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MARINA READY TO MOVE FORWARD

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Death of Oban jeweller

OBAN jeweller and long-time member of Oban Rotary Club Johnny Martin died suddenly on Friday.

Mr Martin, aged 58, had run the jewellery and china shop J & E Martin on Oban's George Street for more than 40 years before it closed suddenly last November and was subsequently put on the market in December.

President of The Rotary Club Oban Frank Walton said Mr Martin had been a member for 34 years and regularly attended meetings.

'He was a good Rotarian, working away in the background. It is very sad and all the members were quite shocked to hear of his death. He will be sadly missed,' said Mr Walton.

At this week's lunch meeting, in-coming president David Finlayson paid tribute to Mr Martin before a minute's silence.

Mr Martin, of Pulpit Hill, leaves his wife, Betty and two children John and Jennifer.

His funeral takes place tomorrow (Friday) at Christ's Church, Esplanade, Oban.

A82 fight taken to MSPs

A82 CAMPAIGNERS have secured a meeting with MSPs later this month as pressure for upgrades on the lifeline route continues to build.

Representatives of the A82 Partnership say the talks, with Holyrood's e-petitions committee in Dumbarton on June 24, are a direct result of their record-breaking A82 e-petition.

Full story on page 5.

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Mod youngsters in good voice

PUPILS from Bun Sgoil Lios Mor, winners of the song with action competition at this year's Oban Provincial Mod are pictured above. The event, held in the town's high school, drew more than 200 entrants from across Argyll last weekend. For a full report and pictures see page eight. t23mod02

Planners will not resist Oban nightclub bid

A BID for a nightclub in the centre of Oban has been recommended for approval by planners.

However, a report due to go before Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Committee yesterday (Wednesday) also suggested that councillors consider holding a hearing before making their final decision.

The detailed planning application by John MacGregor and Sam Silcock of MacGregor Hotels Ltd is for a new two-story building, with a mezzanine level inside, in Stevenson Street, where Blades currently trades.

Sixteen letters of objection have been received by Argyll and Bute Council, including a petition.

Among those who have objected are Jeremy Inglis of Airds Crescent. He told *The Oban Times*: 'Already there is noise in the street between 2am to 2.30am and I can't sleep. Having a nightclub will see more people pouring out on to the street after 3am.'

Another objector, Fay Coutts of Hill Street, said: 'It is bad enough with the noise coming from the Woodside and the Lorne but a nightclub would make it much worse.'

The report to councillors acknowledges that when late-night licensed premises close for the night it is 'not unknown' for people to gather and 'create disturbances at unsocial hours' but it points out that these are matters for the police not the planning authority.

It also points out that the council lost when the Woodside Hotel, in nearby Tweeddale Street, appealed against the council's decision not to allow it a beer garden.

In granting planning permission, the Scottish Government Reporter said as it was a town centre location residents were 'not entitled to expect the same degree of peace and quiet' as in residential areas or suburbs.

As the nightclub, which will hold around 300 people, would be a new building, it would be designed and constructed in such a way that no internal noise should escape from it.

Bridge 'closure' shambles

Road agencies slammed over A85 confusion

Report by EUAN PATERSON

TWO ROAD agencies came under attack this week over continuing confusion around a vital Argyll road link.

In March, Transport Scotland told the public, through *The Oban Times*, that both lanes of the A85 at Innischonain Bridge, near Lochawe, would close for a week later this year.

That threatened horrendous detours for traffic to and from Oban.

Then in May Transerv Scotland, which maintains trunk roads in north west Scotland, sought to set the record straight, saying the full closure was never going to happen.

Now both sides have agreed: there 'might' be a road closure.

People throughout Argyll are angry at the mixed messages and worried about a possible road closure, not least Argyll and Bute Council's transport spokesman Councillor Duncan MacIntyre.

He branded the organisations 'unprofessional'.

Mr MacIntyre said: 'The council was told just a week in advance that work would start on the bridge in March but that was delayed.

'Then we had to find out through *The Oban Times* that the road was going to be closed. There was no consultation for that with the community or ourselves, and there still doesn't seem to be a decision made.

'It is not a professional way of doing things. If you are going to do something that is going to be disruptive – and this most certainly is – you have to get everyone on board and keep them informed.'

With so much confusion and concern in the area, Glenorchy and Innishail Community Council has organised a public meeting in Lochawe Village Hall on June 25 involving both transport agencies and the emergency services.

A petition against the possible road closure has also been circulated.

The community council's chairman David Fellowes said: 'There is still confusion but we are sure about one thing – there will be huge disruption if that bridge closes.'

The first stage of improvements to the bridge are underway and involve a single lane closure with traffic lights, which have been set up indefinitely.

Mr Fellowes continued: 'The traffic lights have proved to be faulty on more than one occasion. I saw two large vehicles meeting on the bridge. They couldn't reverse to get out of the way because of the traffic behind them. It was mayhem.'

A statement released by Transport Scotland and repeated by Transerv said: 'We will monitor the effect of the traffic lights to ensure they are effective and do not cause delay.

'Engineers have also started a review of the planned permanent works that had been estimated to involve a week-long road closure to build.

'This review will ascertain if there is a solution that can be implemented that will not involve a full road closure. Transport Scotland is very conscious of the effect a closure will have on the local community and wish to avoid this if at all possible. This review is expected to be completed by the end of July.'

Dunbeg woman on attempt murder charge

A MAN has been released from hospital following an alleged attempted murder in Dunbeg last Friday.

Pauline Ann Johnston, aged 45, of 16 Lorn Road, Dunbeg, appeared on petition at Oban Sheriff Court on Tuesday charged with attempted murder.

Police were called to a house in Meadow Lane where the man had allegedly been stabbed. The victim was taken to Lorn and Islands District General Hospital where he was treated for a wound to the chest.

Johnstone made no plea or declaration, was committed for further examination and remanded in custody.

Inquiry into work of hospital locum

AN investigation has been launched into the work of a radiologist who worked part time at Lorn and Islands District Hospital until he resigned just a few weeks ago.

As *The Oban Times* went to press it was revealed that questions have been raised over Dr James Murray's interpretation of X-rays in Oban and the Republic of Ireland where he had also worked as a locum.

One Lochgilphead GP has flagged up more than ten cases for re-examination but wants wider checks.

It is understood that Dr Murray, who is believed to be 74, examined ultrasounds scans as well as chest, limb and fracture X-rays during the six months he worked in Oban.

Full story next week.

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The luxury yacht anchored in Inveraray bay. t23rom01

'Abramovich' yacht sparks rumours of football deal

COULD a stretch of Argyll water have been the setting for a meeting this week between two of Britain's biggest football clubs?

Rumours were rife in Inveraray on Monday that a luxury yacht anchored in the bay belonged to the owner of Chelsea Football Club, Roman Abramovich.

According to one source, David Murray, the chairman of Glasgow Rangers, was spotted leaving the huge yacht flanked by bouncers after a meeting with the Russian billionaire. It sparked speculation of a player deal.

A local policeman said that the boat was spotted early on Monday morning and apparently it is owned by the Russian.

Mystery figures are taken out the yacht. a23rom01

The policeman said: 'Everyone has been talking about it and a few people have said that it definitely belongs to Abramovich but no one has actually seen him.' He added that one of Abramovich's huge yachts visited Inveraray last summer but Monday's boat was not the same one.

Roman Abramovich is one of the world's richest men with a fortune thought to reach more than £12 billion. He has become the world's greatest spender on luxury yachts and he has been linked to five boats including the *Eclipse, Ecstasea, Pelorus* and *Le Grand Bleu.*

Visitors to Inveraray on Monday were disappointed that the ship was anchored too far out to read the name so no one was able to check who it belongs to.

Drinking in public byelaws may be extended

OBAN'S councillors are being asked if they want to extend the area covered in the town by byelaws stopping the drinking of alcohol in public places.

Each area committee of Argyll and Bute Council is being asked to consider any changes to geographical areas covered, so that they can be submitted to Scottish ministers in a single application in December.

A large portion of the southern part of the town is not included in the prohibition area, including Soroba, Glengallan and Glencruitten. Nor is Dunollie included, although the Corran Halls area, McCaig's Tower and Dungallan Park are.

Anyone drinking in prohibited areas would be commiting a criminal offence.

Kranenburg Fine Art

New Works by
Mary Davidson & Jamie Primrose
Saturday 7th June - 28th June 2008
Preview Friday 6th June 2008 from 6pm

Mary Davidson | Poppies & Shadows | oil | 24" x 24"

Jamie Primrose | Edinburgh Skyline from Arthur's Seat | oil | 20" x 39"

Kranenburg Fine Art Galleries
Star Brae & Stevenson Street, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4AZ
01631 562303

gallery@kranenburgfineart.com www.kranenburgfineart.com
Open Monday - Saturday 9.30am - 5.30pm. Other hours by appointment

Retailers won't wait warns developer

No decision on shops for two months

Exclusive report by STEPHEN NORRIS

THE FATE of a major retail development in Fort William will not be decided until August at the earliest, it emerged this week.

Developer Morbaine Limited wants restrictions removed on the type of shops it can bring to its North Road site - but is warning retailers could walk away because of the time it is taking to reach a decision.

TK Maxx, Mothercare and Pets at Home have already informed Highland Council of their intention to open at North Road if restrictions are relaxed.

Morbaine's first bid to widen planning consent was controversially knocked back by councillors in December - prompting Morbaine to call for a public inquiry. The firm re-applied on March 26 and had hoped to put its case this week, but planners say they need more time for reports.

Property consultants Ryden have been called in to gauge impact on town centre trade - a move which dismayed Morbaine.

Director Robin MacMillan told *The Oban Times*: 'They have asked their consultants Ryden to give them a retail report. They only asked for this last week. Why did they not ask for one when our application went in? It's ridiculous. The people who are suffering in this are the people of Fort William – they are not getting what they deserve.'

Highland Council dismissed accusations it was dragging its feet and maintained it was entitled to seek further advice on whether more out-of-town stores would further compromise High Street business.

Dafydd Jones, area planning and building standards manager for Ross, Skye and Lochaber, told *The Oban Times* he met with Morbaine as recently as last Wednesday. He said: 'Although we had hoped to place the matter before the June planning committee it was not possible to meet this deadline in light of consultation comments and the need for further information.

'Following issues raised regarding the content of their submission and in order to fully examine and assess their case in support of their proposal an independent assessment of their retail submission is being undertaken.'

Morbaine director Alex Brodie said he had 'no idea' whether planners would recommend approval and warned retailers wanting to come to North Road would not hang around forever.

'It's all about timing,' he said. 'One minute the company boards have signed up and say 'yes, we want to do Fort William', but then they might say 'hang on, Fort William is too difficult, we'll go somewhere else.'

'Suffice it to say we are not too happy. This whole thing could have been dealt with more promptly. It's absurd, we just seem to be prevaricating. What do you want - to put out the red carpet? We can't hold the land forever. We have not bought it yet, we have a contract to buy it, but the clock is ticking.'

Mr Jones said the next available committee is August. 'We will endeavour subject to satisfactory submission of all outstanding information, to direct the application to this date,' he said.

'Whilst the planning service understands Morbaine's desire to secure an early decision it is the planning authority's duty to rigorously assess the impact this proposal will have on Fort William and Lochaber, particularly in light of the impending public inquiry lodged by Morbaine.'

Callum Fraser, Ben Miller, Alex Whittaker and Lachlan Blair will be riding the Mountain Bike World Cup cross-country course today. f23cyc1

Schoolboy bikers' World Cup challenge

FOUR Lochaber youngsters will get to ride the world cup cross-country course today (Thursday) as part of the Highland Schools Mountain Bike Championship.

Callum Fraser, Ben Miller, Alex Whittaker and Lachlan Blair were the top four finishers last year and even formed a team to compete at Ten Under the Ben last weekend. Ben, aged 13, from Kinlochleven High School, was last year's winner, followed by his 12-year-old schoolmate Alex.

Callum, 12, and Lachlan, 13, attend Lochaber High School.

The four completed a commendable 90 kilometres between them at Ten Under the Ben, only 10 miles less than the top foursome on the day. 'We're all looking forward to riding on the world cup course again. It's really exciting,' said Alex.

All Lochaber secondary pupils will receive vouchers to attend the June 6-8 UCI World Cup event.

See world cup preview, back page.

Councillor berates community council over waterfront 'swipe'

A COUNCILLOR has berated Fort William Community Council (FWCC) for taking 'a swipe' at their South Lochaber counterparts' call for more consultation on the waterfront development.

Bill Clark claims FWCC 'is against' other community councils having a view on the waterfont 'if it doesn't support the views that they hold' and says councillors who expressed scepticism over the project were backed by majority opinion.

He hit out: 'One year ago, the residents of Lochaber went to the polls and the leading lights behind the waterfront development lost their seats. Maybe FWCC should listen to the electorate. They and their cabal have a big hit for themselves and maybe a little self-interest.

'In the meantime, residents are being denied retail developments on the periphery of the town. If the developers cannot give guarantees on what is going to be delivered, when it is going to be delivered and carry out a consultation with the public, the missives should not be signed.'

In its meeting last month, FWCC complained that 'blatant lack of impartiality and misinformation' carried by some media on the waterfront project had been 'directly influential in creating division in the community' and called for unity.

Ardgour Community Council this week urged Highland Council to delay the signing of missives pending discussions 'with all Lochaber community councils in order that informed choices can be made'.

Council chief executive Nigel Dodds assured FWCC no assets would be handed over prior to the developer obtaining planning permission for the development and hoped 'shortly' to give a detailed timescale. Meanwhile, a working party comprising Highland Council, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, British Waterways, the Crown Estate, PED committee chairman Drew Hendry and all seven Lochaber councillors has been set up to drive regeneration of the entire Loch Linnhe front from Fort William to Corpach.

Consultants are to be commissioned to prepare an urban design strategy and action plan by March 2009 outlining plans for a 'comprehensive enhancement' of the area.

Morrisons step up underage crackdown

CUSTOMERS buying alcohol and cigarettes at Fort William's largest supermarket will be asked for proof of age if they look younger than 25.

Morrisons stores around Scotland launched their 'Task 25' scheme on Monday, which is aimed at preventing underage sales.

The company has operated a policy of asking for proof of age from any customer who does not look over 21 since 2005.

Newsdesk
01631 568000

Eigg electricity community handover

THE OFFICIAL handover of Eigg Electric Limited scheme to the community takes place in Eigg Community Hall tomorrow at 1pm.

The ferry leaves Erisaig at 11am and will return from Eigg at 4.30pm.

Anyone wishing to attend can contact Maggie Fyffe, Eigg Electric, on 01687 482486 who will book a place on the ferry. 'After the short ceremony, there will be a chance for people to go to different parts of the island and see the system in action,' she said.

'Blame game' starts as Jura anger grows over Islay pier shortcomings

ANGRY islanders on Jura are demanding their ferry stub at Port Askaig is improved following disruptions to sailings and are turning against factions of their own community as frustrations boil over.

Argyll and Bute Council included upgrade work on the stub in its recent £13 million re-development of Port Askaig pier. The main development work centred on a new linkspan for the CalMac ferry serving the mainland, which the Jura ferry uses while the CalMac vessel is not there.

However, when the CalMac vessel is in port, the Jura ferry must use the stub, which is not accessible at low tide, because the vehicle ramp is at too steep an angle. This makes it impossible for the emergency service vehicles to get to Jura at low tide.

An anonymous e-mail calling for the resignation of the community council for their alleged non-action on the matter has been circulated around the island and the council fears a 'blame game' has begun. The community council came in for criticism when it did not confront council officials, architects and ferry operators ASP Ship Management at Port Askaig during trials to assess the suitability of the ferry stub on May 22.

Following the trials at Port Askaig, lengths of timber will be used to adjust the angle of the vehicles ramp and if this proves successful, concrete blocks will replace the timber in the autumn.

Jura community council secretary Donald Darroch said: 'We knew the council officials and architects would be at Port Askaig but it wasn't a meeting.

'We asked the council for a public meeting involving all the parties concerned a couple of months ago but there has been nothing and people are getting frustrated.

'Port Askaig is the topic we spend the most time on at our meetings.'

Community councillor Joan Richardson said: 'The situation is turning into a blame game but we had our AGM two weeks ago and no-one from outside the community council turned up. The work at Port Askaig seems to have given us a worse service than we had before and that is what is making people angry.'

Argyll and Bute Council head of roads and amenity services, Stewart Turner, conceded there were problems with the ferry stub at low tide. However, he refuted claims the stub was sub-standard.

He said: 'I understand why people are frustrated.

'There was maybe an expectation that, because so much money has been spent on Port Askaig, people could use the stub at all states of tide but we have never said that.

'Any problem like this is fixable but it would cost hundreds of thousands of pounds to do it. We are trying to take steps to sort it out.'

Port Askaig pier was on the agenda of Argyll and Bute Council's Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands area committee yesterday (Wednesday).

Ferries can find it impossible to using the Port Askaig pier stub when tides are low.

Road group drives on

THE A82 Partnership will deliver a petition and a three-minute presentation to the Petitions Committee of the Scottish executive in Dumbarton on June 24.

John Hutchison will lead the campaigners' case, supported by Ally Ferguson and Stewart Maclean. It is expected there will be limited capacity for observers but anyone wishing to attend should contact Highland Council's Emma Tayler on 01397 707232.

Meanwhile, roadworks on the A82 will take place at Spean Bridge, north of the A82/A86 junction, for approximately two days from next Wednesday and between Corran Ferry and Corrychurrachan for approximately two days from next Friday.

West end plan on track

PLANS to redevelop a prime site in Fort William's west end are on track to go before planners in August, *The Oban Times* can reveal.

Kilmartin Ashford, the property group behind the £10 million project for a 60-room Travelodge and shops at the former McTavish's Kitchen and existing Grand Hotel site, are looking to have contractors start work in September.

Ashford director Andrew Smith told *The Oban Times*: 'We are still in discussions with the planning department but hope to go to committee in mid summer, pending agreement on final matters of detail. We would hope to be on site around a month thereafter.'

Jack MacMillan gets airborne on the zip slide at Spean Bridge Primary School's fun day on Sunday helped by Matt Warner. f23spean01

Spean Bridge digs deep for school

SPEAN Bridge residents dug deep for its primary school at the annual fun day on Saturday.

A midge-free Sunday afternoon, marred only by a sudden squall of wind two minutes before the 1pm start, saw more than £3,000 raised for school funds.

Parent Teacher Association chairperson Amanda Simpson paid tribute to everyone who had helped to make the day a success.

'Our total is £3,082,' she said, 'but we have another £162 to add on to that. The day went really well.'

Raffle winners: 1 Jenny Brockie, bathroom suite from William Wison; 2 Heather Sergeant, dinner for two at The Old Pines; 3 Lesley Melvin, bird table from BSW timber; 4 Roslyn Stewart, bottle of Ledaig from Woollen Mill.

More photographs from the fun day can be viewed by visiting our website at www.obantimes.co.uk.

Green light given for 14 new Roy Bridge homes

PLANS to replace 16 holiday homes in Roy Bridge with 14 houses were approved at Lochaber House on Tuesday.

Ian and Janis Matheson submitted the application for the site at Bun Roy, just off the A86.

Highland Council's technical services manager Jim Tolmie told the Ross, Skye and Lochaber Planning Applications and Review Committee that a letter of objection was sent from a local civil engineer who was concerned about increased traffic in the area on a sub-standard road. But Lochaber Councillor Eddie Hunter was backed by colleagues when he dismissed the traffic problem. 'Roy Bridge is a vibrant community and this development will only help,' he said.

'Gun man' arrested

POLICE have arrested a man who was allegedly carrying an air rifle and ammunition through Oban last Saturday.

The 20 year old was traced at the Corran Esplanade and arrested for unlawfully being in possession of the weapon. He appeared at Oban Sheriff Court on Tuesday.

Artists on display

FEARNAN Art Club are looking for submissions for display in its popular Arts and Crafts Fair this August.

Held in the MacLean Hall in Fearnan from August 22 to 25 the fair attracts holidaymakers and locals interested in local crafts, art and photography.

Artists and photographers may submit up to six framed submissions each and arts groups are encouraged to take shared exhibition space.

The fair hopes to attract local crafts people with varied, interesting and unusual talents.

Further information is available from Ian McGregor on 01887 830219.

Rise in NHS dentistry

NHS DENTISTRY is on the increase in the Highlands and Argyll and Bute.

A total of 14,648 more patients were registered with an NHS dentist between March and December last year, a five per cent increase to 118,883.

Plans are in place to increase this by building new surgeries and employing NHS dentists directly to allow another 39,000 people to register with an NHS dentist.

Anyone for tennis?

A LAWN Tennis Association coach from Crieff is serving up tennnis classes in Killin this summer.

Louise Braidwood, who previously coached at Crieff Tennis Club and Stirling University will be running classes on June 1 and 15.

Louise's other job is as a visiting PE specialist for Perth and Kinross Council.

Motorists face delays

MOTORISTS are being asked to allow extra time for journeys in and out of Argyll as surface dressing work on the A82 and A83 trunk roads is carried out this month.

Work will commence on June 15 for two days on the A83 between Crarae and Minard.

On June 17 work will commence on the A82 between Inverbeg and Rhuba Mor.

Due to the nature of the works temporary traffic lights will be in place with 10mph speed restrictions.

Views sought on water services

SCOTTISH Water customers in Argyll and Bute are to be asked what they think of the company's services at an open board meeting next week in Lochgilphead.

The company's chairman, Ronnie Mercer, and board members will be at Lochgilphead Community Centre on Tuesday, June 10.

Joining Mr Mercer will be chief executive Richard Ackroyd and directors Geoff Aitkenhead and Douglas Millican.

The meeting will hear an update on the capital investment programme and investment plans for Argyll and Bute.

Mr Mercer said: 'Scottish Water seeks to consult actively with our customers and stakeholders and this is one of a series of meetings we are holding across Scotland.'

Special occasions for two island communities

Kerrera has big plans

IT was with hope and enthusiasm that the Isle of Kerrera celebrated on Thursday the launch of its community development plan for the next 10 years.

'We have a development plan but the real work starts here,' Mark Jennison, co-ordinator told islanders and guests at the launch in the old school.

The plan outlets the 34 residents' main targets and projects to make Kerrera a thriving and economically viable community with a community of around 60 people.

Every aspect of island life has been examined and long-term and short-term targets assessed.

Already the ball has started rolling on a number of projects – from a planning application for a route that links the north and south of the island and one for a 10-metre wind monitoring mast to setting up a house condition survey.

The community hopes, in the next five years, to build four new affordable houses for rent; permanently link both ends of the island; make the island use 100 per cent renewable energy; create five permanent jobs on the island; increase the population and maintain the number of farm businesses.

'It has been a challenge getting to this stage for the community of Kerrera,' said Roddy MacEachen, chairman of the Isle of Kerrera Residents Association (IKRA), 'with a few heart-stopping moments along the way.

'In order for our voice to be heard at the right pitch we needed someone with a bit of tact and diplomacy and Kerrera has a person of that quality in Mark Jennison. There is no doubt that without his expertise we would not be in this hall today,' said Mr MacEachen.

Front, Mark Jennison, Mairi MacGregor, Andy Crab and his daughter Ruby, Richard Pearson and chairman Roddy MacEeachen with Isle of Kerrera residents and guests. t23ker01

'Also without the input and guidance of the community we would not be here today.'

Mr Jennison told the gathering: 'This document is a firm intention of IKRA; it is not a piece of paper that is going to sit on a shelf.

'We are at a turning point of what is happening here on the island.'

Guests at the launch including representatives of the many organisations that have supported the development plan, not least island owner Dunollie Estates, Nàdair, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Leader+, the Big Lottery Fund and Argyll and Bute Council.

A spread courtesy of IKRA, provided by Jo Crab and a cake made by Elaine Pearson in the shape of the island with some of the projects highlighted, was cut by the oldest islander Ned Rimmer and the youngest, five-month-old Tara Crab.

Plenty for Easdale to make a song and dance about

EASDALE held a double celebration when islanders marked the fifth anniversary of the opening of its community hall and the recent acquisition of the award-winning Easdale Island Folk Museum.

Around 100 people attended the party featuring Oban band 'Dakota'.

Eilean Eisdeal director Sandra Melville said: 'Since the hall opened in 2003 there has been an incredible variety of performances, organised through the arts and entertainment programme, bringing a range of culture and music to this rural location that would be difficult to match in any city.'

The hall has been well used by the islanders for a range of sporting, educational and social functions and has become the heart of the community.

Easdale Island Folk Museum was co-founded in 1981 by previous island owner Chris Nicholson and resident Jean Adams MBE. Eilean Eisdeal, the community trust which bought the museum, was looking forward to building upon the work which gave the museum its well-deserved reputation.

Ms Melville highlighted that the island still had significant challenges to face as a community. She stated: 'We must ensure that we rise to meet the challenges of preserving the harbour and securing the future for the generations who will follow in our footsteps.

'We hope to work in a constructive partnership with Argyll and Bute Council in achieving these objectives.'

Around 100 people attended the double celebration party on Easdale Island.

Developers 'on schedule to tap into share of £9 million'

Oban marina could win Crown Estate backing

THE Crown Estate could be in line to fund proposed multi-user pontoons and a yacht safe-haven in Oban Bay.

A statement by the board of Oban Bay Marine (OBM), which is supported by more than 100 business and individual members in Argyll, said that the Crown Estate had indicated that it would be interested in providing a commercial loan to allow the project to go forward.

However there are concerns that high interest payments would leave little benefit for the community.

A statement by the board of Oban Bay Marine said: 'All possible avenues identified as suitable for funding this project are being pursued. OBM made a well received presentation before the Argyll project board for town centre and harbour development.

'As part of the consultation for the development of the town centre, the pontoon plan fits into the overall transport plan identified in the Oban action plan. The project board have now reported their very favourable view of our proposals and we believe we are on schedule to tap into a share of £9 million earmarked for distribution throughout Argyll.

'The Crown Estate are under pressure to support projects and have indicated an interest to fund the project on a commercial loan basis, the downside of this is interest payments would leave little for return to the community.'

Applications for grants have also been made to the Oban Common Good Fund and the Big Lottery Fund.

Morag Brown has been appointed as project manager for the pontoons proposed to be sited between the North and Railway Piers in Oban Bay.

The development seeks to provide shelter behind a floating breakwater for a pontoon drop-off with around 70 short-stay berths, enough, OBM says, to satisfy demand and bring visitors directly into the town.

The statement by the board continued: 'Oban lends itself perfectly to becoming the centre of yachting on the west coast. Demand will determine what is achievable. The basis of the model we are following, Tobermory, started with a small facility.

'The project will be commercially operated but will be run in the interests of the wider community of Oban with surplus funds, if any, being used to assist in the development of further communities' assets within the company area.'

A meeting of OBM members will take place on Monday, June 9 at the Argyllshire Gathering Halls at 7pm.

Midwife set for 1,000-mile pilgrimage

AN OBAN midwife is to make a 1,000-mile pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela in Spain in aid of an Argyll charity.

So dedicated is Mairi McGregor, a midwife and public health nurse for the homeless in Oban, that she has taken three months unpaid leave to walk from Le Puy in France to Santiago de Compostela.

Mairi, who is walking in aid of Scottish International Relief (SIR) based in Dalmally, said: 'I have really wanted to do this for some time in memory of dear friends and relations that I have lost either by illness or tragic accident over the years.

'I have trained on the hills of Kerrera and the lowlands of Portnahaven on Islay.

'Scottish International Relief to me is for the children to enable them to live their lives when the odds are stacked against them.'

SIR began as a one-off delivery of aid to the war-torn Balkans in 1992. Since then more than £10 million of aid has been delivered to vulnerable families worldwide enabling the support of long-term projects such as Mary's Meals.

This project provides daily meals in local schools for over 300,000 children in many different parts of the world, which encourages them to attend school.

Mairi added: 'The project provides daily meals to chronically hungry children in their local school in many different parts of the world. In this way the hungry children are encouraged to attend school, and through education, gain a better future for themselves and their communities. The biggest project is in Malawi where it costs only £5 to feed a child for an entire school year.'

To make a donation to SIR phone 0800 6981212 or send to SIR, Craig Lodge, Dalmally, PA33 1AR.

Oban midwife Mairi McGregor is to make an epic pilgrimage for an Argyll charity. t23mar01

New chief for An Comunn Gàidhealach

AN COMUNN Gàidhealach, the Gaelic council that runs the Royal National Mod among other things, has appointed a new chief executive.

Formerly of Ness on the Isle of Lewis, John Morrison now lives with his family in Broughty Ferry and will be taking up his new position in Inverness on July 1.

'Much needs to be done to promote opportunities for the use of our language and culture through the mod network and amongst the membership,' said Mr Morrison.

'It will undoubtedly be challenging but I am very happy to be more involved now in Gaelic development work.'

Mr Morrison was previously finance and administration manager with Angus and Dundee Tourist Board as well as being involved in Gaelic development in the south-east of Scotland and a Gaelic adjudicator at provincial mods.

Residents urged to think green

ARGYLL and Bute residents are being urged to help make the area greener and cleaner by supporting this year's National Recycle Week, which began on Monday.

Now in its fifth year, Recycle Week is dedicated to local and national activities that focus attention on the benefits of recycling household waste.

As rubbish put in landfill sites rots and creates harmful greenhouse gases, Argyll and Bute Council is encouraging people to recycle as much as possible.

The council's environment spokesman Councillor Robert Macintyre, said: 'The amount of waste diverted from landfill in Argyll and Bute has risen from 33 per cent to 35 per cent in the last 12 months. We want this figure to continue to increase and reduce the amount of waste being sent to landfill.'

Hugh Dan MacLennan leaves CalMac

FERRY company Caledonian MacBrayne (CalMac) has confirmed that Hugh Dan MacLennan has resigned from his position as CalMac's communications director for personal reasons.

Dr MacLennan was responsible for public affairs, communications, marketing, office services and customer care.

He is also a former director and vice president of the Camanachd Association, shinty's governing body and is well known for his work in Gaelic broadcasting. An announcement about his successor within CalMac will be made in due course.

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Too drunk in public

A FAMILIAR face returned to Fort William Sheriff Court last Thursday for the first time in 2008.

Joe Davidson, aged 53, of 15 Glendale Road, Kinlochleven, was arrested on May 24 for being too drunk to take care of himself in a public place.

'What are you doing back here Mr Davidson?' asked Sheriff Douglas Small as he examined Davidson's 14 pages of previous convictions.

Davidson's lawyer Hamish Melrose said his client had not been in jail since September last year which, he said, was a lengthy period given Davidson's history.

'He obviously has blips from time to time,' admitted Mr Melrose.

Just five days after his latest arrest, Mr Davidson told the court: 'I've not had a drink for a week, but I know I can do even better than that.'

Sheriff Small fined Davidson £150.

Sentenced deferred on embezzler

A FORMER employee of Thornton's in Fort William has admitted embezzling around £2,000 in cash and confectionery between December 2006 and June last year.

Gayle MacDonald, aged 48, now living in Inverness, committed a similar offence 17 years ago, Fort William Sheriff Court heard.

'This is a serious offence, a complete breach of trust,' said Sheriff Douglas Small.

Sentencing was deferred until June 26 for social enquiry reports.

Police name dead climber

THE CLIMBER who died after an 80-foot fall in the Cuillins last Friday has been named by police.

Neil Wyllie, aged 34, from Carnoustie, suffered fatal head injuries on the Whispering Wall, Sgurr a Mhadaidh, in the midday accident.

Isle of Skye Mountain Rescue Team attended before Stornoway Coastguard's helicopter airlifted Mr Wyllie to Broadford Hospital on Skye, where he was pronounced dead.

Northern Constabulary said officers were preparing a report.

Commonwealth target after nine-year break from sport

Marksman John sets his sights on Delhi

A LOCHABER marksman is in the running for a place in the Scottish Commonwealth Games Olympic trap team for clay target shooting – after years out of competition.

John MacDonald, from Mingarry, Acharacle was world silver medallist and Scottish champion at 'down the line' shooting at 16 – before he lost interest and took up football instead.

But two years ago he decided to return to the sport after a nine-year absence, marking his comeback with a switch to the more testing Olympic trap discipline, the 'blue riband' of the sport.

John, aged 27, had lost none of his skill and won the Scottish championships last year at the first time of asking.

He is scoring well in the current round of selection shoots for the Scottish team for Delhi 2010 and further strengthened his credentials when he won the North of Scotland Olympic trap competition at Loch Ness on Saturday with a score of 95 out of 100.

He is also in the frame for the British team and lies ninth, only one place outside automatic selection, after strong performances in qualifying shoots at Southern Counties and Bisley.

His scores of 118 and 110 out of 125 targets straddle the Commonwealth Games qualifying standard of 116 – great news for John, who is desperate for a Scotland 'cap'.

John told *The Oban Times*: 'At 16 I lost interest in the sport and took up football with Fort William FC. I set up my own business and didn't shoot for nine years.

'But two years ago I decided to take up the sport again and I switched to Olympic trap, more or less to see if I could still shoot.

'At Dalry in Ayrshire I won first time out, shooting 94 out of 100. Then I won the Scottish championships last year at two different disciplines, Olympic trap and automatic ball trap.

'That was a big achievement, because only three people have won the Scottish championships in three different disciplines. Another is my coach, Ewan MacColl from Kinlocheil.

'My next aim is the 2010 Commonwealth Games in Delhi. If I shoot to my potential, there should be no problem. I'm quietly confident.

'At the last Commonwealth Games the person who was sixth in the final scored 116 – and that's what they have made the benchmark score for the Delhi games.

'That's the qualification score, so if you can get a 116 or better you have chance of getting into the Scottish squad. For us to qualify for that we have to take part in GB shoots. The reason I have to go to selection shoots down there is because that is where the best competition is.

'Any Scottish person has to do this, but the added bonus is that if you do well you can make the British team for world cups and Olympics.'

John's talent has already caught the eye of sponsors.

Lochaber Sports Council has given £1,000 to help with expenses, while perhaps more significantly, Italian cartridge makers Mirage are supplying his ammunition.

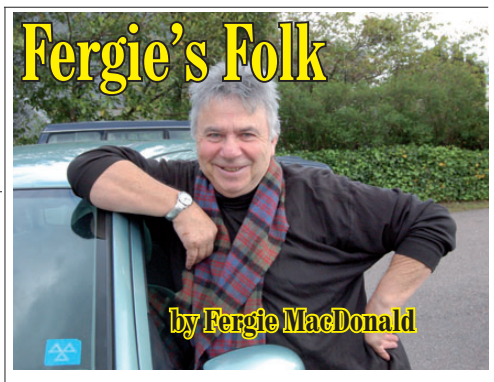
His next big British team selection shoots are at Beverley, East Yorkshire, on June 28 and 29, Northern Ireland in July and Cardiff in September.

These all count towards selection for the Scotland squad, as do the Scottish championships in July.

John's lightness of touch with his fingers aren't confined to a shotgun - he's an accompished button-box player and has just returned from the Orkney Folk Festival where he was one of the main artists.

Dad Fergie is an internationally renowned musician and one of Lochaber's most kenspeckle characters.

John MacDonald is aiming for the 2010 Delhi Commonwealth Games.



Angus MacPhail, Tiree

IT GIVES me the greatest pleasure to see young people in the Highlands and Islands getting on in life, especially in the entertainment industry.

Angus MacPhail's incredible rise to fame didn't just happen. I have followed his progress since he was a teenager. He first came to my notice when he won the under 15 years accordion competition at the National Mod. I said to myself 'this guy is going to make it, big time'.

The following year, I heard him playing live at the Mull Festival. I noticed that he had grown in ability and confidence and, of course, in height! At that festival, I had the privilege of meeting his late father Hector. I remember sitting on the rocks with him overlooking Tobermory Bay and listening to dozens of his poems and song compositions. Believe me, one day someone is going to publish the works of Hector MacPhail. He is, in my book, a Gaelic poetic genius. Mind you, to publish some of his poems, the safety net of Gaelic literal inhibitions would have to be raised considerably! That day will come. His mother Flora is a leading light in the world of Gaelic music and song so, you see, it's in the genes.

Angus MacPhail.

A graduate in traditional music, Angus has certainly used his degree to the full. Being one of the few West Highland bandleaders to sail through the BBC Radio Scotland dance music audition, he was launched almost overnight into a world wide network of traditional music lovers.

When Angus decided to record his first CD, he didn't adhere to the orthodox procedure of getting an established recording company to produce his album. Not Angus. He formed his own company called Skipinnish. The company has now recorded no less than 10 top artists and bands.

Significant places like Waterloo, Culloden and Tin Pan Alley became famous by some coincidence or happening. Watch out for Skipinnish! The little village of Skipinnish in Tiree may never be the same again. Can you imagine Caledonian MacBrayne diverting some of its ships from main shipping routes in order to cope with the masses heading for Tiree? You just never know.

'Big Angus', as I affectionately call him, has really pushed the name Skipinnish big time.

We have Skipinnish boat trips based in Oban and Skipinnish boat trips based in Tiree. I think the most exciting trip must be the Tiree-based pleasure boat *Scimita* that goes out to Skerryvore lighthouse. A force eight. How about that? I think I'll give that cruise a miss!

Last week's *Oban Times* gave full coverage of the opening of The Skipinnish Ceilidh House. This new venture promotes a whole new ball game for Oban - it's all happening. At this point, I must mention Andrew Stevenson from Spean Bridge. Andrew is a business partner and a founder member of Skipinnish Dance Band.

Although Angus MacPhail has packed so much into his life up to now, I am certain there is a lot more to come. Fantastic for a local boy from Tiree. Well done Angus.

The 'Fergie' Band will be performing in The Skipinnish Ceilidh House on Friday August 8. Fergie, Morven, John and Hugh are honoured.

Along with everything else, 'Big Angus' is a lobster fisherman. I have patiently waited 10 years for the long-promised lobster. Maybe Friday August 8 will be my lucky day!

Good luck to Angus in all his ventures.

The Highland CD hit parade

MAY HAS been a strange month in relation to CD sales. Top performers have all been selling steadily, but nothing startling.

I hear that new CDs are about to be released and that will change things for June.

Best sellers during May were:

1 Julie Fowlis - Cuilidh
2 Alisdair Gillies - Island Heritage
3 Sandy Meldrum - Scottish Piano Fusion
4 Duncan Chisholm - Farrar
5 Archie MacAllister - Fiddlers Rock

❒ I never seem to get my tip for the top spot correct. Duncan Chisholm's 'Farrar' was only released two weeks ago, and already has crashed in at number four. It looks good.

Lochyside RC Primary School fete raises £4,320

LOCHYSIDE RC Primary School fete drew around 10,000 customers last Thursday - 500 people and thousands of merciless midges.

The human element of the crowd showed true Highland grit to raise £4,320 for school funds, with David Ogg worthy of special mention for ignoring clouds of the pests about his head to keep the fun going from the back of his Nevis Radio van.

Inside the hall, auctioneer Ewen Campbell also did a magnificent job in keeping the total ticking along, ultimately having to take a break from his duties as the stifling heat took its toll.

Top fund-raiser was a Celtic shirt signed by the new SPL champions, which made £425. The buyer wishes to remain anonymous - the prized strip is to be a present for a lucky youngster. School secretary Aileen Duncan said: 'It was the best fête we have had for a long time. We're all delighted about that. A big thank you to everyone who turned up or helped out, and to the contributors to the raffle, tombola and wheel of fortune.'

Above: Ann-Marie MacRae and Elaine Brayshaw of the Parent Council with the £425 Celtic strip.
f23lochy03

Right: Auctioneer Ewen Campbell in full flow at the Lochyside RC primary School fete.
f23lochy02

Teenage girl kicked and bit policemen

A TEENAGE girl repeatedly kicked a policeman in the head and bit another trying to arrest her.

Natalie Smith, aged 18, of 5 Patience Way, Caol, had just begun an 18-month probation and 100-hour community service sentence for a previous offence, when the incident took place in Fort William in the early hours of May 12.

Procurator Fiscal Eilidh MacLean said police had been called out to attend a breach of the peace involving one of Smith's friends. She said Smith began shouting and swearing to the extent that one officer approached her to make an arrest.

'She however struggled so much that the officer had to pull her to the ground and summon assistance,' said Ms MacLean.

While on the ground, Smith kicked out with her heavy 'Caterpillar' shoes, striking one officer in the head.

'On hearing him say 'ouch', she then kicked him at least two or three times further,' said Ms MacLean. After being restrained and placed in the police car, Smith began repeatedly head butting the window.

When an officer opened the door to wind down the window, Smith bit him on the forearm.

Smith was detained for 17 days until her court appearance.

Sheriff Douglas Small released her on condition that she remains in her house from 7.30pm to 8am and deferred sentence until June 26 to get further reports.

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Special features highlighted through eyes of local people

Residents star in new guide to Loch Sunart

A NEW audio-visual guide to Loch Sunart was launched at Ardnamurchan High School this week – starring local residents.

The 'Guide to Loch Sunart' CD takes visitors on a virtual tour of Sunart's natural landscape and wildlife from Strontian to Kilchoan with a specially recorded soundtrack featuring the voices of local people.

The guide, which offers Gaelic and English commentary, was developed by Sunart Oakwoods Initiative (SOI), local communities and Ardnamurchan High School with backing from Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), Lochaber Enterprise and Highland Council. The CD features Ardgour's Mary Ann Kennedy and Moidart's Fergie Macdonald, whose tracks accompany the commentary of presenter guides as they describe the special features around Loch Sunart.

Presenters include John Donaldson and Kerry Smart of Ardnamurchan High School, Martin Faulkner and Laura Baxter of SNH, local historian and naturalist John Dye, local historian and writer Iain Thornber, Sunart Community Forester Jamie Macintyre and Highland council ranger Eilidh-Ann Madden.

Speaking at Tuesday's launch, local councillor and SOI chairman Michael Foxley said: 'This new guide allows visitors to see Loch Sunart through the eyes of people with local knowledge.

'It also offers something different in that visitors will be making a real connection with the area by hearing the voices and language of local people as they pass through the landscape.'

The CDs are are available on request from the Highland Council ranger service, Strontian Tourist Information Centre and local hotels, shops and visitor attractions.

Child protection services praised

HIGHLAND Council has been commended for the 'effective performance' of its child protection services.

The HMIe Services for Children Inspectorate noted 'improved outcomes for vulnerable children and their families'.

'As a result of the effective performance shown by services in taking forward improvements, HMIe will make no further visits,' inspectors said. Chairman of the joint committee on children Councillor Liz MacDonald said: This report evidences the excellent work being done by staff to promote the protection of Highland's children.'

The report will be presented to The Highland Council on Thursday June 26.

Simplifying house applications

A SCHEME to simplify applying for a house in the Highlands was launched in Inverness on Monday.

The Highland Housing Register means people wishing to rent a house from the council or any housing association only need complete one application form. Highland Council, Albyn Housing Society, Cairn Housing Association, Lochaber Housing Association, Lochalsh and Skye Housing Association and Pentland Housing Association signed a partnership agreement in the Town House, Inverness.

Got a story for The Oban Times? Telephone our reporters on 01631 568000 or 01397 703003

Disco 'is causing sleepless nights'

A RESIDENT of Argyll Mansions says he and his neighbours have sleepless weekends as Saturday night discos continue in the former McTavish's building.

The premises, now named Skipinnish Ceilidh House, is a traditional music venue but, in the absence of a nightclub in the town, the new owners agreed to continue the Saturday night discos run previously.

The resident, who did not want named, said the Saturday night discos have become 'the bane of their lives'.

However, Argyll and Bute Council's environmental services said it has found no problem with noise levels in the past two weekends.

The Argyll Mansions resident has two children, aged two and four, said a lot of elderly people and young families live within the property.

He added: 'The traditional music usually finishes about 11pm or midnight which is fine but on the Saturday night all we can hear is the loud base and people come out at 2am and make a noise in the street.

'The new operators are trying to do a good job for the town and the traditional music nights are fine but it's no venue for a nightclub.

'I know sound proofing has been added but people are suffering with this.'

Angus MacPhail of the Skipinnish Ceilidh House said: 'We plan to keep the discos going until there is a suitable alternative.

Young people

'These premises have been used as a traditional music and disco venue for the past 30 years. It is the best venue in the town for that and Oban needs somewhere for its young people to go on a Saturday night.

'There is a 'not in my back yard' mentality among a few residents and no matter how much we limit the sound, they don't want a music venue here.

'We are working closely with the police and environmental health and we want to work within the guidelines set.'

Council environmental service officer Iain MacKinnon said: 'We ran sound tests at the ceilidh house last Saturday night and didn't find a problem. We will be keeping a close eye on it though.

'We had noise complaints from there recently but since then sound proofing has been installed and noise levels set. We haven't had any complaints since.'

The Lochs and Glens bus stopped outside the Highland Theatre, blocking George Street. t23blok01

Traffic had to wait patiently in Dunollie Road and Breadalbane Street after George Street was blocked. t23blok03

Bus breakdown causes Oban traffic chaos

THE FRAGILITY of Oban's road infrastructure has been highlighted again after a tour bus broke down in the narrowest part of George Street.

Police were called in at 1pm last Wednesday to help ease traffic jams out to Soroba Road in the south and the Halfway Filling Station to the north entrance of the town.

The Lochs and Glens bus stopped outside Highland Theatre, where the pavement juts out, leaving room for a single vehicle on the road. The vehicle's air brakes had jammed on as a failsafe measure when its brakes failed.

Police and traffic wardens directed cars onto the opposite pavement and around the bus in an effort to ease the congestion. Larger vehicles and service buses, however, had to wait patiently in Dunollie Road and Breadalbane Street until Oban mechanic Murdo MacKenzie arrived to fix the brakes.

Shortly after 2pm the traffic began moving again.

Successful e-petition secures vital Holyrood talks on road

A82 campaigners to meet with MSPs

A82 CAMPAIGNERS have secured a meeting with MSPs later this month as pressure for upgrades on the lifeline route continues to build.

Representatives of the A82 Partnership say the talks, with Holyrood's e-petitions committee in Dumbarton on June 24, are a direct result of their hugely successful A82 epetition, which attracted a record 8,555 signatures.

The campaign throughout the petition period was also backed strongly by *The Oban Times*.

Ally Ferguson, who will be part of the Dumbarton mission, said letters to MSPs ahead of the summit would help their case.

'This is an excellent opportunity to get our message across to the decision makers and we are delighted to receive this invitation,' he said.

'It would help if individuals could write to their MSPs expressing their concerns about the road prior to our meeting. People will get all of the information they need on our website at www.a82.org.'

The group hopes to be able to present the new DVD on the A82 to every MSP attending, including local MSP Fergus Ewing.

Mr Ewing said: 'This hearing before the e-petitions committee will allow the voice of the West Highlands and Islands to be heard and for the strong case for major improvements to the A82 to be made by myself and other MSPs.

'I hope that it will further increase the pressure, which has already been brought, productively, to bear by the A82 campaign — and the e-petition itself. I am in full support of the objectives for which I have campaigned as MSP for nine years.'

The A82 campaigners are looking to secure Scottish executive commitment to £74 million of improvements to the vital group.

Meanwhile, A82 campaign group members have urged Transport Scotland and Transerv to be 'more responsive' following recent road chaos in and around Fort William during roadworks.

Mr Feguson said: 'It would appear that utility companies do not require authorisation to commence work on the trunk road network and that there is no mechanism for Transerv to communicate these works to Transport Scotland.

'We will require to look into this further and we will be seeking an urgent short-term solution to reduce the disruption to traffic in and around Fort William during peak times.'

Councillor Brian Murphy, a member of the A82 Partnership, added: 'The public can help our campaign by reporting all incidents, delays and information gaps, no matter how minor, to Traffic Scotland on 0800 028 1414. This number should be on everyone's mobile phone.'

High school hosts Lochaber Mod

THE Lochaber Provincial Mod will be held at Lochaber High School main hall tomorrow (Friday) evening, starting 7.30pm.

Categories include singing, poetry, Gaelic bible readings, bagpipes, accordion, fiddle and clarsach. Category winners will be automatically entered into the National Mod, which will be held in Falkirk in October.

Around 100 youngsters took part in last year's Lochaber event, with a large number being selected for the National Mod, which was also held in Fort William.

Key step for Gaelic schools

GAELIC medium primary schools in the West Highlands are a step closer to becoming reality after education, culture and sport committee councillors authorised the Gaelic committee to draw up consultation papers on Gaelic medium education on the Isle of Skye and in Lochaber.

First minister Alex Salmond opened Scotland's first purpose-built Gaelic medium primary, Bunsgoil Ghaidhlig Inbhir Nis (Inverness) in January and a dedicated Gaelic school in Sleat, with an English medium department opened in August last year.

Vice chairman of the education, culture and sport committee, Fort William and Ardnamurchan councillor, Bren Gormley said: 'I welcome this step in the consolidation of Gaelic medium education in Lochaber and Skye which complements wider education developments extremely well.'

Voluntary sector 'needs to change'

A RALLYING call has gone out to those working in the voluntary sector of Argyll and Bute.

At a meeting in Tarbert, leader of Argyll and Bute Council councillor Dick Walsh said there was a need for radical change in support provided for third sector organisations.

'One of our key objectives is to work in partnership with others to create new and vibrant organisations charged with developing and delivering public services,' he said.

'I firmly believe in community-based solutions to local problems and this will include, importantly, working together with the third sector to deliver enhanced quality local public services.'

He said the council was prepared to invest in the voluntary sector, with up to £180,000 a year from 2009-10.

Proposals for the way forward were called for by the end of September but Councillor Walsh warned that support could not be unconditional and that there were responsibilities when working in partnership.

Also speaking at the meeting was Paul White of the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations and Geoff Pearson from the Scottish executive.

Among the audience were representatives from the areas three councils for voluntary services, Argyll and Bute Volunteer Centre, Argyll and Bute Social Enterprise Network and Mull and Iona Community Trust.

LORN LINES

You can email your Lorn news to lornlines@obantimes.co.uk

OBAN Friends of the Anthony Nolan Trust proved they were worth their 'weight in gold' when a sponsored slim raised more than £950.

The slimmers would like to thank the local branch of Boots the Chemist for their sponsorship.

This weekend sees the start of a week of fundraising for the charity with more than 40 brave souls tackling an abseil of St Columba's Cathedral, Oban on Saturday. On Monday the charity shop will open in Oban Youth Café. The shop will be open daily between 10am and 4pm from the June 9 – 14 inclusively. Any donations will be gratefully received and uplift of goods can be arranged by contacting 01631 710512 or email obanfriendsofant@btinternet.com.

❐ ❐ ❐

PRIMARY 7 pupils from St Columba's Primary School in Oban enjoyed an educational trip to the islands of Mull and Iona last Wednesday.

The 24 pupils learned about St Columba and the Kings and Queens of Scotland while on a tour of Iona Abbey.

The trip was fully funded by the many fundraising events held last year.

❐ ❐ ❐

OBAN LIFEBOAT, the Mora Edith MacDonald, was at the Oban Marina Open Day on Sunday afternoon when she received a call to assist a diver with suspected 'bends'.

The lifeboat met with the dive boat Brendan near Fuinary Rocks in the Sound of Mull where the man requiring treatment and his partner were transferred to the lifeboat and taken to the re-compression centre at Dunstaffnage.

❐ ❐ ❐

A QUICK-thinking caretaker at Dunstaffnage Castle called 999 last week after a German tourist slipped on rocks at the castle.

Clyde Coastguard called on a royal navy rescue helicopter that was on exercises in the area to help after Oban Coastguard auxiliary rescue team were sent to the scene.

The woman had slipped on rocks and broken her leg.

John Griffiths, Clyde Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre, said: 'The woman was part of a German party walking from Ganavan to Dunstaffnage Castle when she slipped and badly hurt herself. She was taken to Paisley to hospital, where we understand she was treated for an open fracture.'

The models from Lochnell School Parent Council's fashion show in the Victory Hall celebrate a great evening. t23fash10

Fashion fun

THE VICTORY Hall in Benderloch hosted a colourful event when pupils from Lochnell Primary hit the catwalk dressed to the nines.

Organised by Lochnell School Parent Council, the fashion show sported a range of items, from Tesco's summer wear for children to recycled items fashioned into fun accessories to the Argyll summer must-have midge hoods, wellies and camouflage overalls courtesy of Ledaig Leisure in Benderloch.

Teas, coffees and homebaking, provided by parents of pupils at the school, and a raffle, with a range of goodies courtesy of a number of local businesses, made sure the evening was a roaring success raising more than £200.

Lochaber pupils enjoy challenges

SECOND-YEAR pupils at Mallaig and Lochaber high schools are the latest to benefit from an initiative proposed by Lochaber High depute head, Paul Reynolds.

Fifteen pupils enjoyed a five-day outdoor adventure course, under the umbrella of Lochaber Outdoor Learning Partnership (LOLP), where they completed a range of challenges and activities, including kayaking skills, learning to dinghy sail, a full day of open canoeing on Loch Linnhe and a mountain day on the Mamores in Glen Nevis.

The adventure course also saw a Tyrolean traverse of the gorge of the River Coe and an overnight expedition.

Flooding fears stall Bonawe planning application

DOUBTS over whether an area of Taynuilt is at risk of flooding have delayed a decision over a controversial planning application in Taynuilt.

Alan Livingstone, the village's community council chairman, has applied to restore an A-listed building near Bonawe Iron Furnace and extend the building to erect a house behind it. Although not within the furnace grounds, the building is believed to be historically linked to the tourist attraction.

The project had been recommended for approval by Argyll and Bute Council planners, with 12 conditions, but has received 13 objections.

But with contradictory evidence over the area's vulnerability to flooding, Oban, Lorn and the Isles area committee voted unanimously last Friday, at a discretionary public hearing, to carry the decision forward to its next meeting while flood risk and visual impact assessments were carried out. If the area committee gives the project the go-ahead, Historic Scotland will have the final say over the future of the buildings.

At the hearing in Taynuilt Village Hall, main objectors Sandy and Deirdre MacFarlane, who live next to the proposed development site, pointed out the flood risk there and put forward a photograph of the area taken during the flood of 1974.

However, Mr Livingstone said the photograph failed to show flooding on the proposed site.

When asked for comments about the flood risk, Argyll and Bute Council planning officer Ian MacIntyre told the committee that Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) did not wish to comment on it.

Oban North and Lorn councillor Neil MacKay said: 'The information on the flood risk is vital and the no comment from SEPA really worries me.'

When quizzed on the flood risk by councillors, Mr Livingstone said: 'I think the flood of 1974 was a freak event a SEPA flood map shows the area will not flood. If I was shown a picture of flooding on the site then I would be concerned.'

Mr Livingstone had earlier explained his development would 'restore' the building, adding: 'The building is in a state of neglect and disrepair and can be described as an eyesore. They are detracting from the area.'

However Martin Hadlington, a historic building consultant architect, speaking for the objectors, told the meeting: 'I am shocked at this application because I don't see how you can justify restoring small buildings in order to construct a larger building onto it. This site is of national significance, probably international significance, because of this nation's industrial history.

'A building is not necessarily an eyesore if it is a ruin. This is not a restoration project, it's not a conservation project, it's a reason to build a large house.'

Green is the colour for Eco Day

ECO Day was held at Lochyside Primary in Caol last Tuesday as pupils came to school dressed in green and took part in a wide range of eco activities.

Visitors to the school for the day included the Lochaber Recycling Depot, Lochside Gardening Services and even St John's Ambulance Services, who demonstrated life-saving skills.

Children from Lochyside Primary School taste 'smoothies' that they made with help from Highland Council's catering service. f22green1

Bonhams 1793

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Monday 9 June to Friday 13 June

Bonhams specialists will be in your area week commencing 9 June offering free and confidential valuations on jewellery and silver, ceramics and glass, pictures and fine furniture for inclusion in future sales.

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Illustrated: Anne Redpath, 'Tulips and lilies' Sold for £81,600 in our Scottish Sale 2007

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Scalpay

Your correspondent is D Morrison: 01859 540217

Fishing

ONE OF the small local boats, *Fiona*, recently netted a couple of boxes of herring.

In all, about 10 boxes have been netted in recent weeks.

Mackerel has come to local shores earlier than usual this year although the mackerel caught so far have been quite small.

Fishing boats here, like everywhere else, are being re-fitted and re-painted, but it's too early to see white fish or herring because it is still early in the year.

Burst pipe

WORKMEN had to work quickly recently to fix a burst drinking water pipe.

Thanks go to everyone responsible for solving the matter.

Land owner

THE ISLAND of Scalpay, Harris, is under the ownership of Fred Taylor of London.

Fred still visits Scalpay every year.

Breezy

THERE has been a breeze to fill the sails of vessels, yachts in particular, making for the west coast.

The wind has been light south-easterly and there has been sunshine.

North Harris

IT IS interesting to walk the road to Amhainn-suidhe on Harris.

A highlight is Abhainn Suidhe Castle.

Mountain

THE HIGHEST mountain in the Western Isles is Clisham on Harris.

Many tourists climb it in fine weather.

North Harbour

MANY years ago a journalist referred to the North Harbour as a 'mill pond harbour'.

It's a sheltered harbour no matter what wind. Loch Tarbert is sheltered from the west wind, not so much from the south though.

The Rev Norman MacSween

IT WAS with sadness that the island heard that the Rev Norman MacSween had died.

Rev MacSween was well-known in the Western Isles and further afield. A native of Scalpay, he was a great preacher of the gospel.

In his early days he took part in herring fishing but was always interested in joining the ministry.

He had been congregation minister in many places during his career.

I cannot cover all of Rev MacSween's qualities in this column. He was redeemed and respected wherever he went and condolences go to his wife Sophia.

Appin Historical Society members visit Mull

Members of Appin Historical Society made their last trip of the 2007-08 season to Duart Castle on Mull where they saw around the historical seat of the Clan MacLean. Visits are already being planned for the autumn when the society's meetings will resume. On the agenda are visits to Shuna Island and the grave of Duncan Ban McIntyre and talks by author Marion Pallister on Appin celebrities and Domhall Uillean Stuibhart of Edinburgh University and Sabhal Mor Ostaig.

A custom of old

AN OLD custom at this time of year with lambing was if a school pupil came across an ewe giving birth he would immediately go and tell its owner.

When the boy entered the sheep owner's house he would give them the message and he would be presented with a bannock and two eggs.

Fold

SHEEP have now been removed from the common grazing with their lambs.

Arable land

A LARGE portion of arable land for planting potatoes has been disused for a while.

There used to be the lazy bed system of planting corn and potatoes where the soil was cultivated and ploughed.

Ferry

WHEN the *Hebridean Isles* ferry arrives at Tarbert it carries quite a number of passengers.

It is noticeable on the main street all these passengers are calling in the shops. The shops are selling groceries and general goods.

There is also a Harris Historical Society shop.

Peat

MANY islanders are using peat to heat their homes because of the high cost of oil.

That is the most likely reason for the increase in the number of peat cutters - or maybe they are taking advantage of the sunny weather.

Past yacht visits

AROUND 1962, a yacht anchored in the south harbour in Scalpay with HRH Princess Anne on board.

She and others came ashore and had a walk about Scalpay before returning to the boat.

The Royal Yacht Britannia has also called in at Loch Tarbert, Harris, in the past with royalty on board.

Another pleasure cruiser seen often is the *Hebridean Princess* which, likewise, calls at the Hebridean islands.

Conference

THE HARRIS Church conference has taken place.

Some of the Scalpay Free Church of Scotland attended the morning and evening services which were held in the Church of Scotland building in Tarbert.

The speakers at the conference were Donald MacLeod and John MacLean. The services were appreciated by everyone who attended.

Magazine

A SCHOOL magazine, *Boillsgeadh*, is now for sale in Harris and elsewhere.

Copies are available from Christine MacLeod, clerical assistant at Harris Primary School.

Kelp industry

GOING back over the years, the kelp industry provided a livelihood for islanders.

The trade was so popular that names were given to the sites where the kelp was burned, such as 'Aird-na-h-Àthadh - Site of the Kilm.

Village shop

THE ONLY village shop in Scalpay has been out of commission for years now.

It is in the village centre, ready for demolition, if Comhairle nan Eilean Siar wished, instead of representing years gone by on Scalpay.

It has an asbestos roof and corrugated iron at the back.

Who knows what could blow off in winter, which could be dangerous.

Bus tour

A BUS load of tourists visited the island last month.

Diesel price rise

THE PRICE of diesel continues to rise, according to local fishermen, which they say is hitting them hard as the price of shellfish is staying the same.

Scottish fishermen are hit so hard in this sense it seems they will stop fishing all together unless something is done now.

Curing station

THE ONLY remnants of a local curing station is now a store falling into disrepair, part of it having been demolished.

It was built of old railway sleepers and corrugated iron, all of which is showing signs of collapse.

The store was used to keep curing salt and miscellaneous items for the herring industry on Scalpay prior to 1930.

Mendelssohn on Mull Festival

THE TWENTIETH Mendelssohn on Mull Festival opens this year with a concert in Tobermory and finishes with one in Oban.

From June 29 to July 5, Mull will host a series of free concerts in stunning locations across the island, from Glengorm to Torosay and Duart Castle to Iona Abbey on Iona.

An education programme with Mull Children's String Summer School will run alongside the concerts.

Artistic director and renowned violinist Levon Chilingirian has produced the programme for this summer's festival, featuring Bartok, Dvorak, Mozart, Strauss, Schubert, Schoenberg, Shostakovich and, of course, Mendelssohn himself, who visited the islands in 1829 and was so inspired by the beauty of the landscape.

A new work by composer Stephen Montague, Apparitions, will mark the 20th anniversary on July 4 and will be the start of a late-night music event at Duart Castle, with candle-lit chambers, shadows, ensembles, projections and masks.

The festival was founded by violinist Leonard Friedman and attracts musicians and audiences from around the world.

He brought a small group of musicians to Mull for a week's intensive rehearsals and performances with more experienced musicians and the festival still follows the same format.

New Portree community company powers forward

Directors draw up strategy

THE NEWLY-FORMED Portree Area Community Company (PACC) is getting down to business.

The 13 directors have been getting to know each other, assessing their skills and drawing up a strategy.

The group was formed to progress a number of major schemes being discussed by the Portree Regeneration Partnership, but in a new format.

The community company, which can acquire community assets such as land and buildings, will as a voluntary group be operating independently of the local council, thereby attracting funding more easily.

The group's mission is 'to stimulate and co-ordinate the economic, cultural and environmental regeneration of Portree and district community in co-operation with existing authorities and community groups, and in response to community identified priorities'.

With the support of Highlands and Islands Enterprise the group has completed start-up training discussions, led by Lorne MacLeod, and has been briefed on their roles and responsibilities as directors.

The group has had discussions with the local Highland Council ward manager Jan Laing and has been invited to make an initial presentation and subsequently attend ward forums.

PACC is also investigating the potential to invest in wind and other alternative energy projects.

Plans for the harbour and Bayfield area development are ongoing, but PACC would like to hear from anyone in the community who has suggestions and ideas.

PACC's directors welcome all suggestions at info@portree.org or contact Hugh Macdonald, chairman, on 01478 612217; John Macdonald, vice chairman, 613419; Lesley Kirkwood, company secretary, 612836; Rob MacGregor, treasurer, 612555 or Lisa Stephen, minute secretary, 612000.

The other eight PACC directors are: Alick John Maclean, Dr Julian Toms, Doreen Jones, Aileane Mackinnon, Dan Corrigall, Catriona Leslie, Neil Campbell and Karen MacRae.

Around the Rurals

Tobermory

JEAN Maclean, vice president, welcomed everyone to the last meeting of the year on May 6.

Voting took place and the new committee members are Olive Brown, Rene MacNab and Jane Russell. Jean Maclean gave the treasurer's report and Anne MacGregor gave the report from the federation meeting in Craignure.

The evening ended with members talking about their 'Favourite Things'. They had been asked to bring along items and these ranged from jewellery, teddies, a picture, passport and car keys.

Salen

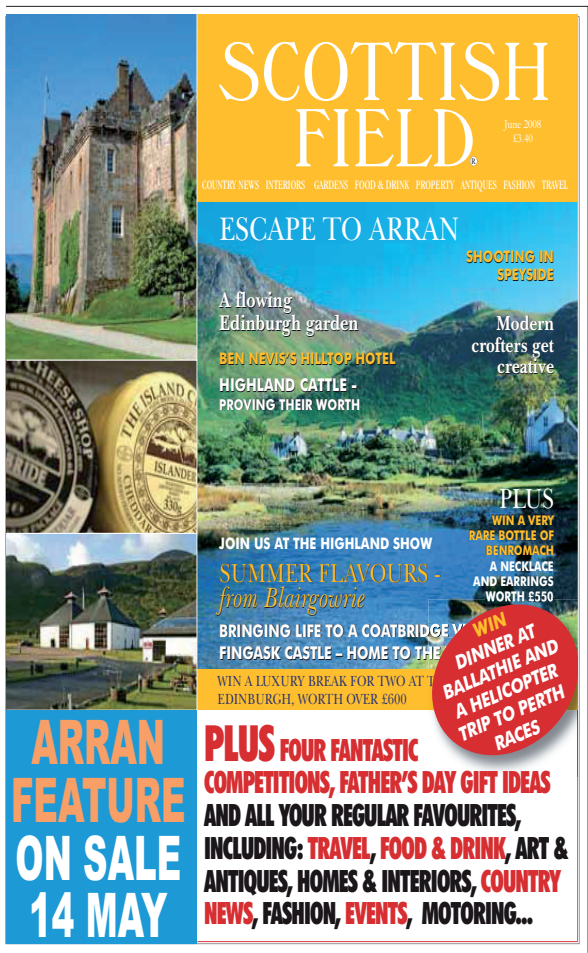
THE MAY meeting began in the afternoon with a visit to Lucy MacKenzie's garden at Lip Na Cloiche, Ulva Ferry.

Lucy welcomed members and gave them a guided tour of her garden. This started by climbing to the highest point, with its wonderful views over the Isle of Ulva and the Treshnish Islands, then down to the mature garden with its beautiful plants. Lucy had many plants on sale. Before leaving, Lucy provided a lovely tea which was taken sitting in the sun.

Later that evening Alison welcomed members to the last meeting of the session. This was the annual general meeting when votes were cast and a new president and committee formed.

A vote of thanks was given to Alison, outgoing president, for a job well done over the last few years.

This was followed by an ordinary meeting when community work and the events which will take place during the summer were discussed.



It pays to advertise in THE OBAN TIMES

Ross of Mull and Iona school pupils enjoy the simple life

The pupils enjoy their visit to the Camas Adventure Centre.

SEVENTY seven school children from the Ross of Mull and Iona last week went on a school trip to an outdoor adventure centre.

Pupils from primaries one to seven from Iona, Bunessan, Ulva, Dervaig, Loch Don and Salen schools had a day out at the Camas Adventure Centre, near Bunessan, on the Isle of Mull, to see the recently refurbished youth centre.

The trip, which involved the school children making a two-mile walk along a rural track to get to the centre, was organised by Dot Stewart of the Iona Community.

Dot said: 'This is a great opportunity to let local children see what we do at Camas.

'The Camas centre welcomes young people and adults from all over the world to come and share in the simple life.'

The school children had an action packed day sharing in everything the centre now has to offer. Pupils made a scarecrow and tasted herbs in the community garden, juggled, made paper and played games on the lawn.

As the day drew to a close, the young people had the honour of switching on lights for the first time in the building's 200-year history, thanks to the newly-fitted wind turbine that produces the centre's only electricity supply.

Children at Duror Church of Scotland Sunday School man their cake and candy stall.

Duror children's cake stall raises £175

CHILDREN at Duror Church of Scotland Sunday School sponsor a child through the charity Action Aid.

Each year they raise money to continue the sponsorship for a little girl in India called Tiket.

This year the Duror children decided to do a recycling day and have a cake and candy stall to raise funds.

Parishioners brought in items of recycleable rubbish to church and left them with the children to recycle in return for a small donation.

The aims were to highlight the need to recycle and reduce carbon-footprints as well as raising enough money to continue Tiket's sponsorship.

A total of £175.04 was raised and the children were thanked for their efforts.

Cùrsaichean Goirid
Summer Courses on Islay

Ionad Chaluim Chille Ìle

Tha làn phrògraim chùrsaichean goirid ann an Gàidhlig, Ceòl agus Ealain ri fhaotainn aig Ionad Chaluim Chille Ìle tron t-samhradh - chithear gu h-ìosal na thathas a' tairgse.

***Ionad Chaluim Chille Ìle** is offering a full summer season of short courses on Islay in Gaelic Language, Music and Art. We look forward to seeing you!*

Cùrsaichean Gàidhlig
Bidh cùrsaichean Gàidhlig air a chumail tron t-samhradh bho 3mh An t-luchar gus 22 An Lùnastal do ghach ìre bho luchd-tòisichidh gu adhartaich.

Gaelic Language Courses
Courses for Beginners to Advanced Level will run throughout the summer from 3rd July to 22nd August.

Ealain
Dèanaibh ealain còmla ri Iseabail Mhoireach, anns an ionad agus timcheall an eilein.
30mh An t-Òg mhios gu 4mh An t-luchar.

Watercolour Painting
Study painting with Ishbel Murray both indoors at the centre and outdoors around the island.
30th June to 4th July

Òrain Ghàidhlig
Còig làithean còmhla ri Iseabail NicAsgaill.
7mh An t-luchar gu 11mh An t-luchar

Gaelic Song
Five day course with Ishbel MacAskill.
7th July to 11th July

Fidheall
Trì làithean còmhla ri Rebecca Brown
30mh An t-Òg mhios gu 2na An t-luchar

Fiddle
Three day course with Rebecca Brown
30th June to 2nd July

Airson barrachd fiosrachaidh, cuiribh fios gu:
Please contact us for more information:
Fòn: 01496 810818
Post-dealain: fios@ile.ac.uk
Làrach-lìn: www.ile.ac.uk

Kyle of Lochalsh

Your correspondent is Charlie MacRae: 01599 544359

Community council

AMONG items discussed at the recent annual general meeting of Plockton and District Community Council in Plockton Hall were:

Police matters: The local police have informed the community council that they will be taking action to clamp down on excessive noise created by modified car exhausts. Following the theft of a car trailer from the main car park, the harbour association is considering installing closed circuit television.

Roads: The community council has asked that the roads department consider Bank Street for full re-surfacing.

Public transport: With the end of the Postbus, the senior citizens' bus and the refusal of the bus to Kyle to pass the high school the community council took the problem to the ward forum meeting in Lochcarron but received no help.

Noticeboard: The community council has bought a noticebaord to be put up at the station end of the village.

Duncraig Trust: The community council felt this opportunity for bursaries for young people in the Highlands should be better publicised.

Lochalsh Junior Pipe Band: The community council agreed to donate £250 to this newly formed band.

Date of next meeting: June 30, 7.30pm.

Teddy toddle raises £113 for Red Cross

A teddy toddle in Plockton organised by village playgroups raised £113.22 for the Red Cross.

Plant sale success

JOHANNA Maclean held a sale of plants at her house, 7 Ceann an Uib, Plockton.

The event raised £710 for Blythswood funds.

Indoor bowling

LOCHALSH Indoor Bowling Club recently held its annual dinner in the Tingle Creek Hotel.

After an enjoyable meal, the chairman said that the club had enjoyed a good season by finishing second in the league with Evelyn MacRae runner-up in the open singles and Duncan MacKay and Roddie MacKerlich runners-up in the open doubles.

In outdoor competitions two triples from the club won the Ian Finlayson Challenge Cup at Plockton and Duncan MacKay won the Evelyn MacRae cup.

Donalda Johnstone, club treasurer, presented the club championship trophies.

Ladies Singles Champion, Joan Maclean, Badicaul; runner-up Donalda Johnstone, Kyle. Men's Singles Champion, Brian Easter, Kyle; runner-up, Matt Sheddan, Balmacara. Mixed Doubles Champion, Ronnie MacRae and Alisdair Maclean. Monthly Medals: September, Evelyn Macrae; October, Evelyn MacRae; March, Roddie MacKerlich.

Kilmore

A Kilmore Hall Committee meeting was held on Tuesday, May 20, to organise future fund raising events.

A BBQ and fun evening was arranged for June 7, at Kilmore Hall when the June 100 Club would be drawn and arrangements were discussed for a burger bar to be held at the Kilmore Games on July 26. Plans are being drawn up for the toilets at the hall to be upgraded and a disabled toilet installed.

The 100 Club winner for May was Mrs Bowie.

On Saturday, May 17 an 18th birthday party was held in the hall.

Unique exhibition inspired by bagpipes opens at West Highland Museum

A GROUP of Highland and Island artists and illustrators have opened a unique exhibition at the West Highland Museum in Fort William – inspired by the bagpipes.

In the 'Dol ar Teas an Righligh' (Basking in the Heat of the Reel) exhibition every one of the paintings, drawings, prints and etchings on show, celebrates a pipe tune title.

Contributors include Cailean Maclean, Archie Maclean, identical twin art teachers Andrew and Alasdair McMorrine, Kate McMorrine, Marion Macphee, Marion Roberts, Brian Poe, Paul Kershaw and Susan Dawson.

Their works range from a haunting image by Cailean Maclean conjured up by the evocative tune 'Sound of the Sea' to a colourful interpretation of 'The Hens' March', with Gaelic and English calligraphy on vellum, by Marion Roberts.

Other examples themed on pipe tunes are Andrew McMorrine's drawing and painting, respectively, of 'Andrew Macneill of Colonsay' and 'Cockerel in the Creel', and his brother Alasdair's engraving-cum-sculpting of 'Shoals of Herring'.

An Archie Maclean painting portrays 'Brother's Lament', while an etching by Kate McMorrine depicts 'Ass in the Graveyard'.

Marion Macphee weighs in with a monoprint of 'Crossing the Minch' and a low-relief sculpture by Susan Dawson captures 'The Wind that Shakes the Barley'.

A Brian Poe photograph pays tribute to 'By the Water's Edge' and a relief print by Paul Kershaw features 'The Curlew'.

The Highland bagpipe is played in every corner of the world with its sound evoking strong emotions.

It is the instrument of choice for the music of celebration or lamentation.

The exhibition's title has been borrowed from a poem by Father Allan MacDonald of Eriskay, who was born in Fort William High Street, a stone's throw away from the museum.

Father Allan wrote of his love for, and desire to be near, pipe playing - indeed to be 'basking in the heat of the reel'.

His words eloquently encapsulate the relationship between the Gaels and their pipe music.

And the works on display at the museum now provide a wonderful artistic dimension to the social and cultural connections between piping and art.

The West Highland Museum has expressed delight at hosting the exhibition, which is open from 10am till 5pm, Monday-Saturday, and 2pm-5pm on Sundays throughout July.

The exhibition runs until Friday August 1.

Presentation marks retirement of GP from Morvern

THE RECENT retirement of Dr Richard Houston as associate GP in the Morvern practice was marked by a presentation on a beautiful spring evening outside the four-year-old Rowanbank Medical Centre.

Welcoming Richard and Sheila Houston, Dr Susan Taylor said: 'You have been much appreciated, both of you, in all you have done. It has been a pleasure to have worked with you.'

Following the presentation of many gifts, Dr Houston said: 'Outside this fine modern medical centre, what a change it is from the former surgery at Aline Park where we were based when I came here in 1996 to the joint post of associate GP between Morvern and Acharacle, with the last three-and-a-half years mainly in Morvern.

'We came here after 21 years on the Rosneath peninsula in Dunbartonshire where I was a GP and medical officer to the Ministry of Defence at Coulport with a huge turnover of patients. We applied for the job in this area as Sheila had a long connection with Ardnamurchan, being at one time the district nurse and midwife. But now, coming to retirement, I look back with nostalgia to my early days in general practice while recognising many changes have been made. Now a large part of the day is taken up sitting in front of a computer. I sometimes wonder how we managed to treat patients in the past with so little paper. Many of the changes forced on general practice over the past 20 years have been by government rather than advances in treatment. One of the reasons for coming here, apart from the excellent sailing, was the belief that it would still be possible to deliver old fashioned standards of care to patients which I have always valued in general practice. For our old age we have bought a fibreglass yacht, which should be easier to look after, as the joints get stiffer. We will be keeping it in Loch Sunart but will no doubt be frequent visitors to Loch Aline in the summer.

'Finally, I would like to thank Susan for being a friendly and dependable colleague and know that the future of medical care in Morvern is in good hands. I would also like to welcome Dr Frank Gomez and his family, from Santander in Spain, and I know that you will make them very welcome here in Scotland.'

Morvern's GP Dr Susan Taylor welcomes Dr Richard and Mrs Sheila Houston to the presentation ceremony to mark the retiral of Dr Houston as associate GP in the Morvern practice.

Top musicians star in Strontian concert

THE EDINBURGH String Quartet will join renowned traditional musician Catriona Mackay and Edinburgh trombonist John Kenny for a concert at the Sunart Centre in Strontian on Monday evening.

Founded in 1959, the Edinburgh String Quartet was one of the first university-based quartets in the UK. They will be entertaining the Strontian audience with some of their new pieces.

John has spent 25 years expanding his repertoire and is regarded as one of the world's leading exponents of contemporary music.

Catriona, who featured prominently at last year's traditional music awards in Fort William, has thrilled audiences around the world with her amazing performances on the harp.

The show starts at 8pm.

Charity open day at new Conaglen estate garden

A NEW garden at the Conaglen estate will open for charity on Sunday afternoon from 2pm to 6pm.

The garden, dating from the 1860s, boasts spectacular trees, a walled garden with herbaceous beds, herb garden and an extensive lawn with 'pitch and putt' golf.

Woodland walks with rhododendrons and azaleas are accessible from the large garden and there will be home baking and plant stalls.

Admission is £4 with profits from tea and coffee sales going into the renovation fund for Ardgour Hall.

All other funds raised will be shared between the Abernethy Trust - 40 per cent - and 60 per cent to Scotland's Gardens Scheme beneficiaries

The garden is five miles north of the Corran Ferry on the Ardgour side.

Green light for trust endowment fund

THE BOARD of trustees of the Clan Donald Lands Trust on the Isle of Skye has authorised the establishment of an endowment fund, which will be used to guarantee the ongoing operation of the trust's award-winning Museum of the Isles.

With an ultimate target of £3 million, the campaign got off to a good start when long-time benefactors Rosa and Alice McDonald, of Delaware, USA, pledged up to $250,000 to match donations dollar for dollar - effectively doubling the value of any contributions made.

Lands Trust executive director David MacDonald of Castle Camus told benefactors: 'All of us involved in the Clan Donald Centre thank you for your continued support.'

Donors can send donations to the Director, Armadale Castle Gardens and Museum of the Isles, Armadale, Ardvasar, Isle of Skye, IV45 8RS.

Benefits of being Muck primary head teacher

A SALARY of more than £40,000 plus benefits is on offer to the next head teacher of the seven-pupil Muck Primary School.

The successful candidate will be paid £41,532 a year and have the use of the three-bedroomed schoolhouse and extra allowances to compensate for the remoteness of the location.

Former head teacher Eileen Henderson left the school in April to take up a position in Easter Ross.

Applications for the position on the island, which only has 30 residents, closed last Friday.

Volunteer centre hosts fair and coffee morning

A FAIR to celebrate Volunteers' Week will be held in St Andrew's Church Hall, Fort William, on Saturday from 10am to 3pm

Fun activities include a giant Connect 4 game, a toy sale, face painting, bottle stall, raffle, plus home baking, soup and sandwiches.

Everyone is invited to join the Volunteer Centre Lochaber and local charities for the fair and coffee morning.

Provost of Lochaber Allan Henderson will open the event.

Caroline Brown of Stirling Enterprise with businessman Graeme Courtney, IT adviser Colin Clark and Jim Fraser, start-up adviser. t23bus01

Blogging not just for teenagers

BLOGGING and the internet are not just for teenagers, they can also be useful business tools.

That was the message Stirling Enterprise took to rural areas during its latest business roadshow at Killin.

Members of Stirling Enterprise Business Gateway Advisory Team were recently stationed at McLaren Hall, Killin, when a web workshop looked at how businesses can make the most of technologies such as blogging and YouTube.

Stirling Enterprise marketing officer Caroline Brown said: 'People seem very interested in e-commerce and the web. We are getting businesses to think about how they can use emerging technology. People think it's just for teenagers in their bedrooms but there is a lot of potential for business.

'At these roadshows we get everyone from people who have a idea and who need advice and guidance to take it forward, to people working from the kitchen table and people with established businesses like Graeme Courtney of the King's House Hotel. He runs a big business with lots of interests including a hotel, chalets and a transport business.

'Sula Designs from Strathyre is a furnishings business which started about three years ago. It began as a hobby, grew into giving classes and it is now looking at putting in a workshop to run classes from home and offering it as a tourism opportunity.'

Graeme Courtney said: 'Sometimes as a rural business you can get a bit insular and these events give you the opportunity to learn about different schemes.

'I thought blogging and Yahoo were things kids used to talk to each other instead of phoning so it was interesting to hear they can be used as a business tool.'

Caroline added that one of the key developments for rural businesses this year is the introduction of the Scottish Rural Development Programme (SRDP).

'After years of nothing this is a rural grant opportunty that's really exciting,' she said. 'Over the next six years the Scottish government programme will deliver £1.6 billion to rural areas. There is scope in it for the tourism, food and drink and renewables sectors with encouragement for businesses to go green. It's definitely going down well with people. There were historical schemes that related to agriculture and the environment. This is a coming together of those schemes, including farm diversification and provision for new businesses.'

Islay

Your correspondent is Susan Campbell: 01496 850215

The dry early summer weather has continued with Islay only having about three quarters of an inch of rainfall during the whole month of May.

Is that some kind of 'dry' record ?

With such a drying wind the grass and crops need some rain to bring on the growth.

It's been a excellent season for peat-cutting and drying. There are a number of folk making use of the peat banks along the Low Road to Port Ellen and in other parts of the island. Some peat is cut by hand, and it's believed that Lagavulin still employs a hand-cutter for peat used in the distillery. Even though oil central heating makes a cosy house, there's nothing to beat an open peat fire on a chilly evening.

Achaleven learn about worms

ACHALEVEN Primary School in Connel learned about worms when they had a visit from the Grab Trust as part of primary 1/2/3 Eco activities project.

Julie from the Grab Trust also brought hundreds of Tiger worms to revive the school's wormery and the pupils found out what worms like to eat and how they assist gardeners. The pupils will use their wormery compost to help their fruit and vegetable garden at the school.

Achaleven also held a no uniform day to raise money for the children affected by the cyclone in burma. The school's Eco group ran a healthy tuck shop and a soup lunch which also included the sale of a school recipe book. Thanks to all the effort, a cheque for £140 was sent to the SIR Burma Appeal.

Around the Rurals

Kilmore WRI

The Annual General Meeting of the Kilmore SWRI was held in Kilmore Hall on Wednesday, May 14.

Fiona Dickie, president, welcomed a large turnout of members and minutes of last year's AGM were read and approved and financial report given by the treasurer. The president gave a report on the year's events and congratulated members on their success at the annual show being awarded the Shield for first in the medium sized rurals and thanked everyone for their support in achieving this award.

A display was made of the entries to the show by the members who were awarded gold and silver stars.

Voting papers were then counted to elect a new committee for next year and thanks given to the two ladies who help with the counting annually, a small present made to each of them, followed by savouries and wine.

A raffle was held and the meeting closed with the president wishing everyone a good summer and looking forward to the summer outing which has been arranged for Saturday, June 14 to An Clachan at Fort William.

Kilbrandon SWRI

The speaker for the April meeting of Kilbrandon SWRI was called away on business at very short notice.

Luckily, Phil Moss, husband of one of the members, stepped in at the very last minute and entertained the meeting with tales of his life and his family''s through the years. Betty Clark gave the vote of thanks.

At the AGM held in May, president Janice Baxter, stepping down after three years in post, thanked the committee for their work in ensuring another varied and successful year.

The opening session in September had seen a number of visitors attend the talk by the Wildlife Crime Co-ordinator for Strathclyde Police, who gave a fascinating insight into the fight against offences such as poisoning birds of prey.

During the year, members learned the five top tips for improving physical and mental wellbeing, given by Robin Morton of the Beach Health and Fitness Club, and practised decoupage under the tutelage of Margaret Whitton.

After the usual excellent Christmas meal provided by the Tigh an Truish Hotel, members returned in January to learn about the work of Visionaid Overseas in an entertaining and thoughtful talk by Ken MacDonald of Specsavers Oban.

In February, Seil's own Dr George Hannah gave a fascinating demonstration of hypnosis and the following month Linda Parisele and her team from Trinity Oban demonstrated a beauty makeover and hair restyle.

All members expressed their thanks to Janice for her work as president over the past three years, and then enjoyed a social evening of games and a tea provided by the committee.

Burst pipe may cause of 13-year flood

A LEAKING water pipe may be one of the causes of severe flooding seen at Oban's Dalintart and Glencruitten for the past 13 years.

An Oban Drainage Study, carried out by environmental consultants EnviroCentre on behalf of Argyll and Bute Council, has identified a possible leakage from the Scottish Water pipe above Dalintart Farm.

A spokesman for Scottish Water said: 'We own a 12-inch mains pipe which goes from Tullich Water Treatment Works to the reservoirs in Oban and the high parts of the town and passes near Dalintart Farm.

'We are not aware of any leakage but we will investigate and if necessary, take appropriate action.'

The report also pointed to the alteration of drainage paths and old land drains possibly being blocked as the other causes of the flooding.

Glencruitten Residents' Association secretary Christine Pearson said: 'For years we have been going round in circles but hopefully the council can do something with this report.

'If they decide to do nothing with it I think people will be very angry.'

The next Glencruitten Residents' Association meeting is June 16.

Connel Community Council secretary Harry Powell surveys the crumbling Achaleven service road. t21har01

Connel calls for council help with crumbling road

The only access for emergency service vehicles and large lorries

CONNEL Community Council is demanding something is done to fix a crumbling lifeline road serving around 40 houses in the Achaleven area.

The Achaleven service road, which crosses the railway line on the east side of Connel, is the only access for emergency service vehicles and large lorries, including council vehicles such as bin lorries, which can't fit under the railway bridge at the other entrance from the A85, opposite Achaleven Primary School.

'Extremely hazardous'

But the privately-owned service road, which has not seen any maintenance work in 33 years, has been deemed 'extremely hazardous' by the residents who are responsible for its upkeep.

With any solution likely to cost upwards of £10,000, residents say they cannot afford to bring the road up to the minimum standard for adoption by Argyll and Bute Council.

Since 1994 the residents have asked the council to take responsibility for the road and in a recent letter to Ken MacDonald, the council's area corporate services manager, residents said: 'We feel that the Argyll and Bute Council roads department has a moral obligation to make this 177 metres of service road safe.'

Donald Morrison, Scottish Ambulance Service area service manager, said: 'Speaking to the crews it is obvious that road causes us problems, as we have to reduce our speed, which restricts our response time.

'If a patient is badly injured it is difficult to by-pass potholes and this can exacerbate their injury.'

Oban North and Lorn councillor Duncan MacIntyre told *The Oban Times*: 'This is a private road and I wouldn't like to tell you the number of private roads in Argyll that have the same problem.

'Can you imagine if every private road in Argyll was to be supported by the council?

'There is little money for the roads we already have.

'Achaleven is not unique in this problem. Unfortunately it's one of many.'

Tom Lane and Effie Ann MacQuarrie receive their prizes from Councillor Donald Manford for coming up with the name IfYouCareShare.com.

North Uist pupils promote sharing

WITH the price of fuel rocketing, there has never been a better time to launch a car sharing scheme.

IfYouCareShare.com has been launched in the Highlands and islands to try and save the average commuter between £1,000 and £2,100 in fuel costs.

Led by the Highlands and Islands Transport Partnership (HITRANS) and Shetland Islands Transport Partnership (ZetTrans), the free service allows commuters to log on to a central website – or phone a call centre – to find other people travelling on the same route at the same time.

'Car sharing also helps the environment,' said Argyll and Bute Councillor Duncan MacIntyre and chairman of HITRANS.

'With every journey shared saving greenhouse gas emissions and helping to ease the problems of global climate change.'

The name of the site, developed by Jambusters, was chosen from entries to a competition open to schools in the area.

The lucky winners of Nintendo Wiis were S2 pupils at Paible High School on North Uist, Tom Lane and Effie Ann MacQuarrie.

They were studying climate change at the time and Councillor MacIntyre said: 'They were clearly paying attention to their teacher as they came up with a name that really reflects the importance of acting now to look after the planet.'

HITRANS board member and chairman of transportation at Comharile nan Eilean Siar presented Tom and Effie Ann with their prizes.

He said: 'Car sharing ahs great potential throughout the Highlands and islands and the Western Isles in particular, with some of the most expensive fuel costs in the country, can really benefit if people make use of the service.'

Visit the website or call 0845 0583926 to register and list the journeys you make.

Stars of tomorrow shine at Oban Mod

THE stars of tomorrow – that's how the talented young singers and musicians who performed at this year's Oban Provincial Mod were described after some wonderful performances.

Held last Saturday at Oban High School the event drew more than 200 entrants from across Oban and Argyll and augurs well for 2009 when the town will again host the Royal National Mod.

Children and adults from Oban, Mull, Lochgilphead, Tarbert and further afield competed in singing, fiddle, piping, clarsach, drama, storytelling and chanter competitions before the winners performed at a concert in St John's Cathedral, Oban on Saturday night.

Alex McLean, secretary of An Comunn Gaidhealach's Oban branch said: 'At the concert on Saturday night the children were very good; there are some stars in the making – there's quite a wee bit of talent in the area.

'There are a lot of folk who are good on the accordion, although we didn't have that in the Mod this year, but there are some great fiddle and clarsach players and some very good pipers.

'They have some great teachers, for instance, when you've got Angus McColl teaching you the pipes you have an advantage from the start.

'Oban High School Pipe Band, which Angus leads, are of course very good as well, so it's all looking reasonably healthy and we are all quite pleased about it.'

Mr McLean also praised the venue which hosted the event for the second year.

'The high school is excellent from the point of view that everything is together in the one place. There is good parking and the kids do not have to race from one building to another and across roads to get to competitions,' he said.

Comunn Gaidhealach Mhuile under-13 primary school choir. t23mod03

'The numbers were much the same as last year. We are down a wee bit from a few years ago because we tend not to get secondary pupils now because exams are moving later and later in the year.

'The higher exams are on just now and just prior to that there were the standard grades. So the schools aren't able to get choirs going at this time of the year, which is understandable when important exams are going on.'

Mr McLean added that the event augured well for 2009 when the Royal National Mod takes place in Oban and anticipated a good turnout of entrants from the area. He also paid tribute to the An Comunn volunteers who worked hard throughout the day.

'We were a little bit short staffed but the stewards worked very hard on Saturday and we are indebted to them,' he said.

Full results next week.

Alexander MacLouchlan and Angus MacLennan were winners in the boys age 9-12 solo competitions. t23mod04

Brother and sister, Maria and Malcolm Clark from Oban. Malcolm was first in the Gaelic singing 13-15 years and Maria was second in the primary 1-3 conversation competition. t23mod08

Na Caileagan Phinc (The Pink Ladies) won the Clarsach ensemble competition. t23mod01

Rockfield School Gaelic Choir t23mod14

Hannah Gillies from Connel, winner of the novice under-13 chanter competition. t23mod06

Joy Dunlop from Connel winner of the open, own choice, solo singing, Puirt-a-Beul, Argyll song and traditional singing competitions. t23mod07

Oban Gaelic Choir. t23mod10

Taynuilt Gaelic Choir. t23mod09

Paint and toast fuels Corpach domestic row

A DOMESTIC dispute landed a Fort William man in jail for two nights and prevented him from seeing his daughter for six weeks.

Stuart Patterson, 28, of the Station House in Corpach, was however admonished at Fort William Sheriff Court last Thursday.

According to fiscal Eilidh MacLean, Patterson and his partner became involved in a four-hour argument about decorating their new house, on the morning of April 19.

Ms MacLean said Patterson spat in his partner's direction when the dispute entered the kitchen.

'She then threw a piece of toast at him,' said Ms MacLean, to which Patterson's lawyer Hamish Melrose later responded: 'It wasn't just a piece of toast - it was cheese on toast.'

Patterson then grabbed his partner, who sustained red marks and scratches on her neck in a subsequent scuffle.

Mr Melrose said the woman had recently written to the procurator fiscal's office, requesting that bail conditions preventing Patterson from seeing their two-year-old daughter, be scrapped.

Sheriff Douglas Small told Patterson: 'I will admonish you, but hope you have learned from this incident.'

Homecoming year prompts grant aid

TO CELEBRATE the year of the homecoming in 2009, Argyll and Bute Council has put up £160,000 for leisure activities.

It will be split into two, with half going towards large events and half smaller and organisations are being invited to apply for the grants.

'Homecoming 2009 is aimed at encouraging people at home and abroad to take pride in their country once again and encourage the thousands of people overseas who are of Scottish descent to visit the area,' said Councillor Dick Walsh, council leader.

'A programme of inspirational events will run throughout 2009, complementing the vast range of world-class attractions already offered in Scotland,' he added.

Jim Mather, SNP MSP for Argyll and Bute, said: 'I am really proud to see my constituency take such a proactive role that recognises its power to bring people back and create lasting benefit from the Year of Homecoming.'

'I urge the people of Argyll and Bute to apply for this funding to enable the area to contribute and help deliver a wide range of events,' added Councillor Walsh.

Applications will be accepted until September 26 this year with events completed by December 2009.

Activities must link two or more criteria laid down by the council covering the likes of tourism, culture, history, heritage, religion and internationally recognised talents in Argyll and Bute.

Coll islanders greet test run for new air service

Oban Airport reports busy bank holiday weekend with 200 take-off and landings

HIGHLAND Airways, the company which will operate the new Argyll Air Service, completed a final test run last week which included a historic first landing for their commercial aircraft at the new Oban Airport.

Argyll and Bute Council transport spokesman, Councillor Duncan MacIntyre, was there to meet the route's main pilot Julie Angell and the Islander aircraft which will be used on the run.

The test flight also included a landing at Coll Airport where Highland Airways project manager Colin Munro said almost the whole island had turned out to greet them.

Mr Munro said he was looking forward to the launch of the service hopefully later this month.

The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) only last week granted operating licences for the three airports on the Isle of Coll, the Isle of Colonsay and Oban, which along with the already well established Tiree Airport, will be used on the route.

Councillor MacIntyre, left, with Highland Airways pilot Julie Angell and project manager Colin Munro. t23air03

Oban Airport also reported a busy bank holiday weekend on May 31 and June 1 with nearly 200 take-off and landing movements over the two days.

Councillor MacIntyre said: 'It's great news and we are hopeful of starting in June once we have timetables organised.'

Look out for full details of the new service in *The Oban Times*.

Oban transport hub planned

'Everything under one roof'

MOVES are underway to create a transport hub in the centre of Oban, based round the ferry terminal on the town's Railway Pier.

Stakeholders have agreed to contribute to a Strategic Transport Appraisal Guidance (STAG) study into the merits of a single hub.

Backing the venture is Oban Harbour Development Group, including Network Rail, First ScotRail, Highlands and Islands Entperise, Hitrans, Citylink, CMal Ltd, Argyll and Bute Council and the Northern Lighthouse Board.

The development group wants to look at the possibility of rail, bus and taxi passengers being able to come into one terminal so that they can access another form of public transport without having to leave the building.

In 2006-07 alone, 110,000 passengers transferred between the train and the ferry.

Councillor Duncan MacIntyre, chairman of Hitrans and spokesman for transportation at the council, said: 'CalMac has always been supportive of it but now we have got Network Rail on board and it would involve their land.

'It would be sensible to have everything under one roof and the allocation of space would be more organised.

'We are talking between £3m-£4million to build it but we are in the throes of organising a STAG which will cost £40,000-£50,000, for which we have most of the funding.'

He said the project could be considered as part of the Oban waterfront development plan to bid for £10 million of council funding – along with Dunoon, Rothesay, Helensburgh and Campbeltown – to improve Oban Bay from the Esplanade to the lighthouse pier.

He also said that it was imperative that it was considered in parallel with a development road for Oban as, if it brought more people to the town, there would need to be a new road into the centre.

Five 'over the limit'

OBAN police have recorded five alleged drink-driving incidents in the past fortnight.

The most recent incident involved a driver in the Appin area who, last Friday at around 8.30pm, was arrested for an alleged drink driving following an accident whereby a number of traffic signs and bollards near Creagan Bridge were damaged. A report has been submitted to the procurator fiscal.

Strathclyde Police Oban Inspector Neil Wallace said: 'The drivers involved in these incidents are not young, inexperienced drivers; two are in their late 30s and three are in the 40s.'

Woman in drugs arrest

A WOMAN who brought in drugs on the Glasgow to Oban train on Monday night was arrested after Oban police received a tip-off.

The 32 year old was arrested at 8.30pm as she came off the train and was allegedly found to be in possession of quantities of heroin and cocaine, which police have described as 'sizeable'.

The woman will appear at Oban Sheriff Court.

Men victim of serious assault

TWO MEN have been victims of an alleged serious assault in the MacDougall Court area of the town last Friday around 3pm.

A 49-year-old man was held in custody in relation to the attack and appeared at Oban Sheriff Court on Tuesday.

Witnesses sought to Port Appin break-in

POLICE are seeking witnesses to a break-in in Port Appin village during which a large quantity of cash was stolen.

The incident happened between 4pm last Friday and 3pm on Sunday.

Inspector Wallace said: 'I would urge anyone who saw anything suspicious during that time, or has any information relating to this incident, to contact Oban Police on 01631 510500.

Open to scrutiny

From allowances to travel expenses, councillors costs' are made public

ONCE again the public has the right to scrutinise councillors' expenses, as the first round since the local government elections last year are published.

As always the figures will be studied with interest by the public and by fellow councillors themselves.

The final column shows the total amount of expenses a councillor has claimed along with their renumeration, which is a basic of £13,427.04 but increases if a councillor holds a particular position within the council.

Councillor (James) Dick Walsh receives £26,311.60 for the privilege of being leader of the ruling administration but as a result has more responsibilities and is expected to travel further and more often on council business.

Other positions that receive above the basic are spokespeople for council services, area committee chairmen, members of the executive and the provost.

Councillors also receive expenses for any mileage in their own cars they have undertaken on council business.

Those who hold positions as representatives of the council on outside bodies or as a spokesperson, such as Councillor Duncan MacIntyre as chairman of Hitrans and spokesman for transportation, will often be required to travel far and wide and will reclaim those travel expenses.

Other councillors live on and represent island areas which require many ferry journeys to attend meetings at Kilmory, the council's headquarters in Lochgilphead, for instance Robin Currie from Islay, Len Scoular, spokesman for island issues and Robert MacIntyre, deputy leader, both from Bute.

Councillor leader Dick Walsh has the largest remuneration at £26,311.

Councillor Mary Jean Devon, from Mull, did not claim any travel or ferry fares, only subsistence of £919.28, which is expenses for having to stay away from home in order to attend council meetings or other events as a council representative.

As an OAP she is entitled to concessionary travel on public transport and attends every meeting by getting lifts from colleagues.

The figures are from May 3 2007, when the councillors were elected, to March 31, the end of the financial year and were taken from Argyll and Bute Council's website.

Payments of Expenditure and Allowances made by Argyll and Bute Council for the period from May 3 2007 to March 31 2008

Name and position	Allowance	Travel	Subsistence	Phone	Ferry fares	Other travel	Total expenses	Total Expenses and allowance
Gordon Chalmers Councillor	13,427.04	3,429.49	1,926.12	N/A	1,466.90	5.30	6,827.81	20,254.85
Rory Colville Councillor	13,427.04	4,119.02	71.93	N/A	43.70	0.00	4,234.65	17,661.69
Robin Currie Councillor	13,427.04	2,133.21	3,665.30	N/A	3,513.60	126.35	9,438.46	22,865.50
Vivien Dance Councillor	13,427.04	3,866.63	0.00	N/A	0.00	0.00	3,866.63	17,293.67
MaryJean Devon Councillor	13,427.04	0.00	919.28	N/A	0.00	0.00	919.28	14,346.32
George Freeman Senior Councillor	19,882.02	4,867.41	110.78	N/A	22.15	6.00	5,006.34	24,888.36
Alison Hay Councillor	13,427.04	6,755.93	537.78	N/A	25.00	376.57	7,695.28	21,122.32
Anne Horn Councillor	13,427.04	640.04	433.65	N/A	116.95	92.87	1,283.51	14,710.55
Daniel Kelly Senior Councillor	16,404.29	5,559.56	120.35	N/A	28.70	46.23	5,754.84	22,159.13
Donald Kelly Councillor	13,427.04	1,103.41	0.00	N/A	5.70	0.00	1,109.11	14,536.15
Ronald Kinloch Councillor (Part Year)	4,154.09	1,420.82	1.25	N/A	0.00	7.15	1,429.22	5,583.31
David Kinniburgh Councillor	13,427.04	800.01	0.00	N/A	0.00	0.00	800.01	14,227.05
Alister MacAlister Councillor	13,427.04	3,940.06	6.50	N/A	94.55	0.00	4,041.11	17,468.15
Donald MacDonald Councillor	13,427.04	2,919.11	136.26	N/A	0.00	72.40	3,127.77	16,554.81
Donald MacMillan Senior Councillor	16,404.29	3,517.57	269.10	N/A	19.80	229.03	4,035.50	20,439.79
Bruce Marshall Senior Councillor	16,404.29	4,954.15	47.66	N/A	118.10	10.00	5,129.91	21,534.20
John McAlpine Councillor	13,427.04	2,475.84	370.00	N/A	255.30	0.00	3,101.14	16,528.18
Roderick McCuish Councillor	13,427.04	2,954.15	344.23	N/A	23.00	65.40	3,386.78	16,813.82
Donald McIntosh Senior Councillor	19,882.02	5,599.16	1,638.92	N/A	390.90	65.40	7,694.38	27,576.40
Duncan MacIntyre Senior Councillor	19,882.02	6,583.53	1,349.30	N/A	204.35	511.25	8,648.43	28,530.45
Robert MacIntyre Senior Councillor	19,882.02	8,503.28	565.96	N/A	1,740.80	37.61	10,847.65	30,729.67
Neil MacKay Councillor	13,427.04	1,706.78	441.43	N/A	0.00	65.40	2,213.61	15,640.65
Alex McNaughton Councillor	13,427.04	4,074.16	0.00	N/A	46.00	0.00	4,120.16	17,547.20
James McQueen Councillor	13,427.04	2,990.53	0.00	N/A	92.00	0.00	3,082.53	16,509.57
Ellen Morton Councillor	13,427.04	1,397.16	163.28	N/A	0.00	0.00	1,560.44	14,987.48
Gary Mulvaney Councillor	13,427.04	710.83	0.00	N/A	0.00	0.00	710.83	14,137.87
Andrew Nisbet Councillor (Part Year)	6,946.36	789.86	100.56	N/A	0.00	0.00	890.42	7,836.78
William Petrie Provost	19,882.02	4,425.17	393.07	N/A	17.10	60.00	4,895.34	24,777.36
Douglas Philand Councillor	13,427.04	1,597.78	149.40	N/A	87.50	0.00	1,834.68	15,261.72
Alan Reay Councillor	13,427.04	2,544.17	218.69	N/A	0.00	12.70	2,775.56	16,202.60
James Robb Senior Councillor	16,404.29	4,076.13	0.00	N/A	0.00	45.55	4,121.68	20,525.97
Elaine Robertson Councillor	13,427.04	2,528.60	110.17	N/A	158.75	0.00	2,797.52	16,224.56
Len Scoullar Senior Councillor	16,404.29	5,603.76	371.73	N/A	2,124.50	209.20	8,309.19	24,713.48
John Semple Councillor	13,427.04	4,687.11	517.56	N/A	79.70	184.76	5,469.13	18,896.17
Ron Simon Councillor	13,427.04	8,070.41	410.70	N/A	184.95	82.65	8,748.71	22,175.75
Isobel Strong Senior Councillor	19,882.02	7,023.28	396.94	N/A	1,353.61	42.00	8,815.83	28,697.85
James Walsh Leader	26,311.60	8,724.69	1,107.60	N/A	591.20	709.45	11,132.94	37,444.54
TOTAL	547,547.54	137,092.80	16,895.50	N/A	12,804.81	3,063.27	157,051.57	704,599.11

The above expenses and renumeration figures were taken from Argyll and Bute Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/content/democracyandyourcouncil/politicians/governance/

Oban youth warned over knife

A SIXTEEN-year-old Oban youth who 'forgot' he had a locking knife with a three-inch blade in his pocket while in Albany Street in Oban was fined last week.

At Oban Sheriff Court, Josh Aitken, of 6 Rhuvall Road, admitted possessing a locking knife with a blade in excess of three inches on March 7 this year.

Defending himself, Aitken said: 'I didn't mean to have the knife on me.

'I was working on my motorbike using it to cut fuel lines and a couple of friends phoned.

'I didn't think and put it straight in my pocket and went down the street.

'I forgot about it.'

Fining Aitken £130, Sheriff Douglas Small told him: 'There is a huge amount of public concern about the number of people who get stabbed,

'The penalities which the court can impose include 12 months in prison or a fine of up to £10,000.

'In your case I accept that you had forgotten that you had the knife.'

Climate Challenge Fund ready for action

A NEW £18.8 million fund to help communities in Argyll and Bute take local action to tackle the global threat of climate change opened for business last week.

The Climate Challenge Fund, which will support community-led action to reduce emissions, was officially launched by cabinet secretary for the environment, Richard Lochhead and Patrick Harvie, Scottish Green MSP.

Speaking at the launch at Glasgow's Shawlands Academy, an eco-school, Mr Lochhead said: 'There are many things we can do as individuals to reduce our carbon emissions, but by acting and working together as communities we can do much more.'

Mr Harvie said: 'Every day it becomes clearer that the world is waking up to climate change, and seeing how urgently we need to make the transition to a low carbon future. '

The scheme is open to applications from organisations including the voluntary sector, charities, schools, colleges, universities, local authorities and housing partnerships to fund projects which demonstrate reductions in emissions.

Mull drink driver rescued from crash

AN ISLE OF MULL man who crashed his car while over the legal limit of alcohol has been banned from driving for 14 months and fined £300

Ralph Franklin, aged 55, of Rock Cottage, Salen, Mull admitted driving with 129 milligrams of alcohol in 100ml of blood, almost one and a half times the legal driving limit, on the A848, two miles south of Tobermory, on January 24 this year.

Oban Sheriff Court heard last week that Franklin, who had no previous convictions and a clean driving licence, had to be removed from his damaged car by fire and ambulance personnel after the vehicle left the road and rolled over.

Procurator fiscal Justin Farrell said: 'He was taken to hospital and when police spoke to the accused they detected a strong smell of alcohol.'

Defence agent Duncan Durbin said: 'He had something to drink the night before and had drank a small amount of whisky before he set off.

'He had drank that day and the night before in order to alleviate anxiety.

'He has a number of medical conditions and is on seven different medications.

'His unemployment causes him anxiety.'

www.thehighlandtheatre.co.uk for full listings and future presentations
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SUPERHERO MOVIE — Cert 12A 86 mins — DAILY 4.45, 6.45 & 9.00 — SAT & SUN MATINEES 12.00
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INDIANA JONES AND THE KINGDOM OF THE CRYSTAL SKULL — Cert 12A 122 mins — DAILY 6.30 MON-THURS 4.00 — SAT & SUN MATINEES 2.15
THE UGLY DUCKLING AND ME! — Cert U 88 mins — SAT & SUN ONLY 12.15 & 4.30

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PROGRAMME SUBJECT TO CHANGE. PLEASE CONSULT WITH BOX OFFICE 1 WEEK IN ADVANCE OF ADVERTISED SHOW.

Oban and Lorn 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!

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20) 09111 767 272
You're cautioned not to try to do too much, but that can be easier said than done. Invitations will flow in and you can be tempted to accept each and every one. Buzzy exchanges can also inspire you to such a degree, that your attention wanders from earthier considerations. This is the rub - such is the excitement something important could pass you by. Call me now for your in-depth forecast...

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21) 09111 767 273
Focus on life's basics. Even if you feel up against it around finances, there will be something about you that sees others minded to help. This may require restructuring, but once done, you can let out a sigh of relief and start to feel better about yourself. Home improvement schemes look particularly favourable - as long as you stay within your means. Call your special prediction line for more...

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21) 09111 767 274
Look to polish up your personal presentation. Few times have ever been as good as this to make an impact, so go that extra yard and you can really get ahead of the competition, be it for the attentions of someone you're drawn to or a potential employer. Words are rarely a problem for you, but now you can add just a little more finesse, and it can pay off. Call me now for more news and advice...

CANCER (June 22 - July 22) 09111 767 275
The Quarter Moon cautions you about letting your imagination run away. For example, if you start to pine for someone from your past might you be tempted to overrate their qualities? Don't forget why this tie didn't pan out first time around. And yet if you can accept that you may need to cocoon yourself away at times, a week to really let your feelings flow. Call me for more news and advice...

LEO (July 23 - Aug 23) 09111 767 276
People are going to be particularly responsive to you. If you use this energy just so, you can expand your circle and find yourself in demand. However, you could be faced with a dilemma. One friend may have a viewpoint or attitude that you find difficult to come to terms with. Do you turn the other cheek and go with the flow or do you let this influence you? Call me now for more astral advice...

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23) 09111 767 277
The Moon in Virgo tightens up in a sharp right angle to the Sun. Yet if you let petty irritations cloud your thinking and therefore your attitudes, you could miss a truly excellent possibility to quietly build your reputation and standing. To ensure this situation doesn't go awry you'll need to trade some short-term frustration, for longer-term possibilities. Call me now for your in-depth forecast...

LIBRA (Sept 24 - Oct 23) 09111 767 278
There is a fantastic amount of energy and movement in your horoscope, and even if you're someone who leads a fairly regulated life – perhaps through circumstances, you can be in the mood to do different things. Romantically, a link with someone at a distance or who strikes a different chord, are especially well blessed. A holiday romance can sparkle. Call me now for your love scope in full...

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 22) 09111 767 279
Your destiny is in your own hands, but a little bit of good fortune and help along the way, will be much appreciated. And something can break wonderfully well for you this week Scorpio. An improvement in status is possible, and a step up the career ladder too, but it'll be important to try to maintain your boundaries, however good one partnership seems. Call me now for your love scope...

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23 - Dec 21) 09111 767 280
Everyone needs to take advice from time to time. Whether this is from those we know to getting more formal insights, this is an excellent time for you to put out your feelers, because the guidance you get can be very helpful. If you're a businessperson, this can also be a good week to do deals. In fact, partnerships of all kinds are favoured Sagittarius.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22 - Jan 20) 09111 767 281
We can all grumble about life's daily grind, but you can find yourself in a much more accepting frame of mind this week. In fact, a willingness to get down to the things that ordinarily seem as dull as ditchwater can win you plaudits. This can also be a time when you carefully research your options around insurances, pension rights and welfare payments. Call me now for more astral advice...

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19) 09111 767 282
A uniquely positive planetary alignment can boost your vitality, love of entertaining and being with people. All of this can put you centre stage. Revel in the warmth and affection that can flow your way. If you're looking for developments romantically, even rather detached you, can have such a winning way, that your reservations will soon melt away. Call now for your love scope in full...

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20) 09111 767 283
Assisting people in practical ways can give you satisfaction. With Mars angling well to both the Sun and Venus you can find yourself helping an offspring or family member. This and your protectiveness can be quite a feature. Equally, someone can be supportive towards you. A lot of goodwill can flow back and forth, which is reassuring Pisces. Call now for your in-depth forecast...

For your detailed forecast call your number above.
Calls cost 60p per minute at all times
Visit - www.patrickarundell.com

At the Cinema

SUPERHEOR MOVIE
Cert '12A'

This above average spoof on the superhero genre takes on such films as "Spider-Man," "Batman Begins" and "Fantastic Four."

After being bitten by a genetically altered dragonfly, high school loser Rick Riker develops superhuman abilities like incredible strength and armoured skin.

Rick decides to use his new powers for good and becomes a costumed crime fighter known as "The Dragonfly."

However, standing in the way of his destiny is the villainous Lou Landers.

After an experiment gone wrong, Lou develops the power to steal a person's life force and in a dastardly quest for immortality becomes the supervillain, "The Hourglass."

SEX AND THE CITY
Cert '15'

Big screen version of the popular television series which follows the tangled love lives of four New York women.

Sarah Jessica Parker, Kim Catrall, Cynthia Nixon, Kristen Davis and Christopher Noth reprise their roles.

The Movie replicates everything that's great about the TV show, in particular its breathless flitting between relationship realities and romantic wish-fulfilment.

There are the laugh-out-loud moments, the bawdy sex romps and the fashionista wet dreams.

But the skill of the writing and performances allows these elements to co-exist alongside a moving portrait of the pangs of love and friendship.

The TV show has a generous, unabashed love of human frailty, and the movie has it in spades too.

INDIANA JONES AND THE KINGDOM OF THE CRYSTAL SKULL
Cert '12A'

After a 19 year gap we finally get the fourth instalment in the series. Harrison Ford returns as everyone's favourite action hero and losing none of his stubborn charm. with an impeccable supporting cast including Cate Blanchett, Karen Allen, Ray Winstone, John Hurt, Jim Broadbent, and Shia LaBeouf.

Set in 1957 our hero is pitted against agents of the Soviet Union in the search for the mysterious crystal skulls and possibly the lost city of Eldorado.

It's fast paced action and comic turns are again directed by Steven Spielberg and produced by George Lucas.

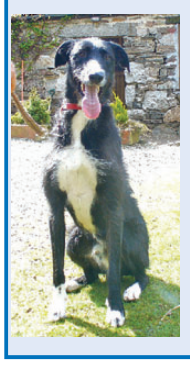
THE UGLY DUCKLING AND ME!
Cert 'U'

A charming Computer-animated film based on the fairy tale by Hans Christian Anderson, "THE UGLY DUCKLING."

When Ratso, a slick city rat, spots the unfortunate duck , all he can imagine is dollar signs.

He plans on exploiting the duckling at carnival sideshows. But, "the best-laid plans of rats and ducks" don't always work out the way we originally planned them to.

Irish & Country Bonanza Cabaret & Dance
In Argyllshire Gathering Halls,Oban
On Sunday 8th June '08
Don't Forget, not to be Missed!
Doors Open 6.30pm Live Music 7.00pm-11.00pm
Tickets £12 Now On sale From
Oban Tourist Office/Gathering Halls or Tel 01463 221268

PADDY

3 years old neutered boy with lovely nature
Contact Jean on 01631 566406
If you have one of our cat traps please let us know.
aaa.rescueteam@btconnect.com
www.smallpaws.co.uk

Music teacher Dave Mason, third from right, accepts a cheque for £600 from Rotary Club of Oban president Frank Walton as Rotary members Peter Tait, Dave Finlayson and Phillip White are joined by piping tutor Angus MacColl and the school's music pupils. t22brc01

OHS to play Barcelona

MUSICAL pupils from Oban High School are jetting off to one of the cultural capitals of Europe this month to perform a number of concerts.

The school's Barcelona trip last took place in 2006 and proved popular with the pupils as well as the Catalan public.

Making up this year's 75-strong musical group, who fly out on June 16, are the schools' pipe band, choir, wind band, string group and ceilidh band.

Accompanying the group will be seven teachers, headed up by maths teacher Nan Johnstone.

One of the chaperones, music teacher Morven McKerrall, said: 'We will be performing at various events in and around Barcelona and have scheduled in some trips for the pupils. The boys usually look forward to the Nou Camp visit!'

The Rotary Club of Oban has given the group £600 to pay for polo shirts, which they will wear on the trip.

The group will return to Oban on June 21.

Isle of Skye Accordion and Fiddle Festival proves huge success in the sunshine

WALL-to-WALL sunshine was the added bonus for the many musicians and their supporters who travelled from far and near to attend the three day Isle of Skye Accordion and Fiddle Festival held in Portree in the Isle of Skye.

The festival, organised by the Isle of Skye Accordion and Fiddle Club, is an annual event now in its fourth year and growing in popularity as the years pass.

The event kicked off in fine style on Thursday May 22 with an accordion and fiddle club night in the main festival venue of the Royal Hotel in Portree with music from local and visiting players, the furthest travelled of whom was a box player who had come all the way from Miami, USA to take part in the festival.

Highlight of the evening was a great performance by Ian Muir and his Scottish Dance Band comprising of Ian himself leading on piano accordion, Susan Gordon on fiddle, Neil MacMillan on keyboards and Scott Gordon on drums, providing a feast of music to delight the packed audience.

The following day found all-day live music from local and visiting players in several venues throughout Portree and in the evening two fine bands were sharing the provision of music in the Royal Hotel.

First half of the evening the popular Deoch 'n' Dorus entertained with their own blend of driving west coast style music from Stuart Cameron of Fort William on accordion, Simon Moran from the Island of Jura on fiddle and Andrew MacPherson from the Isle of Skye on drums.

They were followed on stage by another popular west coast band, The Sileas Sinclair Trio, who comprised Sileas from Oban on accordion, Deirdre MacDonald of Roy Bridge on fiddle and Ryan McGlynn of Argyll on drums.

The Sileas Sinclair Trio play at Portree during the Isle of Skye Accordion and Fiddle Festival

An evening of great lively music from both bands, enjoyed once again by a packed audience.

A sun-kissed Portree on the Saturday brought Tom Cruikshank of Beauly and his Cnoc Cuil Ceilidh Band into Somerled Square for an outdoor performance which attracted a large crowd of locals and visitors.

Meantime the indoor venues attracted many more musicians and listeners including, in the Royal Hotel, popular young bandleader and ace accordionist Iain Angus MacLeod from the Island of Harris who was joined on second box by another popular west coast band leader Niall Kirkpatrick, on drums by Aly 'K' MacPherson of Portree and on keyboards by Ross Wilson of Mull.

The three day festival was officially brought to a close with a well attended ceilidh dance in the historic Skye Gathering Hall to the music of The Gunna Sound Ceilidh Band while non-dancers still packed the other venues in Portree to be entertained by the enthusiastic local and visiting players.

Isle of Skye Accordion and Fiddle Club chairman Jim Campbell, said that he was very pleased with the whole festival and felt that it had been the best one yet, a sentiment expressed by all who had taken part either as musicians or listeners. To quote Jim, 'roll on next year's festival'!

John Grundy

Connect line up the best - live!

THIS year's Connect Festival will be showcasing some of best live acts on the circuit this summer but up-and-coming bands will also have the chance to prove they are the next big thing.

Among the star-studded line-up this year are Kasabian, Duffy, Manic Street Preachers, Bloc Party and Goldfrapp but 20 new acts will take to the Your Sound Bandstand.

The bandstand, which proved successful last year, will once again see the best emerging talent in Scotland and is funded by the Scottish Arts Council.

Last year The Twilight Sad's performance was noted as one of the best in the whole festival.

This year the capacity of the Unknown Pleasures tent has been extended and will feature late night performances from Club Noir and Vegas, as well as a set from 'the baron of techno' Dave Clarke.

Dunollie could house clan museum

DUNOLLIE House could be transformed into a clan centre and museum if a plan by the MacDougall Trust comes to fruition.

The listed building, believed to date from 1611, currently houses the MacDougall Collection which tells the story of working and domestic life in Argyll over the past 200 years.

Now the MacDougall of Dunollie Preservation Trust has been awarded a Heritage Lottery Fund grant to plan a project to make the 14th century castle building safe and open up the historic house to the public.

A larger grant will be applied for later this year and if that is successful Dunollie House could be the home of the MacDougall clan centre and museum by 2010.

The planning grant will fund a physical survey of the castle and propose conservation and consolidation work.

The money will also pay for a management plan, conservation management plan, access and audience development plan and an education plan.

The MacDougall Collection will continue to hold an important place in the visitor centre.

The collection was the life's work of Hope MacDougall whose childhood and ancestral home was Dunollie House during the nineteenth century.

She was intensely interested in the skills, crafts, and way of life of people across the Highlands and Islands, and which she saw vanishing among the people who lived on the Dunollie estate, on Kerrera, and in many similar communities across Scotland.

COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD

Prehistoric Technology Workshop (KILMARTIN)
with John & Val Lord
Travel Back in Time and Learn some Prehistoric Skills Including Flint Knapping & Fire Making
Cost: £40.00
Saturday 14 June 10am – 4pm
For further details, booking & diary of events contact 01546 510278
www.kilmartin.org

SUNSET & MOURNING
For those you have loved…
Church Centre, Glencruitten Rd, Oban
Mon 9th June 8 – 8.30pm
Readings, music and lighting of candles
- a time to reflect can be a time of hope.
If someone you love has died, whether recently or longer ago, you might find this opportunity helpful
Followed by tea & coffee if you wish to chat.
Organised by the Christian Church
This is open to everone who misses someone
Regardless of faith background
Suitable for all ages inc. children.

Prehistoric Open Day (KILMARTIN)
A Family Fun Day
Flint Knapping, Fire Making, Music Making, Pottery & Prehistoric Cooking!
Sunday 15 June
Entry via Museum Ticket 10 – 4.00pm
For further details & diary of events contact 01546 510278
www.kilmartin.org

Oban and Lorn Lions Club
CHARITIES DAY
Saturday 7th June
1.00 – 4.00pm
Station Square, Oban
Charity Stalls, Music, Dancers
Parade leaves Corran Halls 1.15pm
Support your local Charities

Silver Bracelet Workshop (KILMARTIN)
with Neil Burridge
Create a Silver Bracelet Using Bronze Age Technology
Cost £50
Sunday 15 June 10 – 4.00pm
For further details, booking & diary of events contact 01546 510278
www.kilmartin.org

Easdale Island Community Hall
Proudly presents
Hannah O'Reilly
Singer, Songwriter, Rock Chick
'What a stunning voice'
Sat 7th June 7.30 - 11p.m.
Tickets £8/£6 kids free
Return ferry 11p.m.
www.easdale.org/hall

CHARITY SHOP
Oban Friends Of The Anthony Nolan Trust
Monday 9th June – Saturday 14th June
10am – 4pm
Oban Youth Café
Albany Street
George Street
OBAN

Argyll & Bute Council
Corran Hall's Events
June - Sept
RESERVED SEATING ONLY
Journey South
Saturday 28th June
8pm
Runners-up in ITV's X Factor Show. Tickets £17.50

AUGUST
MIA DOLAN
MONDAY 4TH
Tickets £14
Door 7.30pm
Star of ITV's "Haunted Homes" and best selling author of titles such as "The Gift & Mia's World", will be holding Psychic Demonstration Evenings
SEPTEMBER
Gary Mullen - One Night of Queen
SATURDAY 6TH
Tickets £16.50
Doors 7.30pm Gary has been a lifelong Queen fan and has always been a keen singer. He plays tribute to The band in his stage performance which won him 'Stars in Their Eyes'
The Drifters
FRIDAY 19TH
Tickets £17.50
Doors 7.30pm In celebration of the group's 55th anniversary and the release of the first new official album in 30 years, The Drifters are back on tour in the UK with an exciting new show.
Corran Halls, Oban, Argyll
Box Office: (01631) 567333
Please note only photographic driver's licence or passport will be accepted as proof of age at our bar. 14 to 16 years must be accompanied by an adult

HOLDING AN EVENT?
The Oban Times & West Highland Times
Be seen by over 40,000 readers
Tel: 01631 568000
www.obantimes.co.uk

The Oban Times & West Highland Times What's On Guide

June 3rd, 4th, 5th 6th and 7th
Argyll Youth Theatre presents Les Miserables School Edition, Corran Halls, Oban. Tel 01631 567333. £8 - £6 concession. www.argyllyouththeatre.co.uk

From Tuesday 3rd June
F W Holroyd Art Gallery - June Exhibition - Animals with Attitude by Angela Hewitt 10am - 5pm

Thursday 5th June
Mull Theatre, Lochgoil Village Hall, 8pm

Friday 6th June
Mull Theatre, Taynuilt Village Hall, 8pm

Saturday 7th June
Mull Theatre, Kames and District Recreation Club, 8pm

Sunday 8th June
Irish and Country Bonanza Cabaret and Dance in Argyllshire Gathering Halls, Oban, featuring Ireland's No 1 box office attraction Declan Nerney and Band. Doors open 6.30pm. Live music 7 till 11pm

Monday 9th June
Mull Theatre, Innellan Village Hall, 8pm

Friday 13th June
Rangers Roadshow, The Argyllshire Gathering Halls, Oban. Doors open 6.45, welcome 7.30pm. Tickets £22. Telephone Davie Sloss on 01631 710114 or mobile 07717 572304.

Saturday 28th June
Journey South - The Home tour 2008, plus support, Corran Halls, Oban, 8pm

WHAT'S ON GUIDE CONTACT - 01631 568000

Car parking is the latest sore point between outdoor centre and Lochgoilhead residents

Can Ardroy and its neighbours be good friends?

The view of one crowded Ardroy car park from a neighbour's window. T19ard04dno

Report by HUGH ROSS

'EVERYBODY needs good neighbours,' so the theme tune to the long-running Australian soap goes.

But in one Argyll village there is little evidence of any Ramsay Street camaraderie.

A battle of wills has developed between an outdoor education centre and neighbouring residents after a series of disputes which have left relations increasingly strained.

Earlier this year *The Oban Times* reported on how Lochgoilhead resident Andy Craig was at loggerheads with the neighbouring Ardroy Outdoor Education Centre.

Mr Craig said the centre had allowed raw sewage to seep into the shoreline in front of his home and had removed blocked ditches on the road for parking which caused stone aggregate for his new driveway to be washed into the garden.

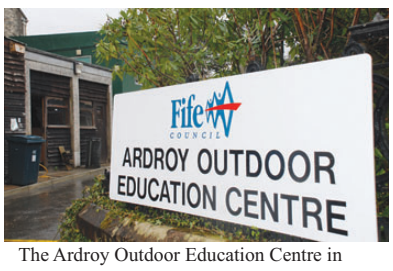
Ardroy said it was down to a septic tank being blocked by cooking fat and the flooding occurred after freak torrential rainstorms.

But, according to the centre's neighbours, that problem is just the tip of the iceberg. They are also angry at Ardroy's new car parks outside the centre, noise coming from the site at night and a general lack of transparency over plans for its redevelopment.

Ardroy, owned by Fife Council, welcomes up to 65 children each week from the local authority's area.

It also hosts youngsters from Argyll who stay at the centre and enjoy a range of activities from abseiling, kayaking, rock and hill climbing as well as being educated in the environment.

Fourteen full-time instructors work with the children and the centre is generally regarded as doing an excellent job winning awards for its environmental, enterprise and food hygiene work.



The Ardroy Outdoor Education Centre in Lochgoilhead. t19ard01

Indeed Mr Craig himself says he has paid for his own grandchildren to participate in holiday activities organised by Ardroy which they thoroughly enjoyed.

The neighbours insist they are not against the centre's work but feel it has taken advantage of their relaxed attitude, until now.

Last year Ardroy cleared shrubbery and trees from two of its staff cottages' gardens opposite the centre to create more car parking space for its employees and visitors.

That angered neighbours who claim the car park is ugly and has ruined sight lines and created safety problems for pedestrians and motorists.

To compound the issue, residents discovered Ardroy had not made a planning application to either the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park Authority for the new car parking or had it informed Argyll and Bute Council's roads department in Dunoon about the work.

Mr Craig told *The Oban Times*: 'That was the final straw for the neighbours and even the people who have lived here all the time were annoyed. Ardroy made an mess of the place and they have now put up a crude looking fence – it now resembles an NCP car park. The ditches beside the car park were also filled in causing water to flow onto the road.'

Both the national park and the council asked Ardroy to submit a 'retrospective' planning application.

But the neighbours insist ordinary residents living in Lochgoilhead are simply not afforded the same leeway and the authorities would come down on them like a ton of bricks if they breached planning legislation.

Callum McArthur, who lives in Jenny's Bay, has had four planning applications turned down by the national park and is now appealing its decision to the secretary of state for Scotland.

While he is completely unconnected with the Ardroy situation, he says there is a genuine feeling among villagers that the national park is too strict towards them.

'My plans involve a lot of glass windows and the national park is dead against that even though nobody would see it unless they were on a boat. It is getting better in the last two years but before then absolutely every planning application was getting turned down. It tempted me to build the extension and then apply for retrospective planning permission just to see what would happen.'

Liz Evans, the Ardroy centre manager, said: 'About 10 years ago, before the national park was established, we created car parks. We asked Argyll and Bute Council if we needed planning permission but it said 'no'.

'A year ago we extended the car park by getting rid of some trees. I wasn't here that day but we should have applied for planning permission. We genuinely didn't know then that we should have. We listened to the neighbours and have made a retrospective application.'

One neighbour said she found Ms Evan's admission to be 'astonishing'.

'Over the years the parking has just got bigger and bigger,' she said. 'Taking the trees down last year was the final straw; they have left no sight lines or screens. When I speak to the neighbours everybody is affected in different ways whether it be the parking, drainage or sewage. It has just got to a point now.'

Ms Evans says the centre had no option but to create car parking space – to protect children using the centre.

'It's not that we simply went about creating car parks for the sake of it,' she said. 'A risk assessment was carried out and because of the number of vehicles around the centre it was concluded there was a safety danger to the children coming here.

'What we have been trying to do is to park away from the centre, on land owned by Ardroy, so our children are safe. We didn't do it to inconvenience anybody and 10 years ago we had been complying with the then planning regulations.'

Ms Evans says the large number of staff employed by Ardroy has resulted in a serious parking problem – despite more than half of employees, 55 per cent, car sharing to cut down on vehicles at the centre.

But Mr Craig said: 'Why is Ardroy afforded so much latitude by the authorities? The centre has been here for a long time and it is good for the community. But if it professes to be so green then why does it not show us a bit of it? If that means local staff have to get the bus, then so be it. Liz Evans has not once apologised or taken responsibility for anything Ardroy has done. She refers us to her bosses at Fife Council who refer us back to her.'

Another neighbour, who didn't want named, said: 'The point Ardroy always makes is that we are threatening local jobs with our complaints but we do value what the centre does but not the way it goes about things. We don't want a car park with 15 to 20 cars in front of us but Ardroy doesn't seem to want to engage with the neighbours. We want to create a dialogue because we feel we are being fobbed off but Ardroy doesn't want to engage in a public debate.'

Ardroy's manager Liz Evans, feels the centre is hamstrung by the unreasonable expectations of neighbours, some of whom have only moved to the village in the last few years.

'We have been here since 1969 and we are an educational establishment which is teaching the children about themselves,' she said. 'When the centre was established 40 years ago it wasn't so built up as it is now. A lot of people have moved into the area knowing that they are moving very near to an outdoor education centre. I have been here 20 years, I live in Lochgoilhead village. Ardroy puts a large amount of money into the area and we employ a lot of local people.'

Redevelop

Ms Evans insists that plans to redevelop the centre are essential because the buildings are simply outdated and not fit for purpose. In August, Ardroy becomes a charitable trust with a board of directors.

It is the incoming directors who will decide if the centre should push ahead with plans for new buildings and Ms Evans says there is no point in showing neighbours the plans if they are only drafts.

So who's right and wrong? Are the residents bona fida 'Nimbys' who will be agitated at whatever Ardroy does or has the centre failed to listen to the concerns of neighbours who might have legitimate grievances?

Some of the residents who spoke to *The Oban Times* claimed they will be made the scapegoats if Ardroy relocates to another site while Liz Evans feels the centre is coming under incessant pressure from the neighbours and can do no right in their eyes.

The voice of reason?

Step forward Iain MacInnes, the chairman of Lochgoilhead Community Council.

'Our secretary Leslie Cuthbertson attended a meeting between Ardroy and the neighbours last year as an observer,' he said.

'The community council hasn't been involved on either side but I feel myself that if the two sides could get together and have a meeting, with an independent chairman, they could come to a natural agreement. I would like to see a bit of give and take on both sides.'

National park 'not wilfully misled'

ARDROY is treated like any 'ordinary' resident living within the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park Authority area, *The Oban Times* has been assured this week.

A spokeswoman for the national park said: 'We strive to act impartially and fairly throughout all our dealings. At first it appeared that the best solution would be to deal with the parking problem as part of the centre's plannned complete refurbishment.

'But when it became clear that the project was likely to be delayed we requested that the parking and landscaping issues be addressed separately and without further delay.'

The national park does not believe it has been 'wilfully misled' by Ardroy or that the centre deliberately breached planning regulations.

The spokeswoman added: 'The neighbours were notified of the planning application and will be given ample opportunity to view the plans and submit any comments they may have in writing. Their representations will be taken into consideration in determination the application which is partially retrospective and includes new landscaping and parking proposals.'

Meanwhile, a spokesman for Argyll and Bute Council's road department in Dunoon said: 'No permission was sought and obtained for the works which were carried out. As the local roads authority in January 2008 we instructed the centre to reinstate a boundary fence, provide a defined access and not to use the roadside verge for parking.

'Improvements were also requested to the surface drainage to prevent water running onto the road. As like most areas in Argyll surface water does travel off the hillside across properties where some of it ends up the edge of the carriageway – but not at a significant high level.'

The council appears to agree with the centre encouraging parking away from the centre with the spokeswoman adding: 'Ardroy is one of the major employers in the area, unfortunately parking within the centre is limited and being a residential area for children, private vehicles are kept out with only minibuses and trailers being parked on site.

'This was a decision they made for the safety of all.'

Ardroy manager Liz Evans with children from Fife. t19ard02

10 Years Ago — Those Were The Days

The Oban Times — Thursday June 4 1998

'Lochaber must not lose its loos'

WHEN it comes to spending a penny, Lochaber is not going to economise.

Lochaber Area Committee was faced with a grim choice on Tuesday: finding £9,600 worth of savings as its share of £120,000 cutbacks in the Highland Council Public Convenience budget.

Officers drew up a hit list of lavatories. They were graded by site: prime, mid or low; either in busy popular spots or off main tourist routes. Then they were categorised, A to E for standard.

Faced with the prospect of Caol having its public conveniences closed, Councillor Olwyn Macdonald decided to go into action.

'We're going backwards instead of forwards. I cannot understand why we are looking at closing public conveniences. In district council days we were opening them!'

'Waste of paper exercise', a fellow councillor condemned the idea.

Mrs Macdonald and Councillor Euan Harper came up with a plan: class all of the lavatories as prime grade A establishments and keep them all open.

Breakdown prompts fresh calls for back-up vessel

A TIREE woman's funeral had to be rescheduled after a ferry breakdown left schedules in chaos.

Mourners and floral tributes were due to arrive on Saturday's ferry from Oban at 10.15am, in plenty of time for Betty Gillespie's 1pm funeral.

But a series of cylinder failures in one of the Lord of the isles ferry's engines lefty passengers stranded for more than 10 hours.

'Three mourners were coming on the boat, as well as all the wreaths,' said the Rev Peter Williams, who officiated at Mrs Gillespie's funeral.

'Just before 11.30am, we were told the ferry was on her way but she turned back within a matter of minutes,' he added.

'At that point the funeral was put back to 4.30pm and a plane was chartered from Connel Airfield to bring out the mourners and wreaths.'

The weekend disruption sparked fresh calls for a back-up ferry, as the trouble followed similar problems, which saw the isle of Mull diverted to serve the Western Isles.

New tourist centre opens

EVERYTHING is looking bigger and better at Oban's new tourist information centre, which has just been officially opened.

The £600,000 centre, in the former Argyll Square Church, includes an exhibition tracing the area's history, as well as highlighting visitor attractions and activities.

With more than 400,000 visitor enquiries each year, Oban is Scotland's third busiest TIC and the new centre also includes administration offices.

Opening the centre, Scottish Tourist Board chairman Lord Gordon of Strathblane said Oban was one of Scotland's foremost tourist destinations and was strategically important as a gateway to the islands.

He added: 'For me, the main benefit of tourism is not economy or the jobs it provides, it is the pride which results in showing somebody around your town or your area.'

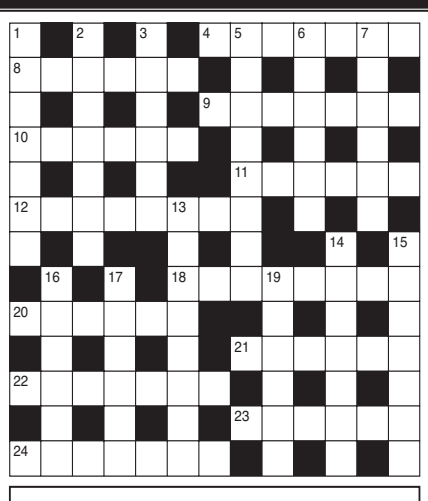
The Oban Times GENERAL KNOWLEDGE DOUBLE CROSSWORD No. 541

ACROSS

4. Eric, guitarist who won a Grammy Award in 1992 for the song Tears in Heaven (7)
8. Denis, British Chancellor of the Exchequer 1974-79 (6)
9. Strait between Cuba and Mexico (7)
10. Mike, director of the film Leaving Las Vegas (6)
11. In rugby, the central forward in the front row of a scrum (6)
12. Kurt, author of Slaughterhouse Five (8)
18. Old Testament character, youngest son of Jacob and Rachel (8)
20. Seaport capital of Mozambique (6)
21. Second son of Elizabeth II of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (6)
22. — Sunday is the fifth Sunday in Lent (7)
23. 'The Two Gentlemen of —', play by Shakespeare (6)
24. See 1 Down.

QUICK CLUES ACROSS

4. Species (7)
8. Evoke (6)
9. Narrative (7)
10. Faithful (6)
11. Pivot (6)
12. Balm (8)
18. Start (8)
20. Zeal (6)
21. Hit (6)
22. Funny (7)
23. Bog (6)
24. Long (7)



DOWN

1, and 24 Across. 1959 Danny Kaye film (3,4,7)
2. Malcolm, British composer and conductor who died in 1967 (7)
3. Independent republic of Central America whose capital is Belmopan (6)
5. Charles, actor whose films include 1939's The Hunchback of Notre Dame (8)
6. Lighthouse built on an island off Alexandria in Egypt, destroyed by an earthquake in the 14c (6)
7. Persian variety of the wild ass, Equus hemionus (6)
13. Capital of Botswana (8)
14. Ralph Waldo, 19c U.S. poet (7)
15. 'The —', 1978 children's book by Raymond Briggs (7)
16. Traditional Japanese system of unarmed combat whose name means empty hand (6)
17. R.W., inventor of a gas burner widely used in scientific laboratories (6)
19. Cornelius, Dutch Roman Catholic theologian who authored Augustinus, published in 1640 (6)

QUICK CLUES DOWN

1. Piece (7)
2. Sharp (7)
3. Saying (6)
5. Habituate (8)
6. Satirical (6)
7. Offer (6)
13. Intrude (8)
14. Brutal (7)
15. Hungry (7)
16. Furrow (6)
17. Advent (6)
19. Proposal (6)

SOLUTIONS TO LAST WEEK

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE - Across: 1 Joseph Smith; 9 Owl; 10 Aguecheek; 11 Tagus; 13 Abalone; 14 Orange; 16 Kemble; 18 Eusebio; 19 Greer; 20 Carbuncle; 21 She; 22 Wensleydale.

Down: 2 Oil; 3 Evans; 4 Houdan; 5 Macramé; 6 The Double; 7 Montmorency; 8 Skye terrier; 12 Grass tree; 15 G.I. Blues; 17 Touché; 19 Greed; 21 Sol.

QUICK - Across: 1 Proficiency; 9 Urn; 10 Eloquence; 11 Slash; 13 Chatter; 14 Attest; 16 Retard; 18 Tenfold; 19 Tenet; 20 Animation; 21 Bar; 22 Independent.

Down: 2 Run; 3 Fresh; 4 Choice; 5 Educate; 6 Constrain; 7 Substantial; 8 Depredatory; 12 Attention; 15 Storage; 17 Advise; 19 Tuned; 21 Ban.

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The Oban Times
& West Highland Times

A85 roadworks panto is no laughing matter

THE glorious sunshine enjoyed in recent weeks makes it clear summer has arrived, but that has not stopped road agencies Transport Scotland and Transerv Scotland indulging in their own panto season as they declare 'Oh yes, it will close' and 'Oh no, it won't' over the A85 at Innischonain Bridge, near Lochawe. The mixed messages have reached farcical proportions with the road agencies only serving to maintain the confusion this week with the latest, joint, declaration of 'Oh, we are no longer sure the road will close'. That is simply not good enough considering the importance of this route and that this all started back in March when the need for safety work on the bridge was first revealed.

This whole sorry episode has prompted Argyll and Bute Council's transport spokesman, Councillor Duncan MacIntyre, to express concern at the lack of professionalism being displayed by Transport Scotland and Transerv Scotland. Quite rightly, he also said it did not inspire confidence — and remember this is in an era when the emphasis is very much on corporate communications.

The importance of this route to Argyll cannot be understated. If it is closed at Lochawe for a week, it would require travellers to make enormous detours via Ballachulish or Lochgilphead. Apart from the time involved, the costs to hauliers and businesses are even more frightening in the light of recent sharp rises in fuel prices.

Let us hope a clearer, and final, picture about the implications of the bridge work emerges following the public meeting in Lochawe Village Hall on June 25.

Glasgow Letter

Leabhar's Craic

IT WASN'T the usual meeting of Ceol's Craic at the Centre for the Contemporary Arts recently but Leabhar's Craic, Glasgow's first Gaelic literary festival in partnership with the Gaelic Books Council.

Advertised from 1pm until late, it was a full day which included workshops for adults and children, panel discussions, a book launch, a buffet with wine, film screenings and a ceilidh.

There was a good turnout of youngsters, a healthy sign for the future, and for the parents there was an introduction to peurt a beul led by Kenna Campbell, probably the country's best exponent of that skill.

With a showing of the Inaccessible Pinnacle for the children, and one of the Melbost Bard, and then a ceilidh featuring Griogair Laurie and Roddy Gorman, singing Gaelic translations of Bob Dylan favourites, this was an enjoyable day for everyone.

As expected now from Ceol's Craic, recently voted Club of the Year, it has again come up with a different formula and one which proved to be a success. A repeat is already pencilled in to next session's programme.

The next meeting of the club will be in August.

Glasgow's Gaelic Plan

CONSULTATION meetings on Glasgow's Gaelic Language Plan are underway.

All local authorities must produce a plan and Glasgow City Council is to be congratulated on its commitment to its plan and on its willingness to engage all interested parties in its final production, which will be published in both Gaelic and English.

The final date for written comments is the end of June.

A revised version will be published in July/August with the plan forwarded for council approval towards the end of the year before submission to Bord na Gaidhlig early in 2009.

Those present at the first meeting showed enthusiasm for the plan and it was announced that Councillor Aileen Colleran, council business manager and who many will know as a strong supporter when the Fèis was set up in the city, will be the lead councillor for the plan's development.

The plan has many targets for the years 2009-2012 and if one is looking for encouragement for the future one need look no further than Gaelic Medium Education where the proposed primary one intake numbers for session 2008-09 have surpassed targets.

Why are such large numbers of parents, many with no Gaelic connections, opting to send their children to Sgoil Ghaidhlig Glaschu? There must be many reasons, all of them positive for the retention of our language and culture, and surely there can be no better reason for supporting the city council's plans.

Written comments on the plan have to date not been forwarded in large numbers and there is a suggestion that interested parties may be contacted for their views by telephone.

Copies of the plan are available from Dawn Corbett or Doreen Montgomery, Corporate Policy Department, Glasgow City Council.

Diary dates

Friday June 6: Glasgow Skye Association, bus run to Ayr. Departs Partick Bus Station at 6.30pm.

Saturday June 7: Clann Gaidhlig, Fiddler's Concert, Westburn Church Hall, Nelson Street, Greenock. Helensburgh and Lomond Fiddlers plus guests.

Wednesday June 11: Glasgow Tiree Association, annual general meeting, St Columba's Church Hall. Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama, Year 2 students, concert, 7.30pm.

Friday June 13: West End Festival, Allan MacDonald, College of Piping, 8pm, telephone 0141 334 3587. Glasgow Islay Gaelic Choir, race night, Maryhill Community Hall, 304 Maryhill Road, 7.15pm.

Saturday June 14: Katie Morag with Mairi Hedderwick, Hidden Lane Café, 1103 Argyle Street, 10.30am and 1.30pm. The Lismore, Mansfield Street, open air live music, 2pm to 4pm and 5pm to 7pm.

Sunday June 15: The Lismore - as Saturday June 14.

Pub scene

AS PREVIOUSLY mentioned, the Park Bar will be closed this weekend for renovations.

It will re-open on Friday June 13.

Neil Murray. Tel: 0141 954 8105. Email: neilfmurray@yahoo.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.

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

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

Cardingmill Bay, Oban

Regular contributor Tom Loughray of Edinburgh sent us this week's flashback photograph which shows Oban's Cardingmill Bay in days gone by. 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. Each month a photo will win £10.

Letters to the editor

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Eader Glinn turmoil

Sir,

May I, through your paper, voice my disgust and contempt at recent events relating to the threatened closure of Oban's Eadar Glinn residential home.

How many residents, staff and their families were put through turmoil as a result of the sheer incompetence of Argyll and Bute Council?

Will the person(s) responsible be publicly named and brought to account? I think not.

At the very least there should be an internal inquiry but even this is usually a code for no further action to be taken.

The person(s) responsible should be sacked forthwith with no bonus or golden handshake.

May I suggest the next candidate for the job have experience, common sense and a conscience.

David Cameron, 4 Kilchurn Place, Oban.

Think again on wardens ACHA

Sir,

I recently visited my erstwhile neighbour, now living at Ford Spence Court, Benderloch, to hear the outcome of the meeting scheduled for earlier that day when a 'consultant' was going to answer residents' questions about Argyll Community Housing Association's (ACHA) proposal to dispense with the warden service there.

Ford Spence Court residents, and I imagine those in the other residential homes for which ACHA is responsible, are very concerned about the implications of this suggestion. In so many ways the warden is an indispensable and integral part of their everyday lives.

ACHA is currently 'sourcing a machine' which will replace the wardens, if and when ACHA can no longer afford to pay them.

On the same day as this meeting took place there were plumbers checking the water tanks in all the flats. After they had left, there was a leak in a flat which also affected the flat below. As I left, the warden was summoning plumbers, reassuring the affected tenant, relocating her temporarily to the visitor's flat and lifting carpets.

It occurred to me that it is going to have to be a pretty fancy machine! Perhaps ACHA could think again?

Alison Dawson, Main Street, Connel.

Care for the elderly

Sir

Your story 'Never to old to learn', May 15, is an excellent example of Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) and the wardens at Ford Spence Court continuing to work together to deliver the high quality of life enjoyed by their residents at this showcase example of sheltered accommodation.

Quoted in the story, you can bet that just out of shot Anne Ferguson or Jim Holloway were keeping a careful unobtrusive eye on the high jinks of their tenants, simply seen as friends. The scattered families of the tenants in sheltered accommodation sleep well knowing that the wardens throughout Argyll give respectful care to our parents and grandparents.

Contrast this heart-warming story with another in the May 15 edition where the rhetoric of a nameless beaurocrat is paper thin and full of generalisations about care for the elderly, and you indeed thank God for the divine intervention of the Reverend Brian Wilkinson. All power to this champion's elbow.

In supporting wholeheartedly Reverend Wilkinson's views, as the son of a tenant in sheltered accommodation, I ask how reducing the hours of cover for wardens can possibly increase residents' quality of life?

In 2008 we are sandwiched between 'Scotland's Year of Highland Culture' - 2007 - and 'Scotland's Year of Homecoming' - 2009 - both with millions of pounds of public funds and political support for their delivery. With just a little more creative thinking, can our elected representatives and financial decision makers not see that our links to our Highland culture also lives with us now through our living elderly relatives, or also the irony that as we approach 2009 through lack of funds being made available to upgrade their homes that they are subject to 21st century Highland clearances as we shuffle them around?

Is getting the Scottish Diaspora to return next year more worthy of our money than ensuring those who chose not to emigrate throughout the centuries are kept safe at home, and can simply call on help when they need to?

In our part of the country where there has always been a strong family tradition, of which we are rightly proud, let's not squeeze resources or respect for our senior citizens any further.

We cannot fail them, they must be our priority. In the days and weeks ahead through the review of care resources our elected politicians have the opportunities to make the right decisions. They must do so. Let not this become Argyll's shame.

Jack Mackay, Inverness.

Atlantis Leisure cost dilemma

Sir,

With regards to last week's story in *The Oban Times*, I ask that you publish the correct figures as quoted in relation to Atlantis Leisure's running costs so that customers know the real dilemma facing Atlantis Leisure's management team and directors.

Our bills, including water, gas, electricity and oil, currently amount to £160,000 per annum, compared to five years ago when £80,000 per annum was spent. The figure quoted of £91,000 was the cost of oil alone for 2007/2008.

The price of oil has risen from 40p to 68p in the last 12 months, not as quoted in the last month.

We work very closely with Gleaner and Brogans to get the best possible price each month.

The oil used by Atlantis Leisure is to heat the whole building not just the swimming pool and this is why all memberships were increased and not just swimming memberships. Atlantis Leisure is a community charity and is only sustainable if we are able to cover our costs. We work very hard to offer quality diverse services at the best possible price.

Nick Wesley, general manager, Atlantis Leisure, Oban.

Seil sewage scheme

Sir,

As residents of a property on Seil, we have an interest in your article on the £8million proposed sewage scheme for the island in your May 29 edition.

In the name of the 'environment', as is fashionable these days, we are expected to give up a 10 metre wide strip of our garden to lay two pipes with access thereafter for maintenance and repair.

'Reinstatement' in our case would be completely impossible. We stand to lose up to a third of a mature wood, many large plants and hedges, to say nothing of a Tarmac drive.

What long term effect will the presence of these pipes have on the value of our and others' properties?

No official body has told us just how bad our outflow from our septic tank is at the moment. In some cases would it not be possible to offer a grant to upgrade private schemes, which we know would be much less than the £50,000 per property, when calculated from your article? If a private scheme were to fail, the effect on the sea would be negligible compared to flushing out a joint scheme, as shown in the water board's plans.

What Seil really needs now, like many parts of Argyll, are better roads as they, in places, are verging on the dangerous.

But, of course, that will be another department! It's fascinating how our money is spent and by whom.

G W Stewart, Seil Island.

Scottish Series warning

Sir,

Reading in last week's *Oban Times* of the 'massive success' of the latest Scottish Series regatta, I feel obliged comment.

Given the near perfect sailing conditions throughout the regatta I accept that the sailing could not have been other than successful; and given the stacks of empty beer barrels outside pubs the success of alcohol sales could fairly be described as 'massive'.

I take the estimate of a £750,000 injection into the local economy with a pinch of salt and would estimate that most of the yachters 'spend' left the village soon after the beer barrels.

No evidence has ever been produced - and I doubt it ever will be - which shows that the Scottish Series really has more than a minimal, short-term impact on Tarbert's economy.

Set against any financial benefit to Tarbert must be the social consequences of bringing perhaps 2,000 pleasure-seekers into a working village of 1,500 souls. This year some have been busy. We saw a pre-regatta rush to repair roads with which locals have had to put up since last year. Street furniture and flower beds appeared to show that an effort had been made to brighten the street scene - but these encroached on parking and cluttered our pavements.

Throughout the village 'Tarbert welcomes you' notices materialised overnight. The yachters must have thought that Tarbert's entire population extended them the welcome and respect they demanded after last year's Scottish Series.

But for any non-exploitative relationship to thrive respect has to be mutual. In Tarbert, every year locals' parking is 'stolen'; their sleep is disturbed nightly; the streets of their village are taken over by drinkers and cans and plastic glasses overflow from bins into the street and the harbour. And it seems nothing can be done about it.

As a community councillor I am acutely aware of the division and fragility of this community. But the efforts of people like myself to bring the residents of Tarbert together to act with the strength of unity to safeguard the interests of both the present population and the village as a continuing entity are being undermined repeatedly by divisive 'successes' such as the Scottish Series.

The good people of this village have been told for so long that if it threatens the 'success' of big tourist events, they and their rights do not count that it seems most have now come to accept it .

Surely, within acceptance of that kind lies the seeds of destruction for any community; and even society itself .

After 30 years it is sad to conclude that the real success of the Scottish Series is to be found in the warning it provides of what can happen when we allow control of our communities' affairs to slip out of our hands .

Arthur McFarlane, Tarbert.

In praise of Gaelic road signs

Sir,

It's been some time since I travelled the road south from Connel so when I did so last week the bi-lingual road signs were a new source of pleasure.

Frequently English place names in the Highlands distort the original name to the point that its meaning is completely obscured.

When the original Gaelic names go up, all sorts of interesting things are revealed, even to those who don't have a huge amount of Gaelic.

It would never have occurred to me that Balindore was really Baile an Deòir, the Tear Town!

What I'd like to know now is how it came by that name.

I must make a point of revisiting Sutherland once the new signs go up there.

Ronald Cameron, Whinknowe, Banavie.

More letters on page 13

Islay Letter

Local Mod

ORGANISERS of Mod Ile 2008, taking place in the local high school on Saturday June 7 at 10am, are greatly heartened by the large increase in the numbers taking part in the senior section this year.

Two decades have passed since the event featured so many adults and among them are local singers and participants from Edinburgh and Glasgow. Among the latter is Glasgow Islay Gaelic Choir and numbers in the junior classes have been greatly boosted by entries from Glasgow Islay Junior Gaelic Choir.

Entries in the junior section have always been encouraging and this year is no exception with mainland Argyll and Lanarkshire being represented on the Mod programme. Coisir Ghaidhlig Ile will also be much to the fore.

Competitions over, the successful entrants will strut their stuff at the prizewinners' concert in the high school assembly hall on the same evening at 7.30pm. Concert admission is £5 and the guest chairman will be Alan Campbell, a Gaelic activist, adjudicator and former head of Radio nan Gaidheal.

Kirk quiz

A SERIES of general knowledge quizzes entitled 'QuizAid' and sponsored by Christian Aid tested country-wide erudition last week.

The Islay congregations also got into the act with Kilarrow and Kildalton and Oa parish churches, along with local Baptists, going through their paces at the Masonic Lodge in Port Ellen.

Three teams battled it out with the spoils of victory going to 'The Killjoys' featuring Marian Senior, Isobel and David Hardie of the Round Kirk and Danka and Donald Ramsay of Port Ellen's St John's Church. I took up the cudgels for Bowmore and while not particularly knowledgable was certainly encouraging.

Episcopal minister the Rev Ken Skipper was the firm but fair question master and the Baptists were in a commendable second place.

The congregations of Kilmeny and Kilchoman and Portnahaven strutted their stuff on the same evening in the Bruichladdich village where parish minister and quiz master the Rev Steve Fulcher kept all on the paths of righteousness.

The Rhinns victors were 'The Five Mouseketeers' and accepting the plaudits were Sybil and David Pomeroy, Etta Shaw and David and Fergus Muir.

Fèis concert

CLOSE on 100 supporters, many of them from overseas, attended the Fèis Ile 2008 opening concert in Ionad Chaluim Chille Ile.

Festival committee member Morag MacDougall was in overall charge of the proceedings, I was fear an taighe and the programme featured a number of local artistes whose performances pleased both locals and festival visitors.

Singing the Gaelic songs were Mod gold medallists Iseabail Mactaggart and Robert Forrest along with local favourite Robert Baker and singer and intrepid walker Iain MacPherson, fresh from tramping the 105 miles that make up the Kintyre Way.

Making her Islay concert debut was Bronwen Currie who recently took up residence in Conisby and hails from Dalkeith, and everyone enjoyed the fresh young voices of Bowmore Primary School Choir, led by Helen Gillies.

It was a busy night for Helen who also sang solo and duets with her sister Janey Torrance who was also among the solo singing performers.

Ballygrant songstress Libby Morris delighted as always as did the various dances nimbly performed by the well costumed Mairi MacGillivray and Megan Hastings of the Ella Edgar dancing troupe.

The supper spread excelled, raffle prizes were varied and the event provided an enjoyable opening to the island's 22nd annual festival of music and malt.

Congratulations

GOOD wishes to Church of Scotland Reader Angela Stather and her husband Chris, a Dunlossit Estates' employee, who celebrated 25 years of marriage last week.

Everyone wishes the silver celebrants many further happy days together.

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

Letters to the Editor

Glenforsa flying high

Sir,
I am the owner of a vintage plane and have just returned from a holiday in the Oban area flying around the most magnificent scenery to be found anywhere in the British Isles.

The best airfield, in my opinion, also lies in the same area.

Glenforsa, the grass strip on Mull, sits centre stage on the shore of the Sound of Mull and offers the perfect flying destination for southerners.

Immediately behind the airfield is a hotel willing to accommodate the varying needs of a flying visitor. Without having to first catch a bus or hire a car, which is the usual practice with airfields situated some distance from habitation, I can walk straight into the hotel and use all of its pleasant services or simply pitch a tent on the airfield and avail myself of the hotel's toilet and washing facilities, obtain fresh water or the more alcohol infused variety in the hotel bar!

Oban's upgraded airport with its supply of aviation fuel offers an excellent base from which to tour the Hebridean Islands and the newly laid Tarmac strips on Coll and Colonsay make visiting these islands that much safer and easier.

I'd just like to say congratulations to Argyll and Bute Council for providing, maintaining and charging reasonable rates for the use of these airfields. This is a positive step in boosting a facet of tourism that is usually overlooked.

John Rickett, Grainthorpe, Louth, Lincolnshire.

Bus route competition welcome

Sir,
We welcome competition between CityLink and West Coast Motors as it may bring down fares.

It is great we have more bus services but it would have made far more sense for the times to be different rather than 10 minutes difference.

A mid morning bus would have been far better as there is nothing between 7.45am and 12.35pm.

Mrs Bichener, Thornloe Guest House, Oban.

Working hard on ferries

Sir,
It is a rare honour to appear not once but twice in McCaig's column 'A View From The Tower' and I feel I must reciprocate by mentioning him in your letters page.

To answer the main points, of course, I have been working closely with Transport Minister Stewart Stevenson and your dynamo local MSP Jim Mather to ensure that Scottish ferry services meet EU criteria. These criteria are designed to ensure fairness, value for money for the taxpayer and promote as good a service as possible for the communities and businesses which rely on the service.

It is safe to say that Scotland's ferry services can do better and the poisonous guddle of years of Lib Dem transport ministers has taken some clearing. I'm not one for posturing and it was for this reason I invited the European Commissioner to start proceedings against an SNP Minister. I believe Sir Humphrey would call it a 'courageous' decision, but we want this fixed and after meeting the Transport Commissioner in Edinburgh I'm confident we will get there.

Scotland has nothing to fear from arguing our case in a formal legal setting and I will be with Jim and Stewart every step of the way.

On Road Equivalent Tariff, the pilot scheme announced is just that, a pilot, and a pilot can hardly apply everywhere. It staggers me that some politicians, chiefly of a LibDem hue, are more intent on fermenting synthetic discontent and scuppering the pilot than in encouraging the successful roll out of the eventual scheme to all areas that need it.

I've even invented a new verb 'sniding' from the sidelines, preferring to anonymously brief through gossip columns when they themselves had eight years to deliver something and singularly failed to do so.

I, like your local MSP and Scotland's government, am ruthlessly focussed on delivering for the people of Scotland, and getting on with the job. I will let others deal in anonymous sniping, though would gently suggest that spitting poison in every direction is not much of a contribution to Scotland's future and a more fruitful input would be a period of apologetic silence while we get on with the job of delivering for all of Scotland's islands.

Alyn Smith MEP, European Parliament, Brussels, Belgium.

View from the tower obscured

Sir,
There must be a low mist descending over Oban as it would appear that the View From The Tower is becoming somewhat obscured.

McCaig's comments regarding Jim Mather's understanding of the bread and butter issues affecting ordinary people are the utterings of someone who has completely lost sight of what's happening on the ground.

It may be easy to hide behind an alias and snipe at those in the public eye, however, politics is about active engagement with people and that's what Jim Mather is all about.

Argyll and Bute lacked this with Jim's predecessor. Whilst the Lib Dems are still reeling after last year's spanking at the polls, Jim is proving to be a breath of fresh air and I could line up many from my own ward who would testify to his hard work, accessibility and ability to get things done, particularly on the issues affecting ordinary people to which McCaig refers.

If McCaig wishes to engage in politics, he should come out from behind his alias and let us know who he is and where his political relationships and allegiances lie. If not, the fog will continue to thicken for his readers.

Ron Simon, SNP councillor Cowal.

First Responders training

Sir,
With reference to last week's article 'Heart response still stalling after seven years', the Scottish Ambulance Service (SAS) spokesman was incorrect in saying that our first responders was not a unit that had been set up or run by the SAS.

From the beginning, our training was from the Scottish Ambulance Service and nurses from Oban's Lorn and Islands District General Hospital.

Marilyn Henderson, secretary, Avich and Kilchrenan Community Council.

One-off market?

Sir,
Thanks to Argyll and Bute Council for allowing the recent Continental Market to go ahead in the former Rockfield Primary School grounds.

Many people were asking if they were coming again but the stallholders were more subdued as they want to come back next year but have been told by Argyll and Bute Council there is nowhere for them to go.

Is this the case?

Mrs Bichener, Thornloe Guest House, Oban.

Fantastic event

Sir,
I write to congratulate the organisers of the recent fantastic Continental Market.

What an ideal site the old Rockfield Primary School playground made for this event.

The restrictions imposed by the playground's boundary walls only contributed to its success by focussing the entry into it to a single main access and concentrating the market into one area, rather than allowing it to disperse over a larger undefined area, which would have diluted the atmosphere created by the stalls being placed in structured rows. This encouraged people to visit each stall as they circulated and wandered through the market.

Let's hope that further open area markets are held at this venue.

Perhaps the council and education department might be encouraged to allow the boarded up old temporary classroom blocks to be re-opened for future autumn, Christmas and Easter market/fairs, thereby providing additional accommodation for traders whose goods might otherwise be spoilt by inclement weather.

Christopher Liversedge, Grianach Gardens, Oban.

Baroness Ray Michie

Sir,
I looked after Baroness Ray Michie during her illness in Oban's Lorn and Islands District General Hospital as part of the surgical team.

We exchanged views on international affairs and she was magnaminous in not exposing my lack of understanding of international politics.

She was very nice and I feel privileged I knew her. She will be missed.

D Das, Lorn and Islands District General Hospital, Oban.

Postal charges

Sir,
The rather sad letter from J D Douglas, letters May 29, deserves a robust response, not just from the slandered people from Ballachulish but all users of Royal Mail.

Does he not realise that the universal postal system that is in operation in the United Kingdom as in most other countries including Australia, Canada and India, which he so selfishly wishes to break, is what has bound this great country together for over a century and a half.

Many island people who have moved to the mainland can, quite rightly, keep in touch by Royal Mail as a result of the universal rate.

Privatisation of the railways does not seem to have brought any benefits for Oban rail users. Indeed none of the promised extra services has materialised only many extra buses to Glasgow.

Colin MacLean, Hillpark Avenue, Edinburgh.

The Rev Norman MacSween

Sir,
I am sure many readers appreciated the fine obituary to the Rev Norman MacSween in *The Oban Times* of May 29.

His love of angling was mentioned, but was a considerable understatement. Norman was a passionate and successful salmon fisher who had few equals. One story sums this up.

On arrival at the loch one afternoon, he baited his hook with worms, his preferred, though less fashionable, lure. First cast, a fine salmon; second cast, another; third cast and three salmon lay on the bank. At this point, the Rev MacSween was about to bait his hook again, but wondered if the Lord was perhaps tempting him with the sin of greed?

A dilemma. After a time he decided to cast out a bare, unbaited hook, which he left in the water for some time, with no success - not surprisingly!.

Reassured, Norman baited his hook again, but the rest of the day produced no more fish.

Sandy Wilson, Drimvargie Hill, Oban.

Inconsiderate driving

Sir,
On my way to Oban recently, I passed a road sign which said frustration can cause accidents.

After passing through Callendar, at Kilmahog, I joined a convoy of slow moving traffic. On a straight stretch of road I was able to see who was orchestrating this convoy. It was an camper van, followed by a 4 x 4 and caravan with little space between them. When half chances appeared motorists who were behind it made a dash for it, often with flashing of headlights from on-coming traffic.

After travelling at an average speed of 25 to 30 miles per hour, my chance came, well past the junction for Killin. At no time did the drivers of these vehicles think about pulling off the road to let some of the 'frustrated' traffic behind them get past.

In the Northern Police area, such drivers would be prosecuted. In my opinion the drivers were driving without due consideration for other road users. While accepting that the police are stretched, I would bet that the overtaking motorist is more likely to be prosecuted that the cause of frustration. I drove a campervan in New Zealand earlier this year and if three vehicles were behind me I pulled off at the earliest opportunity to let them pass.

Brian Smith, Carlisle.

No fare change for islanders

Sir,
It seems to me the idea of Road Equivalent Tariff (RET) has evolved from a misconception held by mainland government that island residents/businesses would like to see more tourists visiting their locality.

The fact there are more visitors in the tourism season than Coll or Tiree can comfortably accommodate seems lost on, or unimportant to, the decision makers.

As a resident, giving island visitors reduced rates of travel seems to me a complete waste of money and if an attempt is to be made to cheapen fares for travellers it should be only to benefit island residents who have expensive living costs and no choice in how they access the rest of the UK. Doing away with the discounted three return books of tickets for islanders will mean that the only people really benefiting from RET are hauliers and tourists. Effectively fares will be the same for islanders as they were before RET, give or take a few quid on a single or return. This is iniquitous and unacceptable.

Where was the island consultation prior to decision making? We have a higher than average fish oil component in our diet out here so perhaps in future the powers that be should make better use of the rare national treasure that resides between our ears.

Peter Isaacson, Coll.

The Oban Times scales the heights in Nepal

Colin Crawford reading *The Oban Times* at Kala Patthar, 5,545 metres above Everest Base Camp, with Mount Everest in the background. Colin was on a fund-raising trek in Nepal for the British Heart Foundation and raised more than £3,000 for research. Colin thanks everyone who supported him. Any further donations can be sent to The British Heart Foundation, c/o The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. Please keep sending in your photos of The Oban times being read in far flung or unusual places. Please also keep sending in flashback photos.

A View From The Tower

By McCAIG

Moving forward in a big way

NOW THAT the test flight by Highland Airways has found no unexpected problems at the newly licensed airport and airstrips, scheduled services to and from Oban, Colonsay, Tiree and Coll will start soon.

Indeed, Councillor Duncan MacIntyre, the local authority's transport spokesperson and chairman of Hitrans, tells me there is a queue of eager fliers who want to be on the first flight to Tiree.

Talking to him at the weekend, he said that the licensing of the three airports by the Civil Aviation Authority has opened up all sorts of prospects for better and faster air travel to and from Oban and the islands.

'The next phase,' he said, 'is the development of Broadford Airport and flights to and from Skye and Islay to Inverness and probably to Prestwick as Glasgow Airport is busting at the seams.'

Sceptics may say where is the demand for all this air activity?

The answer is to look at the undoubted success of Lomond Seaplanes, which are adding extra flights almost daily.

And these services don't have the subsidy enjoyed by Highlands and Islands routes.

Argyll - 'The Sea Kingdom'

BRIGADIER John MacFarlane has a series of talks, which I hope he will turn into a book.

The general title is 'Argyll the Sea Kingdom' and in it he explains just how important sea routes were back in the time of Saint Columba. Once again the sea is coming into its own as far as the whole of the West Highlands are concerned.

Looking to the future, if the price of oil continues to rise and demand, immaterial of the cost, does likewise the oil fields to the west of Scotland and North of Northern Ireland will become importantly viable.

Oban (International) Airport will need a second runway to cope with just the secondary service base - all that Oban could hope to become - traffic. And this takes no account of the ever-increasing volume of private fliers who come from Europe to sail, fish and shoot.

The phrase 'the finest unspoilt cruising grounds in Europe' is spoken by so many sailors who find the delights of sailing among the Inner and Outer Hebrides as the best form of relaxation they know.

Even if the weather changes there's always a handy harbour nearby and inevitably a welcoming inn with fine seafood and drinks to complement it.

But there's another way to see the Hebrides in considerable luxury and that is from the comfort of one of the increasing number of luxury liners that cruise our waters. Trouble is that where the lie-alongside harbour facilities are available the scenery is not the most attractive. Oban would love to have liners lying alongside but our harbour isn't all that big and there are a growing number of demands on it.

I'm told there are solutions, which might not be too palatable to some existing harbour users, but if we want to get back Oban's upmarket image - that's how prosperity is created.

For real success we need to get away from the bus tour mentality.

Beavers - let's wait and see

IT WAS inevitable that the Scottish executive would grant a licence for European beavers to be re-introduced after an absence of several hundred years as Environment Minister Mike Russell had committed himself even before the consultation period had been announced.

However, the arrival of these creatures in Knapdale at some time in the future is not all that those who want them there would want.

Before, during and after they have been and possibly gone the rules and restrictions are pretty strigent, as they should be. I don't believe that there's much harm to be done by them but, as they are nocturnal, I don't see where the eco-tourism comes in.

However, those who don't want beavers - if we ever had them - and other wild creatures brought back to roam our fields and woods have found an admirable champion in Sir Jamie McGrigor, a Highlands and Islands List Tory MSP. He makes very valid points: where is the proof that there ever were beavers in Scotland as any traces of them are in the Thames valley.

He asks very sensibly: why all this fuss about these nocturnal creatures when no attention is shown by the Scottish Wildlife Trust and Scottish Natural Heritage to promoting that beautiful indigenous creature, the otter?

Coast - two awards in two years

MANY know that Coast is an excellent restaurant in Oban's George Street that has won more than its fair share of top awards in its young life.

Chef/patron Richard Fowler has done it again: got his first AA Red Rosette last year and his second last week.

Congratulations from everyone who enjoys your food.

McCaig

Overwhelmed by generosity of Lochaber people

Sir,
After 25 years as fund-raiser for Marie Curie in Lochaber, it is with reluctance and sadness I have decided to retire.

During my years as fund-raiser, I have frequently been overwhelmed by the generosity of the people of Lochaber with their donations of money, their time and support. Many volunteers have given generously of their time to the many fund-raising activities over the years ranging from dances, boot sales, bag packing in supermarkets, selling daffodils and coffee mornings to mention but a few of the many social fund-raising activities.

A great amount of money has been donated by families of deceased by way of collections at funerals and by cheques from family members often in appreciation of nursing undertaken by Marie Curie nurses to terminally ill patients in their homes.

I would like to thank each and every one for their help as without their assistance my work would have been so much more difficult and less successful. Any further donations should be sent to Elma MacKay at Marie Curie Cancer Care, 'The Gateway', 1a Millburn Road, Inverness, IV2 3PX. Telephone 01463 238328.

Margaret T Clelland, Kilmallie Road, Caol.

New Year celebration clean-up appeal

Sir,
Regarding the New Year celebrations I, like most people, enjoyed very much the celebrations and the fireworks which by far excelled the usual activities, the fireworks being exceptional.

But perhaps event organisers could clear up the rubbish. Most residents of the 'Hydro' area do a brilliant job of clearing up after the drinking parties that go on most weekends and I, as a regular visitor almost daily to that area, do my share to clean up. People walking up there will notice the absence of rubbish. This is down to hard work by a dedicated few but I feel I must point out that the residue of last New Year's fire works are still lying around the area.

I rese`nt the fact that people dump rubbish everywhere and to me this is as bad as flytipping, and I feel that an example should be set and perhaps after this year's celebrations the organisers could clean up last year's rubbish too.

I Kirkpatrick, Soroba, Oban.

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.

Dalmally gears up for 2008 show

AFTER last year's disappointment, when its agricultural show was cancelled, Dalmally is gearing up for this year's event on September 6.

The list of judges for the show at Mart Park has been completed which has more than a west coast flavour.

Show secretary is Susan McLaughlin of Castles Estate, Dalmally;
Umpire is Mr F Ronald of Tyndrum;
Highland Cattle: Mr D MacDonald, Skye;
Galloway Cattle: Mr J Christie, Lochdochart;
Commercial cattle: Mr I MacInnes, Tiree;
Blackfaced Sheep: Mr J Wood, Broughton;
Dogs: Mrs C Russel, Portsonachan;
Poultry: Mr W Neilson, Taynuilt;
Photography: Mr C Harris, Oban;
Pet Snaps: Mr R Prestidge, Dalmally;
Baking: Mrs I Campbell, Fort William;
Preserves: Mrs M Fergusson, Oban;
Home Industries: Mrs B Simpson, Dunkeld;
Horticulture: Mr T Macrae, Ardrishaig;
Floral Art: Mrs J Wilkinson, Taynuilt;
Paintings/Children: Mrs L Frost, Killin.

Sheep report welcomed by crofters

THE Scottish Crofting Foundation (SCF) has welcomed the adoption of the Aylward Report on the sheep industry by the European Parliament's agriculture committee.

The report, by Irish MEP Liam Aylward, calls for action by the Eurpoean Commission to reverse the decline in sheep numbers.

Mr Aylward proposes a range of measures to boost the sector including environmental payments for sheep retention, specific support for native and traditional breeds and a task force to work on the viability and competitiveness of the industry.

Welcoming the move SCF chairman Neil MacLeod said: 'It is indeed heartening that this sensible, practical, down-to-earth report has been accepted unanimously by the powerful EU agriculture committee.

'The mid-term health check on the common agricultural policy offers the opportunity to translate Liam Aylward's recommendations into actions which could offer a lifeline to sheep producers in Scotland's hills and islands.'

MEP offers to take it on the chin during meeting with local farmers

MSP Alyn Smith

MEMBER of the European Parliament, Alyn Smith, is asking National Farmers Union Scotland (NFUS) members to 'chin him' when he visits Oban next month.

Mr Smith, who is also a member of the European Parliament's agriculture committee, made the statement as he announced a nationwide programme of surgeries. The working title of the programme of meetings is the 'ask me, tell me, chin me tour'.

The meetings will be an opportunity for NFUS members to raise any issue of concern with Mr Smith, to ask what action is underway in Brussels and to if necessary demand changes to European Union policies.

Mr Smith, who will be holding his surgery for the Argyll and Islands region in Oban on July 25, said: 'I'm delighted NFUS has been able to set this up, and pleased as ever to be working closely with them. After 16 months on the agriculture committee I hope I have a pretty good handle on my remit, but there is no substitute for getting out and speaking to the people who work in the industry.

'We're being slightly provocative with the title of the programme, but that is the idea. I'll make myself available to the members in every NFUS region, with no subjects or issues off limits.

'I think that there is a recognition amongst the farmers of Scotland that the SNP government in Scotland is making a real difference to farming and rural life, and as an SNP MEP I'm proud to be representing Scotland in the Agriculture Committee. But we can always do more, and there are certainly plenty of real issues in the pipeline here in Brussels.

'I urge any NFU members who have any questions or problems they want to discuss with me to come along to their nearest surgery.'

Jim McLaren, NFUS president, said: 'Many Scots find it difficult to understand the complicated workings of the European Union institutions and yet their effect on Scottish farming is hugely significant.

'We recognise the vital work Alyn Smith carries out on behalf of all Scottish farmers and his grasp of the issues is second to none.

'Alyn Smith is giving up nine days of his summer recess to spend with members in each of NFU Scotland's nine regions and I hope that many of our members will participate in their nearest event as it is such a good opportunity to put across any issues you may have. NFU Scotland is in frequent contact with the country's seven MEPs and we are fortunate that they work very well together as a team.'

Anyone wishing to attend or requiring further information should get in touch with Sarah Anderson at NFU Scotland on 0131 472 4010.

Canna Shorthorn heifers to 213.4p per kilo at Fort William

FORT WILLIAM, Dingwall and Highland Marts Ltd sold 337 store cattle, 39 breeding cattle, 29 OTM cattle and 855 sheep at Fort William on Friday.

A full ringside of buyers witnessed a fast trade at the annual June sale for all classes of store and breeding cattle and sheep.

Bullocks averaged 158p and sold to 199.3p per kg for a pen of 281kg Charolais crosses from Moy Farm, Fort William and £700 for a 433kg Charolais cross from Keppoch Farms, Arisaig.

Heifers averaged 151.2p and sold to 213.4p per kg and £830 for a 389kg Shorthorn from National Trust for Scotland, Isle of Canna

Breeding cattle sold to £920 for a Shorthorn cow with Shorthorn cross heifer calf at foot, from Ardsliginish.

Over 30 Month cattle averaged 109.2p per kg and sold to 124.3p per kg for a 543kg Limousin cross from Fuinary, Ardgour, and £885 for a 732kg Limousin cross from Moy Farm.

Store lambs sold to £39 gross for Cheviots from Mandally, Invergarry.

Feeding ewes sold to £31.50 for Blackfaces from Ardnamurchan Estates, Kilchoan.

Feeding rams sold to £31 for a Cheviot from Kilmonivaig, Spean Bridge.

Ewes and hoggs with lambs at foot sold to £90 per head for Cheviot ewes with twin Suffolk cross lambs from Drumbuie, Drumnadrochit.

Islay Belgian Blue heifer sells to £840 at Stirling

UNITED Auctions sold 238 store cattle at Stirling last Wednesday.

Bullocks averaged 150.14p (-3.76p) and sold to 178.1p per kg for a 233kg Aberdeen Anus cross from Townhead of Drumley and £915 for a 612kg Simmental cross from Oatridge.

Heifers averaged 147.03p (+3.37p) and sold to 196.4p per kg for a 308kg Limousin cross from Hill of Arnmore and £840 or 159.7p per kilo for a 526kg Belgian Blue cross from Blackrock, Isle of Islay.

Bulls sold to £1,110 for a Belgian Blue from Starchmill, Islay of Islay

Cast cows averaged 114.3p to 155p for a Limousin cross from Sketewan and £1,155 for a Limousin cross from the same home.

The firm also sold 491 sheep with Blackface hoggs from Glenniston selling to £49.50.

Cheviot ewes with twins at foot from Bowleys sold to £115, with Mule hoggs with lamb at foot from Gibbalston selling to £112.

Suffolk lambs to £90.50 at Stirling prime sale

UNITED Auctions sold 2292 prime sheep including 481 lambs 1034 hoggs and 777 ewes and rams at Stirling last Thursday.

Suffolk lambs from Easter Middleton sold to £90.50 with Texels from Northfield to £90.

Texel hoggs from Baleave sold to £67 with Blackfaces from Scart topping at 140p per kilo.

The trophy presentation party at Lochaber Agricultural Society's (LAS) stock judging competition. At rear, L.A.S treasurer John Macintosh, judge John Junor, LAS chairman Malcolm Cameron and Hugh MacDonald (open competition winner). Centre, L.A.S. secretary Pam Weller, Maxine Russell (who presented the trophies) and Ann MacDonald (ladies winner). At front, junior winners Chloe and Cheyenne Cameron f23mart01

A ringside of buyers witnessed a fast trade at the annual June sale of cattle and sheep at Fort William last Friday f23auc01

Lochaber hosts annual stock night

'I think even the people who were not involved in farming truly enjoyed their evening.'

LOCHABER Agricultural Society held a successful annual stock judging competition at Ben Nevis Auction Mart, Aonach Mor, on Saturday evening.

Over 50 competitors were invited to judge eight pens of sheep and cattle and find an overall champion from quality stock brought in by local farmers.

Judge John Junor ranked each group of four animals first to fourth as chairman Malcolm Cameron from Strone Farm invited competitors to fill in their cards accordingly to try to match Mr Junor's assessment.

Much light-hearted banter ensued as the judge justified his selections and many agreed with his choice of overall champion – a fine Limousin heifer from Gordon Cameron, Acharacle.

The company then enjoyed a sumptious supper in the tearoom with tables groaning with home baking before returning to the auction ring for the raffle.

Malcolm Cameron told *The Oban Times* the society made £350, which will go towards staging the agricultural show on August 23.

'I think even the people who were not involved in farming truly enjoyed their evening. We had to change the date at quite short notice, so we are very pleased with what we made. We are always looking for more competitiors, though,' he said.

Mr Cameron thanked everybody involved in organising, contributing, judging and sponsoring the event – and all those who attended.

Cattle were supplied by Gordon Cameron, Acharacle; Donald Campbell, Camaghael; Malcolm Cameron, Strone and Dr Berradelli, Great Glen Cattle Ranch.

Sheep were contributed by Mrs CD MacColl and Sons, Insh; Lee MacNally, Glenquoich; David MacLeod, Glen Gloy and Iain MacColl, Mamore Farm.

The competition was run by the Lochaber Agricultural Society in conjunction with Dingwall Auction Mart.

Results:
Michael Carmichael Memorial Cup – Hugh MacDonald; 2nd, Ann MacDonald; 3rd, Colin Cameron
West Highland Oil Company Cup – 1st equal, Chloe and Cheyenne Cameron
Ladies Cup – Ann MacDonald

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Prime lambs and ewes meet improved trade at Dingwall

DINGWALL, Dingwall & Highland Marts Ltd sold 980 sheep of all classes at Dingwall last Wednesday when feeding and prime lambs and ewes met an improved trade. A lesser quality show of ewes and lambs eased in demand.

Store lambs sold to £56 for a pen of five Charollais from Ballicherry Farm, Balblair.

Ewes and hoggs with lambs at foot sold to £90 for Cheviot ewes with Texel cross lambs from Eilean Darrach Farm Company, Dundonnell.

Feeding ewes averaged £31.07 and sold to £69 for Texels from 8 Noble's Court, Muir of Ord while feeding rams averaged £39.30 and sold to £53 for a Cheviot from Achley Farm, Dornoch.

Wedders averaged £29 and sold to £38 for Cheviots from 27 Portgower, Helmsdale.

Texel spring lambs sell to £98 at Stirling sale

UNITED Auctions sold 2352 prime sheep including 305 spring lambs,1552 hoggs and 522 ewes and rams at Stirling.

Texel spring lambs from Longyester sold to £98 and 211.1p per kilo Oldwalls. Charollais from West Brochloch sold to £96 or 200p per kilo.

Texel hoggs from West Meikle Pinkerton sold to £78 with Blackfaces from Mid Lodge to £70.50 and 155p per kilo from St Mungoes. Mules from Kilmaho sold to £68.

Texel ewes from Oldwalls fetched £79.50 with Suffolks from Alton of Bandeath to £71, Blackface ewes from Newton of Logierait fetched £35.

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Market reports

FORT WILLIAM - Dingwall and Highland Marts

Bullocks up to 250kg – Keppoch Farms, £450, 181.5p; 251-300kg – Moy Farms, £560, Glendoe Estates, Fort Augustus, 175.7p; 301-350kg – Moy Farms, £600, The Braes, Boquhapple, 180.4p; 351-400kg – Moy Farm, £680, 186.3p; 401-450kg – Balmacaan, Drumnadrochit, £630, Keppoch Farms, 161.7p; 451-500kg – 4 Back of Keppoch, Arisaig, £685, 146.7p.

Heifers up to 250kg – Keil Farm, Ardgour, £460, Glendoe Estates, 193.6p; 251-300kg – Rychraggan, Drumnadrochit, £480, 7 Back of Keppoch, Arisaig, 169.1p; 301-350kg – Ardtornish Farms, £670, The Braes, 202p; 351-400kg – The Braes, £640, Ardtornish Farms, 160.2p; 401-450kg – Isle of Canna, £780, 187.1p; 451-500kg – Balmacaan, £735, 162.6p; 501-550kg – Isle of Muck Farms, £670, 126.7p.

Cows with male calf at foot: Lim – Insh Farm, Spean Bridge, £900; SimX – Mamore, Fort William, £780; Sho – 18 Blarmafoldach, Fort William, £620.

Cows with heifer calf at foot: SimX – 18 Blarmafoldach, £820; LimX – Insh Farm, £760; ShoX – Ardsliginish, £750; AAX – Clovullin, Ardgour, £740.

Beef cows:
Isle of Muck, Blarachourainn Estate, Fort William, Fuinary, (LimX) £675; Ardtornish Farms, (Lim), Drumbuie, Drumnadrochit (AAX), £635; Blarachourainn Estate, (SaX), £615.

Leading prices per kg
Beef cows: Ardtornish Farms, (Lim) (AA), 122.8p; Moy Farm, 120.9p; Ardtornish Farms, 120.2p
Lambs:
BF – 2 Treslaig, Fort William, £37; Chev – Strone Farm, Banavie, £35; Cross – Blarour, Fort William, £30.50.

Breeding Sheep: Twins: Chev – Drumbuie, £90; Cross – Dykelands, Fort William, £84; Jcb – Drumbuie, £64; Mule – Callart Farm, Onich, £60; BF – Drumbuie, £59. Lamb and a half: Chev – 7 Ferindonald, Isle of Skye, £61.

Feeding sheep: Ewes: Chev – Kilmonivaig, £27.50; Cross – Mamore, £23.50; BF – Ardnamurchan Estates, £21. Rams: BF – Keppoch Farms, £27; Chev – Strone Farm, £25.

DINGWALL Dingwall and Highland Marts

Store lambs:
Cheviot: 27 Portgower, £51
TexelX:17 Englishtonmuir, Bunchrew, £51
SuffolkX : Mountpleasant, Rosemarkie, £48;
CHM – Cambusmore Estate, Dornoch, £44;
Cross – Cambusmore Estate, £35
Mule – 25 Fairmuir Road, Muirof Ord, £35
Blackface: Rychraggan, Drumnadrochit, £33.50.
Ewes and hoggs with lambs at foot:
Cheviot: Shoreton Farms, Culbokie, (twins), £85
SuffolkX: Shoreton Farms, (twins), £80
Texel: 1 Bindal Farm Cottage, (singles), £56.
Feeding ewes:
Suffolk: East Croachy, Aberarder, £61.50
Texel: Easter Templand Farm, Fortrose, £60
SuffolkX: – Redhill, Allanfearn, £51.50
Cheviot: Lower Gledfield, Ardgay, £51
Charollais: Whitebog, Rosemarkie, £49
BFL:Whitebog, £48;
Cross – Mountpleasant, £46
Mule: Redfield, North Kessock, £39
Blackface: Buntait Farm, Glenurquhart, £33.
Feeding rams:
Suffolk:Whitebog, £47
Cheviot: Teawig, Beauly, £44.50;
Lleyn: Dunlichity Farm, Farr, £40.

STIRLING - United Auctions

Up to 250kgs Townhead of Drumley £415, 178.1p; 251-300kgs Dunruchan £475, Bowleys 168.6p; 301-350kgs Toward Point £575, 172.7p; 351-400kgs Hill of Arnmore £605, 169.5p; 401-450kgs Auchleskine £665, 153.6p; 451-500kgs Lochend £725, 151.3p; 501-550kgs Oatridge £825, 151.7p; 551-600kgs Toward Point £830, 148.7p; 601-650kgs Oatridge £915, Lochmill 150.3p
Heifers
Up to 250kgs Edinbeg £410 ,170.8p; 251-300kgs Auchleskine £465, Bowleys 164.1p; 301-350kgs Hill of Arnmore £605, Bowleys 196.4p; 351-400kgs Muirend £610, 165.3p; 401-450kgs Hill £655, Townhead of Drumley 154.7p; 451-500kgs Lochmill £675, 146.7p; 501-550kgs Blackrock, Islay £840, 159.7p.
Cows (128)
Sketewan (Lim) £1155; Craigend (AA) £895; Kepculloch (BB) and Nyadd (HF) £845; Preston (Sim) £835; Howfold (BF) £775; Halkerston (Sal) £765; Kepculloch (HO) £755; Barbarafield (Sh) £725; Luss (Lui) £655.
Sketewan (Lim) 155p; Preston (Sim)136p; Craigend (AA) 124.3p; Kepculloch (BB) 124.2p; Halkerston (Sal) 117.3p; Howfold (BF) 115p; Barbarafield (Sh) 114p; Luss (Lui) 107p; Kepculloch (Ho) 106p; Nyadd (HF) 105.4p.
Bulls Strachmill, Islay (BB) £1110, 124.4p
Store Sheep (491)
Glenniston BF Hoggs £49.50
Gibbalston Mule ewe hoggs & Las £112
Bowleys Chev ewes & twin las £115; Newhalls TexX ewes & twin las £108; TexX ewes & single las £102; High Craigton X ewes & twin las £75; Tullochcroisk BF ewes & twin las £58; Newhalls BF ewes & single lambs £49.

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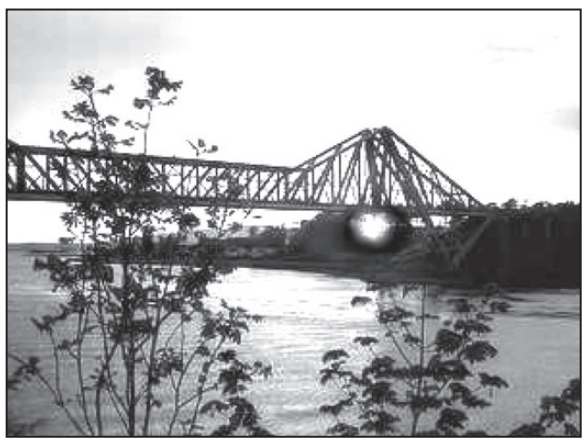

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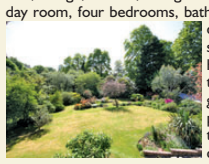
DALNAGLAR, LAUREL ROAD, OBAN

Well presented detached bungalow situated amongst mature and well established gardens close to the town centre and local amenities. Generously proportioned accommodation comprising: Hall, lounge, kitchen, dining room/5th bedroom, library/day room, four bedrooms, bathroom and W.C. Partial double glazing. Night storage heating. Under house store-room. Mature and well established gardens extending to approximately three quarters of an acre. Gravel driveway. Integral single garage. Timber shed and adjacent lean-to wood store. Possible development potential subject to all necessary consents.



Offers over £255,000

SOUTH LEDAIG FARMHOUSE, BY OBAN

Recently renovated and extensively upgraded three bedroom detached farmhouse situated close to Oban and enjoying lovely views across the Firth of Lorn and towards the Island of Lismore. The well presented and spacious accommodation comprises: Entrance porch, hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen, sun room, three bedrooms (one en-suite), box room, bathroom and washroom. Double glazed. L.P.G central heating. Easily maintained garden ground to rear. Off street parking. Full Planning Permission was granted on 21 February 2006 (Ref: 05/01972/COU) for a partial change of use from a guest house to tea room and shop with erection of a disabled toilet. A copy of the planning consent is available from the sole selling agents and all relevant enquiries should be made to Argyll and Bute Council **Fixed Price £249,950**

17 MOSSFIELD DRIVE, OBAN

Recently refurbished and modernised two bedroom semi-detached property in a popular residential area only minutes from the town centre amenities. Well proportioned accommodation over two floors comprising: Entrance hall, living room, kitchen, two bedrooms, bathroom and W.C. Fully double glazed. Gas central heating. Mono block driveway. Established garden to the rear. **Offers over £149,000**

BUILDING PLOT BY LYNWOOD, LONGSDALE ROAD, OBAN

An opportunity to acquire a most desirable building plot in Oban situated in a pleasant residential area and occupying a delightful rural location. Convenient for the town centre and local amenities. The site has the benefit of Outline Planning Consent for the erection of a single dwelling house. The site extends to approximately 0.207 acres (0.083 ha). Mains water, mains drainage and electricity are available for connection close by

Offers over £105,000

Chartered Surveyors Land and Estate Agents
2 Gibraltar Street, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4AY
T: 00 44 (0) 1631 566 122
F: 00 44 (0) 1631 564 764
enquiries@dmkestates.co.uk
www.dmkestates.co.uk
primelocation.com

Alexander DAWSON

PONY PARK, BENDERLOCH, BY OBAN

For Sale: A most appealing **Detached Bungalow** offering excellent family accommodation in a delightful rural area with fine views over Loch Creran. Double glazing, low tariff electric heating. Comprising Garden Room, bright and spacious Lounge/Dining Room, Kitchen, Utility, 4 Bedrooms, Study/5th Bedroom, Bathroom. Garage and storage area. Easily maintained established garden of about 2/3 of an acre. **Offers over £250,000.**

ARDBRECKNISH, LOCHAWESIDE

For Sale: A fine rural **Building Plot** extending to over ½ an acre and enjoying open views towards Loch Awe and to Ben Cruachan. Partly serviced, with detailed planning permission and building warrant approval for a single dwelling house. Further details on application. **Offers over £80,000.**

MOSSFIELD DRIVE, OBAN

For Sale: An appealing extended main door **Upper Flat** offering well appointed and easily managed accommodation convenient to the town centre and amenities. Double glazing, mains gas central heating. Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Bathroom, Shower Room, 2 Bedrooms. Good sized level garden. **Offers over £130,000.**

LISMORE HOUSE, OBAN

For Sale: A well appointed second floor **Apartment** in a prestigious town centre building. Double glazing, low tariff electric heating, secure entry, lift, private parking, contents included. Accommodation comprising Hall, Lounge/Dining Room, Kitchen, Bathroom, 2 Bedrooms. **Offers over £160,000.**

CUILFAIL GARDENS, KILMELFORD

For Sale: A modern, generously proportioned **Detached House** pleasantly situated in the heart of a popular and picturesque West Highland village. Double glazing, effective LPG central heating system. Comprising Porch, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Conservatory, 4 Bedrooms (one with En-Suite Shower Room), Bathroom, Cloakroom. Attractive established garden with ample parking. Garage. **Offers over £260,000.**

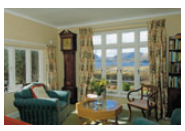
CLACHAN SEIL, BY OBAN

For Sale: A well presented **Mid-Terrace House** pleasantly situated in a popular rural community with open views over Seil Sound and beyond. Accommodation comprises Hall, Sitting Room, Kitchen, Bathroom, 2 Bedrooms, Box Room. Solid fuel central heating, double glazing. Attractive front and rear gardens. **Offers over £130,000.**

1 GEORGE STREET, OBAN, ARGYLL PA34 5RU
www.alexanderdawson.co.uk
Tel: 01631 563901 Fax: 01631 566778

Tel:01397 702433 BIDWELLS

Druimarbin Farmhouse
Druimarbin, Fort William



Set in a private and scenic location with breathtaking views over Loch Linnhe.

Acc. including; Drawing room, Dining room, Kitchen & Four Bedrooms.

Site extending to 0.882 ha (2.18 acres), including two additional outbuildings. A planning application has been submitted to convert the Dairy into a three bedroom annex. **Offers Over £395,000**

Tigh-Ard
3 Argyll Road, Fort William

Spacious detached house located in Fort William, offering views over Loch Linnhe.

Acc. including; Kitchen, Lounge, Dining Room & Six Bedrooms.

Set in garden grounds extending to 0.068 ha (0.17 acres). **Offers Over £235,000**

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mob 07887 575738

Fleetwood & Robb Solicitors Inverness Tel:01463 226232

DUN-MOR, GLENFINNAN

Spacious 1 ½ storey detached property set in the sought after Village of Glenfinnan. The property has been recently renovated and is now completed to a high standard. High quality fixtures and fittings have been used throughout and the property has a new kitchen, bathroom and shower room. Accommodation comprises lounge, kitchen, dining room, 4 bedrooms, shower room and bathroom. Double glazing and central heating.

Viewing by telephoning the seller on **07761 212894.** **Fixed price £215,000.**

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OBAN OFFICE ☎(01631) 562215

EILEAN BEAG, THE GRANARY, SOUTH LEDAIG

Opportunity to acquire semi detached property in a semi rural location. Set on two levels the accommodation comprises: *Upper floor* – Livingroom and kitchen. *Lower Floor* – 3 Bedrooms and bathroom. Good sized Area of garden ground.

Offers over £130,000

C & D Mactaggart
Solicitors
KINTYRE ESTATE AGENCY

FOR SALE

3 VICTORIA TERRACE, WITCHBURN ROAD, CAMPBELTOWN

This end-terraced stone built property has been sympathetically converted and is in immaculate condition. The spacious accommodation comprises hall, living room, kitchen/dining room, three bedrooms, bathroom and shower room. Viewing highly recommended.

GROUND FLOOR – MAIN DOOR FLAT, 35 GLEBE STREET, CAMPBELTOWN

This ground floor flat with own front door and back patio door is situated in a central location close to all amenities. The property has double glazing and electric storage heating. Hall, kitchen, living room, bedroom and bathroom. Shared courtyard and drying green.

Castlehill, Campbeltown, Argyll, PA28 6AR
Telephone (01586) 552317
Fax (01586) 554719
(24-Hour Answering Service)

57 Lochnell Street, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8JN
Telephone (01546) 602581
E-mail: mail@cdm-law.co.uk

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About 1.15 acres. **Prices start at o/o £150,000**
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Fax: 01397 701777
property@macphee.co.uk
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www.macphee.co.uk

We have a completely refurbished **Terrace Cottage, 2 bedrooms** and Loft Room in a sought after conservation area of Worsley, Manchester, England.
Asking price £195,000.
We are looking to re-locate to any of the following: Skye, Lochalsh and any areas around Fort William and Oban.
Interested parties please phone: Gary on 0161 799 3836 (evenings).

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3 Bedroom Flat
Colonsay Terrace, Oban
Excellent Condition
Offers Over £78,500
Telephone: 01631 569715

Property to Let
see page 16

For Sale
Orsa, Hawthorn Lane, Bowmore, Isle of Islay

This is a rare opportunity to buy a semi-detached, stone built house in the centre of Bowmore. It consists of a living room, dining room, two double bedrooms, box room, kitchen and bathroom; this is an ideal family home. There is a small, well established cottage garden, large garage and shed. The house is in easy walking distance of the shops and the schools. Early entry available.

Telephone Ray or Julie on 01496 810968 after 4 p.m.
Offers around £130,000

FOR SALE
3 Bedroom Chalet, 20' x 36' on uninterrupted views to Jura and Islay.
12 months season not residential.
Knapdale Area.
All white goods included, quiet and peaceful would suit semi or retired people.
20 year lease included in price of £80,500.
Further details contact 07887957384 or viewing 01546 850223

PROPERTY TO LET

LARGE FLAT TO LET
4 Bedroom + Box room/Office
Part Furnished
Convenient for Oban Town Centre
Off Street Parking Garden
£650 pcm + Utilities and C/Tax
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Tel: 07765870050

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Royal Avenue Mansions, Campbeltown
Spacious part/furnished 1 Bedroom Flat with
Beautiful Sea Views from all rooms
Fitted dining-kitchen and Shower room
Suit professional person/couple
Telephone 07738 858407 or 01434 606166
for more information

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Cottage, overlooking Lochawe
6 miles from Taynuilt
30min. Oban
2 Bedrooms, unfurnished with kitchen appliances
£550 pcm + bills
Sorry no Smokers, Pets or D.S.S.
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1 bedroom cottage on Isle of Seil
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£480pcm
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Argyll & Bute COUNCIL

PLANNING

ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL

TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997, RELATED LEGISLATION PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS)(SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Take notice that the applications in the following schedule may be inspected during normal office hours at the location given below, at Lorn House, Albany Street, Oban and by logging on to the Council's Website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk and clicking on Online Planning Applications. Anyone wishing to make representations should do so in writing to the undersigned within 14 or 21 days of the appearance of this notice, whichever is applicable as indicated below. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

SCHEDULE - DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION OF PLANS

● **Ref No: 08/00958/OUT**
Applicant: Alex Mathieson
Proposal: Site for erection of dwellinghouse (renewal of 05/00130/OUT)
Site Address: Land Opposite Hillview Salen Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Salen
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days

● **Ref No: 08/00869/COU**
Applicant: Mr And Mrs Kerr
Proposal: Change of use of barn to holiday cottage
Site Address: Arichastlich Glen Orchy Argyll And Bute
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Dalmally
Section 34 Advert - 14 Days

● **Ref No: 08/00626/OUT**
Applicant: Catherine Rhona Purdie
Proposal: Site for erection of a crofters cottage.
Site Address: Site East Of Oakview Kirkton Taynuilt Argyll
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Taynuilt
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days

● **Ref No: 08/00829/DET**
Applicant: Dr Celine O Neil
Proposal: Erection of dwellinghouse
Site Address: Land South West Of Torastan Isle Of Coll Argyll And Bute
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Isle of Coll
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days

● **Ref No: 08/00840/OUT**
Applicant: Mr And Mrs B Hayes
Proposal: Site for the erection of a dwellinghouse - renewal of consent 05/01093/OUT
Site Address: Land North Of Fanamor Fanans Taynuilt Argyll And Bute
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Taynuilt
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days

● **Ref No: 08/00720/OUT**
Applicant: Thomas Neil McLauchlan
Proposal: Site for erection of dwellinghouse (Plot 1)
Site Address: Land South West Of Dunstaffnage Marina Dunbeg Oban Argyll And Bute PA37 1PX
Location of Plans: Oban Area Office
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days

● **Ref No: 08/00719/OUT**
Applicant: Ewan Follet Bell
Proposal: Site for erection of dwellinghouse (Plot 2)
Site Address: Land South West Of Dunstaffnage Marina Dunbeg Oban Argyll And Bute PA37 1PX
Location of Plans: Oban Area Office
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days

● **Ref No: 08/00949/OUT**
Applicant: Mrs Sarah Campbell
Proposal: Site for erection of dwellinghouse
Site Address: Glencruitten Home Farm Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 4QB
Location of Plans: Oban Area Office
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days

● **Ref No: 08/00943/COU**
Applicant: Operational Services
Proposal: Cemetery extension
Site Address: Burial Ground Achnaba North Connel Argyll And Bute
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Ledaig
Section 34 and Article 9 Advert 14 Days

● **Ref No: 08/00940/DET**
Applicant: Mr C Lowe
Proposal: Alterations and extension to dwellinghouse
Site Address: 4 Station Cottages Benderloch Oban Argyll And Bute PA37 1RT
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Ledaig
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days

● **Ref No: 08/00935/COU**
Applicant: S MacKay
Proposal: Change of use of and alterations to byre to form dwellinghouse
Site Address: Mo Dhachaidh Lochdon Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute PA64 6AP
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Craignure
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days

● **Ref No: 08/00927/OUT**
Applicant: Mrs Sarah Campbell
Proposal: Site for erection of dwellinghouse
Site Address: Home Farm Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 4QB
Location of Plans: Oban Area Office
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days

Area Team Leader Development Control, Planning Services, Lorn House, Albany Street, Oban

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT CONTRARY TO DEVELOPMENT PLAN) (SCOTLAND) DIRECTION 1996

The following planning applications have been lodged for determination with Argyll and Bute Council and are available for inspection during normal working hours at the local area office/Post Office identified below and by logging on to the Council's Website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk and clicking on Online Planning Applications. The proposals contained in the application are considered to be a departure or potential departure from the Development Plan for the area concerned.

Anyone wishing to make representations about any of the applications identified below should do so in writing within 21 days from the date of publication of this notice to the Area Team Leader Development Control at the address below. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

SCHEDULE - DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION OF PLANS

● **Ref No: 08/00840/OUT**
Applicant: Mr And Mrs B Hayes
Proposal: Site for the erection of a dwellinghouse - renewal of consent 05/01093/OUT
Site Address: Land North Of Fanamor Fanans Taynuilt Argyll And Bute
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Taynuilt
A18 Local Plan Potential Depart Adv (21)
Potential Departure from policies RUR1 and RUR2 of Lorn Local Plan

● **Ref No: 08/00949/OUT**
Applicant: Mrs Sarah Campbell
Proposal: Site for erection of dwellinghouse
Site Address: Glencruitten Home Farm Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 4QB
Location of Plans: Oban Area Office
A18 Local Plan Potential Depart Adv (21)
Potential Departure from policy H025 of Lorn Local Plan

● **Ref No: 08/00918/DET**
Applicant: Dr And Mrs K Lifson
Proposal: Erection of dwellinghouse
Site Address: Land To The West Of Torastan Isle Of Coll Argyll And Bute
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Isle of Coll
A18 Local Plan Potential Departure of Policies RUR 1 and RUR 2 Of the Mull Coll and Tiree Lorn Local Plan (21)

● **Ref No: 08/00927/OUT**
Applicant: Mrs Sarah Campbell
Proposal: Site for erection of dwellinghouse
Site Address: Home Farm Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 4QB
Location of Plans: Oban Area Office
A18 Local Plan Potential Departure from Policy H025 of Lorn Local Plan (21

Area Team Leader Development Control, Planning Services, Lorn House, Albany Street, Oban PA34 4AR

TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997, RELATED LEGISLATION PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Take notice that the applications in the following schedule may be inspected during normal office hours at the location given below, at 67 Chalmers Street, Ardrishaig and by logging on to the Council's Website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk and clicking on Online Planning Applications. Anyone wishing to make representations should do so in writing to the undersigned within 14 or 21 days of the appearance of this notice, whichever is applicable as indicated below. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

SCHEDULE - DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION OF PLANS

● **Ref No: 08/00828/OUT**
Applicant: William John Lawson
Proposal: Site for erection of dwellinghouse
Site Address: Land 206m North West Of Alastair Annies Upper Kichattan Isle Of Colonsay
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Isle of Colonsay
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days

Area Team Leader Development Control, Planning Services, 67 Chalmers Street, Ardrishaig PA30 8DX

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

COUNCILLOR SURGERIES

Councillor Mary Jean Devon (EW 4 Oban South and the Isles)
Constituents can contact Councillor Devon on Tel: 01688 301215 or by e mail – 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)
Councillor McIntosh's constituents can contact him on Tel: 07788 882200 or by email – donald.mcintosh@argyll-bute.gov.uk

Councillor Donald Macdonald (E.W.5 Oban North and Lorn)
Councillor Macdonald's constituents can contact him on Tel: 01631 566367 or by email – donald.macdonald@argyll-bute.gov.uk

Oban Lorn & Isles Locality Public Partnership Forum
(Forum for local health services)
NHS Highland

Are you interested in health services in this area?
Come and be involved
The Fire Station, Soroba Road, Oban, June 9, 2008 starting at 6:40 pm.

Topics in the agenda include :-
Update on future of Dental Services
Out of Hours HUB
(the call centre that arranges access to a GP after a call to NHS24)
Outpatient Appointments Booking System
Knowledge Transfer Partnership – Colonsay
(Partnership between NHS, Social Services and local community to determine the health services that are needed locally.)

For more information contact Fiona Sharples on fiona.sharples@nhs.net or telephone 01631 788942

COAST PROTECTION ACT 1949

INSTALLATION OF NEW PONTOONS TARBERT HARBOUR

Notice is hereby given that Halcrow Group Ltd, on behalf of Tarbert (Loch Fyne) Harbour Authority has applied to the Scottish Ministers of the Scottish Government, under section 34 of the Coast Protection Act 1949, as amended by the section 36 of the Merchant Shipping Act 1988, to install new pontoons within Tarbert Harbour, Loch Fyne:

	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE
1	55 52.05N	05 24.70W
2	55 52.05N	05 24.50W
3	55 51.95N	05 24.70W
4	55 51.95N	05 24.50W

Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at: The Harbour Office, Garval Road, Tarbert, Argyll PA29 6TR

Objections relating to safety of navigation in respect of the application should be made in writing to: Gordon Hastie, The Scottish Government, Ports and Harbours Branch, Area 2G North, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ within 28 days of the date of this notice quoting reference: 2SPC\1\4\60

Halcrow Group Ltd, City Park,
368 Alexandra Parade, Glasgow G31 3AU

Lochaber Fisheries Trust Ltd
SC;024490
Will hold their
A.G.M on Friday 27th June, 2008 Torlundy Training Centre, Torlundy, at 10am.

CROFTERS COMMISSION
UGHDARRAS NAN CROITEARAN

The following decrofting Directions have been granted:

PART CROFT

7 Cornaigbeg, Tiree
Direction dated 27 May 2008 granted to Alexander MacLean. Area ext to 0.0313 ha.
Condition: Being the site of an existing house and amenity area.
Case number: 4.86.11470

Croic Ur, Lismore & Appin
Direction dated 28 May 2008 granted to John MacCormick. Area ext to 0.108 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: 4.86.11530

Dalnafeidh, Lismore & Appin
Direction dated 28 May 2008 granted to Mrs Caroline M Henderson. Area ext to 0.17 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: 4.86.10699

Ardcraig Croft, Jura
Direction dated 28 May 2008 granted to Alexander J Smith and Mrs Alison J Smith. Area ext to 0.094 ha.
Condition: 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:4.86.11647

The granting of these Directions may be appealed to the Scottish Land Court, within 42 days from the date of this advert. Information on how to appeal is available from the Crofters Commission.

CROFTERS COMMISSION
UGHDARRAS NAN CROITEARAN

APPLICATIONS TO CREATE A NEW CROFT

Alexander Riley Smith, owner of Ardfin, Craighouse, Isle of Jura is applying to create six new crofts.

If you have any objection to the proposal, you may submit representations in writing or some other permanent form to the Crofters Commission, Castle Wynd, Inverness IV2 3EQ by 23 June 2008 quoting 5.01.12734. Please specify your interest in the application and your reasons for objecting. A copy of any representations made will be forwarded to the applicant.

CREICH and CATCHEAN GRAZING COMMITTEE

A meeting will be held in **Creich Hall on Thursday June 19, 2008 at 8pm** to select a new committee.

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argyll community housing association

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ACHA wishes to recruit customer focussed individuals, seeking a rewarding and challenging career in a forward thinking housing organisation. These posts are key to delivering the quality of services our customers deserve. In return, we will reward the successful applicants with a generous remuneration package, modern work practices, family friendly "people policies" and the opportunity for personal development and training.

Student Placement (July to September 2008)

35 hours per week
Salary: £207.75 per week

The Association is seeking to provide 3 eight week temporary summer placements to students studying for a professional housing qualification or with an interest in housing.

These placements will be based across our Area Housing & Neighbourhood Services Teams in Oban, Lochgilphead or Campbeltown and Dunoon.

The aim is to provide students with "hands on" experience in the field of housing management. The duties of this post will include assisting with the delivery of Housing Management and Repairs Services provided by the Area Teams.

This will involve front line customer services ranging from dealing with enquiries to collecting rents; supporting professional officers in carrying out inspections, estate management visits and provide a sound environment in which students can enhance their theoretical skills with practical experience.

For a recruitment pack and further information please contact the HR & Corporate Services Department, 63/65 Chalmers Street, Ardrishaig, PA30 8DX, Tel No 01546 604098 or email marina.macarthur@acha.co.uk, or visit the Recruitment section on the Association's website at www.acha.co.uk where recruitment packs can be downloaded.

Closing Date for Applications:- Friday 13th June 2008
Interviews will be held during week commencing 23rd June 2008

FISHERIES OBSERVERS

2 YEAR FIXED TERM CONTRACT

Four home-based observers are required to undertake sampling aboard commercial fishing vessels, collect data and report on the catch in connection with the Scottish Government's Conservation Credits Scheme.

Candidates will possess a fisheries qualification and knowledge of fishing practices and/or relevant work experience or training. Basic numeric and IT skills are essential, as is a full UK driving license. Seagoing and fisheries data collection experience would be advantageous.

It is essential that the successful candidates possess (or have the ability to qualify for) Basic Fishing Industry Sea Survival, Fire Fighting and First Aid Certificates, complete the Fisheries Research Services (FRS) Observer training programme, and pass an ENG1 Medical.

Organisational, problem solving, decision making and team working skills are essential, as are good communication skills.

The base salary is £15,000 per annum, plus sea-going allowance of £171 per full day spent at sea. 125 days at sea per annum is expected. Individual trips may be up to 10 days duration. Candidates will be subject to a probation period.

Interested candidates should send their Letter of Application and CV to:
Liam Byrnes, Logistics Co-ordinator, SFF Services Limited, 24 Rubislaw Terrace, Aberdeen AB10 1XE
liam.byrnes@sffservices.co.uk 01224 646966

The closing date for applications is Friday 20th June 2008

Trainee Linesperson Programme

Oban
c £15,000

Scottish and Southern Energy is one of the largest and most diverse energy companies in the UK with over 8.5 million customers across our various brands which include Scottish Hydro Electric. We also operate and maintain the electricity distribution network across the north of Scotland.

We currently have opportunities throughout Scotland to join our Trainee Linesperson programme. You will be part of a team involved in the refurbishment, maintenance and repair of overhead lines. Your training will take place over two years and will involve a combination of work based learning and formal qualifications.

You must have a minimum qualification of Standard Grade or equivalent in English and Mathematics and some technical or industrial work experience would be an advantage.

As well as a starting salary of c £15,000, plus excellent staff benefits, we can provide great training and plenty of support to enable talented individuals to begin a challenging and rewarding career.

You can apply, or find out more about these training opportunities, by visiting our website www.powerfulopportunities.co.uk Alternatively call 0845 0760517 to request an application form, quoting reference number PG/08/14. Lines are open Monday to Friday from 9.00am to 4.30pm.

Closing date is Friday 13 June 2008.

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North West Mull Community Woodland Co Ltd

Charity No: SCO37336 Company No: 287343

Development Manager

Full-time (35 hours)
Salary £23,500-£25,000

An opportunity has arisen within North West Mull Community Woodland Co. Ltd. (NWMCWC) for the employment of a Development Manager, initially covering a three year period. The successful candidate will plan and further develop a range of exciting community woodland projects, including affordable housing, renewable energy, community facilities and access and habitat improvement.

Purpose of Post

- To plan and co-ordinate the development activities of North West Mull Community Woodland Co Ltd (NWMCWC) projects
- To identify potential funders, liaise with the funders, and secure successful project funding packages for identified development options.

Further details can be viewed at www.nwmullwoodland.co.uk

Send CV and covering letter to:
NWMCWC, Penmore Mill, Dervaig, Isle of Mull PA756QS
Or by email to: nwmull@btconnect.com by Friday 27th June 2008.

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Tel: 01631 563799

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A crane certificate would be an advantage

Mull - *Plant fitter/ mechanic*
for quarry and vehicle maintenance

Mull – *LGV2 Driver*

Apply to John MacLachlan Group, Torrangorm Ind Est. Oban PA34 4PL
Tel **01631 566370** or
e-mail **susan@jmaclachlangroup.co.uk**

Accountant/Booker

Dunstaffnage Marina and the Wide Mouthed Frog are looking to recruit a new accountant.

The ideal applicant will be a qualified accountant or hold a similar type HND bookkeeping certificate.

They must be experienced in SAGE, Excel, and Payroll and be able to generate monthly management accounts with cash flow forecasts.

Excellent pay scale (according to experience)

Contact in writing:
Neil McLauchlan
Group Managing Director
Dunstaffnage Marina
Dunbeg, Oban PA37 1PX

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BBC Scotland produces and publishes content across radio, television and online. We are developing content that will be delivered to our audiences through the new Gaelic Digital Service which will start to transmit in the Autumn. This includes the only national Gaelic news service. We want to recruit talented staff to work on this new service in various job roles.

Applications to be received by 22 June.

You can apply for these roles and learn about how we do things at the BBC, by visiting **bbc.co.uk/jobs** If you do not have Internet access, please call 0870 333 1330.

BBC Scotland

Luchd-obrach BBC Alba

Tha BBC Alba a' lìbhrigeadh phròiseactean Gàidhlig, ioma-mheadhanach thar rèidio, telebhisean agus air-loidhne. Tha Roinn na Gàidhlig ag ullachadh mu choinneamh iarrtasan na seirbheise ùir digiteach a bhios a' dol air bhog san Fhoghar le farsaingeachd de phròiseactan, nam measg an aon seirbheis nàiseanta naidheachd ann an Gàidhlig. Tha sinn an-dràsta a' sireadh luchd-obrach thàlantach airson dreuchdan eadar-dhealaichte.

Ceann-latha airson tagraidhean 22 Ògmhios.

Faodaidh sibh cuir airson an dreuchdan seo agus beagan ionnsachadh mu mar a sinn ag obair aig a' BhBC le tadhal aig **bbc.co.uk/jobs** Mur eil doigh agaibh air sin a dhèanamh cuiribh fòn gu 0870 333 1330.

BBC Alba

Accountant/Booker

Dunstaffnage Marina and the Wide Mouthed Frog are looking to recruit a new accountant.

The ideal applicant will be a qualified accountant or hold a similar type HND bookkeeping certificate.

They must be experienced in SAGE, Excel, and Payroll and be able to generate monthly management accounts with cash flow forecasts.

Excellent pay scale (according to experience)

Contact in writing:
Neil McLauchlan
Group Managing Director
Dunstaffnage Marina
Dunbeg, Oban PA37 1PX

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PROCESSING OPERATIVES

Scottish Sea Farms Ltd have vacancies for processing operatives in their Primary Processing and Filleting facility located at South Shian by Oban.

Wages which are based on a 40 hour week start at £6.40 per hour rising to £6.80 after training. There is also a company bonus scheme in operation. Any hours worked over the 40 are paid at time and a half rate.

- Free transport is provided to and from work .

The working day normally runs from 8am to 4.30pm but because of the nature of the business a degree of flexibility is essential and overtime is sometimes required to be worked.

To arrange an interview please call 01631 574000 between 9am and 1pm daily Monday to Friday and speak to Margaret.

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- a sound knowledge of NHS structures and service delivery patterns
- a sound knowledge of welfare benefits
- ability to identify second tier advice or representation needed by the client
- ability to provide regular service reports and statistical information

A key requirement of this post is the ability to identify the scope for the development of advice and representation services for users of the NHS in future.

Applicants should have their own means of transport. A mileage allowance will be paid.

Further details and application pack from:

Alison Newlands
Argyll & Bute Citizens Advice Bureau
Riverside
Oban Road
Lochgilphead
Argyll
PA29 6SU Tel: 08456 123 808

Closing date: **27th June 2008**

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Please apply in writing with a current CV to
Mrs Thompson, Highland Heritage Ltd,
Central Administration Office, Dalmally, Argyll, PA33 1AY
Telephone 01838 200 393

Argyll & Bute CHP
Aros, Lochgilphead
IT Administration Assistant
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You will provide comprehensive, efficient, high quality administrative and secretarial support to the IT Manager and the eHealth Team. You will plan and co-ordinate meetings and events and have the ability to prioritise, organise and work on your own initiative.

A good working knowledge of Microsoft Office packages, excellent communication skills both verbal and written and typing skills are essential. A recognised word processing qualification or equivalent is required and an HND in Secretarial or Business Administration or equivalent is desirable.

Informal enquiries to James Brass, Information Technology Manager on 01546 462402.

Application packs are available from HR Department, NHS Highland, Argyll & Bute CHP, Aros, Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8LB - Tel 01546 606788 (24 hour answering service) or email - recruitment.ab@nhs.net

Please quote job reference number 08ab/057b.

The closing date is 20th June 2008.

Working with you to make Highland the healthy place to be. www.nhshighland.scot.nhs.uk

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Mrs Thompson, Highland Heritage Coach Tours,
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Telephone 01838 200 393

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Sabhal Mòr Ostaig — c£70k

Tha Urrasairean Sabhal Mòr Ostaig a' sireadh Stiùiriche misneachail agus lèirsinneach a ghabhas àite an Àrd Ollamh Thormoid MhicGillìosa a tha a' leigeil dheth a dhreuchd aig deireadh na bliadhna. 'S i Sabhal Mòr Ostaig Colaiste Ghàidhlig na h-Alba, far am bheil teagasg is rianachd uile air an dèanamh tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig. A' gabhail a-steach Foghlam Àrd-Ire agus Foghlam Adhartach agus nas motha is nas motha de rannsachadh, tha a' Cholaiste cuideachd na pàirt de Institiùd OGE nam Mìle Bliadhna. Mar sin, ma ghabhas e dèanamh, 's e cuideigin le cliù agus seasamh anns an t-saoghal acadaimigeach a bhios anns an t-Stiùiriche ùr ach 's e a tha a dhìth, seach rud sam bith eile, am macmeanmna agus lèirsinn airson togail air an obair ionmhalta a tha an t-Àrd Oll. MhicGillìosa air a dhèanamh rè nam 21 bliadhna mu dheireadh, agus a' Cholaiste a thoirt air adhart chun na h-ath ire leasachaidh. Leis a sin, chuirte fàilte air tagradh bho neach sam bith leis na tàlantan sin, ge b' e dè an dreuchd anns am bheil an neach an-dràsta.

An Dreuchd
Feumaidh an Stiùiriche:

- ceannardas a nochdadh ann a bhith a' leasachadh na Colaiste a thaobh teagaisg, ionnsachaidh is rannsachaidh;
- ann an co-bhonn le na h-Urrasairean, a bhith a' dealbhachadh, a' leasachadh agus a' sior thoirt air adhart lèirsinn na Colaiste;
- ionmhas is taic eile a thrusadh mu choinneimh obair na Colaiste agus dòighean a lorg airson leasachaidhean ùra a thoirt air adhart;
- a bhith cunntachail dha na h-Urrasairean airson gach roinn de rianachd is stiùireadh na Colaiste

An Tagraiche
Feumaidh an tagraiche a gheibh an obair:

- a bhith misneachail agus lèirsinneach mar cheannard;
- a bhith a' sealltainn miann làidir a thaobh leasachadh na Gàidhlig;
- a bhith comasach air labhairt agus sgrìobhadh gu fileanta sa Ghàidhlig;
- a bhith sàr-mhath am measg dhaoine, comasach air an dà chuid ceannas is taic a thoirt do luchd-obrach na Colaiste agus ceanglaichean laidir a thogail ri buidhnean taobh a muigh na Colaiste;
- a bhith innleachdach gus taic a thrusadh airson obair is adhartas na Colaiste.

Tha Sabhal Mòr Ostaig air a càradh ann an suidheachadh air leth àlainn ann an sgire Shlèite ann an ceann a deas an Eilein Sgitheanaich far am bheil a nis, mar thoradh ann am pàirt air obair na Colaiste, coimhearsnachd Gàidhlig air ath-nuadhachadh. Thigibh's bithibh nur pàirt dheth.

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Outside Baugh Surgery, Tiree, with Anne and Dr John Holliday, right, are, from left, Cairin MacLeod, practice nurse, Mairi Maclean, community nurse and Allina Langley, community care assistant.

University that opens new worlds

BEING able to gain qualifications while living and working in a rural or island location has always been a problem.

But gradually the barriers are being broken down with the help of distance learning courses through institutions like the Open University and UHI Millennium Institute.

The Open University (OU) launched a Pre-registration Nursing Programme four years ago, which has benefits for employers as well: keeping the students as healthcare assistants while they do their studies and being able to 'recruit' them as newly qualified nurses in areas where posts can be difficult to fill.

Two Argyll women are among the first to gain diplomas in Adult Nursing or Mental Health Nursing thanks to the course.

Anne MacKinnon, aged 54, of Tiree worked as a nursing assistant but had always aspired to qualify as a registered nurse.

'I was keen to do nursing training but it wasn't feasible to do it on the mainland,' she said.

'Then my team leader noticed that this course had been opened out to nursing assistants and healthcare assistants in the islands.

'I applied to go on it and then once my application had been received I was sent a letter offering me an interview which I did by video conference.'

Anne began her studies in 2004 and finished late last year. Although hard work, she found there were some benefits from working at the same time as studying.

'When I did my placement at the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Paisley, they were amazed by how hands-on we were,' she says.

'We would go and automatically start getting patients up and things like that, whereas a lot of the other students had maybe come straight from school. We had already learned how to communicate with patients.'

After getting her results, Anne was offered a post on Tiree's district nursing team as a community nurse.

'It's something I wouldn't have been able to do if I hadn't done it through the OU.

'I wouldn't be in the job I am now if I hadn't done the course and I wouldn't have been able to have become a registered nurse.

'It really has opened up a whole new world for me.'

In Lochgilphead, Marina McCuaig, 37, was working as a healthcare assistant at Argyll and Bute Hospital when she began to hanker after taking her career further.

Distance learning

'Once I started working as a healthcare assistant, I knew it was something I would have been interested in doing,' said Marina.

'I had a young family so going away to college just wasn't feasible. So, the distance learning seemed like a good opportunity to study and continue to be employed.

'Obviously with a family it was quite hard going. But the placements were all in or around the hospital I work in. We had tutorials and the support of each other – there were four of us at Argyll and Bute Hospital doing it – and there was always someone on the end of the phone if we had any problems with the course work.'

She received a DipHE in Mental Health Nursing this month (May) and has started a new job as a staff nurse.

Marina is also thinking about 'topping up' her diploma to a degree in the near future.

'I think I'll have some time off first though,' she added.

Another nursing assistant in Lochgilphead, Tina Watt, left school with no qualifications but has since qualified as a registered nurse after completing the pre-registration course.

Tina started as a nursing assistant at the aged of 19 but when it was suggested that she might train as a nurse she had a young family and didn't want to leave them to study in Paisley.

Several years later she saw a poster about the OU distance learning course.

'I really had to think long and hard about it. I said to one of the other nursing assistants, why don't we? So we both put our applications in,' said Tina.

'Quite often you would have a practical course to do and you had a lot to do as well on your placements. And we had to provide them with hard evidence of what we had learned while we were there. You are not just getting boxes ticked.'

Tina said she was not aware initially how much hard work it would be and was amazed that she had done it.

Elaine Walker, staff tutor in nursing with the OU in Scotland, said: 'Over the last four years, the OU has made a valuable contribution to pre-registration nurse education in Scotland by providing a route through which experienced healthcare assistants in remote and rural areas can become registered nurses.

'The retention rate amongst these students is high and this is because of the strong relationship between the students, the NHS boards, the university and their local community.'

The pre-registration course is worked in partnership with the Scottish Government and allows students to train with the support of their employers.

Successful completion of the four-year programme leads to the award of the OU Diploma of Higher education (Nursing) and the professional qualification of Registered Nurses on the NMC register (Part1).

Anne MacKinnon is ready for her new job as a community nurse on the Isle of Tiree

'We had already learned how to communicate'

Argyll Adult branch students with programme tutor Carol McEchran, left, Olga Swanson, Carol Smith, Anne McMillan, Anne MacKinnon, Marian Sansom and Tina Watt.

Isle of Mull oil company assistant retires

A WELL-KENT face at the Gleaner Oils depot in Mull has stepped down from the post of administrative assistant to enjoy retirement.

Helen Morrison, who worked at the Craignure depot of the oil and gas distribution company in her home village for 13 years, was presented with a hand-made wall clock and flowers at a reception in the Western Isles Hotel in Tobermory.

She was joined by her colleagues and representatives from Gleaner's head office in Elgin, including chairman Billy Laing, who made the presentation.

He thanked her for her dedicated services, not only to the company but to Gleaner's many customers on Mull.

Mr Laing told the gathering, which included Helen's husband Neil, a retired police officer, that he had interviewed Helen for the position of administrative assistant on the Isle of Mull ferry – a first for him, but he was thankful for a calm crossing that day.

Helen previously work in a bank in Tobermory and before that was a police officer herself.

Left, Bill Laing, chairman Gleaner Oils, Helen and Neil Morrison.

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We are also looking to recruit a trainee accountant, either a college leaver or graduate with aspirations to train for an accountancy qualification.

Please apply in writing for either of the above posts, enclosing your C.V. to:

John MacGregor, Managing Partner
R A Clement Associates Chartered Accountants,
5 Argyll Square, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4AZ

OFFICE JUNIOR REQUIRED

We have a vacancy in our very busy Oban offices for an office junior. The position will involve carrying files between our Oban offices, running errands and other administrative duties.

If you feel that you have the right qualities for the job, please reply in your own writing, including your C.V. to:

Sheena McLennan, Office Manager
R A Clement Associates Chartered Accountants,
5 Argyll Square, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4AZ

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To apply, please send your CV and covering letter, quoting reference number RE/08/12 to The People Team, Inveralmond House, 200 Dunkeld Road, Perth PH1 3AQ or email recruitment@scottish-southern.co.uk
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Receptionist
Experience is essential. Only numerate, reliable and dedicated individuals with a keen interest in customer service and willing to commit to a career in hospitality need apply.
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Head house Keeper
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Fort William
Saturday Cleaners
required
9am till 2pm
No experience necessary
Must be willing to work hard
Collection can be arranged around Fort William area
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1 year MOT,
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Top range
Low mileage
70,000

Telephone
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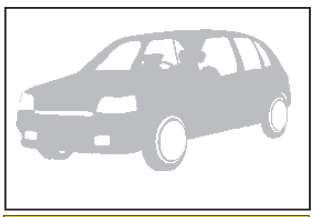
£2,550 o.n.o.

PEUGEOT 106 INDEPENDENCE



£4250 o.n.o.

black, immaculate condition inside and out, taxed and MOTd one year, low mileage, genuine reason for sale

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2

RENAULT CLIO 1.2 AUTHENTIQUE

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2

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2

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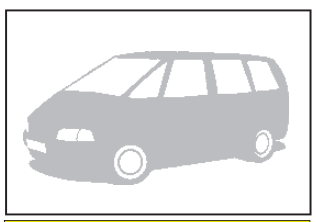

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2

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2

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01 plate, Automatic, Service History
1st to see will buy

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Full leather interior
Twin sunroofs
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Tow Ball, RAC Tracker

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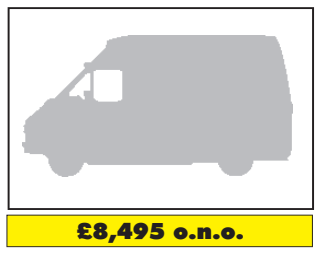
2

MERCEDES VITO 111



£8,495 o.n.o.

Long wheel base, Tax & MOT'd
44,000 miles, White, Service history, Very good condition

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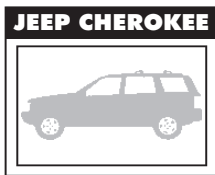

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07909 541500

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06 Renault Clio Extreme dci 68, red, 17,000 miles	£7,950
06 Fiat Punto Active 1.4 sport, 3dr, blue, 9,500 miles	£6,250
55/06 Renault Clio Dyn dci 86, 3dr, blue, 19,000 miles	£7,850
55 Renault Kangoo Auth dci 68, grey, 50,000 miles	£5,950
05 Renault Scenic exp dci 100, blue, 27,000 miles	£6,950
05 Kia Cerato 1.6 LX, black, 32,000 miles	£5,650
05 Rover 25, 3dr, H/B, blue, 39,000 miles	£3,750
54/05 Renault Laguna Dyn dci 120, silver, 17,500 miles	£7,175
05 Renault Clio Dyn 1.2, 3dr, blue, 19,000 miles	£5,650
54 Renault Kangoo exp dci 80, blue, 59,000 miles	£5,750
54 Renault Laguna Dyn 1.8 Sport Tourer, red, 45,000 miles	£6,350
54 Renault Modus exp 1.4, blue, 29,000 miles	£5,750
04 Vauxhall Astra Envoy, 1.6, 5dr, silver, 19,000 miles	£4,650
04 Renault Clio Dyn 1.2, 5dr, blue, 35,000 miles	£4,850
53 Renault Megane Priv, 1.9 dci saloon, green, 55,000 miles	£5,500
53/04 Rover 75 Classic SE, 5dr, silver, 54,000 miles	£4,950
03 Renault Megane Auth H/B, 1.6, 5dr, green, 42,000 miles	£4,500
03 Nissan Micra 1.2, 5dr, blue, 32,000 miles	£3,950
03 Peugeot 206 Style, 3dr, green, 24,000 miles	£4,000
05 Renault Megane Dyn 2.0 Sport Tourer Auto, black	**£7,500**
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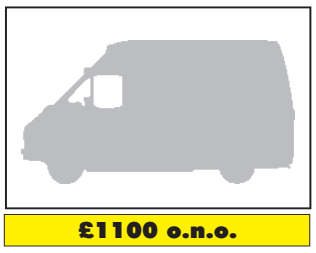

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RAYBURN 208K oil fired cooking and hot water range, colour red, in excellent clean condition, buyer to collect (Tobermory, Isle of Mull), £750ono. Telephone 07801 052777.

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CD DVD cupboard with glass doors, antique stain, solid wood, Ikea Leksvik range, £20. Telephone 01631 720674.

COTTAGE STYLE settee, three seater, soft pink dralon upholstery, mahogany frame, good condition, £40ono. Telephone 01631 710550.

EXTENDABLE DINING table and six chairs, plus Welsh dresser (pine), offers. Telephone 01397 712283.²

IKEA FUTON double, cream mattress, wood slats, frame, 55"wide, good condition, £49.99, buyer collects. Telephone 01631 720369.

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OVAL BUTTERFLY beech dining suite with storage, £45. Telephone 01546 600018.

PINE TALLBOY wardrobe, hardly used, two drawers, £45ono. Telephone 01631 562968.

SILENT NIGHT twin beds, 3ft wide, new condition, 2 drawers in each base, with designer headboards and valances, £45 each or £85 the pair. Telephone 01546 606134.

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WOODEN KITCHEN table with terracotta tiled top, 120cm x 74cm, plus 4 matching chairs, very good condition, £49.99. Telephone 01586 552499.

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WANTED

WINKLES WANTED - £5.50 per stone. Telephone Malcolm McMillan, 01586 553062.²

PERSONALS

John MacEachen

would like to thank all his family and friends for their presents and contributions at the recent celebrations, the final donations totalled £2,900 to Cancer Research, £2,900 to the Ryan McPhail Memorial Fund. In addition to the above, the raffle and donations at the golf raised £1,500 towards the Golf Club fighting fund. A special thanks go to Nairn Golf Club, Inverness Caley Thistle F.C., Crerar Hotels and Marianne who provided the items for auction

Grateful thanks to all our generous neighbours at Letterwalton who donated £132 for Cancer Research at our Golden Wedding gathering.

Peter and Jessie Wormell

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The Oban Times Wedding Album

Buchanan - Fowler

Eileen Buchanan and Robert Fowler were married on April 5 at the Oban Bay Hotel.
Photograph by Burns Photography.

Orr - Henson

Lisa Orr and David Henson, both of Borehamwood, were married at the Isle of Eriska Hotel. The couple and wedding party enjoyed hill-walking and climbing in the area as part of their honeymoon.
Photograph by Highland Photos, Oban.

Ayr - West

Christina Ayr and David West of Crook, County Durham, were married at the Isle of Eriska Hotel. A group of close friends helped them celebrate their day. David is pictured with the love of his life, his Ferrari, and his new wife Christina!
Photograph by Perfect Images, Dunbeg, Oban.

Munro - Gall

Katherine Ann Munro and Jamie Gall, both of Fort William, were married recently at St John's Church, Caol.

Critchley - Harte

Jean-Michelle Critchley and Stephen Harte, both of Eccleston were married at the Isle of Eriska Hotel by the Rev M Millar. They also held their reception there. The couple enjoyed a honeymoon in Argyll.
Photographs by Highland Photos, Oban.

Forsyth - Monaghan

Fiona Forsyth and John Monaghan of Inverness were married at Oban Registry Office. They held a reception at the Oban Bay Hotel.
Photograph by Perfect Images, Dunbeg, Oban.

McDonald - Houston

Kirsteen McDonald and Iain Houston, both of Ardrishaig, were married in Ardrishaig Parish Church by the Rev Roddy MacLeod. The couple held a reception in the Cairnbaan Hotel.
Photograph by Highland Photos, Oban.

Winnings - Esposito

Mhairi Winnings and Guiseppe Esposito, both of London, were married in London. A blessing was conducted by the Rev G Cringles at St Orans Church, Connel, on March 15. The marriage was then blessed in Connel as there were close family members in Oban who could not attend in London. The couple held a reception in Dungallan Country House, Oban.
Photograph by Highland Photos, Oban.

Doran - Goulding

Kathryn Doran and Adrian Goulding, both of Warrington, were married at Poltalloch Church. The couple, who held a reception in Duntrone Castle, married in Poltalloch as they have strong family connections with the area.
Photograph by Highland Photos of Oban.

Macdonald - Rowantree

Fay Macdonald and Niall Rowantree of Fort William were married at the Oban Bay Hotel. The couple also held their reception at the hotel.
Photographs by Perfect Images, Dunbeg, Oban.

McCulloch - Graham

Tracey McCulloch and Mark Graham pictured, left, at McCaig's Tower following their marriage at Christ Church, Oban. They celebrated with family and friends at Oban Rugby Club.
Photograph by Perfect Images, Dunbeg, Oban.

Reilly - Galbraith

Deborah Reilly and Peter Galbraith, both of Wemyss Bay, were married at Inveraray Registry Office. The couple held a reception in the town's George Hotel. Deborah and Peter have family connections with Inveraray.
Photograph by Highland Photos, Oban.

Morrison - Rivans

Lara Morrison and Iain Rivans were married at Kirkliston Church. Lara is the grand-daughter of the late Angus and Anne Morrison, Oban.

Cameron - Mercer

Jane Cameron, Strath Farm, Duror, Appin, and Colin Mercer, Roman Road, Almonbank, Perth, were married at Duror Church by the Rev Alice Burnside. The couple held a reception at the West End Hotel, Fort William.
Photograph by Anthony MacMillan Photography.

Send your wedding photographs to The Editor, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB, or email editor@obantimes.co.uk.

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BIRTHS

HALL - Gareth and Elizabeth would like to announce the birth of Adam Angus Robert Hall, on May 29, 2008, at Paisley Royal Alexandra Hospital. A little brother for Sophie. Many thanks to all at Oban and Paisley maternity units.

MACBEATH - John and Fiona (née Johnson) are delighted to announce the safe arrival of Charlie Gordon, born on May 16, 2008. Thanks to the midwives at the Royal Alexandra Hospital, Paisley, and Lorn and Islands District General Hospital, Oban. Special thanks to the Special Care Unit at Paisley.

MACIVER - John and Pauline are delighted to announce the birth of their son Fergus Falconer Livingstone Campbell, on May 7, 2008, at Simpsons Maternity Centre, Edinburgh. A brother for Eloise and Hugo.

MACKICHAN - Aonghas and Ailsa are delighted to announce the safe arrival of their wee brother, Andrew William Fullarton, on May 9, 2008, at the Southern General Hospital, Glasgow.

ENGAGEMENTS

GRAY - BADGETT

The engagement is announced between Alexander, son of Mr Hugh Gray of Steep Hill, Surrey, and Mrs Feona Gray of Clapham, London, and Katherine, daughter of Mr and Mrs Timothy Badgett of Moncrabeau, France.

DEATHS

FRASER – Peacefully at home on Thursday, May 29, 2008, Isabella (Sybil) Fraser, of 119 Frederick Crescent, Port Ellen, Islay, dear mother of Andrew, Karen and Kirsty, wife of the late Alastair Fraser, formerly of Bankfoot, Perthshire. Interred in Kilnaughton Cemetery, Islay.

MACDONALD - Peacefully after a long illness, on June 2, 2008, Morag MacDonald (née Currie), 31 Lynn Court, Oban, at Lorn and Islands District General Hospital, Oban, dearly loved mother of Christine (Kilmore) and Ann (Doune, Carlaway), loving grandmother of Steven, Alan and Katie, much loved aunt, cousin and dear friend to many. Will be sorely missed by all who knew her. Gu bràth gha d´ionndrainn.

MACINNES - Peacefully, at Invernevis House, on May 21, 2008, Charlotte (nee MacAffer), in her 101st year, beloved wife of the late Hugh, loving mother of Duncan and Maimae, loved mother-in-law, gran, great-gran and great-great-gran.

MARTIN - Johnny, (Ardtornish, Pulpit Hill, Oban), devoted husband of Betty and loving father of John and Jennifer, died suddenly, but peacefully on May 30, 2008, at 58 years of age. Will be sadly missed. Funeral at Christ's Church, Esplanade, on Friday, June 6, 2008, at 1pm and afterwards to Pennyfuir Cemetery. Family flowers only. Donations in lieu for ABCD.

SIMMONDS - Gerald, in his 69th year, at St John's Hospital, Stranraer, on May 22, 2008, late of 15 Dalintart Drive, Oban, a loving father, brother and uncle. Sorely missed by all the family. Rest in peace.

STEWART - Suddenly, but peacefully, at Glenaray Ward, Mid Argyll Hospital, on June 1, 2008, Joan Emily J Stewart, née Solly, in her 82nd year, of 8 McCracken Court, Lochgilphead. Beloved wife of the late Allie Stewart and much loved mum of Marilyn, Alex, Wendy and David. Cherished granny of David, Christopher and Leanne, much respected mother-in-law of Joe and Joanne, dear sister and aunt to all the family and a good friend and neighbour to many. Funeral service will be held in Lochgilphead Parish Church today (Thursday June 5, 2008) at 1.30pm, thereafter to Achnabreac Cemetery. Flowers or donations, if desired, to Mid Argyll Hospital .

TELFORD - Jessie. On Friday, May 30, 2008, in the Lorn and Islands District General Hospital, Oban, in her 85th year, loving wife of the late William Gray Telford and loving mum to Marion, devoted gran to Lewis and Steven. Sadly missed.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

BUCHANAN - Isabella (the nurse). The Buchanan family Australia, and Kilmurray family locally, would like to thank all family, friends and neighbours for their kindness, support and cards received after their recent sad loss. To Bill Harvey for the comforting service and Anne Livingstone, organist, D and A Munn and Archie MacGillvary for funeral arrangements, Dr Iain McNicol and all his staff, all staff in the ward C at The Lorn and Islands District General Hospital for all their care. To all who attended the service and graveside and all the ladies who helped with food afterwards. £560 was raised for Lismore Medical Fund.

MACDONALD - Hugo and the family of the late Ann MacDonald, would like to thank most sincerely all relatives, friends and neighbours for their kindness and support, for cards, phone calls, visits and gifts of flowers, baking etc, received in our recent sad loss. We would like to thank most sincerely the doctors and staff of Tweeddale Surgery, Ballachulish district nurses and Home Care, Lochaber Night Owl Services, Crossroads, Lochaber, and all the nameless special carers who have been a big part of our lives for quite some time, and without them it would have been a much greater task to keep mum in her own home, they are all very special people. A special thanks to my wife Sheila and daughter Verna who kept mother's house ticking over like clockwork and who gave of their time unreservedly. Thank you also to Rev Ann Winning for her kindness and comforting service, Mike McFall for his sensitivity and professionalism, The Onich Hotel management and staff for their efficient catering and all those from near and far who paid their last respects in the church and at the cemetery. A collection taken at the church amounted to £400, which has been handed over to Crossroads Lochaber. God bless you all and thanks again.

MACINNES - Duncan and Maimae and their families wish to offer sincere thanks to relatives, neighbours and friends for their expressions of sympathy and their love and support during the recent loss of Lottie. Thanks for the comfort derived from the words and prayers of the Rev Richard Corbett who conducted the funeral service with care and compassion. Thanks to Anne for playing the organ, to Mike McFall for his sensitive and efficient funeral arrangements and to all doctors and staff at Craig Nevis for unfailing attention. Special thanks are offered to the staff at Invernevis House and a final heartfelt thanks to those who paid their last respects and to those who donated £200 to Invernevis Residents Fund.

MATHIESON - The family of the late Christina Mathieson would like to thank relatives, friends and neighbours for their kind expressions of sympathy, cards, letters, phone calls, emails and floral tributes received on their recent sad loss. Special thanks to Doctor Shirley, Doctor Kennedy, the nursing staff at Dunaros Hospital and to the care staff at Dunaros Care Home for their care and attention. Thanks also to Billy McClymont, Funeral Director, for his sensitive and efficient services, Rev Bob Nelson for his comforting words, Salen Hotel for the excellent catering services, the family would also like to thank all those who attended the church and graveside. Donations gratefully received for Dunaros Comfort Fund totalled £370.90.

IN MEMORIAMS

BROWN - Cherished memories of Ian Brown who passed away on June 7, 2007, beloved father of the late Christine MacKay, father-in-law to Donnie, much loved papa to Donna, Finlay and Rebecca and all his great-grandchildren.
Always in our thoughts.

CAMPBELL - In loving memory of a dear auntie, Marie, who died June 8, 1989.
Memories of you are fondly kept
Someone too special to ever forget.
- Inserted by Catherine, Kenneth, Margaret and families.

CURRIE - In loving memory of our beloved mum and nana, Mary Allan, who died on June 6, 2003.
Always in our thoughts
Forever in our hearts.
- Ian, Mary, Iona and Ashley.

CURRIE - In loving memory of my darling mum and our precious nana Mary Allan, who died on June 6, 2003.
Forever in our hearts.
- Agnes, Martin, Chloe and Leona xx

DUNNETT - In loving memory of our dear parents, mum Isabella who died on June 5, 2006, and dad Jim, who died on July 9, 1991.
Forever in our thoughts.
- Moira, John and family, Jura and Hampshire.
- Carol and family, Surrey.

FERGUSON – Chrissie.
A smile you long to see
A voice you long to hear
A love that keeps on growing strong
And memories held so dear.
A mum and dad forever in our hearts.
- Love from Paul, Mairi-Clare and Louise.

GILLIES - Tina.
As each day passes
We are thinking of you
Without our memories
What would we do?
As we carry these with us
We know we will
Never lose you
Our thoughts are with you
In all that we do.
- Donald, Jo and Jodie, London.

MACINTYRE - Treasured memories of my dearly loved brother, Ian, who passed away on June 3, 2005. R.I.P.
Thank you for the years we shared
The way you helped me, the way you cared
Deep in my heart you will always remain
Loved and remembered every day.
- Your loving sister Effie, 13 Lorn Avenue, Dunollie, Oban.

MACINTYRE - In loving memory of my brother Ian, who passed away on June 3, 2005. R.I.P.
Time may pass and fade away
But silent thoughts and memories stay.
- Inserted by Flora, Glasgow.

MACINTYRE - In loving memory of Annette, who died June 6, 1991.
In our hearts she will always stay
Loved and cherished every day.
- Donna, Andrew and Iain.

MACPHEE - In ever loving memory of Katie, beloved mother and grandmother, died June 8, 2004, and also of Hughie, beloved brother and uncle, died June 5, 2006.
- The family in Corpach and Skye.

McLEAN - Remembering a much loved dad and granddad, Thomas 'Tommy', died June 2, 1996.
Remembering you is easy
We do it every day
It's the heartache of losing you
That won't ever go away.
Love always.
- Wilma, Teddy and Derek.

O'HARE - In loving memory of John, dad, grandad and father-in-law, who passed away on June 10, 2005
The dawning sun was rising in the bright blue eastern sky
The master called you home as you said your last goodbye
In the new world now you walk free from pain and sorrow
The everlasting peace is yours each dawn and every morrow.
- George and family Perth and Stirling

RECKORD - 7th Anniversary. In loving memory of our beloved Mary Flora, a dear mother and grandmother who died June 4, 2001.
No special day is needed
For us to think of you
'Cause you were very special
And we thought the world of you
We miss you mum and always will.
Our Lady Star of the Sea pray for her.
- Lorna, James and Lesley, David and Joanna and grandchildren Jade, James and Molly.

SMITH - In loving memory of my darling husband, Mure, who passed away suddenly on June 6, 2006, aged 56 years.
Through all the tears and heartache
There's one thing for which I am glad
That you chose me to share with you
Those precious years we had.
- Your loving wife, Sandra x
A special smile
A special face
A special dad
We can't replace
You gave your love
Your whole life through
God bless you dad
We love you too.
- Paul, Glen and Emma, Louise x
To our granddad and papa "Somewhere over the rainbow".
- Love Heather and Neve, Emma, Amy, Steven x

STEWART - Precious memories of my special parents, grandpa and gran. Tommy, who passed away May 2, 2000, and Meena, who passed away June 6, 2005.
If tears could build a stairway
and memories a lane
We would walk right up to heaven
and bring you home again.
Love you always.
- Your daughter Jean and grandson Garry xx

ECCLESIASTICAL NOTICES

OBAN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
(Top of Argyll Street)
Sunday Worship and Sunday Club
11.00am
Sun 15th @ 6.30pm
Songs of Praise
Sun 22nd @ 11.00am
Childrens Gift Day
Sun 29th @ 8.00pm
S.N.X.
A warm welcome to all
Contact No 01631 567303

ASSOCIATED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, OBAN
Campbell Street Church
Sunday 8 June 2008
11 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.
Phone-In *'Worship Link'* available
Rev. Archie McPhail MA, MTh
☎(01631) 567076
All welcome

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS) LOCHABER AND LORN
MEETING FOR WORSHIP
held the Second Sunday of each month
11 a.m. - 12 noon
Port Appin Hall
Visitors welcome
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LORN CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
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St Moluag's Centre
Croft Avenue
Oban
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Telephone
07876 735 794

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH ANGLICAN COMMUNION
Sunday 8 June 2008
Trinity 3
St John's Cathedral, Oban
Holy Communion 08.00
Sung Eucharist 10.15
Sunday School and Creche
Loop System
Large Print Hymn Books
All Welcome
Norman MacCallum, Provost,
(01631) 562323
Holy Spirit, Ardchattan
Holy Eucharist 12.15
St James, Ardbrecknish, Cladich
Holy Eucharist 11.00
St Columba, Gruline, Mull
Holy Eucharist 11.00
St Columba, Bishop's House, Iona
Holy Eucharist 08.00
Evensong 20.00

Church NEWS

Please keep sending in the news about your church!
Church News, The Oban Times, PO Box 1
Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB or FAX: (01631) 568001

Thought for the week

And God made me and cares for me

I WRITE this from the island of Lismore looking out last night seeing peacocks wandering around, the sheep round about and all the birds flying round. I woke up this morning to the sunshine, yet again, shining making the day feel so wonderful.

The beauty that God created is all around on the island and a great sense of thankfulness swept over me.

Thankfulness for a God who cares so much that He set us in the wonderful county of Argyll in our wonderful nation of Scotland.

Thankfulness for all that he has provided us with food, clothes etc.

Thankfulness for that great love that God has for us that He sent His only Son into this world to die for our sins.

Thankfulness as we start the day with prayer knowing full well that Jesus sits at the right hand of God interceding for us. It is good for us to remember our days of thankfulness when we go into bad days or days when we feel down it can lift us. It is good for us to remember that no matter what we go through in life God and Jesus walk with us. God and Jesus care for us but how do we care for them? Do we worship them? Do we come each Sunday to give thanks for all they have done for us? Do we follow Jesus as Lord and Saviour in our lives? When you read this remember and repeat to yourself God made me and cares for me. God's richest blessing.

Bill Harvey Interim Moderator Appin and Lismore

'Captain Connie' moves on to new pastures

'It's been a privilege,' - Connie Callum

ONE of the most well-kent faces in Oban is moving on to pastures new but not without a royal send-off.

Captain Connie Callum of Oban's Salvation Army is leaving the branch after nine years in which time she has become well-known in the town for her dedication and enthusiastic fundraising.

After 15 years' service in the Salvation Army, nine of them spent in Oban, 'Captain Connie' is now Major Connie Callum and will be taking up a new role in Tranent in East Lothian.

The Reverend Ken Hunter of Oban Congregational Church said: 'Connie will be sorely missed by everyone who knew her and came into contact with her. God bless you Connie and good luck.'

At a special party to mark both occassions at Argyllshire Gathering Halls in Oban, Connie was presented with gifts by the Salvation Army, the British Legion, Cancer Research and Oban FM.

Connie said: 'I want to say a special thank you to Rena Anderson and all the girls, Ken Hunter, Bert MacBrayne and Cancer Research.

'It is just so lovely to see so many people here.

'It's been a wonderful privilege these last nine years and I have got to know so many people. I'm going to miss each and every one of you so much.'

Back row, left to right; Christine Pearson and Campbell Cameron and front row left to right; Linda Crosher, Captain Connie Callum, Margaret Ann Watson and Rena Anderson. t23con02

Churches tackle climate change at Oban event

CLIMATE change was top of the agenda at an event in Oban on Friday.

Three speakers gave presentations of what churches and individual congregations could do to help combat the effects of climate change across the globe at the event in Glencruitten Church Centre.

The Church of Scotland's climate change officer Adrian Shaw gave facts and figures about the reality of global warming.

He also explained his role in making sure the church takes the issue seriously and adds its voice to campaigns like Stop Climate Chaos.

Julie Fairbrass from the Group for Recycling in Argyll and Bute (GRAB) Trust gave a presentation about waste reduction in Argyll and Bob McIlwraith from AliEnergy showed how wood pellet boilers worked and explained their potential for large and small-scale use.

There was also the chance to sample organic and Fair Trade juice and snacks and products.

Organiser Liz Gibson said: 'It was made clear that avoiding the issue of climate change will lead to drastic consequences, especially for the poorest countries in the world, but for Scotland too. The evening left people well informed about the theory and some practical action which will make a difference.'

Julie Fairbrass of the GRAB Trust, Adrian Shaw, climate change officer for the Church of Scotland and Bob McIlwraith from AliEnergy with Liz Crawford from Kilmore and Oban Parish Church with the congregation's eco-plaque for 2008-2010. t23cli01

Scottish reunion invitation goes out to former Argyll RAF members

FORMER members of the Royal Air Force regiment living in Argyll are invited to join the Scottish Branch Association for a reunion later on this year.

The gathering will take place on October 4 and 5 at the The Queen's Hotel in Dundee.

The RAF Regiment was formed in 1942 by the then Prime Minister Winston Churchill.

He recognised the difficulty faced by pilots and in France and Belgium, and at Dunkirk due to German air superiority.

As a consequence the RAF Regiment became the ground defence staff for their colleagues flying in the air. During more than 60 years of service, thousands of men have served with the regiment as field staff, infantry, squadrons, armoured car mobile squadrons, and paratroop squadrons.

At the moment the regiment is serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. For further information about the reunion contact the Scottish Branch secretary Roy Evans on 01698 420484.

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Please give your financial support by donation, deed of covenant or legacy
Please send to **Appeals Department, Highland Arts Effort, Royal Blind Asylum School, P.O. Box 500, Gillespie Crescent, Edinburgh, EH10 4HZ**

New sailing club launches on Coll

Sailing

A WEEK of sailing for children on the island of Coll run by the Royal Yachting Association (RYA) in 2006 has led to a new sailing club being formed on the island.

Coll Sailing Club was then formed in September 2006 and officers were elected - but the hard work of fundraising then began and with the help of Dale Kupris and Nial Urquhart various grant applications were made.

Children on Coll celebrate the island's new sailing club's first muster.

The club became a registered charity in July 2007 which has helped with some of the grant awarding bodies.

The club has now received grants from Awards for All, Coll Show, Coll Association, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Argyll and Bute Council, Strathclyde Police, The Robertson Trust and The Hugh Frazer Trust.

Eight dinghies have also so far been bought along with all the safety equipment needed to get on the water.

The support of Coll residents and visitors who have become members has enabled the club to affiliate with the RYA, who help with training, insurance and Disclosure Scotland applications.

Rescue boat training completed on May 25 this year which now allows sailing to start.

On May 31 Coll Sailing Club had its opening muster which was very well attended by locals and visitors alike.

The perfect weather conditions allowed for an afternoon of sailing sessions for all members.

The club is now organising regular sailing sessions and membership is open to all.

Oban Marina manager Susan Price, left, with operations director, Kath Byrnes during the open day on Kerrera. t23day02

Pontoons are open at Oban Marina

Sailing

OBAN Marina raised the anchor on a new season this week with an open day to celebrate the opening of brand new pontoons.

Ferries ran between Oban's North Pier and the marina on the island of Kerrera bringing hundreds of guests to the island where visitors enjoyed a buffet at the Waypoint Seafood Grill and toured the marina and its newly installed pontoons.

The new berths proved so popular that they were busy within days of opening last week.

Thirty new 'fingers' were put in place at the marina on Kerrera, taking the number of berths to nearly 100.

Marina manager Susan Price said: 'We thought we would invite everyone to the open day to celebrate the new pontoons. We invited all the islanders to let them know what we are doing and to let them see the new pontoons.'

The pontoons are part of 'phase one' of a massive redevelopment of the marina.

The company plans to add another 100 slips to make a total of 200 berths, demolish the old pier on Kerrera and refurbish and redesign the marina buildings, some of which date back to the time of the RAF flying boats during World War Two. The workshops are also to be extended and a new clubhouse built.

The marina also plans to have space for around 120 boats to be stored over the winter generating work for mechanics, painters and riggers.

Kerrera will be busy over the next few months with a powerboat race on June 24, the Classic Malts race on July 11 and West Highland Week in August.

Pictured are families from Kerrera with Susan Price and Kath Byrnes during the Oban Marina Open Day. t23day01

Royal Highland opening muster

Sailing

THIRTY-eight boats gathered in Loch Spelve on May 17 for the Royal Highland Yacht Club's opening muster.

Despite the midges being out in full force guests enjoyed mussels and wine supplied by hosts Douglas and Helen Wilson.

During the muster a collection was made for the Royal National Lifeboat Institute which raised £160.

Some boats headed off for Tobermory on the Sunday and met in the Mishnish Inn.

The next muster will be the Midsummer Muster at Loch Aline on June 28.

For those who can make it on Friday 27 there is a trip round the sand quarry planned on the Saturday morning.

Saturday evening will see a barbecue ashore at 6.30pm and hopefully live music.

The summer cruise in company will begin on the Sunday.

Loch race returns

Swimming

AFTER a four-year absence the Loch Linnhe swim will be held on June 28.

The junior race, for ages 12-15, will be held along the shore from the Seafield Gardens entrance to the yacht club slipway at 12.30pm.

The senior race starts at 2pm from Treslaig to the yacht club.

This year female competitors must wear an ordinary swimming costume - which must be sleeveless and legless, while male competitors' trunks must also be legless.

No neoprene or other insulating buoyancy enhancing material may be used for any purpose.

The closing date for entries is Saturday 21st June.

Craignish taster

Sailing

ON JULY 13 Sailability Scotland is hosting a taster day at Craignish Boat Club for people with disabilities, whether physical, or a learning disability.

It is hoped to introduce new people to the fun of sailing using Challenger yachts.

For more information contact Sailability Scotland on sailability.scotland@tiscali.co.uk.

Ardrishaig boy is youngest black belt

Karate

A KARATE student, who turned 11 on May 10, has become his club's youngest ever black belt.

Ethan Lekalake, a member of Senshi Do Karate, received the belt at a grading on Sunday in the Mid Argyll Sports Centre, Lochgilphead.

The club normally only accpets black belt candidates who are 14 years of age or older but Ethan had shown so much promise the rules had to be amended.

The grading also produced two new brown belts, Robbie McDougall of Ardrishaig and Katie McDonald, Tarbert.

Karate students who took part in the grading at the Mid Argyll Sports Centre, Lochgilphead, including young black belt Ethan Lekalake, fourth from left.

Oban rally duo impress in debut season

Rally

AT THE halfway stage of the County Saab Scottish rally championship Shaun Sinclair (Connel) and Chris Hamill (Oban) continue to impress in their Mitsubishi Lancer Evo6.

The crew are in 14th position in the overall Scottish championship, an excellent achievement considering they missed February's championship opener, The Snowman rally, due to mechanical problems.

Then in round one of the Scottish Tarmac Championship at Crail they were awarded the trophy for climbing to highest place from seeding, 98th to finish 18th. In the second round of the County Saab Scottish rally championship held at the infamous forest stages of Kielder, near Jedburgh, the crew climbed from a start of 88th to finish their first ever forest event in 24th position.

The team finished 19th in Aberdeen at the Granite City Rally and in round four, the Jim Clark Reivers rally in Kelso, they finished 30th overall despite a bad start to the day.

Shaun and Chris would like to thank all their sponsors and the people who help with servicing the car.

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SUNDAY 8th JUNE 2008 at 11.00am
Details in last week's issue

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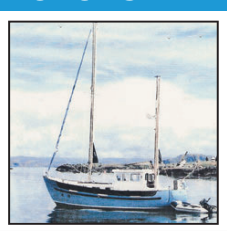
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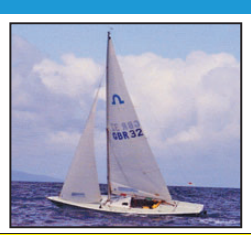
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Saturday's fixtures

Shinty

All cup ties to be played to a finish with extra time and penalties if required.
All 2.30pm starts unless otherwise stated

MacPhee and Partners Macaulay Cup 1st Round
Newtonmore v Kilmallie
Donald A Fraser

MacPhee and Partners Macaulay Cup Quarter Final
Lochcarron v Fort William
Calum Duff
Oban Camanachd v Kyles
Charles Young
Inveraray v GMA
Colin MacDonald

Balliemore Cup 1st Round
Inverness v Glenorchy
David Stafford

Bullough Cup 1st Round
Col Glen v Aberdour
Dougie Cameron
GMA v Lochside Rovers
Euan Pearson

Marine Harvest Premier League
Kingussie v Bute
David Mitchell
Lovat v Strathglass
Graham Cameron

Marine Harvest North Division One
Beauly v Glenurquhart
Donald MacRae
Skye v Kinlochsheil
John MacPhee

Marine Harvest South Division One
Strachur v Tayforth
Billy Wotherspoon

Marine Harvest North Division Two
Fort William v Kilmallie
Duncan Kerr
Glengarry v Lochaber
Graham Irving
Kingussie v Newtonmore
Donald MacLeod 12 noon
Lovat v Skye
Russell Ross 12.00

Marine Harvest South Division Two
Kyles v Oban Celtic
George O'Rourke
Glenorchy v Bute
Robert Baxter

Marine Harvest North Division Three
Beauly v Aberdeen Uni
Ron Kennedy 12.00 noon
Inverness v Ardnamurchan
John Sloggie 12.00 noon
Lochcarron v Kincraig
Daniel MacRae 12.00 noon
Strathglass v Glenurquhart
Kenneth Murray

Sunday
Womens shinty
National Division One
Glenorchy v GMA
South Division Two
Linlithgow v Inveraray

Kingussie win Badenoch derby by one

Shinty

Marine Harvest
Premier League
Newtonmore 1
Kingussie 2

KINGUSSIE move four points clear on the Premier table after victory at the Eilan against Newtonmore.

Following their comfortable cup win against the same opponents the previous week Kingussie went into this league tie full of confidence despite missing their high scoring talisman Ronald Ross. And Newtonmore must have feared another roasting when, after only seven minutes, Kevin Thain and Fraser Inglis combined to carve the home defence apart, with Thain finishing clinically from the right.

For the opening 20 minutes it was all Kingussie with the Newtonmore midfield unable to get a grip of the ball to take the pressure of their overworked defence.

The home side, without top scorer David Cheyne, looked threatening on the odd occassion they did break forward and Kingussie keeper Andrew Borthwick did well to block a Paul MacArthur shot which whistled in from the left.

As Newtonmore gradually got back into the tie, Borthwick was back in action after 35 minutes as John MacKenzie whipped in a low shot which the keeper turned away for a corner. Three minutes later the move was repeated and this time MacKenzie's shot screamed into the roof of the net to draw the teams level.

The home side needed to slow the pace and retain the ball at this stage but they lost another 'soft' goal within three minutes when the defence failed to clear their lines and Fraser Inglis pounced to rifled the ball behind Ritchie.

Both teams produced some good shinty in the second 45 minutes with Kingussie's flowing passing repeatedly taking the ball into the wide areas but they found the home defence and keeper Ritchie in more determined mood and could find no way through.

At the other end, Newtonmore created several chances to get back on level terms but failed to find that vital finish which would have earned at least a share of the points.

This Saturday, Kingussie have Bute visiting the Dell in the Premier league, while Newtonmore will attempt to play their previously abandoned Macaulay Cup first round tie against Kilmallie with the hope that the dramatic thunder and lightening storms stay away this time.

Inveraray's David MacPherson and Fort William's John MacDonald get into the swing of the Premier League tie at An Aird On Saturday. Fort William moved into second place in the league table on goal difference after a 5-0 victory Picture - John MacTavish

Lovat and Oban share eight goals at Kiltarlity

Fort hit five to go second

Shinty

Marine Harvest
Premier League
Fort William 5 Inveraray 0
Lochaber 0 Kyles 0
Lovat 4 Oban Camanachd 4

FORT WILLIAM moved into second place on shinty's premier division table by virtue of goal difference following a 5-0 victory at An Aird over Inveraray.

The visitors were minus several key players who had opted for a stag weekend and found themselves a goal down after only five minutes when Drew Ferguson struck.

The visitors competed well throughout the first-half but found themselves further in arrears when Bryan Simpson doubled the home side's advantage one minute before half-time.

The second 45 minutes proved similar to the first with Fort William having the majority of possession but it took until the hour mark to get the vital third goal. Gary Innes on hand to seal the points and then add another goal within three minutes.

As Inveraray tired Bryan Simpson netted Fort's fifth and then Fort William's keeper Scott McNeil was injured when a shot from Ruaridh Graham struck the keeper in the eye.

Lochaber and Kyles took a point-a-piece on Saturday after they played-out a goal-less 90 minutes at Spean Bridge and Lovat gained their first points of the season with a draw at Kiltarlity against Oban Camanachd.

The visitors had taken the lead after 25 minutes when Matt Ripon scored but Raymond Rennie equalised within five minutes to draw the team level again. Brian MacCallum then put Oban ahead for the second time six minute from the interval but again Rennie struck to set-up an exciting second-half.

Lovat then snatched a two goal lead when Ryan and Ewan Ferguson netted two in a minute only for Ripon to draw on back within another minute. Lovat looked to be edging towards their first league win in eight starts until Oban's determination to get something from the match earned them a share of the points with Scott MacMillan scoring an equaliser 10 minutes from time.

Shinty results

Shinty

Balliemore Cup
1st Round
Kilmory 2 Ballachulish 0

Balliemore Cup
Quarter-Finals
GMA 2 Skye 4
Glenurquhart 2 Lochcarron 1
Strachur 1 Kilmallie 4

Strathdearn Cup
Second Round
Ardnamurchan5 Lochcarron4
Beauly 3 Glengarry 6
Glenurquhart3 Fort William5
Kingussie 10 Lochaber 2
Skye 1 Aberdeen Uni 2
Lovat 5 Kinlochshiel 2
Boleskine 2 Caberfeidh 4

Marine Harvest Premier Division
Fort William 5 Inveraray 0
Lochaber 0 Kyles Athletic 0
Lovat 4 Oban Camanachd 4
Newtonmore 1 Kingussie 2

Marine Harvest North Division One
Kinlochsheil 8 Inverness 0

Marine Harvest South Division One
Glenorchy 6 Lochside Rov 0
Inveraray 2 Tayforth 2

Marine Harvest North Division Two
Kilmallie 5 Newtonmore 2

Marine Harvest South Division Two
Kyles Athletic 6 Aberdour 1
Oban Celtic 8 Col Glen 3
Taynuilt 3 Glenorchy 2
Bute 10 GMA 0

Marine Harvest North Division Three
Strathglass 7 Lochbroom 1

Balliemore Cup semi-finalists

Shinty

KILMALLIE, Glenurquhart and Skye have all won through to the semi-finals of this season's Balliemore Cup.

They will now await the tie between Inverness and Glenorchy, with the winners meeting Kilmory, who defeated Ballachulish 3-0 on Saturday, to see who gets the fourth semi-final place.

The Balliemore Final is due to be played on Saturday, July 26.

Oban teams win at South Sixes

Rockfield and St Columba's victorious

Primary shinty

ROCKFIELD Primary School, Oban, won the South of Scotland Primary School's Six-a-Side Championships at Taynuilt on Sunday.

St Columba's made it a double for Oban with victory in the Primary 5's and under section.

More than 250 children across 35 teams from throughout Argyll and beyond took part in the competition with the finals of both the Primary 5s and under - and Primary 7s and under being all-Oban affairs.

In the younger age group St Columba's won through to meet Park Sparks and were victorious by a single goal, while in the top age grouping Rockfield and Park produced a thrilling final which Rockfield won 1-0.

Jamie Kiloran of Park won the player of the tournament award in the younger age group with Conner Howie of Rockfield winning the award in the senior section. The Fair Play award went to the P7 Ballachulish team.

Oban Celtic turn up the heat at Mossfield

IN THE blistering heat at Mossfield on Saturday, Oban Celtic, sponsored by House and Home, rattled home eight goals and missed as many, in a game that was not as one-sided 8-3 as the scoreline suggests.

Despite all the early pressure and a flurry of shots on goal, it was the visitors who scored first on 11 minutes through Fraser Williamson, after only their first foray into Celtic's territory.

Good passing and movement between the Oban forwards created a chance after 16 minutes for Lee Askew who fired a 25 yard rocket into the top corner of the Col Glen net.

Alan Miller put the Oban boys ahead after 25 minutes, the same player-created the opportunity for Donald MacKay to fire in their third on 34 minutes.

Within a minute of the second half commencing Kieran Gallacher had the home side cruising with a fourth goal. However, Ronnie MacVicar struck back for the visitors five minutes later and when Oban defender John Hill had to retire with an ankle injury a few moments later, Celtic realised that the game was not yet over.

Reshuffled and allowing the ball to do the work, Celtic gradually began to wear down the Col Glen defenders who began to tire in the incessant heat. MacNeil scored Oban's fifth goal after 65 minutes with Askew completing his hat-trick with strikes in the 74th and 76th minutes.

Alan Miller was rewarded for a good overall performance with Celtic's final goal after 84 minutes, while Willie MacVicar pulled a goal back for Col Glen with only four minutes left.

Oban Celtic's ability to adapt to the conditions proved the key to their success while Col Glen paid the penalty for travelling without substitutes on a day when fitness levels were tested.

Cameron hat-trick give Taynuilt win

Shinty

TAYNUILT won the first South Division Two local derby with Glenorchy thanks to a hat-trick of goals from Daniel Cameron.

Cameron opened the scoring after seven minutes but the lead proved short-lived as Gary MacPherson quickly equalised.

By the interval both teams had created chances to take the lead but had failed to find the required finish, however, three minutes into the second-half Cameron put Taynuilt back in the lead with a great individualistic goal.

Glenorchy's veteran forward John Smith levelled the scores after 65 minutes and the match looked to be heading for a draw until Daniel Cameron found the Glen's net for a third time to snatch both league points.

Spot the SHINTY BALL Competition

WIN £1100

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE. . .

All you have to do

We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph opposite. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1.

If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.

The game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void. Prizes will be shared between those submitting correct entries.

If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

Easy to enter

Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to reach "Spot the Shinty Ball" Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB **by 12noon on Tuesday.**

You may hand it into **The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban** by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

Competition Rules

No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery.

The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.

In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company.

The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time.

Employees of The Oban Times Limited, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.

This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are: G Milliken, 55 Crofthill Road, Croftfoot, Glasgow and Islay Livingstone, 120 Frederick Crescent, Port Ellen, Islay

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**

Oban ladies win national league

TWO out of three ain't bad for Oban's ladies rugby team who won two games in one day to win the National Development League title.

On the final day of the season Oban played three competitive matches. They began with a 42-7 win over Strathaven and a 55-0 win over Cartha.

This left the match with Morgan, a newly formed Dundee side who were able this year to consistently field huge numbers of experienced players. Unfortunately Oban lost to Morgan by one try. The Oban girls resigned themselves to finishing second in the league, an improvement from the previous year's third place.

Oban Lorne Ladies, winners of the SWRU National Development League 2008. t23rug01

Rugby

However intimation was received this week from the Scottish Women's Rugby Union (SWRU) that in fact Oban Lorne had taken the title of league winners.

Both Oban and Morgan had finished on 29 points, each had played 12 matches and each had won eight, drawn one and lost three. The decider was the points scored, with Oban having scored 226 points to Morgan's 128. Having been awarded SWRU Team of the Year last season this was a wonderful result for the Oban side and testimony to the hard work and patience of coach Andy MacDougall.

In addition to this the ladies were delighted to receive further good news that top try scorer was awarded to team captain Dee Bradbury and the title of top points scorer of the league to Donna Smith.

Dee Bradbury said: 'Oban Lorne Ladies have had an outstanding year. On top of achieving these awards they were lucky enough to attract new sponsorship. Yeoman Glensanda provided the strips while the Waterfront Restaurant sponsor new jackets designed by Dee Rudiger of Deeva Design, Oban.'

To finish the season the team travel to Bibione, Italy next week to participate in a beach rugby tournament.

New players are always welcome, regardless of experience. Training is at Oban Lorne Rugby Club each Friday 6-8pm.

Scottish international player Craig Hardy with coach Terry McLernon and pupils from the Oban Primary Campus. t23tab01

Tips from the top for table tennis club

YOUNG table tennis players in Oban got some tips from the top when a Scottish international player and a team coach paid a visit last week.

Craig Hardy, seeded fifth in Scotland and the youngest member of the Scottish mens senior squad, and team coach Terry McLernon held a coaching session in Oban Primary Campus.

Craig said: 'This is a great set up with perfect facilities to start off. The only way to get better is to play all the time and they all seem to enjoy it.'

Table Tennis

Terry added: 'For a club which only started in October they've done really well. The kids are putting the time in now and it gives them a great start before going up to secondary school.' Terry, the sport's development officer for Scotland and a coach with Drumchapel Table Tennis Club, the biggest in Britain, is now planning to take some more coaching sessions in Oban in the near future.

Tides

Tide tables for Oban during the week from
Thursday, June 5, 2008
are listed below with differences
for major ports listed beneath.
All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am						pm	
Thur	00.31	0.6	06.32	3.8	12.41	0.5	18.42	4.0
Fri	01.24	0.7	07.19	3.7	13.29	0.6	19.29	3.9
Sat	02.16	0.8	08.07	3.5	14.18	0.7	20.17	3.7
Sun	03.09	1.0	08.58	3.3	15.07	0.8	21.06	3.5
Mon	04.04	1.2	09.54	3.1	15.59	1.0	21.59	3.3
Tues	05.03	1.4	11.00	2.9	16.53	1.2	22.59	3.1
Wed	06.07	1.6	12.15	2.8	17.50	1.4	**.**	*.*

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrishaig	-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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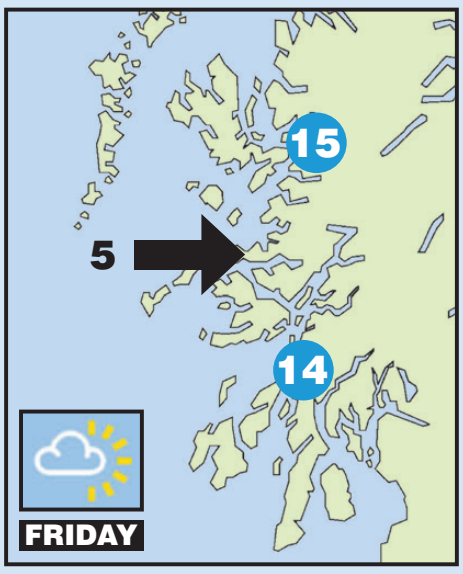

the weather

Sponsored by
NANCY BLACK Ships' Chandler

Thursday
Expect light rain. Winds light south south-westerly.
Temperatures 7ºC to 14ºC.
Friday
Sunny intervals. Winds light westerly.Temperatures 11ºC to 18ºC.
Weekend Outlook
Cloudy with a moderate southerly wind.
Temperatures 11ºC to 17ºC.

Ferry Crossings/Sea States
Oban to Barra/South Uist - Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree -As above
Kennacraig to Islay - As above

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Schools event in this year's Islay triathlon

Athletics

THERE is still time to train for this year's triathlon on Saturday, June 21.

Why not organise a team from your workplace, or with friends, family or complete all three sections of the event yourself.

There are prizes for the fastest male and female swimmer, cyclist and runner as well as prizes for Young Scot cardholders.

All competitors will receive a medal and a triathlon t-shirt.

A Primary five, six and seven triathlon will also take place on June 21 consisting of a 0.25 kilometre swim, a 5.5km cycle and a 1.5km run.

Further details on 07917 073394.

Cricketers continue early season form

Another convincing league win for Oban side

Cricket

OBAN Cricket Club travelled to Stirlingshire to take on Gargunnock on Sunday and continued their impressive early season form with another convincing win.

The game began as it became clear that the long spell of good weather had finally came to an end.

Oban won the toss and asked the hosts to bat first in damp and blustery conditions.

Gargunnock reached a total of 22 before the first wicket fell, Isaac Forster having Everett well caught by Shakil at square leg.

Forster then contributed again with a stunning slip catch to remove opener John Shaw just as he looked well set.

Andrew Leach took two further wickets and at 29 for 4, the innings was in danger of collapse.

However, a late rally, led by Steve Sutcliffe with a patient 17, saw the score past 50 before Forster returned to clean up the remaining wickets and see Gargunnock all out for 65.

The Oban attack all bowled well with Forster taking four wickets, Andrew Leach three, Allan Laycock weighed in with two and Davie Brown, playing his first game for the club, took the other.

After an extended lunch break due to the rain, Oban began their reply against some tight bowling and a wet outfield which made scoring difficult.

Despite this however, Ronnie Kelly and Andrew Leach took the score to 42 before the first wicket fell, Kelly bowled for 15.

Leach fell for 25 with the score on 49 but Isaac Forster, with 18 not out and Allan Laycock hit the winning runs just in time as the rain became increasingly heavy.

Oban's next game is an Argyll League match at Taynuilt on Saturday June 7 against Carradale.

Scores: Gargunnock 65 (Sutcliffe 17, Forster 4-12) Oban 66-2 (Leach 25, Forster 18 not out)

Ardbeg Am-Am played on Islay

Golf

Islay Golf Club
Ardbeg Am-Am
1 A MacMillan, A Peter, B O'Neill, S Graham (89 points)
2 N MacDonald, G Campbell, C Campbell, J Campbell (88pts)
3 N Robertson, M Robertson, C Gregor, D Grant (87pts)
June Medal
1 I MacCuaig 73-7=66
2 A MacAulay 83-16=67
3 G Campbell 75-6=69
Machrie Open
1 S Freeman 77+81=158
2 N MacDonald 78+82=160
3 D Lamont 77+83=160
4 J Kidd 82+82=164
The Laddie
1 B O'Neill 40pts 2 S Peter 40pts 3 S Graham 40pts 4 D Gillies 38pts.

Killin Golf Club Mixed Open Results

Handicap:
MacRobert Thistle Cup
1D Nicholson (Helensburgh) & Sheena Chisholm (Killin) 62
2 Douglas McRobbie & Susan McRobbie (Killin) 63
3 A Hill & Eileen Hill (Dalmally) 64.5
Best Killin (Bill Mitchell Salver)
Douglas & Susan McRobbie 63
Scratch
1 John Chisholm (Killin) & Caroline Dunbar (Aberfeldy) 77
2 Gordon Aitken (Killin) & Patricia Parkhouse (Lothianburn) – 79 BIH
3 L Crichton & I Crichton (Alyth) 79
Nearest Pin
Ladies (14th) Ruth Campbell (Taymouth)
Gents (17th) - Jim Hepburn (Comrie)
Magic Twos
G & A Marshall (Rye Hill)
L & I Crichton (Aylth)
John Chisholm (Killin) & Caroline Dunbar (Aberfeldy) N Burns (Deer Park) & Susan Randal (Carrickvale)

Saints move up to fourth place

Football

Umbro Scottish Amateur League - Premier Division
POLLOK 0
OBAN SAINTS 2

SAINTS travelled to Cowglen to take on Pollok in their penultimate league game of the season and returned with three hard-earned points in the bag.

The teams had met in Oban earlier this month with the game ending in a 1-1 draw, so another close encounter was envisaged last Saturday and this is exactly how it turned out.

In the first half Saints' Allan MacKay squared the ball to Keith Millar, but the Saints midfielder's shot sailed over the bar. Darin Bryars also had a good shot well saved by Pollok keeper Kevin Macklin.

The deadlock was eventually broken in the 81st minute when goalkeeper Kevin Macklin completely mis-kicked the ball and Donald Campbell stroked the ball into the net.

Any chance the home team had of staging a comeback were killed off three minutes from time when Colin Carswell set up Allan MacKay who wasted no time in blasting the ball past the helpless Pollok keeper.

Coach Peter MacCallum said: 'It was an entertaining and close match and both sets of players deserve credit for producing an excellent game in the very warm conditions.

'I suppose Pollok would claim they should have got something from the game but we took our chances when they came along and got the required result.'

Saints finish off the season with a tough home game against St Pat's FP, arguably the best amateur team in the country over the last few years, winning both the Scottish and West of Scotland Cups on several occasions. The Dumbarton club need a point to lift the Premier Division title, but Saints will be doing their utmost to stop this happening.

The game will take place at Mossfield or Glen 2 on Sunday with a 2.30 pm kick-off.

Youth result: Oban Saints Under 17s 0, Mossvale 7.

The AMP Youth Tournament will take place at Mossfield Stadium on Saturday 21st June with eight teams taking part: Aberdeen, Kilmarnock, Motherwell, Hamilton Accies, St Mirren, Clyde, Fort William and Oban Saints.

Am-Am winning team members, left to right, Brian McGleish, Finlay O'Rourke and Teddy O'Rourke with tournament sponsor Paddy Lafferty.

Amateur event raises £6,000 for local good causes in Oban

Golf

AN AMATEUR event at Oban's Glencruitten Golf Club on Sunday raised an amazing £6,000 for charity.

The first day in June saw the 23rd Oban Rotary Club Am-Am golf tournament, the proceeds of which will go to support local good causes.

The event is well supported by sponsorship from local businesses and most of the teams are local and a number of teams travel from various parts of Scotland to play in the competition. Over 50 teams took part with local team 'D and K Lafferty 2' lifting the Bank of Scotland trophy. Team members were Brian McGleish, Finlay O'Rourke, Teddy O'Rourke and Willie Evans.

Second prize was won by 'Scottish Sea Farms 1' who took home the Allan Memorial trophy and third prize, the Angus Simpson Memorial trophy, was won by another local team, D and A Munn.

In his vote of thanks Oban Rotary Club president Frank Walton thanked the Glencruitten club for sponsoring the event, greenkeeper Dougie MacIntuyre for the excellent condition of the course, and club steward David Shearer for the in-exhaustable supply of food during the tournament.

Tournament convener David Finlayson said: 'Now in its 23rd year the Am-Am is one of the most popular events in the local golfing calendar, and since inception has raised over £100,000, which has been distributed to local good causes.'

Argyll to play Scottish select

Football

THIS Saturday at the Ropework Park, Lochgilphead, the annual Joe Paterson Memorial Trophy match takes place between an Argyll Select and a Scottish League Select.

This will be the 28th time the game has been played with Argyll leading 14-13, so the boys will be going all out to increase that lead on Saturday. The match kicks-off at 2.30pm.

The Argyll Select is picked using players from the Campbeltown teams - Pupils and Boys, Tarbert, Oban Saints and this year's host club Lochgilphead Red Star.

Summer festival

Football

THIS year's Oban Football Festival will run from June 30 to July 4.

The festival is for school age children and starts at 10am and finishes at 2pm each day.

For further details and application forms please contact Jennifer Matheson at Argyll & Bute Council, WHHA Building, Crannog Lane, Oban.