Lochaber College on 01397 874000.

Fort William superstore plans on show

AROUND 25 local people took the chance to view plans for a superstore at Fort William last Thursday.

Directors from developers Morbaine Limited organised the consultation at the Ben Nevis Hotel to give local people an opportunity to talk over Morbaine Ltd's proposals for its business park at North Road.

The event focused on two issues - Morbaine's wish to extend planning permission with Highland Council for a non-food retail park at the A82 site by two years and its plans to include a major supermarket retailer in the development.

Members of the public attending the event included Angus and Louisa Cameron, from Druimmarbin, Fort William.

Morbaine director Alex Brodie told the couple that the new store would measure 55,000 square feet, of which 30,000 square feet would be retail space - 4,000 square feet bigger, he said, than the town's Morrison's store.

'Any major retailer coming to Fort William will want to be at least as big as the biggest competitor,' he explained.

Mrs Cameron was

supportive of the plans - if for no other reason than developments elsewhere appear stalled.

She told *The Oban Times*: 'I think it's the future. We are needing some competition in Fort William regarding a supermarket.'

'People don't want a supermarket held up until the Waterfront happens.'

Mr Brodie said Morbaine could submit a planning application for the store by late April and would hold a further public consultation event on March 23 and/or March 24 when more detailed plans for the superstore would be on view.

The Cheshire-based developer has already informed Highland Council it intends to submit an application for a 55,000 square feet supermarket for land between the Alcan junction and the Ford car showroom.

The shop would be raised above the ground on pillars to create a bigger parking area.

Current planning permission for North Road is for a non-food retail park only, but Morbaine wants that consent extended to include food retailing.

Onich Hotel wins temporary reprieve over marquee

By STEPHEN NORRIS

A NETHER Lochaber hotelier can keep using a marquee for functions until October to give him more time to submit plans for a permanent built extension to his hotel, councillors have ruled.

Onich Hotel owner James MacDonald had feared Ross, Skye and Lochaber planning councillors would order him to take down the marquee, which some local residents had complained was creating noise and affecting visual amenity.

Many others, however, also wrote to Mr MacDonald and Highland Council to say the marquee was

providing a badly needed venue for local functions.

Councillors had already granted one extension to the hotelier for the marquee on condition he carry out suitable noise tests.

Planning officers were not convinced he had done so and recommended refusal of a second extension of time on noise and visual impact grounds.

Councillors, however, felt ordering the big tent to be removed as the busy season approaches could damage his business and granted him eight more months to prepare plans to extend the hotel.

Both the council and Mr

MacDonald accept the marquee is not a long-term answer to addressing Nether Lochaber's shortage of function facilities.

To address the noise issue, Mr MacDonald agreed that the marquee will be vacated by 9.30pm during functions.

He said: 'We are pleased and very grateful that Ross, Skye and Lochaber planning applications committee reached the conclusion that we can keep our temporary hotel marquee erected until October this year.'

'We are in full agreement with the committee and officers that the marquee is not an ideal long-term

solution to preserving and growing our business but this extension of permission allows us time to complete the summer season as well as organise an application for a permanent built extension.'

'We now look forward to engaging with the local community in Onich and working with the council to implement a 'good neighbour agreement' and bring our permanent business solution to fruition.'

'I would like to add that we were very appreciative of all the kind letters of support submitted by those keen to see our local hotel survive and grow despite tough

economic times and our rural location.'

Lochaber councillor Donald Cameron led the debate in support of Mr MacDonald.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'The marquee is not very bonnie, but it is not a permanent structure and the decision will enable the proprietor to ensure 12 months working for his 22 employees, who all stay locally. The committee was happy to co-operate with the applicant to safeguard these jobs.'

'Permission is up to October 31 and it is hoped the proprietor will put in an application to extend the hotel within that time.'



Helping Haiti: Banavie pupils at their 'come as you please' day.

Banavie raises £200 for Haiti

BIG-HEARTED Banavie Primary School pupils have raised more than £200 to help aid efforts in earthquake-ravaged Haiti.

On their own initiative, the pupil council organised a 'come as you please day' where, for a small fee, the children were allowed to come to school dressed any way they liked.

The fun day brought in a total of £211.32 once the final pennies had been counted, P7

teacher Colette Smith told *The Oban Times*.

'Some pupils came in fancy dress and some simply dressed down for the day,' said Colette.

All the teachers swapped classes for an hour-and-a-half and taught in different rooms.'

The whole of Banavie Primary School and nursery was involved, added Colette.

Detailed Strontian house plans win approval

MR AND Mrs A Laing have been granted detailed planning consent for an L-shaped 1½ storey five-bedroom house on land at 28 Anabehit, Strontian.

The house site lies northwest of an existing house, Sunart, and had attracted several objections from neighbours.

Over-development of croft land and use of in-bye land, loss of privacy at adjacent houses and loss of character to the area were among the concerns, but Ross, Skye and Lochaber councillors took the view that the proposed home represented acceptable development in an area of scattered settlement.

Councillors knock back Morar mansion plans

PLANS for an imposing mansion next to the Road to the Isles at Morar have been knocked back by councillors.

Douglas and Liesha MacKellaig, of Half Moon Bay, Morar, had hoped to build the T-shaped 1½ and 1¼ storey home on a prominent site overlooking Morar's famous white sands.

The proposed four-bedroom house featured a hairdressing salon, a single storey porch, a single storey wing with gymnasium and swimming pool, spacious double garage and access from the nearby A830.

The application attracted 11 objections, which focused on unauthorised groundworks undertaken on the site ahead of the decision, a house footprint three times bigger than illustrated at outline stage, the out-of-character design, size and prominence of the building and the

deprivation of views across the bay.

The site had already proved controversial. At an earlier meeting councillors overturned planners' advice to refuse and gave Mr MacKellaig outline planning permission.

But when the detailed plan came before Ross, Skye and Lochaber planning committee it showed a house far bigger than originally indicated in the outline application.

Caol and Mallaig councillors Bill Clark and Eddie Hunter moved and seconded that the bid be refused - and their motion found unanimous support.

Councillor Hunter told *The Oban Times*: 'The footprint of the house was two and a half or three times bigger than had been previously outlined.'

Councillor Clark said: 'The size of the house and

its location was going to dominate the area. The house that was submitted at the detailed stage was way over the top. Many people who made representations - including the community council - baulked at the size of the house being proposed.'

'The community was going to suffer simply to enable the applicants to achieve their aspirations and we were in the position of wishing to achieve fair play.'

'But the fact that it passed at the outline stage means there is going to be a house there.'

Mr MacKellaig said: 'Revised plans had been approved by the planners in Fort William but the local community council had not seen those new plans. We are a bit annoyed that they judged something they had not seen. We are working on it.'

Friends of Nevis gather in Fort William

THE SECOND annual Friends of Nevis dinner and celebration took place at the Alexandra Hotel, Fort William, on Saturday February 20.

Subscribers, volunteers and business supporters enjoyed a champagne reception before sitting down to a sumptuous three course meal in the company of host Cameron McNeish and patron Charles Kennedy MP.

Subscribers Helen Hogan and Steve Tait not only made the long journey from Kent via the overnight bus to Inverness to be there, but also insisted on spending the following day working on one of the current volunteer projects, the clearance and upgrade of the old curling ponds in lower Glen Nevis.

Others had made the trip from Glasgow and Edinburgh and the mix of locals and visitors made for a lively and very pleasant evening.

Following the announcement of the volunteer of the year 2009, which was awarded to local stalwart Christine Hutchison who, unfortunately, could not attend, the guests were entertained by a

talk from Charles Kennedy. In a speech combining wit, wisdom and many references to the Ben, Mr Kennedy acknowledged the dedication of the Friends' volunteers and pledged his ongoing support for their work and fundraising efforts.

A raffle and auction of excellent prizes donated by the local business community was followed by dancing to the music of John Cameron and friends, including up-and-coming young fiddler Euan Wilkie and further members of the Kennedy clan with Mr Kennedy senior on fiddle and Charles' brother on drums.

Great night

Celebrations continued into the wee small hours and a great night was had by all.

Friends of Nevis was launched by The Nevis Partnership two years ago to encourage individuals, families and organisations to help support and manage Ben Nevis and the surrounding Nevis area through subscribing, donating or contributing time and resources on projects such as path maintenance, wildlife monitoring and fund-raising.



Morbaine director Alex Brodie shows Fort William couple Angus and Louisa Cameron the plans.

10_f10alex01

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Householders urged to take advantage of £15million home insulation scheme

TIME is running out for people in Fort William to take advantage of a £15million Scottish Government home insulation scheme, say organisers.

Energy Saving Trust (EST) energy assessors have been knocking on doors to give local householders a free home energy audit on their doorstep.

But only four weeks remain before the initiative ends its first phase and the EST is calling on everyone to take advantage before it is too late.

The programme offers householders the free audit, advice on making their homes more energy efficient and loft and cavity wall insulation for suitable properties at a specially negotiated price, or free of charge.

Householders who haven't yet benefited from the scheme are receiving leaflets through their door reminding them that assessors are still visiting homes in their area and what they can expect from the service.

The EST told *The Oban Times* 4,628 householders are eligible for the home insulation scheme in Fort William, Corpach, Banavie, Caol, Inverloch, Claggan, Upper Achintore, The Plantation and Glen Nevis.

Warmer

EST director Mike Thornton said: 'There are still many householders in Fort William who have yet to receive a home energy audit and find out what assistance they can receive to make their homes warmer through the scheme.'

'Many householders have already received loft and cavity wall insulation, or a top-up of their loft insulation, through the initiative.'

'The home visits in Fort William end on March 31, so I would encourage anyone who hasn't received an audit yet to call 0800 512 012 to arrange a visit from a home energy assessor.'

Housing and Communities Minister Alex Neil said: 'I would encourage the people of Fort William to book a visit from an assessor to ensure they benefit from the assistance available through the Home Insulation Scheme.'

'The scheme has benefited thousands across Scotland making homes warmer and reducing fuel bills.'

Guide book boost for Prince's House

GLENFINNAN hotel the Prince's House is looking forward to a tourism boost in 2010 after being mentioned in a new guide book highlighting the 'Road to the Isles' as one of the world's 10 best road trips.

The Time Out Guide to 1,000 Great Holiday Ideas describes the famous Fort William to Mallaig road as

having 'mythical status' and describes the Prince's House Hotel as 'cosy and comfortable' with an 'historic location'.

Prince's House chef and owner Kieron Kelly said it was 'a great honour' to get a mention in the book. The hotel is set to open for the 2010 season on March 12.



Top table guests at the Friends of Nevis dinner at Fort William's Alexandra Hotel.

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The Oban Times

Volunteers sought for citizens' panel

HIGHLAND Council has written to a random sample of 14,000 households looking for 2,300 volunteers to serve on a Citizens' Panel.

The panel will be used on an ongoing basis as one way of consulting the public on services provided by the council.

The focus group will replace the current practice of surveying 11,000 households each year - saving the council money on consultation costs.

In a letter to residents, chief executive Alistair Dodds said: 'A key survey result from last year was that residents told us they wanted more of a say in how the council spends its money.'

'By agreeing to participate in the panel, volunteers are committing to responding to two or three surveys per year.'

Topics for consultation are likely to include education, care for the elderly, roads and the council's budget proposals.

Woodland awards celebrate

ENTRIES are being invited from the West Highlands for Scotland's premier woodland awards programme.

Scotland's Finest Woods Awards celebrate their silver jubilee this year and to mark the occasion have added a special Silver Jubilee Prize to the usual schools and community categories.

Up to £3,000 of cash and other prizes will be presented to the winners at the Royal Highland Show. Entries must be received by March 31. Details at www.sfw.co.uk.

Appeal against bus stop order

HOLME Park Scotland Ltd boss Ken Slater has lodged an appeal against a planning condition ordering him to build a bus draw in facility opposite the firm's 18-flat development next to the A82 at Woodlands on Achintore Road, Fort William.

Ross, Skye and Lochaber planning councillors noted the appeal at their meeting in Dingwall last week. Most of the homes are now occupied.

Outdoor Capital welcomes members

THE ORGANISATION promoting Lochaber to the world has welcomed six new members to its ranks.

Joining the Outdoor Capital of the UK (OCUK) are The Ariundle Centre, Strontian; the Kings House Hotel, Glen Coe; the Gantcks Guest House in Fort William; Glencoe Mountain Resort, Glen Coe; Berkeley House, Fort William and Nevis Radio.



The partially cleared Blarmafoldach road, pictured on Friday from the picnic spot above Upper Achintore. 10_f10snow01

Heavy snow cuts Blarmafoldach off for days

RESIDENTS of Blarmafoldach near Fort William were spending their third day snowed in on Friday after huge drifts cut them off from the town.

Whiteout conditions over Thursday and Friday piled drifts up to five feet high across the single-track road, which by Friday midday had been snowploughed for a mile from Fort William.

Colin MacDonald, of Taigh a Glinne, told *The Oban Times* one local man tried to reach the cleared part of the road on Friday morning, but even his Landrover could make no headway.

Mr MacDonald, a member of the Caledonian

Canal maintenance team was not expecting the road to be cleared soon as Highland Council struggled to clear major routes.

'This is the worst it's been since the early 1980s,' he said. 'But we have power and plenty of food, so we won't starve.'

'I'm sure the canal can manage without me for a few days.'

Many far western coastal locations escaped the snow, but inland areas, particularly above 200 feet, were badly hit.

Conditions were such that the snowgates on the

A82 between Glencoe and Tyndrum were closed for much of last Thursday. Snowplough crews battled throughout the day to re-open the road and by late that night the vital route was passable with care.

Glencoe Mountain Resort was officially the snowiest ski centre in the world last Wednesday when it recorded 80cms of snow.

March may have started cold and frosty, but with so much snow lying on the uplands a rapid thaw would present a significant flood risk to vulnerable low lying areas.

New cancer care suite welcomed

CHEMOTHERAPY services at the Dr MacKinnon Memorial Hospital at Broadford have been relocated to a new base within the hospital under a drive to improve facilities for patients.

The previous chemotherapy room was in the main thoroughfare of the wards, had very little natural light and no separate waiting area. The new chemotherapy room, which officially opened last Thursday, was formerly the old dental suite.

Dental services paid for fabric of the room to be made good after dental equipment was removed and Macmillan Cancer Support provided funding for its redecoration and refurbishment.

Clinical services development manager Kate Earnshaw said: 'Fundraising locally has always supported Macmillan with the hope that we could eventually develop a chemotherapy suite in Skye and Lochalsh and we are delighted that this will go some way towards realising this.'

'We have moved the clinical area for chemotherapy to

ensure we continue to meet clinical standards, such as infection control, and to secure the future of service provision in the area.'

'The new chemotherapy room is larger than the old one. It is also lighter and has its own waiting area. The small clinic room next to the chemotherapy room will double up as a consultation area for patients and clinicians.'

'Both areas are now out of the direct patient flow for the main ward areas, which has improved privacy and patient confidentiality.'

Macmillan Cancer Support's director for Scotland Elspeth Atkinson said the improved facility will provide a much more comfortable experience for chemotherapy patients in Skye and Lochalsh. She added: 'It is thanks to the tremendous generosity of local people that it has been possible to open this facility and, by working together with our Skye and Lochalsh supporters and with NHS Highland, we will continue to look for ways to help people affected by cancer.'



Fort William Accordion and Fiddle Club dance hits all the right notes

Pictured above are some of the company who enjoyed a great night at the Fort William Accordion and Fiddle Club's annual dinner dance in the West End Hotel, Fort William, on Friday February 19. Music was provided by Lochaber man Archie MacPhee, who now lives in the Inverness area and travelled down with his band for the social.

Glengarry gives world a window on all its local events

GLENGARRY is giving the world a window on its local events, community organisations and history after the launch of its new community website.

The site, www.glengarrylife.com, aims to provide 'a community service that has a personal feel with an element of fun', website architect Dennis East, of Glen Albyn Lodge, Invergarry, told *The Oban Times*. He said: 'We have had a good response from other local community sites

that we have contacted and feel sure we can all learn from each other to help our communities to enjoy life more.'

'Life in and around the village of Invergarry is good and we are fortunate enough to live in one of the most beautiful parts of Scotland.'

'We have a small and friendly community that obviously enjoys living here and with only a little help from each other, life here could be almost perfect. The objective of this site is to help

provide topical community information that will assist those on and off line, through a friend, to enjoy life more.'

Mr East said most of the information for the website comes from members of various committees that serve Invergarry village but other pages will need input and running by those who are interested in helping.

Local people are welcome to make a page or new topic their own, Mr East said.

House gets planning go-ahead

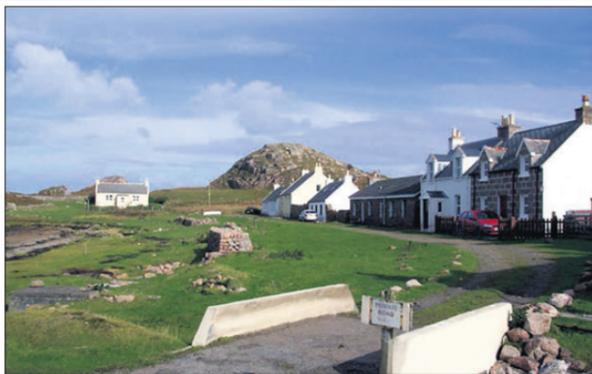
MR DONALD MacLeod has been granted permission to build a single storey house and 100 metre access road at 2 Uigshadder, Carbost, on the Isle of Skye.

The open field site on land north of the public road from Carbost to Woodend lies 20 metres from the ruins of a blackhouse and byre.

In its representation to Ross, Skye and Lochaber planning committee, Skeabost and District Community Council noted the proposed house intrudes into open farmland.

The applicant, it said, owns land on either side of the existing house known as Clynelish and stated its preference for the house to be built next to the public road, on one or other side of Clynelish, to avoid intrusion into the field.

Councillors noted the proposed house did not conform to the adopted local plan but does fall within the proposed settlement development area of the emergent local plan and passed the application.



Kintra as it is today.

Eagle-eyed readers solve Lochalsh woman's photo mystery - it's Kintra, Ross of Mull

LAST week's photo mystery in *The Oban Times* has been solved - thanks to our eagle-eyed readers.

Lochalsh woman Carol Mackay, from Drumbuie, was at a loss to place the small township pictured on a black and white photograph kept by her mother Janet MacLean.

Dozens of readers phoned or e-mailed to say they recognised the

scene - Kintra, north of Fionnphort on the Ross of Mull. The village looks much the same today although some of the houses have been renovated. Only three of the houses are lived in all year, while the remainder are holiday homes, readers said.

Carol thanked readers for their help but is yet to find out why her mum kept the picture. Watch this space!

Woman wins fight to build home on croft

BY STEPHEN NORRIS

A LOCHALSH woman has won her fight to build a home on the family croft - despite an objection from Network Rail.

At a meeting of Ross, Skye and Lochaber planning committee, Lynne Kennedy was granted full planning permission for the modest 1½ storey house on land east of Weale's Cottage, Port-An-Eorna, Duirinish, near Kyle.

It had been brought to the attention of Network Rail that Ms Kennedy was intending building the home on land across the scenic Kyle to Inverness rail line from Duirinish Station.

Network Rail informed the council it would not oppose the development if mini flashing lights and automated barriers were installed - but insisted residents of the settlement and/or any new developers would have to meet the estimated £250,000 cost. Ms Kennedy decided not take up that offer and Network Rail objected.

Planners said Network Rail's opposition meant the bid should be refused but councillors rejected that, arguing any extra traffic across the railway line generated by the new house would be minimal. One local objector said the level crossing was dangerously substandard and could not accommodate

any additional use, while two others cited concerns over demands on the private water supply and coastal flooding.

But Plockton Community Council fully supported Ms Kennedy's application and questioned Network Rail and others' opposition.

Chairman Charlie MacRae told *The Oban Times* after the meeting: 'Hundreds of visitors' cars use the crossing in the summer so what difference is one more house going to make? It would not make any difference at all.'

Blend in

Ms Kennedy, of Camusluine, Dornie, hired Sleat-based architects Dualchas to design the home to blend in with its location, a rocky piece of rough grazing land occupied by two ruinous stone outbuildings.

Unusually, Ms Kennedy's home has been designed with its biggest windows facing northeast away from the sun to allay privacy concerns of residents of the nearby Weales Cottage.

A Network Rail spokesman said: 'We are disappointed that the council approved the application despite our concerns and against the advice of its own officials as the development introduces an additional permanent risk to the railway.'

Police files

AN ATTEMPT was made to break into a house in Kennedy Road, Fort William, on Monday February 15 sometime between 11am and 4pm.

A GENT'S mountain bike was stolen from outside the Cop, Kilmallie Road, Caol, about 8pm on Saturday February 27.

ANYONE with knowledge of these incidents is asked to contact Fort William Police Station on 01397 702361 or the confidential telephone line on 01397 702000.

Instead of reading this 40,885* readers could be reading your advert.

* Audit Bureau of Circulation Jan - Dec 2009

Telephone: 01631 568000

The Oban Times

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Livestock market reports

OBAN Caledonian Marts (Stirling) Ltd

Cattle
Bullocks: 0-250kgs £440 Home-stead, 215p Poltalloch Farms;
251-300kgs £630 Upper Largie, 215p Upper Largie;

129p; Norrieston (Mon) £855, 108.2p; High Unthank (BB) £765, Gray-stale 109.2p;
Sheep
Hoggs
Crummock (SuffX) £76; (TexX) £75.50; Moren-ish (X) £71.50; Braefoot (BF) £67.50; North Amulree (BF) £64; Dyke (ContX) £63.50; Fern-dale (BF) £60.

Cheviot: Tighnahinch, £96;
Suffolk: Wester Craiglands, £94;
Bluefaced Leicester: Whitebog, £91;
Cross: Balvaird, Muir of Ord, £91;
Mule: Redfield, North Kessoock, £85;
Blackface: Dunain Mains, Inverness, £66.
In-lamb ewes:
SuffolkX : 6 Portleigh, Delny, £94;
Cross: Cloughmore, Farr, £71;
Cheviot: Pynag, and Glencalvie, Ardgay, £70.

DINGWALL

Dingwall and Highland Marts

Cheviot females
Main register :
Ewe lambs - Dispersal from the Field of Noss flock, Wick, £260, £240;
Smiddyquoy, £220.
In lamb gimmers - 25 Habost, Ness, Isle of Lewis, £350; Biggins, £350 (twice); 25 Habost, £300.
In lamb ewes - Field of Noss, £300; Muirton, Munloch, £200; Field of Noss, £150 (thrice).
Hill register
In lamb gimmers - Heathmount, Tain, £200; Suisgill Estate, Helmsdale, £200; Heathmount, £180.
In lamb ewes - Heathmount, £600, £550; Suisgill Shepherds Pack, Helmsdale, £380; Suisgill Estate, £220; Torrish Estate, £210.

DINGWALL

Dingwall and Highland Marts

Lambs:
Cross: Aberchaldar, Gorthleck, £84;
BeltexX: Braes of Coulmore, North Kessoock, (Douglas), £82;
Zwarbles: Muirton, Munloch, £82;
SuffolkX: Balmacaan, Drumadrochit, £82;
TexelX: Shewglie, Glenurquhart, £81;
Bleu De Maine: Tighnahinch, Alcaig, £81;
Cheviot: Tighnahinch, £80;
Bluefaced Leicester: Whitebog, Rosemarkie, £80;
Mule: Rychraggan, Drumadrochit, £78;
Blackface: Stromecar-nach, Lochcarron, and Balmacaan, £75;
Texel: Allanglach, North Kessoock, £70;
Blue Leicester: Cambusmore Estate, Dornoch, £67;
Suffolk: Shewglie, £64;
CharollaisX : Easter Rarichie, Fearn, £62;
Swale: Cawdor Estate, Cawdor, £62.
Ewes:
TexelX : Wester Craiglands, Fortrose, £122;
Texel: Wester Craiglands, £112;
Charmoise: Kinnahaird, Contin, £107;
Bleu De Maine: Tighnahinch, £101;
BeltexX: Braes of Coulmore, (Douglas), £100;
CharollaisX: Whitebog, £98;

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined between the hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) at the AREA PLANNING AND BUILDING STANDARDS OFFICE, FULTON HOUSE, GORDON SQUARE, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6XY and, where given, the alternative location(s).

Table with 4 columns: Reference Number, Development Address, Proposal Description, Alternative locations where application may be inspected and time period for comments. Includes entries for 10/00051/FULLO, 10/00055/FULLO, 10/00057/FULLO, and 10/00058/FULLO.

Planning and Development Service
eplanning@Highland1, PO Box 5740, The Highland Council, Inverness IV1 9DH

crofters commission

The following decrofting Directions have been granted:
Part Croft
Island View Croft, Blackcrofts, Ardchattan & Muckairn
Direction dated 24 February 2010 granted to Ian J Campbell. Area ext to 0.16 ha.
Conditions: Purchase within 5 years. The land is used for a house site. Complete enclosure of the site with a stockproof fence or barrier within 4 months of completion of the proposed development.
Case Number: 4.86.21042
The granting of this Direction may be appealed to the Scottish Land Court, within 42 days from the date of this advert. Information on how to appeal is available from the Crofters Commission.

Oban & Lorn Youth Pipe Band Association
A.G.M.
Oban High School Pipe Band
Monday 8th March 7pm
Oban High School, Assembly Hall
All players, parents and interested parties welcome.
www.ohspipeband.org.uk

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WATER ENVIRONMENT AND WATER SERVICES (SCOTLAND) ACT 2003 WATER ENVIRONMENT (CONTROLLED ACTIVITIES)(SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2005

*Notice is hereby given, in accordance with Regulation 13 of the Regulations, that an application has been made to the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) by David Blair for authorisation to carry out a controlled activity, namely:
1. Abstraction of 1900.8 m3 per day from the Eas an Duin at NGR NR 9794 7350 from August 2010.
2. Impoundment of water within the Eas an Duin at NGR NR 9794 7350 from August 2010.
Any person affected or likely to be affected by, or having an interest in, the application may make representations about the application to SEPA in writing within 28 days beginning with the date of this advertisement, at the following address, quoting reference number: CARV/1037828
The Registry, SEPA, Graesser House, Fodderty Way, Dingwall, IV15 9XB.
*A copy of the application may be inspected free of charge, at the above address between 9.30am and 4.30pm Monday to Friday (except local and national holidays) or by prior arrangement at SEPA Lochgilphead office, 2 Smiddy Lane, Lochgilphead, PA31 8TA, telephone 01546 602876.
*Written representations received within 28 days of this advertisement will be taken into consideration in determining the application. Any such representations will be placed in a public register unless the person making them requests that they should not be. Where such a request is made there will be included in the register a statement indicating that representations have been made which have been the subject of such a request.

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us @ www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

AUDIT COMMITTEE - EXTERNAL APPOINTMENT
Argyll and Bute Council is committed to the highest standards of openness, probity and accountability, and wishes to demonstrate a positive approach to compliance with these standards by appointing an independent person from the Argyll and Bute community to the Audit Committee.
The Audit Committee has responsibility for the independent review of the systems of internal control, financial management, risk, governance, performance management and of the external audit process.
The Audit Committee is likely to require a time commitment of 8 days per annum. While no remuneration is payable, travel and subsistence costs will be paid.
You must be able to demonstrate a substantial and ongoing commitment to the Argyll and Bute area. No formal qualifications are required, but you should have the necessary skills to analyse complex issues, exercise clear judgement and objective and fair decision taking and above all be capable of commanding respect of others within a commitment to the ethos of public service.
If you would wish to be considered, please write to the Director of Corporate Services, Argyll and Bute Council, Kilmory, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8RT by not later than 12 noon on Friday 26 March 2010 setting out fully the skills, experience and personal attributes which you believe you would bring to the job. If you would like further information about the appointment please telephone Charles Reppke on 01546 604192.

WATER ENVIRONMENT AND WATER SERVICES (SCOTLAND) ACT 2003 WATER ENVIRONMENT (CONTROLLED ACTIVITIES)(SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2005

*Notice is hereby given, in accordance with Regulation 13 of the Regulations, that an application has been made to the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) by Lakeland Marine Farm Limited for authorisation to carry out a controlled activity, namely:
1. Variation of the current consent to increase the discharge of effluent resulting from marine cage fish farming to Loch Craignish at NGR NM 8112 0226.
Any person affected or likely to be affected by, or having an interest in, the application may make representations about the application to SEPA in writing within 28 days beginning with the date of this advertisement, at the following address, quoting reference number: CAR/L/1000813.
The Registry, SEPA, Graesser House, Fodderty Way, Dingwall Business Park, Dingwall, IV15 9XB
*A copy of the application may be inspected free of charge, at the above address between 9.30am and 4.30pm Monday to Friday (except local and national holidays) or by prior arrangement at SEPA's Lochgilphead office, 2 Smiddy Lane, Lochgilphead, PA31 8TA.
*Written representations received within 28 days of this advertisements will be taken into consideration in determining the application. Any such representations will be placed in a public register unless the person making them requests that they should not be. Where such a request is made there will be included in the register a statement indicating that representations have been made which have been the subject of such a request.

NATIONAL PARKS AND ACCESS TO THE COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1949 (AS AMENDED)

WILDLIFE & COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981 (AS AMENDED)
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 19 (4) of the above 1949 Act that by The Rum National Nature Reserve Declaration 2010 dated the sixteenth day of February Two Thousand and Ten it was declared by Scottish Natural Heritage that the area of ground extending to ten thousand eight hundred and thirty nine decimal two hectares (10839.2) or thereby on The Isle of Rum, Inverness-shire and in the local authority area of Highland Council is managed as a Nature Reserve under the provisions of the above Acts with effect from the Tenth day of March, Two Thousand and Ten.

With effect from the same date, the Rhum Nature Reserve Declaration 1957 dated 4 April 1957 was superseded and withdrawn.

Certified Copies of the Declaration with plans annexed have been deposited for public inspection free of charge as undernoted and may be inspected for a period of one month following the Tenth day of March Two Thousand and Ten.

Table with 3 columns: Director of Planning, Highland Council, Scottish Natural Heritage; Highland Council, Lochaber House, Great Glen House; Glenurquhart Road, High Street, Leachkin Road; INVERNESS, Fort William, Inverness; IV3 5NX, PH33 6EL, IV3 8NW

Table with 2 columns: Scottish Natural Heritage, Scottish Natural Heritage; The Governors House, The Reserve Office; The Parade, The White House; Fort William, Isle of Rum; PH33 6BA, PH43 4RR

All during normal opening hours.

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us @ www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

PLANNING TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

Applications for planning permission listed below together with the plans and other documents submitted with them may be examined at Lorn House Albany Street Oban PA34 4AR, the location detailed below between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday to Friday and by logging to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk and clicking on Online Planning Applications.
*Ref No: 10/00032/PP
Applicant: Gallacher Developments Ltd
Proposal: Erection of 5 dwelling houses
Site Address: Raraig House, Raeric Road, Tobermory, Isle of Mull, Argyll and Bute, PA75 6PU
Location of Plans: Tobermory Area Office
*Ref No: 10/00226/PP
Applicant: Oban Marina Ltd
Proposal: Redevelopment of existing shed/canopy to form licensed bar and grill forming part of marina facilities
Site Address: Oban Marina, Ardvanter Bay, Isle of Kerrera, Oban, Argyll and Bute, PA34 4SX
Location of Plans: Oban Area Office
*Ref No: 10/00235/PP
Applicant: Ganavan Sands Developments Ltd
Proposal: Erection of garage and bin stores and formation of 23 car parking spaces
Site Address: Plots 8 And 9, Ganavan Sands, Oban, Argyll and Bute, PA34 4RF
Location of Plans: Oban Area Office
*Ref No: 10/00264/PP
Applicant: Mr I Kennedy
Proposal: Alterations and change of use of ground floor garage to dwellinghouse
Site Address: Dunuaran House, Dunuaran Road, Oban, Argyll and Bute, PA34 4NE
Location of Plans: Oban Area Office
*Ref No: 10/00310/PPP
Applicant: Mr and Mrs Martin
Proposal: Erection of a dwelling house.
Site Address: Plot 4, Mill Farm House, Barcaldine, Oban, Argyll and Bute, PA37 1SE
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Ledaig
*Ref No: 10/00312/PP
Applicant: Keith and Isabel Robbie
Proposal: Alterations and extension to dwelling house
Site Address: Ishriff, Glen More, Isle of Mull, Argyll and Bute PA65 6BD
Location of Plans: Oban Area Office
Argyll and Bute Council maintain a Register of planning applications which can be viewed between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. at Planning Services, Dalriada House, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8ST.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Take notice that the applications in the following schedule may be inspected during normal office hours at Lorn House Albany Street Oban PA34 4AR, the location detailed below and by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk and clicking on Online Planning Applications. Anyone wishing to make representations should do so in writing to the undersigned within 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 PLANS
*Ref No: 10/00106/PP
Applicant: Scottish Youth Hostel Association
Proposal: Removal of external stair and replacement windows
Site Address: Oban Youth Hostel, Raasay Lodge, Corran Esplanade, Oban, Argyll and Bute, PA34 5AF
Location of Plans: Oban Area Office
Any letter of representation the council receives about a planning application is considered a public document.
Please therefore note that representations will be made available for public inspection and, under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act, will be copied on request. They will also be published on the council's web site.
The author of such a representation is solely responsible for its content and accuracy.
Anonymous representations will be "shredded" and those marked confidential will be returned to the sender. Neither will be taken into account when the application is being considered.
Details of representations we receive on planning applications can be viewed on the council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/publicaccess

COUNCILLORS SURGERIES

Councillor Mary Jean Devon (E.W 4 Oban South and the Isles)
Constituents can contact Councillor Devon on Tel: 01688 301215 or email - mary-jean.devon@argyll-bute.gov.uk
Councillor Gordon Chalmers (E.W. 4 Oban South and the Isles)
Constituents can contact Councillor Chalmers on Tel 01688 302689 or email - gordon.chalmers@argyll-bute.gov.uk or gordon.chalmers@btinternet.com
Councillor Donald McIntosh (E.W 4 Oban South and the Isles)
Applicant: McIntosh's constituents can contact him on Tel: 07788 882200 or by email - donald.mcintosh@argyll-bute.gov.uk
Councillor Donald Macdonald (E.W.5 Oban North and Lorn)
Councillor Macdonald's constituents can contact him on Tel: 01631 566367 or by email - donald.macdonald@argyll-bute.gov.uk

Scottish Natural Heritage Dualchas Nàdair na h-Alba

All of nature for all of Scotland
Nàdair air fad airson Alba air fad

INFORMATION NOTICE NATURE CONSERVATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2004

Rum Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

Scottish Natural Heritage gives notice that on 15 January 2010, in accordance with its duty under Schedule 1 paragraph 4 of the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004, it confirmed the partial de-notification of land in Rum SSSI centred on NM398977 made on 23 September 2009. A copy of the confirmation and the modified notification can be inspected and obtained free of charge from Martin Faulkner, Scottish Natural Heritage, The Governor's House, The Parade, Fort William, PH33 6BA. The boundary map, description of the natural features of special interest (citation) and list of operations requiring consent can also be seen on the SSSI Register held by the Registers of Scotland - www.sssi.ros.gov.uk

Kristin Scott
Area Manager, West Highland
Scottish Natural Heritage
The Governor's House
The Parade
Fort William
PH33 6BA

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Lighthouse Caledonia

Lighthouse Caledonia is a leading independent producer of high quality Scottish salmon. The company is engaged in all stages of farming Atlantic salmon from smolt production through to harvesting, processing, packing and sales. We are committed to high standards of animal welfare, sustainable operations and the promotion of a responsible environmental policy.

We are currently recruiting for the following vacancy within the Upper Loch Fyne area located within our South Production Region.

Senior Marine Operative - (Ref: QP/SMO(2))
(Salary grading range - depending on experience - £21,000 - £24,000)

The ideal candidate will already be experienced in fish husbandry and have the capability to lead a small team in the day-to-day operations at our marine site at Ardcastle in the Upper Loch Fyne area. This position would suit someone who is self-motivated, with good organisational and communication skills. They will be able to demonstrate prior experience in working within a small, focused team in a constantly changing and challenging environment. Committed to high standards of Health and Safety and a good understanding of the importance of environmental issues. Where previous aquaculture and boat handling experience is a must for this post, the company can also offer further development opportunities.

Working hours are normally 40hrs per week Monday to Friday, with weekend working required on rota basis. Overtime is paid at an enhanced rate.

In return, the company offers a comprehensive pay and benefits package including entry into the Company pension scheme after the qualifying period.

A full, clean driving licence is also essential.

Closing date for applications: 5pm on Friday 12 March 2010.

For an application form and job description, please contact: HR Department, Lighthouse Caledonia Ltd., Ardkinglas, Cairndow, Argyll, PA26 8BH
Tel: 01499 600 415
E-mail: cairndowhr@lighthousecaledonia.com
Visit our website at www.lighthousecaledonia.com

Scottish Sea Farms

Marine Farming Career Opportunities

Scottish Sea Farms is the UK's leading producer of premium quality Scottish salmon. We are trusted to supply Britain's most demanding retailers and need exceptional staff to build our business within Argyll.

Marine Husbandryman (Feed Specialist) Argyll / Mull

It is anticipated that you will have a wealth of "hands on" aquaculture experience and be passionate about feed management. You will have a clear vision on what is required to deliver efficient conversion rates and an excellent track record to prove it. Above all, you will set high standards, want to progress to a senior position and be willing to improve your career through taking initiative, influencing others and seizing training opportunities. This is a salaried position, with additional weekend payments, bonus scheme and occupational health support. Relocation assistance will be offered.

Trainee Fish Farmer Argyll / Mull

No previous experience required but you must have high standard of workmanship, be enthusiastic, practical and willing to take on new challenges; acquiring new skills to meet these. Salary and conditions will be commensurate with the existing pay structure after a satisfactory probation and 6 month review.

All applicants are required to have a full, clean drivers licence.

If you would like to know more and to request an application pack, please contact Claire Scott, Human Resources on 01786 445521 or email, claire.scott@scottishseafarms.com
Closing Date: Friday 12th March 2010

marineharvest
excellence in seafood

Freshwater Farm Manager
Basic Remuneration Package £30k - £35k

Marine Harvest (Scotland) Ltd is the largest Aquaculture Company operating in Scotland. Our Marine and Freshwater farms are located throughout the West Coast and Outer Isles.

We are currently looking to identify a suitably qualified and highly motivated individual to undertake the role of Farm Manager at our newest and largest freshwater farm, Loch Lochy, nr Fort William.

The role will report to the Freshwater Lochs Manager and will be fully involved in the development of the new farm site & facilities. In time, Loch Lochy is expected to produce in excess of 5 million smolts.

The successful candidate, who must be a strong team player, will possess several years fish farming experience and have a sound understanding of fish husbandry, biology and welfare. Leadership combined with strong interpersonal, communication, organisational and planning skills as well as the ability to problem solve, motivate and achieve results through the success of others are some of the attributes required for this post.

Candidates must possess excellent computer skills, particularly in Microsoft Excel and Word. In addition, applicants should have a full driving licence and should be prepared to undertake travel as required.

In return the successful candidate will benefit from a highly competitive salary package, plus bonus scheme, and the opportunity to develop their management career within a global company at the forefront of the Scottish Salmon Farming Industry. Assistance with relocation will also be available, if required.

If you feel you have the necessary skills to respond to this role, please submit an application in writing with details of relevant experience, no later than Thursday 18th March 2010 to: Vicky Ferguson, Human Resources Manager, Marine Harvest (Scotland) Ltd, Business Resource Centre, Blar Mhor Industrial Estate, Fort William, PH33 7PT.

Informal enquires can be addressed to Gideon Pringle, Freshwater Manager, Marine Harvest (Scotland) Ltd, Farms Office, Blar Mhor Industrial Estate, Fort William, PH33 7PT. Mobile 07747 487232 e-mail gideon.pringle@marineharvest.com

Seasonal Visitor Services Advisor, Campbeltown and Lochgilphead

Salary from £6.33 per hour

You're passionate about Scotland. So why not join our team and become the first point of contact for thousands of visitors? As a Seasonal Visitor Services Advisor, you will have the customer service experience to sell our products and services, the confidence to maximise customer spend, coupled with strong organisational, admin and IT skills. Most of you'll have good local and national knowledge, and excellent communication skills. Weekend working will be required.

For further information and to apply please visit www.visitscotland.org. Closing date: 19th March 2010.

www.visitscotland.org

Don't think you could be an Optical Assistant? We'll train you, so you can.

We'll give you all the support and training to ensure you know all you need to know about the optical trade - so, don't worry if you don't have any experience. All you need is a passion for great customer service and an ability to work closely with people. There's the reward of a great salary and bonuses. See? There's nothing to fear and everything to gain.

To find out more about working at Specsavers Oban, please phone or call into the store: Glenis Campbell, 70 George Street, Oban. Tel: 01631 567770.

You should work at [Specsaversonline.com](http://www.specsaversonline.com)

The Auchindrain Trust

Operations Assistant (Catering)

28 hours/£6.50 an hour

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This position is salaried with a 1:3 weekend working demand. The successful candidate will see this as a key step to career development within SSF and should be open to training investment.

A clean driving license is compulsory. Salary and conditions will be in the region of 18K-20K + overtime.

Some assistance may be available in relocating to the area if applicable.

In addition, Scottish Sea Farms operates a generous bonus incentive scheme and a leading occupational health programme.

If you would like to know more please contact Claire Scott on 01786 445521 or email claire.scott@scottishseafarms.com to obtain an application pack.
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Base negotiable within Argyll & Bute CHP

Ref: 09ab/201b

Based in Argyll & Bute CHP, you will be responsible for the provision of IT mentoring and support service for Primary Care, General Practice & Community Pharmacy within the whole of Argyll & Bute CHP. This includes sites on the Islands of Islay, Jura, Mull, Coll & Tiree. On occasions, you will be called upon to supplement resources in other localities within the Argyll & Bute CHP. The eHealth department provides the development, application and implementation of technology to improve effectiveness in healthcare. It includes the use of telemedicine and clinical systems used for diagnosis and care pathways. It also applies to the policies and protocols that assure the confidentiality and security of sensitive data and those aspects that support major change of working practice - training, support and organisational development.

You should have a recognised professional qualification/specialist knowledge in IT, Training, Primary Care, Pharmacy or Dentistry, educated to degree/HND or equivalent level and have experience in a similar role. Accreditation to train at least one clinical/PMR system, experience of working within a customer environment, a good understanding of Primary Care, General Practice, Community Pharmacy or Dentistry procedures underpinned by theoretical knowledge and practical experience in a focused environment are essential to this role. Good communication skills are essential both in dealing with demanding users and in advising users of all levels in terms of use of IT services or in meeting new requirements. A clean UK driving licence is required as a considerable amount of travelling around Argyll & Bute CHP is necessary to carry out the duties associated with this post although use of a pool car is frequently possible.

Informal enquiries are welcomed by Stephen Morrow, IT Development Manager on 01436 655021.

Application packs are available from the HR Department, NHS Highland, Argyll & Bute CHP, Aros, Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8LB, call 01546 606788 (24 hour answering service) or email: recruitmentlab@nhs.net
Closing date for receipt of applications: 19 March 2010.

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Fidden Limousins sell to £700 at Oban store sale

CALEDONIAN Marts (Stirling) Ltd had forward 83 store cattle, five young bulls, 14 breeding cattle and 10 Over 30 Month cattle, plus 592 sheep of all classes at Oban on Tuesday.

Bullocks averaged 188.8p per kg and sold to 215p per kg (twice) for 200kg Limousins from Poltalloch Farms, Kilmartin and six 295kg Limousins from Upper Lachie, Kilmartin and to £700 for a 365kg Limousin from Fidden, Isle of Mull.

Heifers averaged 181.6p per kg and sold to 211p per kg for a 285kg Limousin from Oban Seil Croft, Balvicar and to £685 for a 335kg Limousin from Achnaba, North Connel. Bulls averaged 138.6p per kg and sold to 158p per kg for two 215kg Galloways from Scallastle, Mull and to £490 for two 495kg Galloways from the same home.

Texel hogs from Achnaba sold to £82.



Parton Vintage, a January 2008 bull which sold to 2,600gns

Highest priced Whitebred bull comes to Mid-Argyll

THE TOP priced Whitebred Shorthorn bull at this year's annual spring breed sale came back to Argyll when Ardnaw Farms Ltd, Achahoish, Lochgilhead paid 2,600gns for the second prize bull, Parton Vintage, a January 2008 bull, sired by Broadleyfold Craig, bred by Messrs Hewson, Burgh Head Farm, Burgh By Sands, Carlisle.

From the same home, Parton Prestigious, born April 2008 realised 2,400gns and travels

to Penderyn, near Aberdare in Mid Glamorgan with Messrs Davies.

The pre sale show was judged by Gordon Kyle, Spout Bank, Walton, Brampton who awarded the championship to Blackburn Ace, a January 2008 bull bred and exhibited by Gordon Jackson, Blackburn, Newcastle. Sired by Milnholm Scott, this bull was knocked down at 2,500gns to John Higgs Farms, Arkleton, Ewes, Langholm.

At 1,200gns, Corrie Granite, a June 2008 bull sired by Corrie Reiver from Keith Laurie, Snowdon Close, Gilsland, Brampton travels over the water to Ballymena, Co Antrim with Mr J McCurdy.

Harrison & Hetherington Ltd conducted the spring sale of Registered Whitebred Shorthorn Cattle on behalf of members of the Whitebred Shorthorn Association on February 26 when six bulls were forward.

Winter weather hits Cheviot female show and sale

Heathmount in-lamb hill ewes sell to £600 at Dingwall

DINGWALL and Highland Marts Ltd sold 47 registered Cheviot females at its inaugural show and sale at Dingwall last Thursday.

The adverse weather conditions seriously affected the hill sheep entry and intending purchasers but a very satisfactory trade was realised for the brave souls that made the sale with gimmers selling to £600 and in-lamb hill ewes also selling to £600 from Heathmount.

The Main Register judge, Mr R. Sutherland, Hillclay, Caithness, awarded his champion to the first prize ewe lamb, sired by Bardnaclavan Baron, from James Mackay, Biggins, Wick, realising £300 to the judge, - and the reserve award to the second prize ewe lamb, sired by Smiddyquoy Highlander, from Messrs J & J Farquhar, Smiddyquoy,

Watten, realising £330 to Mr H Sutherland, Drummuie, Golspie.

Hill Register judge Mr R. J. Lund, East Clough Farm, Cumbria, awarded his champion to the first prize in-lamb ewe, a five-year old Langdale Typhoon daughter carrying twins to Balnakeil Boomerang from Badanloch Estate Limited, Kinbrace, realising £580 to the judge, - with the reserve award going to the first prize gimmer, another Langdale Typhoon daughter carrying twins to North House Nailier, also from Badanloch Estate Limited, which realised £600 also to the judge.

Main register average: 17 ewe lambs, £177.06; 8 gimmers, £266.25; 10 ewes, £180.

Hill register average: 4 gimmers, £295; 8 ewes, £367.50.

Texel gimmers with twins to £260 at Stirling

UNITED Auctions sold 793 store cattle, 72 cast cows and 1,062 store sheep at Stirling last Wednesday when trade for store cattle was back on the week by an average of six pence per kilo.

Bullocks averaged 183.57p (-5.19p) and sold to 210p per kg for a 360kg Charolais cross from Dyke and £910 for a 584kg Aberdeen Angus cross from Auchensalt.

Heifers averaged 171.4p (-7.11p) and sold to 216p per kg for a 412kg Charolais cross from Torhouses and £895 for a 532kg Blonde D'Aquataine cross from Dyke.

Cast cows averaged 103.61p and sold to 129p for a Blonde D'Aquataine cross from Puskin and £1,055 for a Simmental cross from Langraw.

Suffolk cross hogs from Crummock sold to £76 with Crosses from Morenish, Killin to £71.50. Blackface hogs from North Amulree sold to £64.

Ewes sold to £67 for Crosses from Crummock with Blackfaces from Ormsary, Lochgilhead to £48. Crummock sold Texel gimmers, scanned with twins, to £260 and Texels scanned with singles to £160.

Evanton, and £1,221.80 for a 745kg Limousin cross from Alanaha, Nairn.

Prime heifers averaged 163.9p (-5.0p) and sold to 181p per kg for a 565kg Limousin cross from Woodend, Killearnan, and £1,083.30 for a 690kg Limousin cross from Drummond Farm.

Old season lambs averaged 187.2p (+3.4p) and sold to 204.4p per kg and £92 for 45kg Texel crosses from Torgorm, Conon Bridge to Fraser Brothers Butchers, Dingwall.

Store hoggets sold to £80 for Beltex crosses from A McInnes, Ruaig, Isle of Tiree.

Ewe hoggets sold to £87 For Mules from Roskill Ltd, Gartenbantrick.

Grit ewes sold to £84 for TexX from M L Wilson, Baluskie while feeding ewes sold to £75 for Suffolks from M L Wilson, Baluskie.

Tiree Beltex top sale at Stirling

CALEDONIAN Marts (Stirling) sold 1,638 store hoggets, ewe hoggets, grit and feeding ewes at Millhall market, Stirling

Store hoggets sold to £80 for Beltex crosses from A McInnes, Ruaig, Isle of Tiree.

Ewe hoggets sold to £87 For Mules from Roskill Ltd, Gartenbantrick.

Grit ewes sold to £84 for TexX from M L Wilson, Baluskie while feeding ewes sold to £75 for Suffolks from M L Wilson, Baluskie.

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Under 50,000 ml. 7 months MOT. 1 months TAX.
 Daytime 01546 600040
 Evenings 01546 886331

HYUNDAI TRAJET 2.0 7 SEATER

£2950

2002 seven seater people carrier one years mot, electric windows, power locks, air bags, ABS, PAS, CD player, very good condition just through full service & new brakes fitted average 35 mpg.

Tel: 01586 552283 or 07789034353

1998 FORD FIESTA FINESSE 1.3

Genuine 31,000 miles
 Mot 23/10/10
 Tax 31/5/10
 Excellent condition for year.

Telephone: 01866 833271

£895 o.n.o.

2000 (X REG) FORD GALAXY 2.3LX PETROL

Mot-Jan '11 Taxed-end September. 112000 miles. Service History. Fitted with new Karrie roof box.

Telephone: 01681 700776 or 0781 032 5990

£2250 o.n.o.

RED BAY 7.5M

Totally refurbished, Yamaha diesel engine, new stern leg wrap around wheelhouse. Further details telephone 01586 554480 / 01586 552698 (evenings) / 077889 23890 (mobile)

PART EXCHANGE CONSIDERED - BOAT, CAR OR VAN

Buyers should note where standardised silhouettes are used they do not accurately represent the vehicle being sold

SUBARU IMPREZA 2.0 WRX 2001

£3200 o.n.o.

5 Door Hatch 2 Owners MOT 'd & Taxed Standard Car with no modifications ABS Air Con Alloy Sport Seats Average Miles For Age 95K Cat 1 Alarmed VGC

Tel: 01499 302922

SUBARU LEGACY OUTBACK AWD AUTO ESTATE

Petrol, 51 reg, 12 month MOT, 4 months tax, 4 new tyres, Tow bar, Electric, CD player, Metallic Green, Good family and winter car, 4 wheel drive.

Telephone: 07799 164311

£1950 o.n.o.

RENAULT MEGANE

5 door hatch, blue, 1.4 petrol, 44,000 miles
 Tax Sept/MOT Oct.
 One careful owner.

Telephone: 01586 820370

£3995 o.n.o.

HONDA CIVIC 1.4i SPORT

£1850 o.n.o.

77,000 miles, X reg, Petrol, Manual, Electric sunroof, windows and mirrors, New timing belt, New tyres, 12 months tax, 9 months MOT, Good condition.

Tel: 07767 800794

1993 SWIFT CONQUEROR 520

4 berth with awnings.

Telephone: 01770 (Arran) 302351

£1450

110 FOUR STROKE PIT BIKE

Suitable for motocross track
 Great first bike
 Good condition

Telephone: 01546 603888 / 07768 723721

£3350 o.n.o.

VW TRANSPORTER 800 SPECIAL 1.9TD

YEAR 2000
 MOT till NOV

Telephone: 01770 (ARRAN) 700423

£1900

54%
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Regional press is the relevant choice for motors advertising.

Source: Consumers' Choice V, The Newspaper Society



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 closer to home

Need an MOT?
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Contact Donald or Neil
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 Quarry Road, Oban
 Tel: 01631 564614

Motoring Times
 For the latest local deals on new and used cars In association with Quarry Road MOT Centre

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NOW ONLINE

Advertise your unwanted items in either The Oban Times, Campbeltown Courier or Argyllshire Advertiser and your ad will also appear online at www.westcoastclassifieds.co.uk.

LOCAL services

AUDIO EQUIPMENT

KENWOOD CD PLAYER Kenwood CD separate player, model DP-3040, in excellent condition, £25 Telephone 01631 720674.

PRO KARAOKE SYSTEM complete karaoke system by KAM, amp, speakers, CDG/DVD player and twin wireless mics with receiver, 40 + disks also included, £399 Telephone 01838 200419.

BABY EQUIPMENT

BUMBO BABY SITTER comes with a plastic tray so can be used as a chair for feeding or playing pink in colour and in excellent condition must see, £30 Telephone 01838 200529.

CAR SEAT Maxicosi rear facing car seat in red, suitable from birth-2 years, can also be used as a baby carrier, very good condition, £40 Telephone 01631 564886.

COSATTO HIGHCHAIR folding highchair, 5 point safety harness, PVC seat and plastic tray, suit boy or girl, easy to clean, good condition, £20 Telephone 01631 710787.

MACLAREN BUGGY MacLaren twin techno buggy, blue and grey, excellent condition, £75 Telephone 01631 720769.

MAMAS AND PAPAS "Sugar and spice" themed nursery accessories, all in very good condition (would suit boy or girl), tab top curtains, cot quilt and bumper, light shade, cot musical mobile, can be viewed, £40 Telephone 01546 606366.

MAMAS AND PAPAS reclining high chair (black leather seat), includes removable tray and toy basket, very good condition, can be viewed, £49.99 Telephone 01546 606366.

MAXI COSI CAR SEAT vgc, birth - 4 years. Easy to install, £45 Telephone 07834 640989.

MOSES BASKET and rocking stand with mattress, quilt removable lining and adjustable hood, white in colour, excellent condition, must see, £30 Telephone 01838 200529.

PLAYMAT AND RING colourful Gault baby play mat and inflatable ring to sit in, £15 the pair, £15 Telephone 01631 562921.

BICYCLES

ADULT MOUNTAIN BIKE adult sabre mountain bike, blue colour, suspension front and back, cost £380, sell £85 Telephone 07932 635849.

FOLDING TRAILER BIKE adjustable saddle height and handlebar reach, similar to item 10 on page 214 of Argos catalogue, suitable for ages 4-7years, £45 Telephone 01631 567487.

MOUNTAIN BIKE adults, £48 Telephone 07932 635849.

BUILDING / DIY

OXY/ACETALINE TUBES gauges and welding gun, £48 Telephone 07932 635849.

TILE CUTTER TABLE SAW 240 volt, £29 Telephone 07932 635849.

CAR ACCESSORIES

EXHAUST SYSTEM magnaflow stainless exhaust system, cat back system, awesome sound, fits direct onto Honda Type R or 5 door Type S, only three months old, £180 ono Telephone 01586 552725 07769 264901.

HONDA CIVIC DOORMATS genuine, 5 door mats, as new, £25 ono Telephone 01586 552725 07769 264901.

K/N INDUCTION KIT for honda civic type R or type S, still boxed and complete, £45 ono Telephone 01586 552725 07769 264901.

ROOF RACK for Punto car, quick sale, £10 Telephone 01546 606475.

VAUXHALL VECTRA ROOF RACK genuine lockable roof rack, models 02-09, bargain, £45 Telephone 07920 841866.

VECTRA VXR FLOOR MATS brand new vectra vxr full set floor mats, never been opened, bargain, £40 Telephone 07920 841866.

CARS AND CAR PARTS UNDER £250

RENAULT MEGANE non runner, 1997 renault megane rxe 2.0 scenic aut, 90,000 miles, pick up only, offers under £250 Telephone 01631 730081 Port Appin.

SAAB 2000 M reg, spares or repair, 128,000 miles, no tax or sorn, £50 ono, Telephone 07786 361606.

COMPUTERS AND GAMES

COMPUTER 1 apple 1 mac (0560x), Oban, buyer collects, £49.99 Telephone 07747 492780.

COMPUTER DESK 1 computer desk, silver in colour, metal, Oban, buyer collects, £25 Telephone 07747 492780.

COMPUTER KEYBOARD 1 black computer keyboard, Oban, buyer collects, £5 Telephone 07747 492780.

COMPUTER SPARES spare parts for a computer, internal lite-on DVD/CD rewritable drive, motherboard with fan, microsoft office keyboard etc, £25 Telephone 01546 606475.

NEW BT 2.0 HOME HUB brand new unopened and sealed BT black 2.0 home hub and hub phone 2.1, £45 Telephone 07747 342254.

NEW BT 2.0 HOME HUB BT home hub 2.0 black + hub phone, unopened, £40 Telephone 01631 720674.

WIRELESS ROUTER BT Router voyager 2091 ADSL with power plug and internet connection wire and one box to connect to tel, no disc, £10 Telephone 01546 606475.

DOMESTIC APPLIANCES

IRONING BOARD £7 Telephone 01631 569819 between 9 and 4.30pm.

VACUUM CLEANER panasonic, 1400 watt, £10 Telephone 01631 569819 between 9 and 4.30pm.

DOMESTIC PETS

BEARDIE PUPS 1 dog, 1 bitch, 5 months old, farm reared, good temperament, used to children Telephone 01583 431666.

COLLIE DOG PUPPY lovely nature, farm reared, 10 weeks old Telephone 07732 252349.

WEST HIGHLAND PUPS two west highland pups, £350 each, ready in 2 weeks, Telephone 01586 810223.

FREE AND SWAP

FISHING TACKLE old intertidal fishing reels and boxes and an old brass trout fly fishing reel Telephone 07747 492780.

FREE SAFETY PLAY/CRASH MATS 4 x 4ft x 4ft mats to protect children playing on hard surfaces from impact injuries, free Telephone 01631 564335.

FURNITURE

ASTRA BEECH TV UNIT very good condition, quick sale (H) 60.6, (W) 110, (D) 40.6cm, £10 Telephone 01546 606475.

BREAKFAST BAR beech and steel effect breakfast bar with 2 folding stools, £35 Telephone 01631 569819 between 9 and 4.30pm.

CANE CONSERVATORY SUITE beautiful 2 seater sofa and 2 armchairs, 2009 model, high backed luxury deep filled chenille cushions, unused, cost £1500, £495 Telephone 07766 773131.

CANE CONSERVATORY SUITE bargain, beautiful cane conservatory suite, 2 seater sofa, 2 armchairs, 2009 model, high backed luxury deep filled chenille cushions, sheer comfort, all totally unused, intended for show home, cost £1500, accept £495, can deliver Telephone 07766 773131.

CHEST OF DRAWERS small dark wood chest of drawers, good condition, £9 Telephone 01631 564848 during office hours.

CHILDS BED Ikea childs wooden bed with mattress, £35 Telephone 01631 569819 between 9 and 4.30pm.

COFFEE TABLE £10 Telephone 01631 569819 between 9 and 4.30pm.

CONSOLE TABLE mahogany effect, £10 Telephone 01631 569819 between 9 and 4.30pm.

DOUBLE AIR BED £5 Telephone 01631 569819 between 9 and 4.30pm.

DOUBLE SOAFABED lilac cushions, as new, never used, £49.99 Telephone 01586 553229.

DOUBLE WARDROBE dark wood double wardrobe with mirrored sliding doors, £39 Telephone 01631 564848 during office hours.

FIRESIDE CHAIR upright fireside chair with attractive dark red washable cover, £15 Telephone 01631 564848 during office hours.

FOLDING Z BED £15 Telephone 01631 569819 between 9 and 4.30pm.

GENTS WARDROBE gents 2'6" wardrobe, mirror door, 4 drawer, 63" single bed chair, with headboard, small cane chair, two seater settee, floral pattern, all very good condition, £95 for the lot Telephone 01631 563828.

GIRLS CHAIR girls pink velvet heart shaped chair, vgc, £5 Telephone 01852 314128.

IKEA TALLBOY white and pine, £25 Telephone 01631 569819 between 9 and 4.30pm.

KITCHEN TABLE drop leaf formica top kitchen table, £4 Telephone 01631 564848 during office hours.

LLOYD LOOM STYLE CHAIR yellow with cushions, £15 Telephone 01631 569819 between 9 and 4.30pm.

NEST OF TABLES conservatory style cane nest of three tables, £8 Telephone 01631 569819 between 9 and 4.30pm.

OFFICE CHAIR black leather effect swivel, gas lift office chair, £25 Telephone 01631 569819 between 9 and 4.30pm.

SIDEBOARD regency style mahogany veneer sideboard with inlay, £49.99 Telephone 01631 569819 between 9 and 4.30pm.

SINGLE DIVAN BED Single divan bed with pull out underbed, vgc, £35 Telephone 01770 600138.

SINGLE DIVAN BED with headboard, £9 Telephone 01631 564848 during office hours.

STORAGE CHEST large solid wood storage chest 6'x2', height 3', with 6 drawers, £19 Telephone 01631 564848 during office hours.

SUEDE COUCH brown three seater suede couch, 3 months old, twin recliner, as new, £250 ono Telephone 01586 552725 or 07769 264901.

TOP QUALITY Z-BED as new, never used, £49.99 Telephone 07834 640989.

TV UNIT Astra Beech TV unit, very good condition, (H) 60.6, (W) 110, (D) 40.6cm, quick sale, £10 Telephone 01546 606475.

TWO CHAIRS 1 large, 1 medium, wicker, vgc, ideal for conservatory, could deliver to Oban, £15 and £20 Telephone 01852 314128.

TWO SEATER AND CHAIR wooden frame with cushions style, chair and two seater, £30 ono Telephone 07765 120774 01546 606210.

TWO SEATER SOFA small two seater chesterfield style sofa, fawn colour with removable covers, £29 Telephone 01631 564848 during office hours.

WARDROBE large triple door stag wardrobe, dark wood, £29 Telephone 01631 564848 during office hours.

GARDEN

FOLDING GARDEN CHAIRS £5 each, Telephone 01631 569819 between 9 and 4.30pm.

GARDEN MACHINERY

HONDA HEDGE CUTTER single sided 4 stroke petrol hedge cutter, as not run for 2 years, two broken teeth, needs a good service, £30 Telephone 01838 200419.

HONDA LEAF BLOWER 4 stroke honda leaf blower, ideal for leaves, grass clippings twigs, etc, runs ok but could do with a new plug, £49.99 Telephone 01838 200419.

JONSERED CS 2138 CHAINSAW 4 years old, 15" bar, runs well, surplus to my requirements, ideal for firewood etc, £95 Telephone 01838 200419.

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

CROSS TRAINER v-fit cross trainer, £49 Telephone 01586 820466.

TENS MACHINE lloyds pharmacy, brand new, safe pain relief without pills, also muscle tone, dual channel, 8 modes, 4pads, large LCD, easy to use, £21 Telephone 01631 770698.

TREADMILL V-fit powered treadmill, £49 Telephone 01586 820466.

HEATING, FIRES AND FIREPLACES

ELECTRIC FIREPLACE SUITE light wood effect, as new, £150 ono Telephone 01631 563343.

HOBBIES AND CRAFTS

KNITTING MACHINE Bond, will knit double knitting yarn, £49.99 Telephone 01631 710208.

MATERIAL new canvas style material approx 6 yds or more, bright pink with huge orange circle, ideal for modern furnishings, £20 Telephone 01631 720369.

WOODEN SPINNING WHEEL £49.99 Telephone 01631 569819 between 9 and 4.30pm.

HOME ENTERTAINMENT PHILLIPS COLOUR TV 14", £20 Telephone 01586 552488.

PS3 GUITAR HERO hardly used guitar hero for ps3, comes with world tour game and guitar, also 007 game, rainbow 6 vegas 2 game, simpsons game, £49.99 Telephone 07920 841866.

STEREO 1 philips midi hifi system, cd, radio, tape and remote. Oban, buyer collects, £35 Telephone 07747 492780.

TV RECEIVER Bush tv receiver with instructions, quick sale, £7.50 Telephone 01546 606475.

TV STAND classic black, suitable for LCD and plasma TV, cable tidy facility, 3 black glass shelves with aluminium legs, £49 Telephone 01631 710541.

HOME FURNISHINGS

CONTENTS OF FLAT FOR SALE All household items Telephone 07786 474+0857.

LAMP SHADE boys camouflage plastic lampshade, vgc, £5 Telephone 01852 314128.

WINE RACK sturdy wooden and metal wine rack, holds 90 bottles, suitable for cellar, house, hotel, bar etc, in good condition, £20 Telephone 07796 847914.

KITCHEN AND BATHROOM

WALK IN BATH white walk-in bath with door and seat for elderly/disabled, £230 Telephone 07717 758288.

LIVESTOCK

PULLETS brown or black or pure breed, ducks, geese, feeders, drinkers, hen sheds Telephone 01470 572213.

LOST AND FOUND

REMOTE CONTROL LOST vehicle remote control, small, black 2 button, lost about 10.30am between Argyll Street and Royal Bank on Monday March 1st, Telephone 07810 450419.

MAIL ORDER

SCOTTISH FIELD CALENDARS, 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 2010.

OBAN TIMES WEST HIGHLAND CALENDAR, 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 2010.

MISCELLANEOUS

SWEET JARS 6 very large sweet jars ideal for storing food etc, £5 Telephone 01631 720369.

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

PORTABLE DIGITAL PIANO Yamaha YPP-50, compact, 76-full size key, 8 voices, recording feature and metronome, no need to tune! excellent condition, £125 Telephone 01631 570879.

OUTDOOR SPORTS EQUIPMENT

BINOCULARS 10x50, in case, £30 Telephone 07932 635849.

CANOE JACKET ladies canoe jacket, purple and black, good condition, £5 Telephone 01631 565241.

FISHING ROD telescopic carp rod/fishing rod, cost £72, sell for £35, Telephone 07932 635849.

ICE AXE mountain equipment, 50cm length, excellent condition, £45 Telephone 01631 565241.

ICEAXE mountain technology vertice ice axe, as new, £35 Telephone 01631 565241.

ICE HAMMER mountain technology ice hammer, vertice, as new, £35 Telephone 01631 565241.

LADIES GOLF SHOES Hi-Tec Penina tour junior ladies golf shoes, white with black sole, size 4, ideal for juniors or ladies, as new condition, £15 Telephone 01631 720149.

NEOPRENE TROUSERS excellent condition, size medium, £5 Telephone 01631 565241.

NEOPRENE SHORTS size medium, excellent condition, £5 Telephone 01631 565241.

NEOPRENE VEST neoprene vest, size medium, excellent condition, £10 Telephone 01631 565241.

PADDLE Canadian canoe paddle, £5 Telephone 01631 565241.

RYDER Z-40 IRONS set of 9 Ryder Z-40 maximum distance right handed irons including sand and pitching wedges, an absolute bargain, brand new in box, £30 Telephone 01631 720149.

WOODEN CANOE PADDLE single blade, new and unused, perfect condition, 1.5meters long, £28 Telephone 01631 770698.

PHOTOGRAPHY

TRIPOD STAND new, boxed camera tripod stand, £10 Telephone 01631 720369.

POWER TOOLS

MAKITA CIRCULAR SAW 9" blade, 110 volt, £48 Telephone 07932 635849.

POWER TOOLS selection of power tools good condition all under £49.99 Telephone 01631 563096.

PRINTING AND STATIONERY

LAMINATING keep your important documents safe from dust, dirt, tears and creases. From photos, health and safety documents, telephone lists, room signs etc. A4 - £2 A3 £3.

CHANGED ADDRESS? avoid writing out your details over and over again! Sticky labels to attach on all your correspondence, 500 labels from £20. Contact Krisp Printing and Stationery, Burnbank, Campbeltown Telephone 01586 554975.

TRAILERS

STEEL TIPPING TRAILER 4' X 6' requires some cosmetic work and requires a trailer board, floor is a bit rusty, but no holes, £49.99 Telephone 01838 200419.

WANTED

SCRAP METAL all types of scrap metal, we uplift cars, call Mr Cook, West Coast Scrap Metals, Telephone 01499 500638/ 07774 621917.

WANTED caravan, campervan or motorhome, any year, size or condition considered Telephone 07900 882331.

WANTED SCRAP metals, copper, brass, lead, stainless steel. All types of cable, household and armoured. Top prices paid, Telephone 0800 959483 / 07770 724851.

PERSONALS

Caroline Owens Would like to thank Dr Erik Jespersen, paramedics John, Christine, Kevin and Willie, doctors and staff at Ward B, Lorn and Islands District General Hospital, Oban, doctors and staff at Ward 63, Neuro Unit at the Southern General Hospital, Glasgow for their care and attention, and family and friends for their concern and good wishes, cards and flowers during her recent illness. God bless you all.

Christine Dryden would like to thank family and friends for their support, visits, cards and flowers received during and after her recent stay in hospital. Special thanks to Mr Yadav, doctors and nurses of Wards A and B Intensive Care Unit for their excellent care and attention.

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THE OBAN TIMES
West Highland Times

THE REGIONAL NEWSPAPER FOR THE WEST HIGHLANDS, ISLANDS AND ARGYLL

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Fax: Oban 568001
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Church, Taynuilt on Tuesday March 9 at 1.30pm. Retiring collection/donations if desired for Muckairn Church funds.

MACDOUGALL - Ewen. Suddenly at his home at the Cross Roads, Spean Bridge on Thursday, February 25, 2010. Much loved by family and friends.

McKELLAR - Tragically, as the result of an accident, on February 24, 2010, Lachlan Ronald McKellar, aged 44 years of 6 Sinclair Drive, Lochgilhead. Beloved husband of Donna and much loved father of Ewan, Kyle, Kern and Ruan. A dear son-in-law, much loved brother, brother-in-law, nephew, uncle and cousin to all the family. Dear neighbour, work colleague and friend to many. Funeral Service will be held in Lochgilhead Parish Church, on Friday, March 5, 2010, at 1.00pm, thereafter to Achnabreac Cemetery. Family flowers only please. Donations, if desired, to RDA Scotland and Lochgilhead Parish Church Renewal Project.

MURPHY - Peacefully at Invernevis House, Fort William, on February 18 2010, Jean Cameron Murphy, aged 93 years, much loved mother of Brian and the late Peter Murphy, grandmother of Derek and Alan, and great-grandmother of Ryan, Michael and Lewis. The funeral service was held at Duncansburgh Church, Fort William, on February 23, conducted by Rev Donald MacQuarrie. A total of £297.08 was collected for the Invernevis Residents Fund.

SHAW - Peacefully at Victoria Hospital Kirkcaldy, on Friday, February 19, 2010, Mary (née Stewart) in her 96th year wife of the late Hugh and loving mother of Margaret, Hugh and the late Richard. Much loved mother-in-law, aunt, granny, great-granny and great-great-granny. Will be very much missed. Cremation service was held at Kirkcaldy Crematorium on Wednesday, March 3, 2010.

WATSON - Peacefully at the Meadows Care Home, Dornoch on February 23, 2010, Jessie Watson (née Stenhouse) aged 85 years, formerly of 4 Abertarf Place. Fort Augustus, beloved wife of the late William (Bill) Watson, much loved mother of James, Thomas, Aileen and Ann Marie a much loved granny, great-granny and sister. A service was held yesterday (Wednesday) March 3, in the funeral home of John Fraser and Son, 17-29 Chapel Street, Inverness. Thereafter at Foyers New Cemetery (Lower Foyers). Enquiries to the funeral directors, tel 01463 233366.

MACLEAN - The family of the late Kate Effie would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for their kind expressions of sympathy. Thanks to staff of Ward B, Lorn and Islands Hospital, staff at Torosay Court and the Supporta Team for their kindness and care to Katie. Grateful thanks to Hamish Hoey and Son and Catriona for her kindness and support, to Charlie MacDougall of Barra and staff at Craigard Hotel. Special thanks to Fr Donald, Oban, Fr John Paul and Canon Angus of Barra for their lovely comforting service, to everyone who attended the Mass in Oban and Barra. God bless you all.

MACKAY - The family of the late Sheila F Mackay (née Deadman) would like to thank everyone for the many kind expressions of sympathy, phone calls, cards and floral tributes received following our sad loss. We also wish to express our gratitude to everyone who helped and cared for mum in recent years. Special thanks to Catriona Hoey, for the thoughtful and caring arrangements, to the Rev Jeff McCormick for his comforting services and to Iain Campbell for piping at the graveside. A final thanks to all who attended the services at Benderloch and Glen Shira to pay their respects to mum. The retail collection raised £454 for Cancer Research (Scotland).

MACKINNON - John and Mary would like to thank sincerely all family, friends and neighbours for their support and kind expressions of sympathy received in the sad loss of their mum Janet. Grateful thanks to Catriona Hoey, Oban, the Co-op in Tires, Rev Peter Williams and Lachlan MacKinnon for a lovely service and all who came to pay last respects at church and graveside, also the Lodge Hotel for catering. Thanks to Doctors and nurses at Lorn Medical Centre, ICT and Tuck team, Ward A and C, Lorn and Islands Hospital, Torosay staff past and present and a special thanks to Archie and Anne, Johann, Zinta and Lucy. Bless you all.

MURPHY - The family wish to convey their gratitude to the staff of Invernevis House and to Dr Feeney and community nurses from Glen Mor Medical Practice for their devoted care to Jean over the last three years, to Mike McFall for his sensitive handling of the funeral arrangements, and to Rev Donald MacQuarrie for his comforting words and conducting the funeral service. Thanks also to relatives, friends and neighbours for the many cards, phone calls and kind expressions of sympathy. Special thanks to Sandy and Mary MacKenzie for their splendid support at this sad time.

MACCOLL - In loving memory of Dugie MacColl who died March 2, 2002, dearly loved husband, father and grandpa. Forever in our thoughts. - Margaret and family.

MACDONALD - In loving memory of my dear brother and our uncle Dian, who died on March 7, 1977, and of loved ones who have passed away before and since. Loved and remembered always. - Freena and family, Lochdar, Bunnassan.

MACKINNON - In loving memory of our parents, grandparents and great grandparents, Hamish, died March 5, 1997 and Mary, September 20, 2004. Not just today But every day In silence we remember. - Love from your girls, Johan, Annie, Marion and families, Killin, Lawers and Fersit.

MACLAREN - In loving memory of our dear dad, granddad and great-granddad, Alistair, who passed away on February 28, 2003. Never more than a thought away Quietly remembered every day. - Mary, Alison and Archie, Sandy, Sharon and families.

MACLEAN - Treasured memories of a dear mum and granny Sheila died March 2, 2003. Love and miss you always. - Flora, John and family.

MACLEOD - In loving memory of my dear wife, mother and gran Lottie, who passed away at her home, Sunnyside, Cornaigbeg, Tires, on March 9, 1993. There will always be heartache And often a silent tear I cherish the precious memories Of the days when you were here Remembering you is easy I do it every day But missing you is a heartache That never goes away. - Inserted by her loving husband Hugh. Many a lonely heartache Many a silent tear But always a beautiful memory Of one we loved so dear. - Ian, Fiona, Kirsteen and Niall.

MACLEOD - Sunnyside, Tires. In loving memory of our dear mum, gran and great-gran Lottie, who passed away March 9, 1993. We miss you mum our hearts are sore As time goes by we miss you more Your loving smile, your gentle face No one can fill your special place. Love you mum. - Rita, Duncan, grandchildren and great-grandchildren xx.

MACLEOD - In loving memory of our dear mum and gran (Lottie) who died March 9, 1993. Years have gone since you were here But in our hearts there is still a tear In our hearts you will always stay We love and miss you every day. - John, Morag and family, Dalmlally.

MACLEOD - It does not need a special day To bring you to my mind For days without a thought of you Are very hard to find. - Love Johann x Oban.

MACLEOD - In memory of Captain Donald MacLeod, Kilchoan, who died on March 1, 1996. Always remembered. - Inserted by Nephew Hugh.

MACPHEE - Treasured memories of a much loved son and brother, Fraser, who died tragically in an accident on March 8, 2002. In God's hands but forever with us and in our hearts. - Mum, Dad, Catriona, Niall, Ruairidh and Arran.

MACQUARIE - In loving memory of my dear husband, Ian, who died on March 7, 1984. Not just today, Ian, but every day In silence I remember you. - Your loving wife Theresa.

MENEILL - Loving thoughts of Alasdair who died on March 7, 2001, a dear husband, Dad and grandpa. Sadly missed along life's way Loved and remembered every day. - Eleanor.

McRAE - In loving memory of Daisy Nicholson died on March 6, 2008, dear mother of Mairi and Margaret. Loved and remembered every day. - Mairi and Margaret.

MAXWELL - In loving memory of a dear husband and dad Alex, died March 7, 2009 aged 68 years. Remembering you is easy We do it every day Missing you is the heartache That never goes away In life we loved you dearly In death we love you still You haven't been forgotten What's more you never will We treasure every memory With tears we speak your name

We will always love and miss you In a world that's not the same. - Love Margaret, Colin and Andrew.

MAXWELL - In loving memory of my dear dad Alex, who suddenly died on March 7, 2009. oh dad the date tells me its been a year since you left me however my hearts still breaking like it was yesterday, you were the rock in my life the one who kept me going I am so lost without you. Whoever said time was a healer obviously never lost someone as much as you meant to me. love you. - Diane. Grandad I never had you around for long but my mummy said when I grow up I am going to be just like you, mummy talks about you all the time so I will always know who you are. - Love from Ryan.

MAXWELL - In loving memory of a dear son-in-law and stepdad Alex, died March 7, 2009 aged 68 years. Our family chain is broken Nothing seems the same But as God calls us one by one The link shall join again. - Love Katie and Denise.

REID - Precious memories of my dear loved and loving husband Frank who passed away on March 12, 2009. Also remembering with love my two brothers, Archie Lamont who died January 10, 2008 and Campbell Lamont who died April 27, 2008. Loving and special memories of my parents, Dugald and Catherine Lamont (Tobermory) and all loved ones gone before. All so sorely missed. Those we love will never be more than a thought apart For as long as there is memory They'll live on in your heart. - Christine Reid, Callander.

ROBERTSON - Precious memories of my dear husband, Albert, a devoted husband, father and grandfather and friend to all. He lived for those he loved And those he loved will always remember Miss you always. - Ann.

ROBERTSON - Treasured memories of a much loved father and grandfather Albert Bolton, Kinlochleven, who passed away March 4, 2009. Loved and remembered every day. - Margaret, Alan and families.

SKELTON - Happy memories of my friend Jackie died February 7, 2009. - Katie.

Fun at World Day of Prayer



Children from Kilmelford and Kilniver took part in a church fun day to celebrate the World Day of Prayer. The theme of the day was Let Everything That Has Breath Praise God written by the church in Cameroon. 16_09skfuu01

Free church thanks roof donors

OBAN Free Church thanked donors to its roof fund with a celebratory dinner on Friday night. The finance committee of the church invited its congregation to a free dinner to show its appreciation for the groups' fundraising efforts over the past few years. The congregation of the church, together with the people of Oban, raised £30,000 to replace the roof of the church manse. Fundraising events included congregational dinners and coffee mornings. Members of the Church's sister congregation in Mull, which made a generous donation to the fund, joined in the celebration.

Haiti offering

A 14-strong congregation has raised £409 for homeless families in Haiti. St Paul's Episcopal Church, Kinlochleven had a freewill offering collection for the disaster fund over the week of February 7-14 in the village to raise the money.

BIRTHS

GREIG - James and Mairi (née MacKinnon) are delighted to announce the birth of their daughter, Erin Janet on February 25, 2010, at Stirling Royal Infirmary. Another grandchild for Alex and Sandra MacKinnon, Carradale and Pat Greig, Cleobury Mortimer, Shropshire and Dennis Greig, Yatton, Herefordshire.

McCUSKER - Kevin and Jane (MacFarlane) are delighted to announce the arrival of their son, Finlay John, on February 24, 2010, at St John's Hospital, Livingston, a brother for Erin, another grandchild for John and Jessie MacFarlane, Balindore, Taynuilt, and Netta McCusker, Wishaw.

RUBY WEDDING

MACFARLANE - **MUNRO** - On March 2, 1970 at Stirling, Andrew to Isabella, Glenaros, Mull.

MONKS-PURSE - At St Orans Church, Connel on March 6 1970 by the Rev D MacCallum assisted by Rev J Grieg, William to Catherine, Almond View, Perth.

DEATHS

CARPENTER - Suddenly at Vale of Leven Hospital on February 26, 2010, Anne née Fraser, formerly of Tobermory, aged 87 years, beloved wife of the late George, much loved mother of David and Ian, dear grandmother of Nicholas and Joanne and great-grandmother of Benjamin. Funeral service on Thursday, March 11, 2010 at Arrochar Parish Church at 10.30am, burial thereafter in Arrochar cemetery to which all friends are respectfully invited.

ERSKINE - Robert Keith on February 22, 2010, unexpectedly, but peacefully in his sleep at home. Devoted husband of Susan, loving father of Iona, Hamish and Sandy, wonderful grandfather and brother. A funeral service on Thursday, March 4 (today), at St Michael's Parish Church, Linlithgow. Donations if desired to 'St Peter's Episcopal Church, in Linlithgow' c/o Paul Goldfinch, 1 Royal Terrace, Linlithgow, EH49 6HQ.

FYFE - Peacefully at Eadar Glinn, Oban on March 1, 2010, Ellen Bolton nee Robertson wife of the late John Allan Fyfe, beloved mother, mother-in-law, nana and great-granny. Funeral will take place at St. John's Cathedral, Oban on March 8, at 1pm. Interment at Alness Cemetery on Tuesday March 9, at 1pm. Family flowers only.

KENNEDY - Peacefully at home in Glasgow on February 18 2010, Mary Ann (Nan) (née MacLean) formerly of 35 Breaclete in her 82nd year. Beloved wife of the late Alex. A much loved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. Sorely missed by all her friends and family.

LLOYD - Jane, passed away peacefully on February 28, 2010, at home, 'Timberlee', Laurel Road, Oban. Dearly loved and missed by all the family and friends. Always in our hearts and thoughts.

LONGBOTTOM - Peacefully at Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban on March 1, 2010, aged 88 years, Donald, beloved husband of Eilidh, much loved father to Hugh and grandfather to Kay and Tim. A memorial service will take place at Muckairn

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

MACARTHUR - The family of the late John MacArthur would like to thank relatives, friends and neighbours for their kind expressions of sympathy, telephone calls, cards and floral tributes. Thanks also to Rev Peter Williams, Rev R King and Mr D Lapsley, (Session Clerk) for conducting the funeral service at Heyllop Church, Tires, and to all those who attended the church service and graveside. Thanks are also extended to Tony McEwen for his services at the church organ and also the Coop Funeral Service for their sensitive handling of the funeral arrangements.

MACDIARMID - Ina. The family would like to thank all friends for their expressions of sympathy following the death of Ina. They would also like to thank the Rev David Kellas, the Rev James Carmichael, organist Mrs Anne MacLimes for their services and Miss Margaret MacLellan for her lovely singing. Special thanks are due to friends and neighbours in Ardgour for their kindness to Ina and to the staff at Abbeyfield, Ballachulish where she was lovingly cared for over the last few years. Grateful thanks to the Inn at Ardgour for catering services and to Mr Mike McFall for efficient and sympathetic funeral arrangements. £188.31 was contributed for the Montrose Centre, Inverloch.

MACDONALD - Janet would like to thank all the family for loving care and attention and friends who so kindly sent letters and cards of sympathy on the very sad passing of my dear husband, Donald. I would like to express my grateful appreciation to Fr Roddy Johnston and Ewen MacLennan, Funeral Director, for their professional and compassionate service, Corpach Hotel for refreshments and to all who donated to the sum of £300 for Heartstart, Lochaber. Bruce Cottage, Lochyside.

MACARTHUR - In loving memory of Hugh a dear husband, father, father-in-law and grandfather who died March 6, 1999. Quietly remembered every day. - Bella, Hugh, Mary, Lorna and David.

BURTON - For our boys Paul Gordon Burton died March 3, 1996 David Campbell Burton died April 2, 1972. Always in our hearts and minds. - The Burton family, Oban.

CAMERON - In loving memory of Stephen, who passed away March 7, 2006 Sadly missed, always remembered. - Mum, Sandy and Bernard.

GALLACHER - In loving memory of my dear husband Neil, who died on February 29, 2000. Silent thoughts of times together Hold memories that will last forever Your loving wife Ella and family x.

GILLIES - In loving memory of a wonderful mum and nana, Marion, who passed away March 2, 2000 (late of Kinlochell). Gentle and kind Devoted and true One in a million Dear mum that was you Deep in our hearts Your memory is kept To love and cherish and never forget Till we meet again. - Cathie, Isobel, Marina, David, Catherine, John and families.

LEITCH - In loving memory of my dear wife Myra, mum and grandma, who died so suddenly on March 9, 2005. Five years have passed since that sad day You closed your eyes and slipped away Your life was one of kindly deeds A helping hand for other's needs Your memory is a keep sake With which we'll never part God has you in his keeping We have you in our hearts. - Ivor, Neil, Debbie and family.

IN MEMORIAM

BEATON - In loving memory of Hugh a dear husband, father, father-in-law and grandfather who died March 6, 1999. Quietly remembered every day. - John, Morag and family, Dalmlally.

MACLEOD - In loving memory of our dear mum and gran (Lottie) who died March 9, 1993. Years have gone since you were here But in our hearts there is still a tear In our hearts you will always stay We love and miss you every day. - John, Morag and family, Dalmlally.

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GRADUATIONS

Dr Barry Fudge graduated from Glasgow University with a PhD in Physiology. Barry is the middle son of Celia and Fred Fudge, Fort William and is the husband of Kelly Hewitt, formerly of Corpach. Barry is currently working in Loughborough at The English Institute of Sport as a Physiologist for UK Athletics.

Billie Jones graduated from Stirling University with an honours degree in Film and Media. Billie is an ex pupil of Oban High School and Bunnassan Primary and is the eldest daughter of James Williams and Terry Jones, Fionnphort, Isle of Mull.

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ECCELESIASTICAL NOTICES

LORN CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
Sunday 7th March 2010
North Connel Hall
10:30am
All Welcome
Telephone
07836 342 622
www.lorncf.org.uk

ASSOCIATED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, OBAN

Campbell Street Church
Sunday 7th March 2010
11 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.
Phone-In 'Worship Link' available
Rev. Archie McPhail
MA, MTh
(01631) 567076
All welcome

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH ANGLICAN COMMUNION

Sunday 7th March 2010
Lent 3
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

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Clydebank, G81 2LA

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Please send to Appeals Department, Highland Arts Effort, Royal Blind Asylum School, P.O. Box 500, Gillespie Crescent, Edinburgh, EH10 4HZ

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Thought for the week

World Day of Prayer 2010

ON Friday March 5, Christian women of Cameroon invite men, women and young people from around the world to share with them in the World Day of Prayer which will begin as the sun rises in the Tonga Islands and will continue around the world over the next 36 hours, until the sunsets over Alaska. People in over 180 communities worship and pray on the common theme: 'Let everything that has breath praise God'.

In the prayer of invocation, God is called upon as '... our refuge and strength ever ready to help, strengthen, guide and enlighten us in times of joy and sadness'. God is the source. In whatever circumstances we find ourselves, we also find Gods unconditional love. Key words 'breath' and 'praise'.

Mostly we do not notice our breathing until we have difficulties. Then we say: 'I need to catch my breath.' When we sing we use our breath to make music. When we are in acute pain, we cry out. Whatever sound we make it is linked to our breath. Every breath we take we renew our Gift of Life and for this we praise God. Everything, truly everything, that has breath praise God. In Oban our main service will be held on Friday March 5 at 3pm in the Congregational Church Tweedale Street and led by Envoy Craig Mckinstry Salvation Army.

Please join us and share in a time of praise and worship together, for our own communities and for around the world, especially Cameroon on the west coast of Africa. World Day of Prayer 2010. Cameron McDonald

Golden celebration

CELEBRATING their golden wedding with family are Willie and Catherine Campbell (nee MacIntyre). The Oban couple were married in St Columba's Cathedral on February 15 1960. Joining the couple are daughters Janice and Fiona with grandchildren Jamie and Becky for a family meal at Oban Bay Hotel.

Oban couple Willie and Catherine Campbell celebrate their Golden Wedding. 16_09wedding01

THE GUILD OF CARINISH CHURCH IN CLACHAN, NORTH UIST, HELD A SALE OF WORK ON SATURDAY. THE REV JOHN M SMITH OPENED THE SALE WITH A PRAYER, AFTER WHICH GOODS WERE SNAPPED UP BY APPRECIATIVE BUYERS IN A PACKED CHURCH HALL. SHOPPERS ENJOYED TEA AND GUILD MEMBERS' HOME BAKING. MORE THAN £1,600 WAS RAISED FOR CHURCH FUNDS.

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Lochaber Phoenix Boxing Club ends up on wrong end of highly debatable decision as it steps into big time

Uproar as Fort boxer loses out in debut

LOCHABER Phoenix Boxing Club stepped into the big time on Saturday when it made its first appearance at the senior Scottish Championships at Lasswade in Edinburgh – and ended up on the wrong end of a highly debatable decision.

Local boxers Stephen Cameron and Ryan Watson became the first boxers from Fort William to grace this stage in almost 20 years and were entered to give them experience against the elite of Scotland.

Incredibly, both were drawn against the favourites in their respective divisions in their opening bouts.

Both fought superbly but it was Cameron who posted the fight of his life against Robbie McKee of Fauldhouse ABC to earn what looked like a brilliant win, only to be denied by the judges.

Light-welterweight Cameron clearly outboxed McKee who is widely believed to be the number one in Scotland and is likely to be picked

for the Scottish Commonwealth team this year.

With 50 contests under his belt McKee has lost only eight and has countless Scotland vests. He also won a bronze medal at last year's Commonwealth Youth Games in Delhi. Cameron, meanwhile, was fighting only his 11th bout.

Round one saw McKee start aggressively but no matter what he tried he could not catch Cameron cleanly as the Fort William lad used fantastic body movement and footwork to evade his opponent's blows and as the round progressed Cameron started to land his own straight punches.

McKee returned to his corner at the end of the round clearly shocked by the skills of this unknown Highlander. Round two was all Cameron.

McKee did not land one clean punch the entire round as Cameron constantly shot jabs and straight rights at his bewildered foe.

McKee knew he was behind going into the last round but for all his efforts at best could only be given a share of the round as Cameron fought the fight of his life seemingly a step ahead the whole way.

When the verdict of 6-4 in favour of McKee was announced the venue went into uproar as boos and catcalls rained down on the ring and a host of coaches and boxers from other clubs came out in support of the stunned Fort William boxer.

Investigate

A panel of officials are now to investigate the judging of the bout and one of ABS Ltd's top officials personally apologised to the club's delegate and the boxer himself.

Lochaber Phoenix coach Charlie Anderson said: 'The appeal process can't change the verdict but can hopefully prevent results like this repeating themselves.'

One thing is for sure - Stephen Cameron can compete with any

boxer in Scotland and in the next few years will only go from strength to strength.

Meanwhile, middleweight Watson was first into the ring to face Sean Finney of Kingdom ABC, the reigning Scottish welterweight champion.

Finney has won every title he has been eligible for in Britain, won a gold medal in a European multi-nations tournament last year and has participated in over 70 contests. This was Watson's tenth bout. Finney held an edge in the first, but Watson cleverly made some adjustments and the fight evened up in the second.

In the last round Watson started to press forwards looking for the punches that would turn the contest in his favour, but Finney used all his years of experience to keep out of danger. Watson, though will have learned more from this contest than from his ten previous wins.



Stephen Cameron: at the wrong end of a controversial decision. 10_f10box01

Votes not putts at Sconser Golf Club

A CLUBHOUSE at a golf course on the Isle Skye has been suggested as a polling place during the forthcoming General Election.

The post office in Sconser has previously been used by local people to cast their votes but will close on April 7 when sub-postmistress Mary MacLean retires.

Highland Council officials have recommended Sconser Golf Club's clubhouse as a suitable alternative and councillors have been asked to approve the plan at today's full council meeting in Inverness.

The ward manager has inspected the premises and confirmed it meets the access requirements suggested by the Electoral Commission. Local councillors and the community council also back the change.

Primary football league sets high standard

Primary football

LAST Sunday the seniors of the Oban Express Primary Football League took to the field at Oban High school in cold but perfect conditions for football and what turned out an exciting day's play.

The opening game had the young Saints Boys take on the Spartans and a keenly fought encounter was settled in the dying seconds when Cameron Scott latched onto a perfect through ball from Craig Easton and composed himself before dispatching a right foot screamer into the top corner from distance for the only goal of the game.

Bepe Lopez was also on hand to score the winner for the Saints Boys in their encounter with Stoddy Boys but in the match against the older Oban Saints neither team could find a winner and a hard fought goal less draw ensued.

Stoddarts got their day off to the perfect start when Ally Cameron netted the only goal of the match against Stoddy Boys and then they repeated that score line against Spartans. In their final game they went three up against Oban Saints however they had to hold on for dear life as the Saints pulled two back but failed to find the equaliser.

A solitary goal from Lochneills' Stuart McAllister settled their game against the Lochgilphead Warriors but that score was reversed against the Oban Saints with Liam Higgins settling the tie. Lochnell got back on track with a win at Appin.

Appins' Dean Turner scored his first goal of the season but it wasn't enough to defeat Tralee who went on to collect all three points. Appin also went down to both Cobras who remain top of the table after defeating Stoddy Boys by four goals to nil.

The Warriors got their title ambitions back on track with a win over Tralee thanks to goals from Aaron Whitefield and Kieran McPhee and in the only other match of the day a double from Daniel Wright secured a win for Spartans over Tralee.

The juniors are back in action next week with the games once more taking place at the high school park.

Easter football coaching programme announced

Football

THE new Argyll and Bute Football Development Officer Martin Rae has announced the dates and venues for the Easter holiday coaching programme for 5-16-year-olds.

The Oban festival will take place from 6-8 April on the 3g pitch at Oban High School from 9am till 1pm.

The Mull festival will take place at Tobermory High School from 12-14 April from 10am till 2pm.

The Campbeltown festival will take place from 6-8 April in the Victoria Halls from 9am till 1pm.

The Lochgilphead festival will take place from 12-

14 April at the Mid Argyll Sports Centre from 9am till 1pm.

The Islay festival will take place from 12-14 April at Islay High School from 9am till 1pm.

Festivals

There are also festivals in Helensburgh and Rothesay.

The cost of the 3-day coaching programme, open to boys and girls, is only £30, with discounts for second or subsequent children from the same family.

Application forms are available from football@argyll-bute.gov.uk

Coaches will not be able to accept bookings on the day

Oban junior table tennis tournament
THE THIRD annual Oban primary schools table tennis tournament took place at Oban Primary Campus last Friday.

The tournament gives primary school youngsters a chance to show how far they have come since they began playing with many only been in training since September. It was contested by Rockfield, St Columba's and Park schools, and was established following a rise in the numbers playing the sport. Carla Miller from Park won the girls event ahead of Rockfield's Robyn McGregor and Daniel Croarkin of St Columba's won the boys event, with Park's Zak Straub finishing runner-up.

Pam takes the lead in singles league

Ten-pin bowling

AFTER the fourth week of the ten-pin bowling singles leagues at the Nevis Centre, Pam Weller has taken over the lead at the top of the handicap table with 129 points in the chase for the Robert Cairns trophy this week scoring 37 out of a possible 41 points.

Frank Sweeney moves into second place with 124 points followed by David MacDonald, who remains in third with 120 points.

Previous leader Hazel White tumbled all the way down to 10th after a bad week in which she collected only eight points out of a possible 41. Previous second placed John Weller also fared badly as he fell all the way down to 12th.

The biggest movers up the table were Les MacFarlane and Laura Brown who both marched 11 places nearer the top with Les moving from 16th to fifth and Laura from 19th to eighth. Les obtained the maximum 41 points this week with the season's highest two-game handicap series so far of 460.

The scratch league, sponsored by Nevis Radio, still sees Tony Whitelocke as leader with 150 points despite missing last week's contest.

Pam Weller stays in second place but is now on the same points. Tim Atack moves into third with 144.

Biggest mover this week was Alan MacPhail who moved from 12th to sixth. Top two game scratch series and maximum points this week went to Les MacFarlane with 332 - which is also the highest so far this season.

Top scratch game of the week of 182 was rolled by Pam Weller. Alan MacPhail had a 173.

The Oban Times Sportsdesk: 01631 568000



Best ever snow conditions at Nevis Range means even the World Cup mountain bike track has become a ski run.

Resorts report best ski-ing conditions in living memory

WEST Highland ski resorts are reporting some of the best ski-ing conditions in living memory - with visitor numbers to match.

More than 5,000 snowsports enthusiasts poured into Nevis Range and Glencoe Mountain over Saturday and Sunday to take advantage of miles of unbroken ski runs.

Glencoe was so busy on Sunday that skiers were using passing places down from the resort as makeshift overspill carparks, while at Nevis Range huge ranks of parked cars told their own story.

At both resorts skiers and boarders were able to ski from the top of the mountain back to the car parks - at Nevis Range a vertical descent of more than 4,000 feet.

Marketing manager Heather Negus said: 'Conditions like these have never been experienced before in the 20 years Nevis Range has been open.'

'Normally our World Cup downhill track is used for biking, however this is now being used as an extra ski run. The end of the downhill track which finishes in the carpark is also being used for beginner lessons and sledging areas.'

Glencoe Mountain manager Angela Dingwall said staff members Charlie Munro and Fraser Houston worked through the night from Friday evening digging out lifts and pisting and grooming the slopes in time for Saturday's rush.

The weekend's bonanza at Glencoe continued into Monday, when more than 400 skiers took to the slopes.

'It's been the best weekend of the season so far, we could not hope for better,' Ms Dingwall told *The Oban Times*.

'Conditions are excellent and there is more snow forecast for Friday.'

Winter weather wins again as Fort FC's midweek game called off

Football

FORT William were looking to bounce back from defeat at Clachnacuddin on Saturday with a strong performance against Nairn County in the league last night - but yet again Claggan Park proved unplayable.

Fort chairman John Wattsmann carried out a pitch inspection Tuesday lunchtime and called Nairn representatives to say the game was off.

'There was still snow on the park and frost underneath and John made the decision to call the game there and then,' committee member Jimmy Campbell told *The Oban Times*.

The call off leaves Fort with a further fixtures headache as seemingly endless winter weather continues to play havoc with Highland League competitions.

Fort are due to face Fraserburgh in the Foster's Highland League Cup first

round at home on Saturday, but yesterday the park was still covered in two inches of frozen snow and without a true thaw, that game too could be in doubt.

Mr Wattsmann said BBC Alba was due to attend the match to film highlights and talk to fans and club representatives.

Snippets

The channel shows a full SPL game on Saturday nights and fills the half-time slot with five-minute snippets on Scotland's lesser-known clubs.

Captain Andy 'Zoomer' Martin is still out with a knee injury, but everybody else was fit for Saturday - or as fit as they could be after only playing twice since December 5, Mr Wattsmann said.

Fort came up short against Clach on Saturday, losing 3-0 to goals from Morrison, Finnis and Lawrie.

Vital win for Goon Squad

Indoor football

GOON Squad scored a vital 1-0 win over rivals Funky Five at the Nevis Centre on Sunday night to stay top of the Ali Young Winter League.

Second-placed Achintore FC slipped up with their title challenge when they could only draw 1-1 with Livercaol while bottom club Rangers Supporters pulled off a surprise by beating Lochaber Leisure 3-0.

Elsewhere, HWE No Stars and Wanderers cancelled each other out in a 0-0 stalemate while Sawmill got the better of Alcan 3-0.

Table:	
Goon Squad	50
Achintore FC	46
Funky Five	42
Livercaol	34
Lochaber Leisure	32
Sawmill	29
Alcan	24
HWE No Stars	13
Wanderers	12
Rangers Supporters	12

Athletic Club

LOCHABER Athletic Club will be hoping severe winter conditions ease for its next winter league race this Sunday.

The 10k event starts with registration at Claggan Park, Fort William, at 11am.

Contact: Niall MacBeath on 01397 702394 for more information.

Running results

SKYE AND Lochalsh Running Club held its Winter Series 10k race on Tuesday February 23.

- Results:
- 1 Hugh Campbell 37.32
 - 2 Scott Kennedy 38.05
 - 3 John MacLean 39.34
 - 4 Scott Templeman 44.57
 - 5 Robert McCluskie 46.55
 - 6 Chris MacNab 46.42
 - 7 Linda Kennedy 46.55
 - 8 Richard McGuire 49.00
 - 9 Neil Roberts 49.10
 - 10 Robert MacAskill 49.49
 - 11 Fiona MacDonald 49.59
 - 12 Nigel Burrows 50.20
 - 13 Iain Brown 50.31
 - 14 David Pringle 52.07
 - 15 Niall Tasker 52.17
 - 16 Alistair Dancer 53.09
 - 17 Julian Megicks 53.37
 - 18 Douglas Strachan 54.18

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Saturday's shinty fixtures

Shinty

March 6, 2010
All throw-up at 2.30pm unless otherwise stated
Scottish Hydro Premier Division
 Fort William v Oban Caman
 Graham Cameron
 GMA v Bute
 Billy Wotherspoon
 Glenurquhart v Newtonmore
 Ronnie Campbell
 Inveraray v Kyles Athletic
 Ted McDonald
 Kingussie v Lovat
 David Mitchell
Marine Harvest North Division 1
 Beaulieu v Kinlochshiel
 Deek Cameron
 Caberfeidh v Kilmallie
 Ron Kennedy
 Inverness v Skye
 Graham Irving
 Strathglass v Lochaber
 Donald MacRae
Marine Harvest South Division 1
 Ballachulish v Taynuilt
 Innes Wood
 Kilmory v Lochside Rvrs
 Charles Young
 Oban Celtic v Inveraray
 Colin MacDonald
Marine Harvest North Division 2
 Kilmallie v Kingussie
 Jock Matheson
 Kinlochshiel v Ft William
 John MacLeod
 Lovat v Glengarry
 John Angus Gillies
 Newtonmore v Glenurquhart
 Duncan Kelly
 Skye v Beaulieu
 Russell Ross
Marine Harvest South Division 2
 Aberdour v Ballachulish
 Euan Pearson
 Bute v Col Glen
 Robert Baxter Jnr
 Kyles Athletic v GMA
 Daniel MacRae
 Strachur v Tayforth
 Dougie Cameron
Marine Harvest North Division 3
 Aberdeen Uni v Inverness
 Evan MacRae
 Ardnarmurchan v Caberfeidh
 John MacPhee
 Lochaber v Strathglass
 Dunkie Kerr
 Lochcarron v Boleskine
 John Sloggie

Shinty

Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup 1st Round Draw Preliminary Round March 27 2010
 Kilmallie v Beaulieu
 Kilmory v Kinlochshiel
1st Round April 24 2010
 Lochcarron v Lochaber
 Kilmallie or Beaulieu v Taynuilt
 Caberfeidh v Kilmory or Kinlochshiel
 Inverness v Strathglass
 Glenorchy v Oban Celtic
 Skye v Ballachulish



Camanachd Association president Duncan Cameron and Scottish Hydro sponsorship manager Douglas Flowers are joined by Kingussie's Ronald Ross at the Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup First Round Draw

Camanachd Cup draw gives four teams added task

Kinlochshiel, Beaulieu, Kilmallie and Kilmory to compete preliminary round

THE draw for the first round of the Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup was made this week at Pitlochry, with four teams, Kilmallie, Kilmory, Beaulieu and Kinlochshiel coming out of the hat to play in a preliminary round.
 On March 27, Kilmallie will face Beaulieu, while Kinlochshiel will make the journey to Lochgilphead at meet South Division One side Kilmory.
Final at Bught
 Twenty-four teams will battle it out over six rounds to reach shinty's showcase final, which will this year be played at Bught Park in Inverness on Saturday, September 18.
 In the first round proper, to be played on Saturday, April 24, Inverness will host Strathglass in a local derby, while other top ties see former Premier teams Lochaber and Glenorchy face a tough cup test. Lochcarron are at home to Lochaber while Oban Celtic travel to Dalmally to face Glenorchy.
 The 10 Premier Division

Shinty

clubs will join at the second round stage and Kingussie's Ronald Ross says his side are aiming to do better in the prestigious cup tournament after falling at the semi-final stages last year.
 "Kingussie's main priority for the season ahead is the Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup," he said. "It was a huge disappointment not to make the final last year but hopefully that will not be the case this year."
 On the cup draw, Ross said: "The Kilmallie v Beaulieu tie should be a close encounter with both teams looking to go a long way in the competition. Both would probably fancy their chances against Taynuilt in the next round so it's a chance for them to get through and perhaps face a Premier Division side in the second round."
 President of the Camanachd Association Duncan Cameron was

looking forward to another exciting competition after helping to draw the first round.
 "Last year, the Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup produced some fantastic games, culminating in one of the most memorable and exciting finals in the competition's history," he said. "Hopefully we can look forward to more of the same this year."
 "Kilmallie v Beaulieu should provide a great spectacle to kick-start the competition and all the teams will be hoping to progress to the second round with the prospect of facing Premier Division opposition."
 Douglas Flowers, sponsorship manager for Scottish Hydro, said: "The draw for the first round of the Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup is the perfect way to start the new season."
 "The Camanachd Cup Final is the pinnacle of the shinty calendar and I'm sure the players will be desperate to be a part of the big day come September."

Shinty's top ten aim for blistering start to Premier season

FOUR contenders for the Scottish Hydro Premier Division title squared up at Scottish Hydro's Pitlochry power station as anticipation grew ahead of the new shinty season which is scheduled to get underway this weekend.
 Glasgow Mid Argyll (GMA) make their long awaited return to the top league following a 13-year absence with a home tie against a Bute side which finished last season strongly to reatin their place in the top flight.
 GMA coach George Hay is looking forward to the challenge: "The players and officials of GMA are delighted to be returning to the premier league after what has been too long a gap."
 "We appreciate we have a very steep learning curve ahead of us but we will do our very best to be an asset to the league and association."
 Last season's Premier Division champions Kingussie begin the defence of their title with a home fixture against newly promoted Lovat at the Dell.
 Ronald Ross is hoping some that new additions to the Kingussie's squad, until the guidance of new team coach Stephen Borthwick, will help secure their 14th title in 15 years.
 "We have brought in a few younger players to the first team which will hopefully add a new dimension to our game and help us retain the league title," said Ronald.
 "For now though, we are just looking forward to getting the new season underway."
 Meanwhile, last year's Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup finalists Kyles Athletic, who start their 2010 campaign with an Argyll derby at Inveraray, will be hoping to build on a strong showing during 2009.
 Kyles captain Grant Irvine said: "The aim for 2010 is to build on our experiences of last year."



Kyles Athletic's Grant Irvine (left); Glenurquhart manager Jim Barr; Kingussie's Ronald Ross (front) and Fort William's Drew Howie help promote the new Scottish Hydro Premier Division season

Shinty

"Last season was filled with highs and lows."
 "The squad knows that in order for them to progress further they need to be more consistent in their performances and aim to win a national competition."
 "Pre-season training has gone well and the team is looking forward to the season ahead."
 President of the Camanachd Association Duncan Cameron is looking forward to the year ahead.
 "This season promises to be another exciting year for shinty."
 "Last season saw the Scottish Hydro Premier Division title go right down to the wire with Kingussie just edging out Newtonmore on goal difference on the final day - we're all hoping for more of the same again this year."
 "We are also delighted to welcome back Glasgow Mid Argyll to the Scottish Hydro Premier Division - it's great to see Glasgow being represented at the very top once again."

The other fixtures which start the Premier Division season see Newtonmore travel to Drumnadrochit to face a Glenurquhart team which made a whirlwind start to last season's campaign and will be aiming to do the same again.
 Fort William, who had a disappointing league season in 2009, welcome Oban Camanachd for a fixture which is always highly competitive.
 Douglas Flowers, sponsorship manager for Scottish Hydro, said: "The Scottish Hydro Premier Division title should prove to be an exciting race once again, with last year's grandstand finale still fresh in the memory."
 "Glasgow Mid Argyll will offer a new dimension to the league and I'm sure Kyles Athletic will be keen to build on their cup exploits of last year and push for league honours this time around."
 "Scottish Hydro is proud to continue its support of shinty in 2010 and will continue to develop its programme of investment across all levels of the sport."

Shinty

Televised shinty goes worldwide with Gary
 SHINTY will take its place among televised world sports this week after Fort William's Gary Innes completed filming for TV giants Trans World Sport.
 First shown yesterday (Wednesday) on Sky Sports 4, the programme will be repeated today (Thursday) at 1am, 10 am and 1pm on Sky Sports 3, then on Friday at 12pm, and Saturday at 6am on Sky Sports 4.
 from Thursday this week and will run throughout the season featuring Gary's views of life in general and shinty in particular.
 Gary said: "This is a great opportunity to get shinty out to a wider audience."
 "The site gets four million hits worldwide a week so hopefully I, and shinty, will get a bit of feedback."
 "If nothing else - it will be a bit of craic."

Killin duo in team win

Taekwondo

KILLIN'S ANNA Holden and Robbie Player were once again part of the Callander/Falkirk Taekwondo Club team that recently won the traditional Taekwondo Championship Shield for the third time in a row.
 Anna and Robbie won silver and bronze respectively in the pattern competition.
 As they were up against adults this was an achievement.
 Anna also won a bronze for sparring in her weight category.
 Club training sessions are on Wednesday evenings and Saturday afternoons in Callander Leisure Centre.

Pool

Oban Pool League sponsored by Tennants and Oban Filling Station

	P	Pts
Markie's A	15	24
Claredon A	15	22
Lochnell	15	22
Lancaster	15	20
Kelvin Dale	15	18
Cellar	15	16
Markie's B	15	12
Gluepot	15	10
Claredon B	15	6

Results and fixtures for Oban Saints youth teams

Football

SATURDAY'S results: Saints Under 13s v Westerton, unfulfilled. Westerton failed to travel.
 The Under 15s took on top of the table Drumchapel United and although losing 4-1 the Oban side put up a good performance. Netting for Saints was Neil MacFarlane.
 This Saturday the Under 13s can win the league championship if they beat Baljaffray on the community pitch at Oban High School, kick-off is 12 noon.
 The Under 15s travel to take on Dumbarton Rock

Saints Ladies on League Cup duty

Football

THE newly-formed Oban Saints Ladies team should have travelled to Kirkcaldy last Sunday to take on Raith Rovers in the first round of the League Cup but the game was called off due to the recent bad weather.
 The match has now been re-scheduled for this Sunday with a 2pm kick-off.

SHINTY BALL

Spot the

Competition

All you have to do
 We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph opposite. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1.
 If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.
 The game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void. Prizes will be shared between those submitting correct entries.
 If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

Easy to enter
 Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to reach 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon Tuesday.
 You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

Competition Rules
 No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery.
 The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.
 In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company.
 The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time.
 Employees of The Oban Times Limited, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.

WIN £1200

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE...

This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:
 I Clark, Airds Place, Oban and R Wilson, Eochar, South Uist

I enclose £1 (note) for 20 crosses (tick box) The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules.
 How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1.

Name _____
 Address _____
 Tel No. _____

Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB

Saints Premier League game called off

Football

LAST Saturday's premier division league match between Glencastle Sparta and Oban Saints was called off after a pitch inspection found Cathkin Park, once home of the famous Third Lanark FC to be unplayable.

This Saturday Saints will be hoping that the weather improves to allow their league game against Postal United to take place at Haghill Sports Centre in Glasgow.

The teams met in Oban recently with Saints coming out on top 2-0 in a hard fought encounter, so the local team know they could be in for a tough match on Saturday as the Glasgow side showed enough to suggest they could be a handful on their own tight pitch. Referee is John McKeown and the game will kick-off at 2pm.

Saints are sponsored by AMP Electrical Services, Keyline Builders Merchants and Aulay's Bar

Lorne return to winning form at Glencruitten

Rugby

Scottish Hydro West Division One
Oban Lorne 23
Clydebank 10

OBAN Lorne returned to league action and winning form at Glencruitten last Saturday with the pitch being in remarkable condition considering the recent snow and hard frost.

Oban coach Corrie Louw made several changes to the side that beat Millbrae two weeks ago with starts for Robin MacQueen in the pack, while Euan Wilson, Alex Cadzow and Allan Wright found themselves starting in the backline.

Clydebank took the lead with a penalty after five minutes due to Oban indiscipline at the breakdown resulting in an early 3-0 lead. The home side didn't take long to respond and found themselves level with a penalty taken by stand off

Alex Cadzow who sailed the ball straight through the uprights from just inside the half way line.

Both teams struggled to string together any significant phases of play, and 20 minutes into the first half, with Oban in possession in their own 22. Clydebank backs were allowed to run through, hack the ball forward and score the first try of the game.

Despite this setback Oban started to dominate the game and turned their wealth of opposition into pressure on the Clydebank try line, and were eventually rewarded with a simple pushover try from Robin MacQueen. The conversion was narrowly missed giving a score of 8-10 to Clydebank at half time.

The second half started with reset after reset in the scrum, which was becoming a problem for the away team.

Oban eventually made their pressure tell resulting in a penalty from a scrum which

was neatly slotted over by scrum half Euan Wilson giving Oban the lead for the first time at 11-8.

Oban were dealt a blow shortly after this with stand off Alex Cadzow going off injured which meant a reshuffle on the backs.

The home side took confidence from this good start to the half and scored another try again as a result from poor discipline at the scrum from Clydebank. The penalty was taken quickly only a few metres from the line and Mark McTighe dived over after a couple of phases to give the home side their second try of the afternoon, with Wilson yet again converting.

By now Oban were really asserting themselves on the game and good running from second row pairing Jamie MacMillan and David Hunter kept the visitors under pressure.

Oban spurned several scoring opportunities late on and if they had been

more clinical with their chances would have secured a winning bonus point.

There was however a final score in the game, a superb team try, with the ball moving from wide in the Oban half, nearer to the try line where the ball eventually found man of the match David Hunter who burst into a gap and offloaded to the support runners who passed along the line to let right winger Allan Wright in for the try and the last play of the game. The final conversion was missed which resulted in a great 23-10 win for Oban Lorne.

Oban now have five games remaining this season and playing like this will soon find themselves climbing up the league table in the latter stage of the season.

Oban are in league action next weekend away to Paisley, kick-off at 3pm, before the club dinner which starts at 7pm in the clubhouse.



Action from Sunday's Oban Express Primary Football League. For this week's match reports, see Page 26

Squash league heats up with three games to go

Squash

THE Rio Tinto Alcan Squash League changes leader again for the third time in three league nights, this time B&H Autospares, on 87 points, leapfrogging The Building Restoration Co, on 86 points, showing how close the league is with any slip-up by either team giving the lead to their rivals.

This was the best performance by both Oban teams so far against their Lochaber opponents with Simmers & Co getting a well deserved win over BRC at Fort William with an 8-6 score line due to Neil Fraser outplaying his counterpart Neil Wordsal 3-0 after Neil was promoted to top seed for BRC but found his Oban opponent on top form.

get involved in the game by playing to length and forcing Archie to boast the ball more than he wanted, then killing the point at the front.

Simmers & Co also had Neil Campbell performing well, beating the nervous Mike Blanchard 3-0 with Mike thinking he had played winners only to be out of position when Neil had made great effort to return the ball.

Oban Filling Station (OFS) got a good draw with B&H Autospares showing that the gap between all teams is closing. Oban Filling Station's Alan Moore got his revenge on Archie McGillivray winning 3-1 with Archie out of sorts on the night and Alan not letting him get a chance to

OFS's David Lamb got back to winning ways with a comeback against David Mackay after going down 2-1 then coming back to 2-2 before taking the fifth with relative ease with David Mackay's lack of recent competitive games showing in the end.

With three games to go, the Oban teams are going to have a say in which team wins as they are now capable of taking points off and beating the Lochaber teams which will make it a very interesting league run in.

Tides

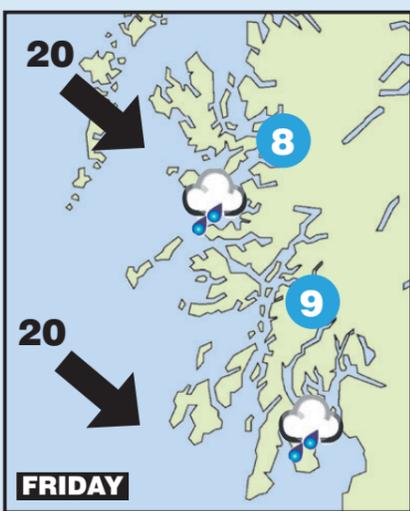
Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, March 4, 2010** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur	01.59 0.3 07.50 4.0 14.27 0.7 20.09 3.8	
Fri	02.40 0.5 08.24 3.7 15.05 1.0 20.44 3.5	
Sat	03.23 0.9 08.59 3.3 15.48 1.3 21.23 3.3	
Sun	04.09 1.3 09.37 3.0 16.40 1.6 22.12 3.0	
Mon	05.06 1.7 10.28 2.7 17.46 1.8 23.55 2.8	
Tues	06.19 1.9 14.55 2.5 19.17 1.9 *** **	
Wed	02.10 2.8 08.34 1.9 16.03 2.7 21.06 1.7	

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrihaig	-5.35	Lochboisdale	+0.30
Campbeltown	-5.30	Mallaig	+0.25
Crinan	-0.47	Portree	+0.55
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Tobermory	+0.16
		Dover	+5.30

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the weather

Sponsored by **NANCY BLACK** Ships' Chandler

Thursday
Sunny intervals. Winds light to moderate east/south-easterly. Temperatures 0°C to 3°C

Friday
Showers with heavy periods of rain with winds moderate to strong north-westerly. Temperatures -2°C to 9°C.

Weekend Outlook
Sunny intervals throughout Saturday but showers of sleet possible overnight and into Sunday. Winds moderate easterly. Temperatures 0°C to 4°C.

Ferry Crossings/Sea States
Oban to Barra/South Uist - Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree - As above
Kennacraig to Islay - As above

Sponsored by **NANCY BLACK** Ships' Chandler 01631-562550

Mull boys dominate at Argyll Athletics Final

Ten Argyll age records broken and another four equalled

Sports Hall athletics

THERE was an entry of 99 young athletes at the Argyll Final of Sports Hall Athletics held at Atlantis Leisure in Oban last Saturday.

This indoor event was promoted by Mid Argyll Athletic Club and sponsored by an Awards for All Lottery Grant.

The Final was the last in a series of competitions held throughout Argyll over the winter months.

After five hours of intense competition the overall awards were distributed to most parts of the county with athletes from Mull dominating, winning five out of the 10 titles.

The Mull boys almost completed a clean sweep of individual titles winning all age groups except the under 11 category where Ross MacCrone finished a creditable second overall just four points behind an exceptional winner in Ben Coates from Kilmore.

Kintyre girls had the upper hand in the girls contest winning three titles ahead of Oban on two and Mull winning one age group.

Ten Argyll age records were broken and another four equalled showing that there is still a lot of young talent in the district.

There were many excellent performances in all age groups but without doubt the top two athletes were the under 11 champions, Isla Mackinnon from Castlehill Primary in Campbeltown and Ben Coates from Park Primary in Oban.

Isla impressed in a high quality contest winning three events and breaking the Argyll age record in each of them. Isla started by winning the two-lap race in 25.1 almost a second under the old record and then went on to add 10cm to the record in the standing long jump recording 2.08metres and finally won the 4lap race in 57.3seconds with another record.

Such was the standard that the first three girls all finished under the old mark. In the same age group Ashleigh Connor, also from Castlehill, won the standing triple jump

with 6.16metres adding 10cm to the old record. Still in this age group Chloe Fairman from Glassary school near Lochgilphead equalled the record in the vertical jump reaching up to 48cm. Emma Thompson, Rockfield won the high jump [1.20m] and javelin and Charlotte Peacock from Tobermory won the speed bounce.

Ben Coates was also in record breaking form and in his first event he shaved 0.3 of a second off the 2lap mark winning in 24.3seconds. Ben won five events out of eight and his next record was in the standing triple jump clearing 6.37metres to erase a long-standing record. Finally Ben equalled the record in the speed bounce completing 82 jumps in 30seconds. In the same age group Scott Black from Rockfield increased the record in the high jump by 2cm clearing an impressive 1.30metres. Ross MacCrone from Tobermory was runner-up to Ben thanks to fine wins in the 4lap race in 55.5seconds, just outside the record, and the javelin throwing 20.50metres again just 50cm short of the record.

Two Argyll age records fell in the under 9 boys section with champion Fraser Mitchell from Tobermory winning the high jump and adding 3cm to the record with a 1.12metres jump. The other record fell to Shaun Doy from Ardrihaig Primary in the javelin throwing 17.50metres. In the same age group Sam Coates from Park won the two-lap and four-lap races, Joseph Harper from Kilmartin won the long jump and David Cameron from Bunessan won the triple jump. Kintyre boy Jamie McKerral, Castlehill, won the vertical jump.

Ella Barlow from Tobermory won a close contest in the under 9s just ahead of Katie Todd from Lochgilphead and Holly Smith from Tayvallich. Ella was in the top three in five events and won the long jump. Katie had a fine double

in the two-lap and four-lap races and finished first equal in the speed bounce. Holly won the high jump to ensure third place overall.

Kate Cameron from Southend dominated the under 13 category winning five events. Kate equalled the record in the standing long jump with 2.22metres and came close the Argyll age record in both the 2lap race and the high jump. In the same age group Kirsty Buchanan from Rockfield and Lynne MacLean from Barcaldine shared first in the speed bounce. Chloe Campbell, from Park, won the vertical jump and Olivia Kerr from Ardrihaig excelled to win the four-lap race coming from behind to win in 57.7seconds.

Keir Carmichael from Tobermory Primary won six events to dominate the under 13 competition. Keir won all the jumps as well as the two-lap race and speed bounce. His best event was the vertical jump reaching up to 54cm only 4cm below the record. Finlay Ferguson, Lochgilphead, won the under 13s shot putt and Darren

Conley from Campbeltown won the four-lap race.

Stuart Tomison from Ulva Ferry on Mull was under 15 champion winning four events including a new personal best (PB) of 1.71metres in the high jump. Stuart equalled the Argyll age record in the two-lap race with 21.7seconds.

Gordon Thomson from Oban won the shot putt and speed bounce and Cullen McClymont from Craignure set a new PB of 7.05metres to win the standing triple jump. Erik Riddell from Tayvallich won the four-lap race in 49.4seconds.

Oban's Kirsty Gillies won the girls under 15 contest ahead of Sian Henderson from Salen on Mull and Kelly Lamont from Connel with only four points covering the top three girls.

Kintyre girls dominated in the under 17s with Nicola Paterson champion ahead of Ruth Semple from Southend and Rachael Cameron from Tayvallich. Ruth and Rachael tied for second overall. Nicola won five events including a 1.40metres high jump. Ruth won the speed



Scott Black from Oban broke the Argyll record with a jump of 1.30m in the boys high jump for under 13s.

bounce and Rachael won the shot putt and two-lap race just missing the record by a tenth of a second.

The under 17 boys contest produced the last record of the day and it fell to champion Ian McDowall from Salen on Mull. Ian's speciality is the high jump and he cleared 1.79metres [5ft 10in] adding 1cm to a record set back in 1996. Ian entertained the appreciative audience with his tidy technique to finally clear the bar a full three inches above his own height. Craig Tomison from Ulva Ferry was second overall thanks to good wins in the two-lap and four-lap races and the triple jump clearing 7.98metres. Nicol Ferguson from Lochgilphead won the shot putt with 10.95metres and standing long jump [2.70M]. Richard Thomson from Oban and Gary Turner shared first place in the speed bounce.

Sadly there is no follow up competitions after the Argyll final.

In the past Argyll teams would be selected in the under 13 and under 15 age groups to compete in a regional final and then hopefully the Scottish final or even UK final. The sports governing body Scottish Athletics withdrew their support for this version of indoor athletics in 2007 thus denying many young athletes in rural areas in Scotland the incentive to compete

at higher levels. Wales and Northern Ireland and all the regions in England continue to participate in Sports Hall Athletics for under 13s and under 15s and the UK Final will be held in Birmingham in April once again but with no representation from Scotland.

There is a hope that this may change next winter and Scotland may get back in line with the rest of the UK.

There have been several changes in personnel at Scottish Athletics in the last nine months and people in Argyll are hopeful that the new individuals in charge at Scottish Athletics will think again and restore the Sports Hall program of events north of the border.



Making the leap in the vertical jump at the Argyll final of sports hall athletics. 15_110athletics01

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