

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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Cinema send off for late councillor

A MEMORIAL service for Councillor Donald Macdonald, who sadly passed away on holiday in North Uist on August 3, will be held in a rather unusual setting this Saturday.

Donald's widow requested that a service be held in the former Highland Theatre Building, and after some negotiation with Santander Bank, the current owners, it will be held this Saturday, August 20, at 1pm.

People are reminded the cinema is a work in progress and should dress appropriately for a building that has now been closed for more than a year.

Four charged over fight allegation

SIX MEN were allegedly involved in a fight in Oban's George Street in the early hours of Sunday August 14.

Police have charged four males in connection with the incident and are still looking for another two.

A woman was arrested for an unrelated breach of the peace, also in George Street, around 3am on Sunday August 14.

Driver accused of 'tailgating' on A85

A 32-YEAR-old local man was charged with reckless driving after police received reports of a driver allegedly tailgating and overtaking at excessive speed in the face of oncoming traffic.

Praise for trio's quick thinking

THREE young men were praised for their quick actions after they spotted a man behaving erratically on the Corran Esplanade, Oban, last Tuesday, August 9.

Chief Inspector Brian Auld said they came to the police office to report that they had seen the man with what they believed was a weapon.

He said it allowed officers to get to the scene and give the man, who has mental health issues, appropriate help quickly.



Golden wonders - Ian Hurst, Mattie MacMaster, I G Kennedy, Pipe Major Euan Dewar and Tommy McCrindle celebrate Oban Pipe Band's success at the World Pipe Band Championships, where they won grade 3A. 16_133pipeband1

Oban pipers strike gold at World Championships

THERE were celebrations galore throughout Oban as the town's pipers struck gold at the World Pipe Band Championships in Glasgow.

Winning grade 3A, the band has risen through the ranks to become one of the most renowned in the country for its strength of playing. Competing in the same grade was Isle of Islay.

Pipe Major Euan Dewar said: 'We had to play in a qualifying round to take part in the grade

competition. We played okay, but it was not our best performance.

'Later in the afternoon when we played in the competition we sounded pretty good.' Euan added: 'At the start of the season we were in a lower grade but the band has grown in strength with every competition it has taken part in.'

Alistair Dewar, a supporter of the pipe band, said: 'We are all absolutely delighted that Oban Pipe Band won Grade 3A.'

'The result is the icing on the cake for the band members and all associated with it, following many months of commitment and practice. Band members would also like to put on record their sincere thanks to the local community for their support and financial assistance without which this great result would probably not have been achieved.'

Congratulations were also given to Kintyre Schools Pipe Band which won the novice junior title

at the World Pipe Band competitions.

There was a strong Argyll representation at the competition with Inveraray and District Pipe Band, Isle of Islay, Oban, Cowal, Inveraray and District Juvenile Band, Oban High School and Novice Juvenile winners Kintyre Schools and Oban High School taking part.

The next competition, at Cowal a week on Saturday, is the final of the piping season.

Argyll glen selected for 'diamond woodland'

AN ARGYLL glen been chosen as one of 60 new woodlands to be created for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee next year.

Native trees will be planted in Glen Orchy as part of the prestigious project co-ordinated by the Woodland Trust.

Nick Purdy, manager of the Forestry Commission's West Argyll District, said the stunning site on the slopes of Corbett Bein Uldaidh is rich in history.

He said: 'The planting will complement the existing Caledonian pinewood and will help to enhance biodiversity in an area that is already rich in wildlife.'

'This is a massive project for the Woodland Trust - and we are happy to be able to help out.'

The Diamond Wood at Glen Orchy will be one of the flagship sites for 60 acres of new trees, but Carol Evans of Woodland Trust Scotland said they aim to plant six million new trees for the special tribute to the Queen.

She said: 'We are absolutely delighted that Forestry Commission Scotland want to work with us to develop a Diamond Wood.'

'The project allows us to engage with local children, provide them with the opportunity to plant trees, engage with nature and celebrate their role in marking this historic event.'

More information on free tree packs for landowners, communities and schools is available from 08452 935689.

Thefts prompt warning

POLICE investigating a series of thefts in rural North Lorn are appealing for the public's help.

Between July 15 and August 11, more than £300 worth of red diesel was taken from a tank at Inverfolla Farm, Appin.

Police are following a positive line of enquiry after marks were found on the ground and a suspicious van was seen in the area.

Between July 28 and August 9, three lengths of rope with spinners and yellow buoys attached were taken from Appin Pier.

The total value of the equipment

was £200. In a third incident, ten fishing rods and tackle worth a total of £600 were taken from a charter boat berthed at Bonawe harbour between August 4 and 11.

Chief Inspector Brian Auld said it was unclear whether the incidents were related and urged property owners to be vigilant.

He said: 'Lock away property that's capable of being locked. If anyone is offered any of these items for sale, we would welcome any information.'

Police can be contacted on 01631 510500.

Car windows targeted

VANDALS damaged every window and panel of a car in Tweeddale Street car park, Oban, on Saturday night.

Police are appealing for

witnesses or information to the crime, which they believe may have been a targeted act. Anyone with any information can contact officers on 01631 510500.

Ministers asked to back 'Lorn Arc'

Funding would be used to improve area's infrastructure

THE SCOTTISH Government is being asked to give its backing to a £20 million project to help regenerate Oban and the surrounding area.

If ministers give their support, the cash will be used to invest in infrastructure, which it is hoped would lead to the creation of new businesses.

The money would be loaned from the government under a Tax Incremental Finance Initiative and paid back from rates from the successful new businesses.

The application was due to be submitted today, Thursday, with a decision expected by mid-September.

If successful, the money will be used to develop the North Pier, Oban Airport, a transport hub and road networks all under the title of the Lorn Arc - and work could start before the end of the year.

Politicians from all sides agreed the Lorn Arc project could be the best thing to happen to the area in decades.

Argyll and Bute Council officers hope the improved infrastructure would see Oban take a leading role in the repair

REPORT by LOUISE LEE llee@obantimes.co.uk

business co-ordination and development support.

Michael Russell MSP is backing the plans. He said: 'This is hugely exciting for Oban and Lorn and could make a substantial difference to the future of the town. I am very happy to support the council with this bid.'

Members of the business community sounded a note of caution. John Forteith, a member of the CHORD Project Board urged caution in creating a purely industrial environment in Oban.

He said: 'One of our greatest features in Oban is the view - to put too many commercial industries into the pier at one time may spoil what we already have.'

Callum MacLeod, co-owner of North Pier business Piazza and Ee-Usk said: 'It is difficult to marry industry and tourism in one small bay and I would ask the council to look at the existing examples where they are not compatible and not make the same mistakes. It would be a shame to destroy what we have here. Oban is a small and intimate town. We must be careful not to destroy what we have.'

and maintenance of the wind and wave technologies that are proposed for the west coast.

Lorn Arc funding will improve infrastructure at Oban, Dunstaffnage, Dunbeg, North Connel and Barcalaine.

One of the first projects will be to extend Oban's North Pier. This will improve the town's ability to act as a transport hub and to attract new businesses to the area.

An animated Councillor Duncan MacIntyre, chairman of the Oban CHORD project board, said: 'This is our time for development and it is very exciting.'

'Oban has so much on offer already and a key location for renewable energy, marine science and an attractive tourist destination.'

'The outline proposal to extend the North Pier in Oban already exists and could significantly contribute to the transport hub already offered in Oban.'

'Oban airport could provide

'Positive' talks on road work plans

A MEETING between local politicians and officials from Scotland TransServ has smoothed the way for future improvements to the area's main roads.

Last month, the road's agency was criticised for planning major works on the A85 at Pennyfuir, Connel and Loch Awe during the summer months and for their consultation process.

But last week TransServ officials invited

councillors, MSPs and the area's MP to the meeting to brief them on the detailed arrangements for the work and to enhance working relations.

Constructive

A spokesman for Scotland TransServ said: 'It was a positive and constructive meeting.'

Regular briefings on planned road works will now be held.

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Council staff call in sick an average of 9.5 days a year - costing £3.5 million

SICKNESS among its employees cost Argyll and Bute Council £3.5 million last year.

In a detailed report presented to the council's executive committee, it revealed that while absence among teachers has increased, the number of sick days taken by other local government workers is on the way down.

The average number of days lost per employee in 2009/2010 was 9.79, compared to 9.53 in 2010/2011.

In general, sickness absence levels within the council decreased between April 2010 and March 2011.

Council Chief Executive Sally Loudon said that the £3.5m is part of

a budget and is not a 'real cost or real figure'.

But she added: 'At any time we would want to reduce absence levels.'

She told the meeting that Argyll and Bute Council is the tenth best performing council in Scotland in terms of sickness absence for the 2009/10 period, adding: 'We are definitely not one of the worst council in terms of section management.'

Teachers' sick days increased by an average of 0.4 days per employee to 7.85 days from 2009/10 to 2010/2011, with local government workers sick days decreasing from an average of 10.5 to 10.1 days per employee for the

same period. Of the different types of job, sickness levels remain highest amongst non-office based staff.

The top reason for short term absences, at 24 per cent, was given as infections, with the top reason for long term absence reported as musculo skeletal issues and stress.

The report stated that research shows where line managers have been trained in absence management there is a decrease in sickness rates, and as a starting point the single most effective action to reduce absence is to consistently conduct return-to-work interviews for all staff who have been off.

The initiatives introduced by

human resources during financial year 2010/2011 have generated savings with an estimated reduction in costs of £32,215 on the previous year.

Councillor Ellen Morton said it was important to understand the reasons for absence and tackle the issues within the work place and it is important no money is wasted.

'It is also important we don't give an impression that people that are off are to blame for their own illness,' she said.

'We are a very big employer. I think it is very important we don't send out a signal to any of our staff that they can't be ill.'

The Argyllshire Gathering

OBAN HIGHLAND GAMES

Mossfield Park, Oban

Thursday 25th August 2011

March to Games Field leaves Station Square at 10.30am

OBAN PIPE BAND AND OBAN HIGH SCHOOL PIPE BAND
12noon from Station Square

Highland Dancing • Track & Field Events • Traditional Heavy Events • Piping

Juvenile Exhibition Shinty (starts 9.30)
Tug O' War • Fun Races • Heritage Tent • Trade Stands

PIPING COMPETITIONS

Wednesday 24th August 2011.

PIOBAIREACHD:
9.00 am Gold Medal
Corran Halls
9.00 am Silver Medal
Great Western Hotel
9.00 am MacGregor Memorial Competition
Regent Hotel
9.30 am Senior Piobaireachd
Corran Halls

LIGHT MUSIC:
4.00 PM March, Strathspey & Reel
(former winners) - Corran Halls

PRIZE-GIVING CEREMONY
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Hostel unveils £1.4m new look

THE INTERIOR of the Scottish Youth Hostel Association (SYHA) building on the Esplanade is hardly recognisable after a £1.4 million refurbishment was completed last week.

Work included internal modernisation and eco-friendly features, while retaining the original building's traditional charm.

Marie MacColl, manager of Oban Youth Hostel, said: 'We are pleased to unveil the stunning results of the renovated hostel, which we hope will prove a vibrant and sustainable, contribution to tourism in Oban for generations to come.'

'Essential repairs and modernisation were necessary to ensure the hostel is a key asset to Oban's hugely important tourism economy.'

'The Youth Hostel's magnificent wooden staircase, which has been closed off from view for many years, has been restored to its former glory and become open plan.

The stained glass windows, which adorn the staircase, were removed, restored and then replaced in a protected double glazed frame.

'Two new rooms have been created; now offering a total of ten en-suite guest rooms.'

Media room

The hostel also boasts a new reception, media room with two internet terminals and extensive local information, and self-catering kitchen, as well as new furnishings and fittings.

'There is a new dining area and café offering an increased choice of food and drink on sale to guests and members of the public.'

The project's completion has also seen the Odin Naval Memorial returned to the hostel, with World War II artefacts of the submarine's history, including the roll call and photographs of the original crew.



Staff celebrate the re-opening of the Scottish Youth Hostel Association (SYHA) building on the Esplanade. 16_133hostel1



Fancy dress was the order of the day for the fun walk.

Islanders raise £3,000 for medical equipment

A FUNDRAISING effort on the Isle of Colonsay to raise enough money to buy medical equipment for the island has exceeded expectations by taking in more than £3,000.

The Colonsay Medical Equipment Fund was set up several years ago to help buy valuable supplies for the island, which has a population of 130, which increases to more than 600 in the summer.

Angus MacPhee got the fundraising effort started with a sponsored hair cut. Angus had let his hair and beard grow for six months and on July 2 he had it cut at the Pantry by Margaret Smith, raising £626.

The next fundraising event was on July 30, when sunshine greeted 79 people for a fun walk around the circuit of Colonsay, starting at the Pantry.

Lady Strathcona cut the ribbon and started the walk. The first man back was David Entwistle and the first woman back was Alice Harry.

A family and their friends, on their first trip to Colonsay, supported the event by 'Jogging for Jack', in memory of a teenager who had tragically died just weeks before their holiday.

Walter Williams went round in his tractor and trailer after the walk had begun to pick up anyone tiring and he arrived back with his trailer full.

Gavin Clark had a barbecue going at the Pantry with burgers and sausages ready for all the returning walkers.

The fancy dress was judged at the fun walk with prizes presented at a ceilidh afterwards: Children - 1 Rachael Macdonald and Jaime Cawthera; 2 Pheobe Furze; 3 Maddie Furze. Adult 1 Jen McNeill and Kirsty Binnie; 2 Pauline Campbell.

Colonsay Medical Equipment Fund said it had exceeded the amount required to buy a new examination couch and ceiling light for the surgery and thanked all the islanders and visitors who supported the events as well as sponsors Caledonian McBryne and Forteths.

Tourist boss seeks Oban TIC solution

VisitScotland wants answer by winter

THE CHAIRMAN of VisitScotland has urged Oban residents and businesses to email him suggestions for the future of Oban's tourist information centre.

Dr Mike Cantlay wants the future of the visitor centre decided by the winter, so a new permanent solution can be implemented by next summer.

The majority of the tourist information centre has been decamped into the Caledonian MacBrayne terminal after its home in the old St Columba's Church at Argyll Square was discovered to be structurally unstable following a partial roof collapse.

Only the vestibule remains open until VisitScotland decides what to do next.

The location of the temporary home proved controversial



Suggestions sought: Dr Mike Cantlay is asking people to get in touch over Oban's visitor centre.

very important. So if people have suggestions or proposals about the best way forward, they can email me directly.

'There seems to be a wide divergence of views about where Oban's tourist information centre should be. We need to discuss them if we are to get the right solution.'

Whether that future be in its current home, its decamp premises or at another location remains to be seen.

Dr Cantlay said: 'What we have to do now is decide what to do with the building and whether or not we still use it.'

'We will assess how much it will cost to repair and listen to the community before we decide what to do next.'

You can email your suggestions on what to do next to chairman@visitscotland.com.

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Restaurant owner plans a return to teaching

TIREE'S iconic Elephant's End restaurant is to close after five years, with owner Elaine Hutchinson to revive her teaching career abroad.

Elaine decided to convert part of her house into a restaurant five years ago after struggling to find a full time job as a teacher on the island.

Taking advantage of a gap in the market, it has been mostly fully booked ever since. While Elaine is sad to finally close the doors she is looking forward to a new chapter in her life.

Elaine, who has lived on Tiree for 26 years, said: 'The Elephant's End has been very successful. I started it from nothing and built it right the way up.'

'I've got a visitors book full of people saying "don't go," but these things happen for a reason and the timing, for me, is about right.'

'I'm going to go back to teaching and there are lots of international schools abroad. I won't go until next September, but I'm just looking forward to teaching somewhere in the sunshine.'

'I'm looking forward to not working 7am-lam and it'll be great to let someone else worry about the wages.'

The restaurant will finally close its doors on September 21, but Elaine will take a year out preparing it for holiday lets before hoping to start a new teaching job next September.

One mystery, where does the name come from?

'When I was young, my name was shortened to Ellie and I've been given elephants all my life.'

'Then when we were building the restaurant a friend said "that'll be the elephant's end" and I thought, that's a great name.'

'The restaurant is full of elephants and elephants often land on my doorstep. There's at least a dozen a season.'

'Elephants don't forget though, so I hope people don't forget the experiences they had here. I certainly won't.'

Safety first earns £1,250 for Argyll cardio charity

SAFETY-conscious mechanics at Inverawe Power Station have handed over a £1,250 cheque to Argyll Beats Cardiovascular Disease (ABCD).

The staff were rewarded by employers Scottish Hydro Electric, through its Charity Safety Cheque scheme, after it reported a clean safety record at the site.

Scottish Hydro Electric Hydro Plant attendant DJ Barr nominated the charity, which promotes healthy lifestyles to combat heart-related illnesses.

He said: 'I nominated ABCD because I have family members affected by heart problems and I am aware of what the charity does. I have run in the ABCD 10K before and was keen to support the charity again.'

ABCD chairwoman Caroline Henderson said: 'We are absolutely delighted we were chosen to receive the donation and we would like to thank DJ and Scottish Hydro Electric.'

The money will go towards ABCD's grant fund, which is distributed to causes in the area that support their aims.



Scottish Hydro Electric workers DJ Barr and Gordon Cowan present the cheque to ABCD representatives. 15_131abcd01

Planning portal leaves snack van operator at a loss

TIREE'S beleaguered snack van operators are facing up to yet more misery thanks to a complicated online planning system.

Sam Bouchnak was one of three snack van operators on the island to have his business thrown into turmoil by Argyll and Bute Council, which reacted to a complaint from a holiday-home owner by telling each snack van that they were operating without planning permission.

However, the snack van operators say they were not told of the requirement, having been operating without planning consent for years.

Not wishing to be accused of trading illegally, Sam saved for

weeks to gather enough cash to file an application for the Haystack van at Scarnish via Argyll and Bute's website.

He followed the instructions as issued online and paid the £169 application fee. He also shelled out £15 for an official map detailing the location of the application, as advertised on the Scottish Government's 'e-planning' website portal.

However, last week he received an email telling him that he'd paid the wrong fee and the map was not detailed enough.

It said he'd have to apply again, at a cost of £319 plus £156 for advertising - and there was no refunds for the

previous application. Sam said: 'I complained to the council, but they said the new planning website was no use and that, because it was Scotland-wide, they weren't taking responsibility for it.'

'I then spoke to the guys from e-planning and they said it's up to the discretion of Argyll and Bute Council's planning department.'

'But the council has refused to give me a refund and want another £475.'

'This is taking it from hard for small business to impossible.'

'If I can do it for less than £400, then I could afford to. If not, I'll refuse and act as a rogue trader.'

Mr Bouchnak, meanwhile, is

continuing to investigate whether or not the council's demands are legal.

A spokeswoman for Argyll and Bute Council said Mr Bouchnak had submitted the wrong type of application, but would work with him to amend his application.

While no refund would be given, the fee paid would count towards the balance of the new application.

She said: 'We have been in touch with Mr Bouchnak and have explained to him how he can amend his application. Our local planning officers or validation team are available to help anyone with their planning application, from start to finish.'

Planning applications to council on the increase

ARGYLL and Bute Council June this year 640 planning applications had been submitted compared to 470 in the previous quarter. The report also stated that 91 per cent of building warrants were responded to within the target timescale.

Customer satisfaction with planning has also increased, rising 23 per cent to 90 per cent compared to the same period last year. He said one of the key challenges would be to maintain performance.

Councillor Alison Hay asked Mr Macgarrigal how the department measures customer satisfaction.

He said that each applicant is asked to rate their experience dealing with the department.

Film star's backing for Aberfeldy cinema campaign

HOLLYWOOD's Alan Cumming, star of X-Men and The Good Wife, has backed Aberfeldy's Friends of the Birks Cinema as it launches its 'Six Month Campaign.'

The name marks how long the group has to raise the full £1.8million required to revamp the Highland Perthshire picture house, or else facing losing match funding offers and returning to square one.

But with just over £1million raised already and the building

old building brought back to life and up to date.'

Helping to launch the new campaign was local MSP John Swinney.

He said: 'I am delighted to support Friends of the Birks Cinema and I commend the vision and energy of the local community members and Friends who are working together to make something happen.'

'I am really looking forward to seeing the state-of-the-art facility

in the heart of the town and the impact it will have in stimulating wider economic, social and cultural development in the region.'

Chairman of the Friends Charlotte Flower said: 'We're on the home straight now and any and all support is most welcome.'

'A modern, hi-tech, state-of-the-art facility will offer many benefits to Highland Perthshire as a region, not just to Aberfeldy.'

Offender placed on register for under age sex

A MAN who had sex with an under age girl while in Oban has been put on the sex offenders' register for 12 months.

Derek McLean, 31, of 176 Walton Road, Carluke, had previously admitted that, on April 12, at accommodation at Corran Esplanade, he had intercourse with a girl aged over 13, but under 16.

Oban Sheriff Court heard that McLean had made 'full and frank' admissions to police shortly after the incident, telling officers he believed the girl - who was taller than him - to be over 17.

Also ordering McLean to complete 140 hours of community service within a year, Sheriff Douglas Small said: 'I accept that you understood the girl to be 17. Nevertheless, this is an offence that has to be marked with the disapproval of the court.'

Sign up, urges voluntary group

ARGYLL Voluntary Action (AVA) is updating and expanding its mailing list and is looking for charities, clubs and groups of all kinds to sign up.

Organisations do not need to be members of AVA, but could benefit from building links with other local groups, according to Kathleen Black from the association.

She said: 'We are interested in everything from sewing clubs to rape crisis support groups - the lot.'

'We can keep them up to date with any alerts for funding, any legal changes about protecting vulnerable groups for example and we can also promote any events they have got coming up on our website.'

'The information will be sent out by email for those groups which have it and by post for those that don't.'

Any group which would like to add or check its details can contact Kathleen on office. ava@btconnect.com, by phone on 01631 564839 or at 21 High Street, Oban.

Families could miss out on benefits

ONE THOUSAND families in Argyll and Bute could miss out on benefits to which they are entitled if they do not act now.

Parents of 16-year-olds who stay in full-time education need to notify the HMRC of the young person's plans. If they do not make contact now, child benefit payments of up to £20.30 per week will stop on August 30.

Steve Lamey, HMRC's director of benefits and credits said 1,065 claims in Argyll and Bute could be affected.

He said: 'If their child is staying on full-time, they need to let us know the full details as soon as possible so that their child benefit doesn't stop on August 30.'

Details can be notified through the HMRC website on www.hmrc.gov.uk/childbenefit/change-circs.htm or by phoning 0845 302 1444.

Holidaymakers' lucky escape

TWO holidaymakers had a lucky escape when their car plunged into Loch Creran last week.

Police were called to the A828 near Barcaldine shortly after 3pm on Wednesday, to find the vehicle had turned onto its roof before hitting the loch's chilly waters.

Both the driver and the passenger were unharmed and managed to escape the vehicle by themselves.

Rangers supporter fined for abuse

A RANGERS fan from Oban who shouted sectarian abuse at a Catholic man without provocation has escaped a football banning order, but has been fined £600.

Peter McCuish, 31, of 8A Miller Road, pled guilty at Oban Sheriff Court to the offence, which took place after his club's game against Hearts on May 7, on the Glasgow-Oban train near Taynuilt.

Sheriff Douglas Small said: 'I don't intend to impose a banning order, but I want to make it quite clear to people like yourself and anyone who may be minded to participate in this kind of behaviour that it won't be tolerated.'

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Medical emergencies

A TRIO of medical emergencies led to a busy day for Clyde Coastguard last Thursday, co-ordinating two operations in Oban and one on Coll.

The first call came after a crewman became ill on the fishing vessel *Natalie Rose*. Oban lifeboat evacuated the man to shore, where he was taken to the Lorn and Islands Hospital by ambulance.

Coll Coastguard was then asked to attend a patient transfer via Navy helicopter Rescue 177 from the island to Clydebank's Golden Jubilee Hospital.

Finally, Oban Coastguard's Rescue Team was called to Dunstaffnage Marine Laboratory to man the landing site for Coastguard Helicopter Rescue 100, which was transferring a diver suffering from decompression sickness from Ullapool.

Offender told he must behave

AN OBAN teenager who struggled violently with police officers in a drunken incident last year has quit alcohol, Oban Sheriff Court has heard.

Callum Marley McPhee, of 23 Nelson Road, was aged 16 at the time of the incident on October 1 2010. He admitted obstructing two constables and swearing at them when they went to speak to him and a group of youths in Nelson Road, but denied another charge of assault.

Defending, Edward Thornton said McPhee had sought help to stop drinking completely and that he was a first offender.

Sentence on McPhee was deferred for nine months for good behaviour.

Rib left drifting after engine failed

CLYDE Coastguard co-ordinated the rescue of a rib with 11 people on board on Saturday after engine failure left it drifting six miles northeast of the Gulf of Corryvreckan.

While Oban lifeboat *Mora Edith Macdonald* was launched at 4:43pm, the *MV Porpoise II* was in the area and asked to assist the stricken vessel. It arrived on scene first, between the islands of Jura and Scarba, and towed the boat to Croabh Haven.

A YACHT suffered engine failure on Loch Linnhe on Saturday. The 36ft sailing yacht, *Sandstorm*, got into difficulty about eight nautical miles from Port Appin, but was escorted into Linnhe Marine by the yacht *Esther*.

Work to improve Barra water supply

SCOTTISH Water this week started a £45,000 scheme to improve Barra's water supply.

Contractors Macaulay and Askernish will replace 300 metres of mains pipes between St Brendan's Hospital, next to Number 5, Horve, and the junction on St Brendan's Road near 3 St Michael's Cottages.

The work should eliminate problems with bursts in the past and will take around six weeks to complete.

TRAFFIC restrictions were in place on Oban's Gallanach Road last Thursday as Scottish Water engineers helped a customer to resolve a plumbing problem. Temporary traffic lights were in place close to the Manor House Hotel.



Quick thinking: Young sailor Alex Pedlay came to the rescue of three kayakers who had got into difficulty on Loch Linnhe. 08_1334alex02

Coastguard praise for teenager's quick thinking

Young sailor spotted stranded kayakers in trouble on loch

COASTGUARD officials have praised the efforts of a quick-thinking teenager who rescued three lost canoeists from Loch Linnhe.

REPORT
by CHRISTINE McCARTNEY
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Alex Pedlay, aged 16, who holds a RYA level two powerboat certificate, was skipper for the day on a family outing to Mull.

Alex told *The Oban Times* how the party was heading back to Appin in their Zodiac rib *Yorkshire Lassie* when they came across trouble ahead.

'We came back across the Sound of Mull, it was really rough. The wind picked up quite a lot and it was really choppy.'

'I went inland a bit so it was calmer and that's when I spotted the canoeists waving to us.'

'I thought they were just waving, but they kept waving at us so we went round to them.'

It transpired the two men and a child, who were visiting the area, had set off without food, water, spare clothes, maps or a phone.

Alex said he dreaded to think what could have happened if they hadn't found the group.

'We nearly chose a different route back that day. They thought they knew where they were but they were a long way off.'

'They were really stupid. They had no idea how much danger they were in.'

'The little boy was cold. They were saying they were thinking about camping on the beach at that point because they were exhausted.'

Alex, his parents, sister and a family friend, who were on holiday from Barnsley, Yorkshire, pulled the three of them and their craft on board and took them to Lochaline pier, where they were met by the Coastguard.

Robin Bell, Lochaline Coast-guard station manager, said Alex had done a great job.

'He's quite a boy - for a young lad it was quite something.'

Mr Bell took the three kayakers back to their accommodation and had a quiet word with them about sea safety.

'People think you just jump into a kayak and paddle away, but they don't realise there are tidal currents,' he said.

'You need to be prepared, know where you are going, know the tides, tell someone where you are going and when you will be back. Take a phone or radio.'

Alex's parents are also proud of his actions.

Mum Liz said: 'One of the men said to me 'you saved my life'.'

'I don't think they realised if we hadn't been there they could have been a statistic,' she added.

Alex hasn't rule out volunteering for the Coastguard or lifeboat in the future and plans to work towards his RYA day skipper qualification.

Parrot sanctuary owner must apply for zoo permit to re-open

KERRERA'S Island Parrot Sanctuary has been ordered to close to the public by the council because it was operating as a zoo without a licence.

Enforcement officers from Argyll and Bute Council wrote to the sanctuary on August 5 to advise owner Yvonne MacMillan that she cannot open to the public for more than seven days a year until the sanctuary has obtained the licence required under the Zoo Licensing Act 1981.

This year, it has been open to the public since April 4, and was due to remain open until October 2. A similar timetable was in place last year.

However, Mrs MacMillan has denied she was ordered to close the sanctuary to the public, saying she closed it so the licence could be applied for.

A spokesperson for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'The Island Parrot Sanctuary has been closed to the public until it can be licensed under the Zoo Licensing Act.'

'Without such a licence it cannot be open to the public for more than seven days a year.'

'We have no reason to believe that it would not meet the requirements for a licence but until it has applied for and received one it will have to operate as a sanctuary without the public being present.'

But Mrs MacMillan claimed: 'That's not the case. What we're doing is applying for a zoo licence because we're open longer than seven days a year.'

'In order to get a zoo licence we need to get some steps fixed in the sanctuary and install some handrails. We're not open to the public because of the cement mixers.'

Mrs MacMillan also claims she had applied for a zoo licence when the sanctuary opened in 2009 but was told she didn't need one.

'All we were told we needed was health and safety.'

Currently, the sanctuary is home to 63 neglected parrots and exotic birds.

It costs around £30,000 a year to run, of which £10,000 goes towards the cost of food and medicine alone.

Last year, Mrs MacMillan received the International Fund for Animal Welfare's Sanctuary Award for her years of dedication to protecting parrots.

Progress being made at Dalmally Pre-five unit

MEASURES put in place by Argyll and Bute Council to address issues at Dalmally Primary Pre-five unit are beginning to take effect.

The authority's executive committee was told a report by the Care Commission, based on an inspection in January, rated the unit as weak.

The report stated: 'The present staffing arrangements are having a negative impact on the quality of children's experiences, children's choices and on the extent to which the service is able to meet children's individual needs.'

Committee members were told as a result of this, measures were put in place in April to tackle these issues.

Dougie Dunlop, the council's head of children and families, said the principal teacher who previously taught early years has been assisting on the curriculum and 'good progress is being made'.

Seil Island Hall craft fair

SEIL Island Hall is holding a Craft Fair on Sunday August 21 from 11am until 4pm at Seil Island Hall.

Jewellery, stained glass, knitwear, plants, preserves, bee products, fair trade goods and much more will be available with outdoor activities based on traditional fairground sideshows.

Tobermory lifeboat crew joins RAF for 'invaluable' training

TOBERMORY RNLI lifeboat crew spent Sunday afternoon taking part in an exercise with the Royal Navy's search and rescue helicopter from HMS Gannet, at Prestwick, call sign Rescue 177.

During the exercise, crew members were winched from the deck of the Tobermory RNLI Severn class lifeboat *Elizabeth Fairlie Ramsey*.

One crew member, Robin Harrowsmith, took the plunge into Bloody Bay for a wet lift and was winched directly from

New bid to cut travel expenses

A TELEPHONE system which could help reduce travel expenses within Argyll and Bute Council has been rolled out across the area.

The new Lync 2010 phone system allows council employees to contact their colleagues more easily and to share desktops. They can also work collaboratively irrespective of where they are physically based.

Council Leader Dick Walsh told a meeting: 'It should in the longer term allow

us to reduce travel expenses.' The leader's report stated it will be extended to councillors and other council locations, which were not previously on the main council telephone network.

Meanwhile, SNP member John Semple will bring a motion before the council today, Thursday, in a bid to set up a video conferencing system which enables the public to view all public council and committee meetings from remote locations.

Checks in place to monitor viability of council contractors

SANDY Mactaggart assured councillors and officials that a process is in place to stop companies being appointed contracts and then going bust after the tender has been awarded.

Mr Mactaggart who is the executive director of development and infrastructure at Argyll and Bute Council was asked by members of the authority's executive committee if there was a level of scrutiny in the tendering process to give an assurance that companies are financially robust so they don't fall into receivership.

He explained that they carry out credit checks and identify a timescale for when the tender is to be issued.

'We've got to make sure we have the best information available. We have had experience of this in the last six months, when we undertook checks into a company which has previously been healthy it showed cause for concern,' said Mr Mactaggart.

He said the Dunoon contractor concerned has gone bust within the last two weeks and said 'this gives a practical example of the process in place'.

Cruise liner passengers venture further afield in Argyll

CRUISE ships visiting Oban are benefiting the rest of Argyll, one councillor told the executive committee of Argyll and Bute Council last week.

Oban member Neil Mackay said 26 cruise ships have visited Oban this year, with a further 24 booked for next. 'That doesn't only benefit Oban, the ships are staying longer in port and the passengers are visiting the rest of Argyll, especially Mid Argyll and Inveraray,' he said.

He said there had been a large amount of visitors coming off cruise ships and visiting Inveraray Castle. 'Believe it or not the cruise ship community from Oban has been going to Loch Lomond to cruise the loch, it is affecting various areas.'

He also said the £150k improvements with Sustrans to the walking and cycling routes in the area are benefiting the tourism industry.



Glenn Heritage hands over cash to Lori Hannah of Oban Youth Café and Cynthia McKeown, toy librarian with Oban Toy Library. 08_133ava01

Charities cash in after balloon race raises £170

TWO OBAN charities were delighted to learn they were in the money, after the winners of a balloon race nominated them for a cash prize.

Argyll Voluntary Action organised the balloon race at charities day in June.

Oban Youth Café received £100 after it was picked by Sophie Isaacson, from Tiree.

The café's Lori Hannah said: 'I want to really express my thanks to Sophie for nominating us.'

'The young people will decide how to spend it - they will vote on it and come shopping to buy what they choose.'

are on the café's wish list. Oban's Toy Cupboard was chosen by Caitlin Gray, who helps with the crèche at Glencruitten Church of Scotland and makes use of its toys with the children.

Cynthia McKeown, Toy Librarian, said the £70 cash would be a great boost to the charity and help pay for a new Pirate Ship Airflow for the children to explore. As well as regularly appearing at the Toy Cupboard, the large inflatable is hired out for parties to generate funds.

The money was handed over last week at Argyll Voluntary Action's offices by the organisation's head Glenn Heritage.

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ISLAY SHOW

Crowd goes GaGa for Charolais calf

REPORT
by EUAN PATERSON
epaterson@obantimes.co.uk

IN A year when Lady GaGa has topped the pop charts, it was a month-old namesake that stole the show on Islay last Thursday. GaGa Lady, bred by show stalwarts G and M Porter, Carrabus, made history at this year's event by taking a clean sweep of the championship prizes in the beef sections.

The Porters won the supreme championship and the Galloway championship with Carrabus Myrtle, a five-year-old in-calf cow shown by Alasdair Porter. But it was the little pure Charolais calf from Carrabus that won the affection of spectators after winning the commercial cattle section from a black Limousin cross, shown by Messrs MacMillan, Ardbeg. Sired by a bull from Drew Adams, Newhouse, Glamis, out of Logan Bar Dither, a heifer bought from Murray Lyle's dispersal sale in Stirling, GaGa Lady's name could not be revealed when she won her rosette, as she was part of a Bowmore Sports fundraiser on the day to 'Guess the name of the calf'.

Carrabus also had the reserve champion Galloway with the four-year-old cow Lolo, which was sired by former Royal Highland Show Champion Blackcraig Kodiak.

Highland cattle champion was also from Carrabus; Kayren of Auchterneed was champion at Islay and Mid Argyll two years ago. The six-year-old was bought

at Oban and was sired by Tommy of Auchterneed. This year it beat Neil McLellan's champion heifer from Kilchiaran into reserve.

Hamish Porter, of Carrabus, was delighted with his results, especially the surprise win for GaGa Lady. He said: 'We have had two in the beef championship before but never three. I'm told this is the first time that has been done and I doubt we'll ever do it again but it is great. All the hard work has been worth it.'

'It was a really wet day yesterday but the high wind this morning has given the cattle a 'blow dry' and they look great!'



Gardener John Logan had a successful show day, winning prizes in both the vegetable and flower classes. He is pictured with his winning roses and geraniums. 15_1331slay10

While the Porters enjoyed a dominance in the beef ring, Tony Rozga, of Kilmenny, once again showed his pedigree Texels and had the best overall sheep for the second consecutive year with a pedigree Glenside one-crop ewe, sired by Muiresk Nearco.

There was a notable absence from the Blackface catalogue, last year's winners Messrs MacMillan, but there was a deserving new champion shown by 15-year-old Ieach Alasdair Currie, Ballachlaven. His Blackface ewe was sired by a £3,000 Blackburn and bought at Lanark for 300 guineas. Reserve Blackface champion went to Elliot Bowman's ewe.

Finishing reserve champion of champions, however, was Highland Pony Knockandy Victoria, from Lyrabus Croft, Gruinart, owned by Gibson Campbell. Shown by Deedee Magowan, the four-year-old mare was sired by Mossie Laraig Ghru and out of Bogs Megan.

One of Argyll's most diverse show days, with dynamic show secretary Janey Torrance at the helm, Islay Show always promises entertaining sideshows. This year was no exception with the high-flying trapeze act, Above and Beyond, wowing a sizeable crowd of spectators who had not been put off by the threat of heavy rain.

Newly crowned European champions Islay Pipe Band and the Ella Edgar Highland Dancers also pulled in a good crowd and a parade of vintage vehicles preceded the presentation of prizes, which rounded off another successful show.



The winning line-up of beef champions from Carrabus, including Charolais calf GaGa Lady, left. 15_1331slay03



Above, supreme champion at the Islay Show was Carrabus Myrtle, a five-year-old in-calf Galloway cow, shown by Alasdair Porter. 15_1331slay05



Left, Texel breeder Tony Rozga, Kilmenny, won best overall sheep with this Glenside one-crop ewe, shown by his uncle Duncan Whyte. 15_1331slay09



Highland cattle champion was Kayren of Auchterneed from G and M Porter. The six-year-old was bought at Oban and was sired by Tommy of Auchterneed. 15_1331slay04



Best exhibit in the horticultural tent was won by Peggy MacEachern, Keills, for her Double Begonia. 15_1331slay11



Right, chaos ensues in the children's spacehopper race. 15_1331slay12

MULL AND MORVERN AGRICULTURAL SHOW



Tom Nelson's three-year-old Highland Heifer who won the Supreme Champion on her first showing. Born in April 2008 Glengorm Maigdean Mor 8th of Glengorm was out of Glengorm Eoin Phor of Torloisk by Ar Ros 1st of Glengorm. 16_133salen10

No shortage of competitors on busy show day

REPORT
by LOUISE LEE
llee@obantimes.co.uk

THE SUN always shines on Salen Show (Mull and Morvern Agricultural Show). Last week, it was no different despite some horrendous weather before it began and then again in the hours afterwards.

It was a good show with a large crowd and a good entry. Sheep and dog competitions had the biggest entries with more than 50 competitors in each section.

As ever, organisers put on a fantastic day with displays from woodcutters and Mull Cheese, horse trials, junior and senior hill races, tug of war, toss the sheaf and terrier racing.

Playing for the audience was Mull and Iona Piping Society - the small but perfectly formed group of dedicated musicians. Mull Gaelic Choir sang a short programme for the crowd.

The busy show day went very well thanks to the good organisation of the committee and the able commentary on the day from Angus Mackay, from Perthshire, who is the father of islander Iain Mackay.

The entry into the sheep competitions, said to be the oldest competition on the programme, was second to none. There were a number of farms and crofts putting forward top class animals.

In the ring for the Champion of Champions was Alan MacKenzie, a crofter from Tobermory with his five-year-old North Country Cheviot ewe and Angus MacColl, who put forward a three-year-old Highland Heifer from Tom Nelson's Glengorm Fold, Liz Henderson's 10-year-old Highland Pony gelding Erray Lackspur and Isobel Morris with 10-year-old Angus the Poodle from Tighnabruaich.

Judges decided the overall winner was the Glengorm Highlander, taking the supreme championship in its first showing.

A tribute was paid to the faithful support of Duncan Stewart Cameron to the Salen Show Committee. Duncan sadly passed away earlier this year.

Duncan was a member of the Salen Show Committee for more years than anyone can remember. He was well known, when his mobility was limited, for driving his car onto the show field and parking in the midst of all

the action. Organisers of this year's event said he was sorely missed and there was an empty space at the prize giving without him.

The After Show Dance held in the marquee was well attended with the band even running out of refreshments during the evening.

Trophy winners

Cattle: Champion Dairy Animal: G Reade; Collingridge C: Angus MacColl; Leroy Cup: D & J MacGillivray; Eaton Cup: D & J MacGillivray; Caledonian Mart Cup: D & J MacGillivray; Killiechranon Cup: D & J MacGillivray; Tenga Cup: T Nelson; Original Glenaros Cup: Ian MacKay; McCartney Cup: Angus MacColl; Glenaros Cup: T Nelson; Henderson Trophy: Angus MacColl; Columbia Cup: Angus MacColl; Treshnish Cup: T Nelson, Glengorm; Killiechranon Mellis Cup: T Nelson, Glengorm; Johnnie MacQuarrie Memorial Trophy: Kerrie MacGillivray. Sheep: Johnnie Miller Memorial trophy: J Nudds; Duart Cup: J Nudds; Garmony Cup: J Nudds; Galbraith Gimmer Cup: D & L Maclean; Pennygown Cup: J Nudds; MacGilp Cup: D & L Maclean; J M Sinclair Memorial Trophy: D & L Maclean; Glenforsa Cup: D & L Maclean; Society's Wilson Cup: J Nudds; Ulva Cup: J Nudds; Yeaman Rosebowl: J Nudds; Lochbuie Cup: Alan MacKenzie; Torr Cup: R & S MacDougall; Killiemor Plate: R & S MacDougall; Royal Bank Cup: F Boa; Clydesdale Bank Cup: A MacKenzie; Penalbanach Cup: Angus

MacColl; Waugh Memorial Trophy: A MacKenzie; Hebridean Plate: J Moore; Torasay Cup: A MacKenzie. Horses and Ponies: Torloisk Cup: Connie MacDowall; MacDougall Cup: Charlotte Peacock; Calgary Cup: Liz Henderson; Best Rider under 16 years: Robert Cameron; MacLean of Duart Cup: Liz Henderson.

Dogs: Arle Tankard: Isobel Morris, Angus; Turner Challenge Cup: Fiona Boa, Meg; MacLean Cup: Fiona Boa, Meg.

Sticks and Crooks: Campbell Cup: Mairi Kluchinski; Garmony Cup: Betty MacPhail & Ethel Duncan; Society's Rosebowl: Frances MacAuley; Margaret Brown Memorial Trophy: Sue Penny; Callachally: Angela Barrett Chalk; Maclean Cup: Frances MacAuley; Cunningham Cup: Liz Henderson; Highland Services Cup: Molly Reade; O'Donnell Shield: Louise Reade; Rockfield Cup: Siobhan Cameron; Gometra Cup: Hector MacDonald; MacKechnie Tankard: Hector MacDonald.

Poultry Cup: T Lines. Howard Duncan Memorial Trophy, Reserve Show Champion: Liz Henderson, Tobermory.

Dr Anne Memorial Trophy, Supreme Show Champion: T Nelson, Glengorm.

Hill Race: Male: 1 Dave Schorah, new record time 12mins 46 sec, Lady: Lucy Birch; Under 16 Boy: 1 Fraser Smith, Girl: 1 Abbie Reade; Under 12 Boy: 1 Hector MacDonald, Girl: 1 Arran Gillies.



Kerry MacGillivray, aged 9 from Pennyghael, won the young handlers competition with her heifer. Kerry and her sister have started their own Garmony Dhu Fold. 16_133salen8



Alan MacKenzie, from Tobermory, who has had a remarkable time with his stock over a number of shows. The winner of the Torosay Challenge Cup and overall Sheep Champion was a five-year-old North Country Cheviot ewe out of a homebred Savelbeg sired ewe by a Savelbeg tup. 16_133salen15



Angus, a 10-year-old standard poodle, was expertly led into the champion of champions field by Isobel Morris, aged seven. 16_133salen14

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Assault was unprovoked

AN OBAN man has admitted an unprovoked assault on a customer at a fast food shop in the town.

Oban Sheriff Court heard on Monday that Matthew Stewart, aged 25, of 3 McKelvie Road, entered the takeaway with two friends on January 26.

The court was shown CCTV footage of Stewart punching his victim, pushing him to the floor and running out of the shop.

Stewart also pleaded guilty to swearing at and threatening police officers as they tried to arrest him after the incident.

Sentence on Stewart was deferred until September 20 for reports, when his defence solicitor will address the sheriff.

Road closed after lorry accident

A STRETCH of the A83 near Inveraray had to be shut for nearly five hours last week after a lorry came off the road near Loch Fyne Oysters.

The articulated vehicle slipped off the road at around 7.20am, on Tuesday, August 9 after the driver moved aside to give oncoming traffic more room.

While it didn't obstruct traffic, the road had to be closed from 12.45pm to 5pm to repair significant damage to the road and to recover the lorry.

It is understood that the lorry driver escaped injury, except for a cut to the thumb.

A spokesperson for Strathclyde Police said: 'No other vehicles were involved and the driver was not hurt.'

Man denies possessing drugs

AN OBAN man has denied having a Class C drug at Oban Police Office.

Sean Thomas Kelly, of Flat 1-1, 19 High St, plead not guilty to the charge and another of breaching the peace, when he appeared at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday.

The 27-year-old was on bail from Glasgow and Oban Sheriff Courts at the time of the alleged incidents, on Sunday August 14. He was remanded in custody until a trial on September 8.

Safety scheme outside school

STAFF and pupils at an Oban primary school are starting term today after almost £100,000 was spent on road safety improvements.

Argyll and Bute Council was carrying out the work at Park Primary to provide a bus turning circle, drop-off zone, separate pedestrian access to the school and improved car parking with 21 spaces plus two disabled bays.

The work, which was due to be completed before the children were back on site, also involved moving the school's existing orchard and cycle racks.



Video of this available online OBANTIMES.CO.UK

The 'Best for Something' Trophy went to ACHA's Army. Picture: Ewen Munro.

Raft race crews battle to stay afloat

THE OBAN Raft Race made a return to Oban Bay this year after a long absence and it proved to float everyone's boat, if the large crowd was anything to go by.

Nine rafts left the bay on Saturday on a course around The Oban Times slipway and back and it was the crew of Cut Lass who eased to victory, with the mechanics of Lax Power in second and All Wrapped Up from MacQueen Bros in third.

The race was organised by

Oban and Lorn Lions Club and member Alex Milligan explained the branch had decided to revive the popular event to celebrate the Lions' 25th anniversary.

He explained: 'We felt the town needed something different because there are plenty of ceilidhs and pipe bands in the summer and we thought we should get the raft race going again.'

'The bicentennial celebration events, like the Strip the Willow, proved there was an appetite for

things like this. With the town's bicentennial and The Oban Times being 150 years old this year too, I think people are just in that kind of mood for something different.'

'It was great to see the crews all dressed up, especially the guys from Cut Lass, who were walking about the town dressed as pirates. It all added to a great atmosphere.'

'There will definitely be an event next year and we plan to

make it even better.'

The Casualty 1 team from Lorn and Islands Hospital was awarded the best dressed team award, Lax Power won 'Best Constructed Raft' and the ACHA's Army ladies won the 'Best for Something Award'. The award for best sinking went to West Coast Tool and Plant Hire.

Also racing was a second team from MacQueen Bros and a team from the Northern Lighthouse Board.

'Nothing to hide' at Cash for Kids

Non-registered organisation has raised £37,000 since 2006

AN OBAN councillor has denied any wrong-doing in the administration of Oban Cash for Kids, but admits 'logistics' stopped it being registered as a charity.

REPORT by STEVEN FLANAGAN sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk

Neil MacKay, chairman of the six-man board that governs the group formerly known as Oban FM Cash for Kids, together with board member, the Rev Ken Hunter, have said they will be full and frank with anyone who has enquiries about the legitimacy of their activities; even allowing access to their books.

The pair were responding to allegations by Oban community councillor Neil MacIntyre, who has questioned the workings of the group and its connections with community radio station Oban FM.

He also questioned why the group wasn't registered as a charity, saying other local groups managed to do so without difficulty.

He said: 'I might be speaking out of turn and if I am, fine, but I think people should know if it's

a charity or not. If they are telling people it is a charity, they should be registered. It is not and as far as I can tell it never has been.

'So what are people supposed to think? They're not doing themselves any favours.'

He further asked what happened to money raised for Oban Cash for Kids at its recent Big Picnic at Ganavan, arranged as part of the Oban 200 celebrations.

Responding to the allegations, Mr MacKay said: 'Oban Cash For Kids is very high profile and has raised a lot of funds. What we've done has always been for the benefit of local charities.'

'In the last couple of years we've not been as high profile as previously and we've done that deliberately as the current financial climate makes it difficult to raise money.'

'Two years ago we started the process of becoming a organisation limited by guarantee

and registering as a charity, but logistics meant we weren't able to complete that.'

Mr MacKay says around £37,000 has been distributed to local charities since 2006, adding that about £280 had been raised at the Big Picnic, which will be added to funds in due course.

While Rev Hunter is both the chairman of Oban FM and a board member of CFK, the two organisations are separate. Rev Hunter said that decision was made to allow both organisations autonomy to go about their own business.

Rev Hunter said: 'The books are there for scrutiny. I certainly don't have a problem with them being made available.'

The Office of the Scottish Charity Register confirmed that a fundraising organisation doesn't have to be registered under certain circumstances.

A spokesperson said: 'The organisation should make clear in the course of its fundraising activities how the funds raised will be dispersed.'

'All clear' gives fundraising cyclists a huge boost

TAYNUILT lad Joshua Reffin has given dad Brian the perfect boost ahead of his charity cycle ride on Saturday by being given the all clear by doctors.

At just over two, Joshua has already undergone eight life saving operations to correct a congenital heart defect and it was anticipated that he'd need a ninth this summer.

But a pre-operation check up last month revealed everything is normal and, hopefully, no further heart surgery is required.

Both mum Charlotte and Brian were delighted at the news and admit they didn't quite believe it at first.

Charlotte said: 'We were sitting in the hospital with Joshua after the check, which was under a general anaesthetic, when the surgeon said he didn't think any more surgery was required.'

'He went away and we both just thought, "did he just say what we think he said?" We had to ask him to come back. It's the best news we could hope for.'

Brian will be joined by David Turnbull, Finlay Wells, Kevin McInnes, Jim Montgomery, Kevin Whitehead and Robert MacColl from the North Argyll Cycling Club on Saturday for



Ready to ride: The North Argyll Cycling club prepare for Saturday's mammoth 160 mile charity cycle to Glasgow and back to raise money for Glasgow's Yorkhill Children's Hospital. Pictured outside Bike Fix are, from left, David Turnbull, Kevin Whitehead, Finlay Wells, Brian and Joshua Reffin, Kevin McInnes and Jim Montgomery. 15_1339refnride1

'Joshua's Journey,' cycling the route the cheery young lad has had to take so often from home to Glasgow's Yorkhill Hospital and back. They will set off at 7am for the 12 hour, 160 mile challenge.

The group has so far raised over £500, but it's hoped the funding will be boosted just prior to their departure. Brian said: 'If you see us, give us a friendly toot and plenty of space.'

To sponsor Brian and the team, visit www.justgiving.com/joshuasjourney.

A fundraising robin is also available in the Robin's Nest Tearoom, Taynuilt.

Hundreds lost power after tree damaged cables

NEARLY 300 houses in the Benderloch area were left without power on Thursday after a tree damaged overhead cables.

The outage happened at around 4.50pm, and while 250 of the affected homes had their supply restored within an hour, the remaining 50 were without power for more than five hours as they

were supplied directly by the damaged section. Engineers from Scottish and Southern Energy (SSE) repaired the cable and restored power by 10.35pm that evening. An SSE spokesperson said: 'We would like to thank all affected residents for their patience during the interruption to the supplies in Benderloch.'

Cockle harvesting halted around Appin

COCKLE harvesting at Castle Stalker, Port Appin, and Eriska Shoal was temporarily halted on Tuesday after raised levels of potentially harmful bacteria were discovered.

Monitoring work carried out by the council's environmental health team have now posted notices warning public and casual gatherers that cockles from these areas may pose a risk to human

health and cannot be put on the market. Commercial shellfish harvesters in these areas have also been contacted and steps taken to postpone harvesting until the bacteria levels subside.

A spokesperson for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'The council will continue to monitor the situation and the warning notices will be removed when the levels have sufficiently dropped.'

Clansman fault affects ferry services to Barra

FERRY services on the Oban-Barra route, via Coll and Tiree, were disrupted last week when the MV Clansman developed a fault.

The ferry had left Oban at 8.15am on Thursday August 11, but was forced to return shortly afterwards. Traffic bound for Barra switched to the scheduled service for Castlebay on the MV Lord of the Isles at 3.40pm while repairs on the Clansman took place. While the problem was resolved on the same day, with the Clansman heading for Coll and Tiree at 5pm, there was a knock on effect.

A spokesperson for ferry operator Caledonian MacBrayne said: 'The late departure led to a number of knock-on delays during Friday, but we were able to catch up and resume normal timetable by the start of service on Saturday morning.'

'We apologise for any inconvenience.'

Energy exhibition powers ahead

HOUSEBUILDERS, businesses and locals sheltered from the elements in Oban's Corran Halls on Tuesday - to learn how to harvest energy from them.

More than 25 exhibitors gathered for the the AliEnergy

Renewable Energy Show as they demonstrate the technology designed to cut reliance on fossil fuels, saving money in the process.

The event was opened by Argyll and Bute Council's environment

spokesperson, Councillor Bruce Marshall. He said: 'I was hugely impressed both by the number and quality of the exhibitors, and am delighted that Argyll and Bute continues to lead the way in this rapidly expanding sector.'



Elisabeth Hughes, of LogicEnergy, with a scale-representation of their renewable energy monitoring system at Oban's Corran Halls on Tuesday. 15_1333alienergy1

Couple cleared of keeping home in unsafe condition for their children

AN OBAN couple embraced as they left the dock at Oban Sheriff Court after being found not guilty of having a home unsafe for their three young children.

At Oban Sheriff Court on Monday, Constable Kirsty Reid said she had been called to the house after a disturbance on May 29, and was concerned to find a young baby lying on a bed with broken glass on the floor nearby. Defence solicitors Edward

Thornton and George Seaton argued their clients had no case to answer because it had not been proved the broken glass had been there for any length of time.

Disturbance Further, they said glass found on the living room floor was the result of the recent disturbance and that there was no evidence exposed carpet gripper rods had been there for some time. However, Procurator Fiscal

David Glancy, who had already dropped a number of parts of the charge due to lack of evidence, said photographs of the house suggested it had been in some disarray, and therefore unsafe, on more than a temporary basis.

The pair had denied the charge. Sheriff Douglas Small agreed there was not enough evidence the home was unsafe over a period of time and told the pair they were free to go.

State-of-the-art buses added to growing route

FIVE new state-of-the-art buses have been added to the Campeltown-Glasgow line in a joint agreement between Scottish Citylink and West Coast Motors.

The companies say the 59-seat, 14 metre Scania buses are more economical and offer increased comfort for passengers, including increased leg room, climate control and an on-board lavatory. Two more brand new buses will also be added to the fleet by the

end of the year. Colin Craig, managing director of West Coast Motors, said: 'West Coast Motors is working with Scottish Citylink to make a real difference to those travelling between Argyll and the central belt.'

'The number of passengers has risen since the timetable was extended from three to five journeys in May. The additional seating capacity means growing demand can be met.'

Tip-off led to cannabis find

POLICE found a fisherman growing cannabis in the attic of his Barcaldine home, Oban Sheriff Court has heard.

Andrew MacMillan, who now lives at 4 Glenshellach Terrace, Oban, was using a light box and reflective sheeting to cultivate the two plants. He admitted producing the Class B drug.

Procurator Fiscal David Glancy told the court that on September 17 last year, officers went to MacMillan's home with

a search warrant after receiving an anonymous letter. He added: 'There is no evidence that this is a commercial operation.'

Defending, Ruben Murdanaigum said MacMillan had co-operated fully with the police and urged Sheriff Small to give him a lenient sentence.

MacMillan, who had one previous conviction for cannabis possession, was fined £540.

Failure to report accident costs primary school teacher £415 fine

A PRIMARY school teacher from North Connel who failed to report crashing her car for nearly nine hours has been fined £415.

Lorna Stewart, of Tawsteainn, North Connel, also had eight penalty points added to her licence at Oban Sheriff Court, after admitting causing the crash on the A828 on October 8 last year and failing to notify police.

Stewart, 31, struggled to control her emotions as Procurator Fiscal David Glancy read the details of the incident to the court.

Mr Glancy said a man had discovered the crashed car at 6am on his way to work. He had stopped to see what had happened when Stewart came round a corner clutching the car's keys.

He stopped her entering the car, then she

'accused him of stealing the car, then changed to say someone else had stolen it'. She then walked off.

Stewart's partner twice spoke to police when they knocked on Stewart's door, but he did not allow access on either occasion. Stewart later presented herself at Oban police station at 2.40pm.

Defending, Duncan Durbin said his client was not feeling well at the time of the incident. Subsequent to the incident, her doctor ordered her licence be removed because of her epilepsy.

Asked why Stewart did not report the incident immediately, Mr Durbin said: 'She perhaps didn't realise the importance or significance.'

Defendant intended to sell drugs

AN OBAN man found with a large quantity of cocaine admitted he intended to supply the Class A drug when he appeared at the town's sheriff court last week.

Iain Cruickshanks, 24, whose address was given as 8B Mossfield Avenue, will return to the court on September 16 when he will be sentenced.

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Seaweed logs	0.02

August 29th: Corran Halls (studio theatre), Oban, 3pm - 7.45pm

August 30th: Western Isles Hotel, Mull, 3pm - 8pm

August 31st: Queen's Hall, Dunoon, 4.30pm - 7.45pm

September 1st: Mid Argyll Pool, Lochgilphead, 3.30pm - 7.45pm

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OT

Pair appear on knife charges

A MAN and a woman spent the night in custody after allegedly threatening two people with knives on a Fort William street on Sunday evening.

Jake Black, aged 21, and Rhiona Kemp, aged 22, appeared at Fort William Sheriff Court on Monday and pled not guilty to a total of five charges.

Black is charged with behaving in a threatening or abusive manner by brandishing a knife at a man on Shaw Place, banging on the door and shouting and swearing and threatening violence against a woman inside at 8 Shaw Place, having an offensive weapon, a knife, on Shaw Place and resisting arrest in the stairwell at 8 Shaw Place. Kemp is charged with banging on the door and shouting and swearing and threatening violence against a woman inside at 8 Shaw Place, and having an offensive weapon, a knife, on Shaw Place.

Police officers arrived at the scene at 8.15pm after a phone call from a member of the public. Black, of 45 Church Street, Inverness, and Kemp, of 35 Kennedy Road, Fort William, were both released on bail.

Western Isles Hospital told to clean up

WESTERN Isles Hospital in Stornoway has been told to make a number of improvements following an unannounced inspection by an NHS hygiene control watchdog.

Three inspectors from Healthcare Environment Inspectorate made the visit last month and found the hospital was meeting most guidelines for protecting visitors, patients and staff, but said some areas required improvement.

These areas were flooring in outpatient department needs replaced, cleaning schedules to be used more consistently, the planned new fault reporting to be completed and drug fridge temperature recording to be improved.

The report praised other areas of the hospital, saying the staff showed good teamwork and co-operation and said standards of cleaning were good.

Newsdesk
01631 568000



Hot shot: Kenny with the trophy and medal he won at the British Championships. 20_f33kenny01

Lochaber hotshot Kenny is top Scot

LOCHABER shotgun ace Kenny Jones has returned from an international clay pigeon shooting competition in Northern Ireland as the top performing Scot.

Kenny, of Inverroy, only took up the sport three years ago and had tremendous success at the recent British Open DTL Championships at Culbann Clay Pigeon Club in County Derry, winning the gold medal for the High Gun of Scotland. He was given the badge for best overall senior Scottish gun out of the 40 Scots taking part in the tournament.

Kenny scored a near perfect score of 100/298 out of a possible 100/300, which led to a shoot-off with fellow Scot Donald Mackay for the title which Kenny won. His first appearance at the championships last year saw him take home a bronze medal.

Kenny, who shoots at Achnacarry Gun Club, was joined in Northern Ireland by teammates James Henderson of Fort William and Graham Nairn, Ferisit.

An electrician by trade, Kenny told *The Oban Times* the competition win was 'terrific'.

Tesco to open at Blar Mhor

TESCO has been announced as the operator which will open a 70,000 square foot supermarket in Fort William as part of the proposed multi-million pound development at Blar Mhor.

Miller Development's plans for a 105-acre site next to the A830 at Blar Mhor envisages a new Gaelic primary school, an all-weather sports pitch, a combined police-ambulance headquarters and a relocated Belford Hospital, with helicopter landing facility, if and when sufficient finance becomes available, as well as the supermarket.

Tesco is the first company to commit to the £50million plans for the 105-acre site, which

By RICHARD HADDOCK
rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk

will straddle the A830. Subject to approval, work is expected to start in the spring of 2012, with Christmas 2012 slated as a possible opening date.

Staff at the Tesco Metro on Fort William High Street were made aware of the plans for the new store on Monday afternoon.

Councillor Donald Cameron said Tesco had given him assurances the High Street store would remain open, and said the announcement was 'wonderful news'.

He said: 'The investment that is being made to bring this development to fruition will deliver both economic and social benefits.'

'The job creation and retail provision should result in a healthy employment market and reinvestment into the economy by shoppers who will be encouraged to shop locally. This development will act as a catalyst for the strategic expansion of a greater Fort William.'

His colleague Eddie Hunter added: 'This is great for the people of Lochaber in general, and Caol, Corpach, Banavie in particular. We've been patient a long time and at last our patience has been rewarded.'

Tesco corporate affairs manager Gloria Coats said: 'We are



An example of the Tesco environmental store which is planned for Blar Mhor.

delighted for the opportunity to invest in Fort William with a new Tesco environmental store.

'The new store will bring increased choice and value for money for our customers and create hundreds of jobs for local people.'

'We are currently working with Miller Developments on the detailed design and will shortly be bringing forward plans so we can deliver this investment.'

Miller Developments joint managing director David Milloy said: 'I am very pleased to be able to announce Tesco as the foodstore operator. We have worked closely with the Highland Council and the local community to obtain planning consent which

will see the delivery of this much needed mixed use development in Fort William.'

Mr Milloy addressed concerns about the current traffic infrastructure near the site, which he said will be improved as part of the plans.

He said: 'Throughout our consultations with the community we have paid great attention to feedback and comments and as a result the infrastructure works will radically improve the Lochybridge junction which was of major concern.'

Miller Developments said they are currently in discussion with a number of retail and leisure operators for the remaining space.

Sabhal Mòr Ostaig plan outlines ways to help increase use of Gaelic language

SABHAL Mòr Ostaig UHI on the Isle of Skye has launched its plan to help increase the use of the Gaelic language.

The Slat college is looking for comments and feedback from members of the public before its Gaelic Language Plan is submitted to Bòrd na Gàidhlig on October 31.

The plan builds on the college's original language policy and aims to strengthen Gaelic use among students and staff at the college.

College principal Professor Boyd Robertson said: 'The founding philosophy of Sabhal Mòr Ostaig was to establish an all-Gaelic learning environment, an all-Gaelic workplace and an all-Gaelic community.'

'The plan outlines how Sabhal Mòr Ostaig deploys the language and what we anticipate doing in the months and years ahead to enhance the usage and profile of Gaelic.'

'We hope people will take this opportunity to send us their feedback.'

Bòrd na Gàidhlig chief executive John Angus MacKay said: 'Sabhal Mòr Ostaig has earned a reputation as a national institution of excellence for Gaelic in Scotland and it would be correct and fair for the college to set a good example of learning and language usage in all circumstances.'

The public can look at the plan and leave any comments at the college's website.

Canal talks plea

HIGHLAND Council leader Michael Foxley has written to the British Waterways Board asking to set up a meeting to discuss opening times for the Banavie canal bridge.

In the letter to chief executive Steve Dunlop, Dr Foxley said the council want to create a protocol for opening times to cause as little disturbance to traffic on the A830 Road to the Isles as possible. He said: 'It is important to avoid peak times for local users who rarely appreciate an armada of yachts passing through whilst trying to get to work on time.'

Duck race proceeds presented to Cancer Research



The local branch of Cancer Research benefited to the tune of £810 from the very successful Duck Race held during the town's bicentennial celebrations. 16_133duck1

Public meeting on autumn roadworks

Transport Scotland seeks views on A82 plans

TRANSPORT Scotland will hold a public consultation on the proposed roadworks which will shut the A82 at Onich overnight for up to three weeks in October.

Residents on both sides of Loch Linnhe were unhappy when TS announced the lifeline route would be shut to through traffic at Onich for three weeks from October 3, Sunday night to Friday morning, 7pm to 6am.

TS are inviting members of the public to come to the Onich Hotel on Thursday August 25 to look at the proposed plans and to air their views. TS representatives and Transv engineer Angela Funk, who is in charge of the works, attended a Highland Council ward business meeting on Monday at Lochaber House, Fort William. TS agreed to moving

the start time of the works to later than 7pm, but a definite time has not been agreed upon.

Councillor Brian Murphy, who was at the meeting, told *The Oban Times*: 'We're still working on it to make the closure as late as possible, and we're trying to get them to put it back towards the end of October rather than in the middle of the school holidays. It will still have to be closed at some point.'

Difficulties

'They explained their difficulties to us. The road is too narrow to allow for safe working unless the road is closed.'

Some sections of the A82 at Onich are less than six metres wide; the current regulations for new roads being built state the road should be at least 7.3metres

Stunt cyclist Danny unveils new video

SKYE stunt cyclist Danny MacAskill has launched his new video, titled 'Industrial Revolutions'.

The 26-year-old from Dunvegan was filmed by director and cameraman Stu Thomson performing tricks and stunts on his bike in an abandoned ironworks factory in Ayrshire.

The five-minute clip, which already has about 70,000 views on YouTube, was premiered on Concrete Circus on Channel 4 on Monday night.

His previous stunt videos have racked up millions of views online, including 26million views for his first film 'Inspired Bicycles'.

Danny, who has suffered a number of injuries in the past year, said: 'We were pretty tight on time making it, as I have had a busy year, but with Stu's filming skills and a great soundtrack I think we have managed to pull off a fun little film!'

25 Years Ago

Those Were The Days

The Oban Times

Thursday, August 14, 1986

A monarch of all she surveys

THE Royal Family returned the compliment in style when villagers all over Ardnamurchan turned out in force to welcome Her Majesty the Queen, to Kilchoan on Monday. For the delighted crowd were rewarded with a surprise visit from the Duke and Duchess of York along with Prince Edward and Princess Anne's children Master Peter and Miss Zara Phillips.

Britain's most westerly point was decked out in red, white and blue for the unexpected walkabout of Prince Andrew and his bride of just three weeks who looked resplendent in an outfit of navy and white, complete with her own fashion mark – a matching hair bow. The purpose of the Queen's visit, her last official duty before the Royal family's annual summer break in Balmoral – was to mark the bicentenary of the Northern Lighthouse Board.

The Queen looked the picture of health and scotched rumours which have been circulating about her health following her recent visit to a London hospital for heart tests.

She climbed the 152 steps to the top of the remote Ardnamurchan Lighthouse, accompanied by Principal Lighthouse Keeper Mr Sam Hardie.

'How's the breathing?' joked the Duchess of York as the Queen shouted 'Hello'.

Connel no to divers' centre

THERE was a heated rather than warm welcome for diver Mr Robin Turner when he attended a public meeting at Connel Village Hall on Friday night. The meeting had been called to discuss Mr Turner's plan for a diver training centre at Connel, and it was obvious there was considerable local opposition to the plan.

Mr Turner, a professional diver for over 25 years, currently runs the diving firm of Oban Seawork on a site leased from the Dunstaffnage marina at Dunbeg.

He told the meeting that he wanted to diversify for business reasons into running courses for divers and that he considered the site at Connel suitable.

The site is on the old Oban Road at Connel, a quiet residential area.

The main objection to the centre put up by residents was on road safety grounds – the loop road there is poor and residents said that traffic on it was already at capacity.

Other objections centred round the question of safety in the waters at the site.

The site is close to the notorious Falls of Lora and according to two divers at the meeting, is not safe for inexperienced divers.

Boatman attacks council for ignoring Oban's eyesore beach

THE deplorable state of the beach at the Esplanade, Oban, was highlighted this week by boat operator Mr Neil Johnstone – and Mr Johnstone's claim that this was damaging his business and Oban's tourist trade was backed up by District Council vice-chairman Councillor William Hunter.

Mr Johnstone sails regularly to Torosay Castle in his boat Maid of Firth. He pays rent for his area of beach and he says that the District Council are not fulfilling their obligation to keep the beach clear of litter. The main problem, Mr Johnstone said, was seaweed. The great piles of weeds which are washed up on the shore make it difficult for tourists to walk down to the Maid of the Firth and means that it is impossible for Mr Johnstone to use his winch.

Quite apart from the weed, the mess of litter thrown from the Esplanade or off boats is unsightly and unhygienic.

'I need to use the beach for my winch and jetty,' said Mr Johnstone, 'not just for people to walk along. It's been a bad season. It is no help if the beach is a disaster, the tourists talk about it all the time – they say it is a disgrace.'

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD

Across

- Imp (6)
- Sound of an ass (3-3)
- Apteryx australis (4)
- Nobleman to the end (4,4)
- Tomboy (7)
- Muzzle (5)
- Barrage (5)
- Particular (7)
- Benevolence (8)
- Not new (4)
- Bread maker (6)
- Divides (6)

Down

- Hindu garment (4)
- Clumsy (8-5)
- Howl (7)
- Smell (5)
- Upright (13)
- Ineffectual thing (4,4)
- Safe (3,5)
- Energy from vegetable matter (7)
- Journal (5)
- Pitcher (4)

Last week's solution

T	W	T	S	A	W
T	R	A	N	T	P
A	L	A	N	I	M
E	M	I	R	E	S
U	T	E	S	T	I
H	A	S	O	G	R
N	S	N	A	D	E
H	A	S	T	I	N
P	H	A	B	E	O
S	M	I	T	H	E
A	U	P	T	T	E

Cars vandalised in Fort William

TWO CARS in Fort William were vandalised over the weekend. A car on Alma Road had a wing mirror ripped off while a Vauxhall Corsa had a wiper blade torn off on Glen Nevis Place. Both incidents occurred on Sunday night. Northern Constabulary are asking any person with any knowledge of these incidents to contact Fort William Police Station on 01397 702361 or the confidential line on 01397 702000.

Shock death of school violin tutor

LOCHABER Music School was shocked by the death of their long serving violin tutor Rosemary Galer this week. Miss Galer, an English viola player by profession who taught at the school for 25 years, died at Raigmore Hospital following complications after falling at her home in Fort William. She took early retirement from her Head of Strings post in the Lake District in order to relocate to Lochaber. Since then, many children throughout the years gained enormously from her vast experience and teaching, and several have gone on to become professional violinists.

Nether Lochaber hall meeting

A PUBLIC meeting to discuss the proposals for a new integrated community hall in Nether Lochaber is to be held on Wednesday August 24. The meeting will be held at Nether Lochaber Church Hall, in Onich, from 7pm. All local residents are invited to attend and share their views.

Western Isles residents warned over computer scam targeting area

COMHAIRLE nan Eilean Siar officials are advising residents in the Western Isles to be aware of computer repair scammers who are currently operating in the area. A number of people have been contacted by telephone by a person claiming to be from Microsoft saying they have detected a problem in the consumer's computer. The consumer is also asked for their bank account details, and a payment is deducted for an expensive maintenance contract. Trading standards officers are advising people not to provide unknown callers with any information or personal details or allow remote access to their computers.



John Brydon shakes hands with Fraser Mackintosh before setting off on his marathon journey. Photo by Alexander Mathieson.

Dad gets on his bike for Kirsty's Kids

Late daughter planned to do trip herself

LOCHAILORT man John Brydon has started his marathon charity motorbike journey around the UK coastline to raise money for Kirsty's Kids, the charity he set up in memory of his daughter. Kirsty, aged 19, was planning the bike trip herself in aid of needy children across the world before her death in a road accident last September. Mr Brydon left his Craiglea home last Friday at 11am on Kirsty's 125cc machine and will be accompanied by biker supporters from around the UK as he makes his way around the country. Mr Brydon hopes the trip will raise about £10,000, and he received one of his first donations in Mallaig from youngster Fraser Mackintosh, who gave Mr Brydon the money in a Smarties tube. Mr Brydon will cover more roads I'm using aren't on the maps, so it's not easy. When I look at what's in front of me, it's an awesome task. But it's very satisfying to know I've done what I can. Anyone wishing to donate can do so through www.kirstyskids.org. The money raised by the venture will go towards setting up a summer camp in the UK for children who are sick and in need of care. Mr Brydon's fundraising activities started when he climbed Ben Nevis recently, raising £492.26. He added: 'I know Kirsty was abroad but she did most of her charity work here in this country. We've had 25,000 visitors to the website. If they had all donated £1, we've have almost enough to set up a summer camp.'

Kilmallie Free Church holiday club fun

More than 140 children attended each day of the week-long annual Kilmallie Free Church holiday club last week. The club was moved from its usual home in the church hall to the Caol Youth Club to accommodate the large number of kids who wanted to take part. For the final day on Friday the children were allowed to come in fancy dress, with a theme of cowboys and cowgirls.



Call for ambulance service to base paramedic in west Ardnamurchan

THE SCOTTISH Ambulance Service (SAS) should have a paramedic permanently located in west Ardnamurchan to help with emergency situations - according to Highland Council leader Michael Foxley. In a letter to Minister for Health and Wellbeing Nicola Sturgeon, Dr Foxley said the move formed part of a new plan for 24-hour emergency cover which was discussed at a meeting he chaired between SAS, NHS Highland and West Ardnamurchan Community Council representatives in Kilchoan last week. He said: 'A local 24/7 emergency response team was discussed at this meeting which would require six people, with two being on call or available at any one time. This team would include the two nurses, a paramedic from the SAS to be located locally, and three local trained emergency responders.' The area is set to lose one of the two district nurses who currently provide 24-hour cover when senior nurse Jessie Colghoun retires in February. NHS Highland initially said cover would be provided by SAS, NHS 24 and local GPs, but agreed to talks on the issue after a determined campaign from local people. Dr Foxley also said Highland Council had asked NHS Highland to ensure Ms Colghoun's replacement is based locally, rather than elsewhere in west Lochaber. He also criticised SAS, saying its powers should be decentralised and given to NHS Highland, a move which would provide 'substantial improvements' to emergency response, out of hours and unscheduled care and patient transport. He said: 'My main concern is the lack of positive engagement by the SAS in partnership working in the Highlands. They simply do not engage in community planning at a regional or local level.'

New pontoons prove popular with sailors

THE NEW £300,000 pontoon development on Loch Aline is proving popular with sailors, who are filling up the berths and giving positive feedback. With sheltered berths for up to 26 vessels, it is hoped Lochaber's most southerly port will become a mecca for sailors, both local and international, bringing much-needed revenue to the remote community of 200. Morvern Community Development Company development officer Lilia Dobrokhodova told The Oban Times the response from people using the new facilities had very positive. She said: 'Everybody is very pleased with it. We've had people saying it is a very good facility and it has been a long time coming. 'We've been receiving boats on a regular basis, although we've not been full yet. 'A lot of it is very weather dependant. There's no wind at the moment and it's raining so it's not exactly ideal weather for yachting!' The Cala Loch Allain (Lochaline Harbour) offers a sheltered haven only 22 nautical miles from the Caledonian Canal and 10 from Oban. The pontoons were officially opened last month, with large crowds gathering to see the ribbon being cut and to watch the raft race which followed.



The newly opened pontoons on Loch Aline are proving popular with sailors. 20_133lochalline01

Poundstretcher sets up shop in Fort William

FORT William retail sector has received a boost with the news national chain Poundstretcher is to open a branch in the town, creating an estimated eight to ten jobs. The discount store, which has more than 350 branches across the UK, will take over the premises on North Road vacated by Au Naturelle. The home furnishing shop closed last month with the loss of eight jobs. The Oban Times understands Poundstretcher have started recruiting staff members for the new shop, with at least one local person already offered a position. Poundstretcher officials confirmed they would be opening a store in the town. A spokesperson for the company said an opening date had not yet been set, but said 'it is likely to be around the middle of September'.

Fundraising Mod ceilidh

MOD nan Eilean Siar 2011 organisers are to hold a fundraising ceilidh in Stornoway next month. Representatives from the northern branches of An Comunn Gaidhealach (The Gaelic Association) will be attending the event at the Royal British Legion on September 3, with music being provided by Raymond Bremner, Charlie MacColl, Jean MacKay, Ceitidh Smith, Jimmy Cameron and Robert Robertson. The dance music will be provided by the Iain Alex Campbell Band. The Mod itself will run from October 14-22. Tickets for the ceilidh can be purchased on the door on the evening or from the An Comunn office in Stornoway. For more information contact An Comunn Gaidhealach on 01851 70 3487.

Pupils get active in triathlon

PRIMARY school pupils from across Lochaber will be competing in a triathlon event in Fort William next month. Organised by Active Schools, each school will provide one team comprising three children to take part in the event at Lochaber Leisure Centre on Friday September 9.

Skye-based care provider's pledge to customers

A RESPITE care provider based in Skye and Lochalsh says it plans to continue providing care for their customers despite the new contract to supply all home-based respite care being awarded to an Edinburgh company. Carr-Gomm Scotland has been given the Highland Council/NHS Highland contract which begins on October 1 after a competitive tendering process. Crossroads Care, which are the current providers, say they will only be able to continue operating if they can raise sufficient funds privately through local events and charitable trusts. Support A spokesperson said: 'We plan to continue providing respite if at all possible and have already received a tremendous amount of support from the local community. 'The number of respite hours provided by the new contract is significantly lower than the current contract and will only provide a total of 55 hours per week for adults across the whole of Skye and Lochalsh - a cut of 63 per cent. 'We are bitterly disappointed that Highland Council has chosen an alternative provider as Crossroads Care have been providing high quality respite care in Skye and Lochalsh for over 25 years.'

Posionous weed found growing in Glencoe

SCOTTISH Natural Heritage has contacted landowners National Trust for Scotland and TransServ Scotland after large amounts of a potentially poisonous weed were discovered to be growing on land in Glencoe. Common ragwort, which has a yellow daisy-like flower, contains pyrrolizidine alkaloids which is poisonous to horses, cattle and other farm animals if eaten. Local farmer Ronnie MacLaughlin notified SNH about the weed after seeing it spread along roadside verges and through the glen. Mr MacLaughlin told The Oban Times: 'The only livestock that will eat it is sheep, but there's no sheep left in the glen. 'It's spread from the roadside right up through the heather, which is very unusual. As a farmer, I just hate seeing that. They should do something about it.' SNH area officer Martin Faulkner said ragwort has parachute seeds, which means it can spread very quickly. He said: 'It's poisonous to some grazing animals and its seed can travel quite a long way. Grazing animals won't touch it. Even when you cut it into hay it can poison and kill.' There is no legal requirement for landowners to get rid of ragwort unless the government feels it presents a risk to nearby agricultural land. Mr Faulkner said he had contacted NTS and TransServ Scotland to notify them of the complaint from Mr MacLaughlin, and said he would also pass it on to the relevant authorities.

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EASDALE

EASDALE Island hosted its annual Atlantic Adventure Day on Saturday, August 6, and raised over £2,300 for the community charity Eilean Eisdale.

A great fun day out for all the family and every one of the competition events was well supported with entrant numbers for the Aquathon alone up 150 per cent on 2010.

Some 26 swimmers braved the Atlantic chill to swim Easdale Sound from Ellenabeich to Easdale Island and 14 then competed in the run round the island.

First man home and winning the Aquathon was Michael Wright, from Stirling, followed by Neil Morrison, from Cuan, then Sam Cohn, from Easdale, Island. Allida Pettie, from Dunoon, was first woman home followed by Evelyn Bryce, from Larkhall, in and Jan Fraser, from Easdale, Island. The Kayak race was won by Kenneth Bryce, from Larkhall, with Jan Fraser, from Easdale Island, in second and Keith Jackson, from Easdale Island, in third.

The Raft Races provided the usual hilarity especially for the gathered crowd and were won by Evelyn Bryce in the 16 and under and Neil Morrison, Simon Fraser and Seamus Morrison in the adults.

One hundred ducks of the rubber variety set forth across Easdale Harbour in the annual duck race and No 34 came home first owned by the Hennes family who have just recently arrived on the island.

As well as all the water based shenanigans there was also the wheel barrow race, kids race, pet show, Sea-fair round the island trips, stalls and craft fair. In the evening local band The Antics entertained us all at the family dance in Easdale Island Community Hall.

Eilean Eisdale who organise the event would like to thank everyone for helping make the day such a success, the local businesses for donations, all the volunteers who helped organise and run the event and the ferry men for their help on the day.

LOCHEARNHEAD

YE AMPHIBIOUS Ancients Bathing Association (YEAABA) will host the Loch Earn Championship in Lochearnhead this weekend.

Swimmers can compete in three age categories during the six and a half mile event, which starts at 10am from the Lochearnhead Watersports Centre.

Competitors will swim the full length of the loch, passing to the south side of Neish Island and then continuing to the Drummond Hotel jetty at St Fillans.

Competitors can register in the juniors, for 12-17 year olds, seniors, for 17 and over and veterans for 40 years and over.

Podium finishers will receive a gold, silver or bronze YEAABA Loch Medal.

For more information, check www.yeaaba.org.uk.



Craft group members, from left, Elsa Rossetter, Jean Coke, Gay Egginton and Elma McCubbin with the banner they made for the centenary. Missing from the photo are Linda Smith and Ann Thomson. 20_f33onich01

Flowers and crafts mark church centenary

NETHER Lochaber Parish Church of Scotland staged an open week last Monday to Friday in the latest of a series of centenary celebration events.

The church was filled with beautiful floral and craft displays based on themes from hymns including 'Will You Anchor Hold and 'All Things Bright and Beautiful'.

Photographs from ages past were arranged

along the pews, rekindling childhood memories for the hundreds of visitors who came through the doors during the week.

Church documents and records, the history of the church and school and local artefacts were also on display.

Much admired was the four-panel centenary banner, made by the six-member church arts group commissioned to produce the work.

Scenes depict a coal boat being unloaded at the old Onich pier, Ballachulish Bridge and the church itself.

Nether Lochaber Parish Church of Scotland, which is now twinned with Kinlochleven, was completed in 1911.

Some £718 was raised during the week, which will be given to the East Africa Famine Appeal.

LISMORE

IN A BREAK with tradition, Lismore Primary School Parent Council decided against holding an annual fete and put on instead a family ceilidh, complete with a delicious meal.

The evening was extremely well organised and well attended and the weather could not have been better, apart from the odd pesky midge which failed to dampen spirits.

Katy Crossan, as bean an taighe, held it all together, introducing the abundant talent from across the age range with the primary children well represented with songs in Gaelic and English from Vance Cass, Katy Cook, and Sophie King with Shona Wright on guitar.

Winnie MacNicol, on keyboard, performed with Gregor MacCormick, as did several of Winnie's ex-pupils from her days teaching music at the school.

Among these were Murray Willis with Eoghan Macdonald and Colin Black, who played several of his own vocal compositions with guitar.

Other vocalists were Freda Drysdale, Duncan Livingstone, Sebastian Tombs and Mary MacDougall, and Sam woods played the accordion.

A special mention must be of the caterers, Hazel MacCormick and Laura Cook, who together produced a large amount of extremely tasty main courses, and to Fay Carmichael who gave



Iris MacColl with her son Scott and grandson Solomon at the Lismore family ceilidh.

us a great range of desserts. In addition there was a bouncy castle, plenty of toys to keep the under-5s entertained and face painting for all ages. The evening raised around £1,400 which will be used throughout the year to add value to the lives of all the children of the island. It was a great evening and congratulations go to the parent council and teachers who organised it.

THE annual nine-day exhibition by Lismore's artists and photographers opened on August 1 with a wine and cheese reception.

The standard of work produced locally has been steadily rising and this year's was the best ever with great demand for many of the works. There was also a record entry of paintings, photographs and some sculpture.



Katie Cook performed a Gaelic song at the ceilidh.

The art group meets on a Tuesday and new members are always welcome.

IT WAS a beautiful weather for the Guild coffee day recently and the island was so busy the ferry ran almost non-stop, which meant there were plenty of visitors and they were able to raise £445.86.

ARDCHATTAN

THE FINISHING touches are being put to plans for this year's North Connel and District Horticultural Show, to be held on Saturday August 27.

And the question on the organisers' lips is whether any other village will mount a challenge for the coveted Village Shield, won by Benderloch for a number of years. Jane Eccles, show chairperson, said the local competition was a unique aspect of the show and there is everything to play for as the village with the most points across all competitors and all classes will take the shield.

Entries of flowers, vegetables, baking, photography and pot plants are open only to residents of Barcaldine, Benderloch, Bonawe and North Connel.

'It gives people who aren't experienced more of a chance,' said Jane.

Among this year's special classes are a decorated sponge on the theme of Oban's bicentenary, mask of a garden creature and a design for an organic rabbit control, both in the children's classes. Entries can be brought to the Victory Hall between 7pm and 9pm on Friday August 26 or between 9am and 10.30am on the day of the show. Doors open at 2pm with the trophies set to be handed over around 3pm.

TODAY is the final day for nominations to fill the empty seats on Ardochattan Community

Council. Secretary Tim MacIntyre said they would like to see new members, because there are currently seven vacancies on the community council. He said: 'We hope that potential candidates will come forward, and look forward to welcoming them.'

The by-election is being run by Argyll and Bute Council and nomination packs are available from the council website www.argyll-bute.gov.uk and from the council office in Albany Street, Oban. They must be returned there by 4pm today, Thursday August 18.

Anyone who would like more information or to talk about the role can contact any of the community councillors or Tim on 01631 720498.

If more people are nominated than the number of vacant seats, an election will be held on September 22. Otherwise all validly nominated candidates will be deemed elected on September 1.

PLANNING permission has been granted for a new one-and-a-half storey house with a detached garage in Bonawe.

The applicants, Mr and Mrs Dalgaty, undertook a protected species survey on the site, north west of The Parsonage, and found no evidence for them.

The decision replaces a previous planning permission in principle for a house on the site.

COLL

AS RUNNING fever begins to descend on Coll ahead of this weekend's half marathon, a new programme is being launched to encourage locals to take up the sport.

NHS Choices has created the 'Couch to 5k Plan' specifically to ease novices into running, building up their ability and confidence over a nine week period.

It involves undertaking just three sessions a week, with a day of rest in between.

NHS Choices' GP, Dr Shanker Vijay, said: 'With the half marathon fast approaching I'd expect that many people are feeling inspired to start running, but often the biggest hurdle is knowing how to get started in the first place. The Couch to 5K Plan is perfect for new runners, as it is easy to follow and helps you to make running a part of daily life.'

For more information and to download the Couch to 5K Plan for free, visit www.nhs.uk/couchto5k.

ARGYLL and Bute Council have given John Doerr, of Friesland Farm, permission to build a 13 metre wind turbine on his land.

BENDERLOCH

THE VILLAGE'S recycling area has new signs, thanks to the efforts of Jimmy Hanlon at Ben Lora Café and Diana Shellcock of Owen Sails.

The new signs were made and put up at the recycling bins at the village turning circle free of charge.

The pair have been thanked for their efforts by Ardochattan Community Council.

Down Your Way

This week - Brae Lochaber

GLENFINNAN Ceilidh Band, Fort William's Robert Robertson and Fèis Lochaber will be providing the music for the Roy Bridge MacFarlane Hoolie.

The acts will take to the stage at Roy Bridge Memorial Hall from 7.30pm on Friday, September 9, as part of the Blas Festival 2011.

Organisers told *The Oban Times* they were hoping to emulate the success of previous years and pack out the hall with more than 180 people.



Father Tom Wynne with the presentation box and rosary beads. 20_f33mary01

A COUPLE from Australia were among the people celebrating the first Feast Day of Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop in Roy Bridge and Fort William last Monday.

St Mary's parents lived in Roy Bridge before emigrating to Australia, where she was born. Pope Benedict XVI canonised her in October last year.

Father Tom Wynne conducted a morning service at Roy Bridge before Bishop Joseph Toal of Argyll led mass at St Mary's, Fort William in the evening.

Australian couple Mary and Karol Cram travelled from Penola, where St Mary first started school as a nun, to Lochaber to take part in the celebrations.

The stable where St Mary was taught was blown down by a hurricane last year, and Mary and Karol brought a presentation box made from wood gathered from the wreckage as a gift to the parish.

They also gave Father Wynne a set of hand-made rosary beads made from cherry stone from trees near the stable.

Father Wynne told *The Oban Times* the celebrations had been very enjoyable. He said: 'Roy Bridge is a special place for those who are dedicated to St Mary and her order. We had a large crowd here at mass and there was a big crowd in Fort William as well.'



The Reverend Donald MacQuarrie and members of the Great Glen Tourism Group at the dedication of the 'Wee Minister' on the mountain path last May. 10_f33minister01

AN EFFIGY of a minister on a remote mountain path near Spean Bridge has raised hundreds of pounds for local mountain rescue teams.

The Wee Minister's collection box wishes walkers 'good fortune to all who pass this way' - and the message has been rewarded with £420 in donations in the 15 months since he took up his post.

The wooden clergyman was placed on an imposing site on the path from Insh to the Grey Corries and through the mountains to Kinlochleven.

Peter Wilson, of the Great Glen Tourism Group, said: 'Members walk the path regularly to collect the donations from the box and when we added up the total for the year it came to just over £420 - a wonderful sum.'

'Apparently he has become one of the most photographed icons in the area as walkers pose by him and put the picture on various social networks.'

'He was even featured on TV's Reporting Scotland - so he has really made a name for himself.'

The Wee Minister is a reincarnation of a stone effigy that stood in the area until the 1970s. Before then he is believed to have been outside the MacIntosh Free Church in Fort William, but legend has it that during World War 1 he was banished because the wife of the then minister found him scary.

He then turned up on the hillside near the Grey Corries - but was smashed to pieces on the orders of an estate manager who was fed up with people visiting the area to see him.

However the present landowner Rik Eppens has been more accommodating and agreed to a request by the tourism group to put in place a reincarnation of the Wee Minister in May last year.

The figure was carved out of wood by champion wood carver Peter Bowsher and dedicated by the Rev Donald MacQuarrie of Kilmonivaig Church, Spean Bridge.

THE SITE of Scotland's last clan battle, The Battle of Maol Ruadh (Mulroy) near Roy Bridge, has been put forward as a candidate for inclusion on Historic Scotland's 'Inventory of Historic Battlefields'.

The battle was fought between the Chattan Confederation led by the Clan Mackintosh against the Clan MacDonald of Keppoch and the Clan Cameron in August 1688.

Mulroy is one of 11 sites suggested for addition to the list this year. Started in December, the inventory aims to give greater protection to the fields of conflict throughout Scotland's history and already includes places such as Bannockburn and Culloden.

The public are invited to comment on the suggestions, with a dedicated page on Historic Scotland's website open until September 30.

People living near Mulroy will receive a leaflet over the next couple of weeks telling them about the site and inviting their comments.

Next week DOWN YOUR WAY visits Coll with senior reporter Steven Flanagan.

You can contact him on 01631 568000 or email sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk.

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MALLAIG AND MORAR

RESULTS from the Mallaig and Morar Games, held at Lovat Memorial Field, Morar on Sunday August 7.

Piping:
Adult - Pìobaireachd - 1 Pipe Major Gordon Walker, Argyshire; 2 Decker Forrest, Skye; 3 Brian Mulhearn, Troon. March - 1 Pipe Major Gordon Walker; 2 Matt Pantaleoni, USA; 3 Decker Forrest. Jigs and Hornpipe - 1 Pipe Major Gordon Walker; 2 Decker Forrest; 3 Ian MacGregor, Glasgow. Under 18 - March - 1 Sandy Cameron. Roybridge: 2 Caitlin MacDonald, Glasgow; 3 Cameron Sharp, Kyle. Strathspey and Reel - 1 Sandy Cameron, Roybridge; 2 Caitlin MacDonald, Glasgow; 3 Cameron Sharp, Kyle.

Heavy events
Putting 16lb for distance - 1 JH MacLeod; 2 A Ferguson; 3 Peter Hart. Putting 22lb - 1 JH MacLeod; 2 A Ferguson; 3 Peter Hart; 2 Neil Elliot; 3 Willie Faulkner. 56lb weight for distance - 1 JH MacLeod; 2 Peter Hart; 3 A Ferguson. 22lb hammer - 1 JH MacLeod; 2 Peter Hart; 3 A Ferguson. Tossing the caber - 1 Neil Elliot; 2 JH MacLeod; 3 Peter Hart. 16lb Shot (local) - 1 David Hart; 2 Andrew Johnston; 3 Peter Whitehead.

Open dancing
Open - Highland Fling - 1 Danielle Law, Fife; 2 Eilidh Buchanan, Larbert; 3 Mairi MacKellaig, Stenhousemuir. Sword Dance - 1 Eilidh Buchanan, 2 Danielle Law; 3 Mairi MacKellaig, Sean Truibheas - 1 Eilidh Buchanan, 2 Danielle Law; 3 Mairi MacKellaig, Reel of Tulloch - 1 Eilidh Buchanan, 2 Danielle Law; 3 Mairi MacKellaig, Sailors Hornpipe - 1 Eilidh Buchanan; 2 Mairi MacKellaig; 3 Danielle Law. Irish Jig - 1 Mairi MacKellaig; 2 Eilidh Buchanan; 3 Danielle Law.

13 and under 16 - Highland Fling
- 1 Cara MacKenzie, Inverness; 2 Emma MacKenzie, Inverness; 3 Rhona Stark, Inverness. Sword Dance - 1 Cara MacKenzie; 2 Emma MacKenzie; 3 Morven MacKellaig, Stenhousemuir. Sean Truibheas - 1 Cara MacKenzie; 2 Emma MacKenzie; 3 Rhona Stark. Reel of Tulloch - 1 Cara MacKenzie; 2 Emma MacKenzie; 3 Rhona Stark. Sailors Hornpipe - 1 Cara MacKenzie; 2 Rhona Stark; 3 Emma MacKenzie.

12 and under - Highland Fling
- 1 Megan O'Donnell, Inverness; 2 Jenna MacDonald, Mallaig; 3 Aimee Sneddon, Mallaig. Sword Dance - 1 Megan O'Donnell; 2 Jenna MacDonald; 3 Aimee Sneddon. Sean

Truibheas - 1 Megan O'Donnell; 2 Jenna MacDonald; 3 Aimee Sneddon. Sailors Hornpipe - 1 Megan O'Donnell. Irish Jig - 1 Megan O'Donnell; 2 Aimee Sneddon.

Local Dancing
8 and under - Highland Fling - 1 Emily Brown. Sword Dance - 1 Emily Brown. 9 and under 12 - Highland Fling - 1 Aimee Sneddon; 2 Emily Brown. Sword Dance - 1 Emily Brown; 2 Aimee Sneddon. Sean Truibheas - 1 Aimee Sneddon; 2 Emily Brown. Flora MacDonald's Fancy - 1 Aimee Sneddon.

Under 16 - Highland Fling - 1 Caitlin Muir; 2 Kelsey MacBeth; 3 Jenna MacDonald. Sword Dance - 1 Kelsey MacBeth; 2 Aimee Lawrie; 3 Caitlin Muir. Sean Truibheas - 1 Kelsey MacBeth; 2 Jenna MacDonald; 3 Caitlin Muir. Flora MacDonald's Fancy - 1 Kelsey MacBeth; 2 Jenna MacDonald; 3 Aimee Laurie. Sailors Hornpipe - 1 Kelsey MacBeth; 2 Jenna MacDonald.

Junior Highland Games
11 and under Boys - Shot - 1 William Cleave, China; 2 Josh Partridge, Essex; 3 Edward Cleave, China. Weight for Distance - 1 William Cleave; 2 Josh Partridge; 3 Edward Cleave. Caber - 1 William Cleave; 2 Josh Partridge; 3 Edward Cleave.

11 and under Girls - Shot - 1 Daisy Partridge, Essex; 2 Georgina Firkins, Norwich; 3 Erica Milne, Edinburgh. Weight for Distance - 1 Daisy Partridge; 2 Georgina Firkins; 3 Erica Milne. Caber - 1 Daisy Partridge; 2 Georgina Firkins; 3 Fern Milne, Edinburgh.

12 to 14 Boys - Shot - 1 Dylan Simmonds; 2 Sandy McGillivray; 3 Barty Edwards. Weight for Distance - 1 Sandy McGillivray; 2 Barty Edwards. Hammer - 1 Barty Edwards; 2 Sandy McGillivray. Caber - 1 Barty Edwards.

12 to 14 Girls - Shot - 1 Harley Falconer; 2 Leona Falconer. Weight for Distance - 1 Leona Falconer; 2 Harley Falconer. Hammer - 1 Harley Falconer; 2 Leona Falconer. Caber - 1 Harley Falconer; 2 Leona Falconer.

15 to 17 Boys - Shot - 1 S Thomson; 2 J Thomson; 3 C Wood. Weight for Distance - 1 C Horne; 2 J Thomson; 3 S Thomson. Hammer - 1 C Wood; 2 J Thomson; 3 S Thomson. Caber - 1 D Livingston; 2 S Thomson; 3 J Thomson.

15 to 17 Girls - Shot - 1 Hope Thomson. Weight for Distance - 1 Hope Thomson. Hammer - 1 Hope Thomson. Caber - 1 Hope Thomson.

Open Athletics - 100m - 1 Stewart Orr; 2 Josh Thomson; 3 Calum Wood, Canada.

200m - 1 Stewart Orr, Cambuslang; 2 Kenny MacPherson, Mallaig; 3 Calum Wood, Canada. 400m - 1 Kenny MacPherson, Mallaig; 2 Josh Thomson, Glasgow; 3 Calum Wood, Canada. 1500m - 1 Stewart Orr; 2 Kenny MacPherson; 3 Callum Wood. Ladies 200m - 1 Bethan Phillips, Pembrokehire; 2 Annabel Cleave, Beijing; 3 Megan Phillips, Pembrokehire. High Jump - 1 David Hart; 2 Josh Thomson, Glasgow; 3 Sandy McGillivray and Jonathan Lowe. Relay - 1 Team Thomson; 2 Tigers Love Pepper, Family Relay - 1 Cleave Fun China; 2 McLonee; 3 Dhute Lille. Hill Race - 1 Stewart Orr; 2 Colin Donnelly, Fort William; 3 Kenny MacPherson, Mallaig. First women in Hill Race - Sally Cook.

Children's Events
12 and under Hill Race - 1 Drew Pollock, Glasgow; 2 Harry Richardson; 3 Sophie Richardson. Boys 200m (ages 13-16) - 1 Josh Thomson; 2 Jonathan Lord, Maidenhead; 3 Angus MacDonald, Morar. Girls 200m (ages 13-16) - 1 Natasha Campbell, Cumberland; 2 Hope Thomson, Glasgow; 3 Molly Falconer, Fort William. Boys 10-12 - 1 Lewis MacPherson, Mallaig; 2 Josh Partridge, Essex; 3 Daniel Lowe, Maidenhead. Girls 10-12 - 1 Emma Louise Cox; 2 Daisy Partridge, Essex; 3 Gabrielle Bruch, Belgium. Boys 7-9 - 1 Fraser Davis, Mallaig; 2 Lennon Robertson, Glasgow; 3 Angus Murray, Mallaig. Girls 7-9 - 1 Anna MacKellaig, Stenhousemuir; 2 Eilidh O'Donnell, Inverness; 3 Ailsa Bartley Hope, Derby. Boys 5-6 - 1 Andrew Bartley Hope, Derby; 2 Ben Partridge, Essex. Girls 5-6 - 1 Daisy May Cox; 2 Corra Davis, Mallaig. Boys 4 - 1 Leo Simpson, Glasgow; 2 Reus Ayres, Tugal; 3 Martin Baillet, France. Girls 4 - 1 Jeanne Baillet, France; 2 Fern Milne, Edinburgh. 3 and under - 1 Freya Davis, Mallaig; 2 Tilly MacDonald, Morar.

Trophy winners
Piping - Adult - John Gillies Bourblach Memorial Cup - Pipe Major Gordon Walker. 18 and under - Simon MacKinnon Trophy - Sandy Cameron; Mac Brayne Cup - Sandy Cameron. Open Dancing - Adult - John and Mac Varish Memorial Trophy - Eilidh Buchanan. 13 and under 16 - Bank of Scotland Quaich - Cara MacKenzie. 12 and under - Bank of Scotland Quaich - Megan O'Donnell. Local Dancing - 8 and under - Emily Brown. 9 and under 12 - Aimee Sneddon. Local Dancing under 16 - Kelsey MacBeth. Open Athletics - Morar Motors Cup - David Hart. Jackie MacKellaig Memorial - Colin Donnelly. Children's events - Angus MacKellaig Memorial - Lewis MacPherson.

ISLAY

EXHIBITED at Islay's recent Festival of the Sea was 'Donona', an original clinker-built wooden rowing boat from Port Wemyss.



Down in the deep stuff: Clare Holohan talks about the healing properties of plants.

Morvern gala turns spotlight on herbs

THE RECENT Morvern Gala week included a more unusual item in its programme - a guided herb walk around the shores of Loch Aline.

organisers received the sad news of the death of Chick Campbell, a leading member of the Islay and Jura Sheepdog Trials Association.

Open 1 John Casey (Tayinloan) and Ben, 95 points; 2 Neil MacEachern and Chloe, 94 (outbye); 3 Alex MacCuish and Moss, 94; 4 Alan MacMillan

WEST ARDNAMURCHAN

THE WEST Ardnarmurchan Regatta was held at Kilchoan on August 4-5.

Results: Sailing: Eilan Vannin Handicap for Ormsaig Cup and tankards - 1; Martin Holt; 2; Conor Campbell; 3; Tom Colville.

and Olly Collett; 3, Charlie and Ben Lawton, Girls Doubles - Katie and Lauren Kane. Ladies Doubles - 1, Catriona and Caitlin Macdonald; 2, Rosie Curtis and Nan MacLachlan; 3, Andrea Thomson and Louise Clements.

Rowing: Boys Singles - 1; William Shaw; 2; Fraser Glasgow; 3; Lachlan Peterson. Ladies Singles - 1; Rosemary Curtis; 2; Caitlin Macdonald; 3; Catriona Macdonald.

Canoes: Boys Singles - 1; Fraser Glasgow; 2; Ben Vessey; 3; William Shaw. Girls Singles - 1; Lauren Gane; 2; Katie Gane; 3; Joanna Mercer.

Prize - Samantha MacLean. Primary school with most points in children's classes, Dunvegan Show Committee Cup - Dunvegan Primary.

DUNVEGAN

DUNVEGAN Show final results: Horses: Supreme Champion, Edinbane Lodge Cup - Rachel MacPhee, Glendine Lieutenant; Reserve Champion, Harris Home Furnishings Cup - William Gordon.

Prize - Samantha MacLean. Primary school with most points in children's classes, Dunvegan Show Committee Cup - Dunvegan Primary.

EIGG

EARLY indications from Eigg suggest the economic downturn has not significantly impacted on the tourist season.

According to Isle of Eigg Heritage Trust admin secretary Maggie Fyffe, the summer has been 'pretty busy' so far.

She told The Oban Times: 'For the last few years there has been an increase in the number of beds here. We are getting more people staying and there's a really good range of places for visitors now, from guesthouses and self-catering to bunkhouses, bothies and camping pods.'

ABERFELDY

ABERFELDY Show and Highland Games, scheduled for last Friday and Saturday, had to be cancelled after days of heavy rain caused the River Tay to swell.

Normally the show field at Wade's Park drains well because of its proximity to the river, but this week's unseasonable weather meant the water level rose to the extent the field flooded.

ENERGY firm, Scottish and Southern Energy (SSE), has been accused of 'riding roughshod' over Highland Perthshire over controversial proposals for a 14-turbine wind farm.

After a long running saga stretching back to 2007, SSE Renewables was last July given permission for the development at Calliachter thanks to an appeal ruling by a Scottish Government reporter.

'One of the primary reasons for the original application to be rejected by the council was due to its visual impact on the surrounding area.'

ISLAY LETTER

Bridgend bowlers success

BRIDGEND Bowling Club stalwarts Susan Shaw and John MacArthur beat off stiff opposition from Stuart MacNeill and Hamish Gillespie and secured for themselves the John Stewart Memorial trophy at the mixed doubles competition played at the Port Ellen bowling green on August 7.

The trophy was presented to the club by the Port Ellen-born Professor Sir William Stewart, a former chief scientific advisor to the UK government, in memory of his son John whose life was so tragically cut short.

Sir William and his wife, Lady Elizabeth, were welcomed by Port Ellen bowling club president Billy MacFarlane and the good natured match attracted a large number of spectators who enjoyed the high standard of play and the pleasing weather conditions.

AIRBORNE hero commemeration A MEMORIAL cairn honouring an Islay-born hero of the American War of Independence is to be unveiled at his island birthplace on September 1.

Major General Alexander McDougall was born at Portantruin on the outskirts of Port Ellen in 1731. He later emigrated to America where he played a pivotal role in the War of Independence and went on to be a member of the first US Congress.

He was among the first of his adopted country's government ministers and helped to establish - and became the first chair of - one of

The planning application is now with Perth and Kinross Council and will follow the planning process, which includes the opportunity for members of the public to comment.'

KILLIN

RUNNERS will be making tracks for Killin next weekend to take part in the village's first 10k.

The event, organised by Tay Fitness and sponsored by the Real Food Café in Tyndrum, will raise money for four local charities, Killin Youth Group, the Playpark Redevelopment Fund, the Sports and Leisure Club and Killin Mountain Rescue.

Participants will start the 10k near Dochart Bridge, with the route going past Main Street and the McLaren Hall. It will then head out of the village to the Hydro station, looping back to finish in Breadalbane Park.

Organiser, Pete Waugh, said: 'The event offers all budding runners and local residents the opportunity to get involved as a participant, volunteer or business and help raise money for local charities. Whether you want to walk, jog or run - everyone is welcome.'

The 10k takes place on Saturday August 27 at 12noon. To sponsor the event, volunteer on the day, have a stall at the expo or enter, go to tayfitness.com/killin-10k.

THE THRIFT Show, which was open last year, raised £1,667 for the community.

Of this, £170 was donated to the church for use of the hall; £500 to the play park group; £450 to the fireworks committee; £400 towards a keyboard piano for the community choir and £150 for golf club litter bins.

A COMMUNITY flower festival was held in Killin Church to raise money for church maintenance and for different organisations to work together.

Volunteers provided teas, coffees and baking and £635 was raised.

Killin Highland Games hill race results: Bob MacGregor Premier Award - Tom Hicks, Ecoracum; The Gordon MacGregor Memorial Cup, A Class Schoolboy Masters Route - Euan Allan, Edinburgh St. George; Mairi Stitt Cup, B Class Schoolboy - Robert Lafferty, Lanarkshire; Breadalbane St Fillan's Cup, C Class Schoolboy - Duncan MacColl; Edramucky Cup, Non Expert A Route - David Anderson, Lanarkshire; Rudge MotorCycle Trophy, Non Expert Masters Route - David Mawer, Wetherby; The Sron a Clachain Cup, Novice B Route - Chris Moir, Dunfermline; Cambusiruch Cup, Best Over 40 Inter Route - Kev Hipwell; Loch Tay Trophy, Best Over 40 B Route - Alistair Stewart, Perth; Killin News Cup, Best Over 50 B Route, Ian Myers, Wetherby; Highland Games Trophy, Twin Shock/Pre65 - Stuart Rockett, Lanarkshire; Killer Cup, Best Over 60 - David Carr, Ripon.

Mull Lines

THREE members of Tobermory RNLI lifeboat crew were particularly well placed to respond to their pagers when a 32 tonne ketch encountered mechanical difficulties in Bloody Bay off the Isle of Mull during the evening of August 4.

Already fully kitted up, the volunteer crew were in the station's boarding boat in Tobermory harbour collecting donations for the RNLI from racing yachts which had been competing in West Highland Yachting Week.

When their pagers sounded, the collecting bucket was temporarily put aside to respond to the stricken ketch, Nereus, which had suffered gear box failure and was effectively becalmed in Bloody Bay. The yacht (which was not competing in West Highland Week) was towed by the Tobermory all weather lifeboat, Elizabeth Fairlie Ramsey, to the safety of Tobermory Bay.

Collecting then resumed with the volunteer crew receiving £115 in donations from participants in West Highland Week. Ian Stevens, Tobermory Lifeboat operations manager said: 'We are very grateful to everyone who kindly donated to Tobermory RNLI this evening.'

'This isn't the first time that our fundraising has been interrupted by a 'shout' and I'm sure it won't be the last. It brings it home that our crews are ready to drop everything to respond to a call for help at a moment's notice.'

BBC SCOTLAND Children in Need have announced that they are donating the Balamory Bus to the people of the Ross of Mull and Iona where the bus will be based.

The 16 seat bus helped make Tobermory famous in the children's TV show Balamory but has been unused for some time. Many groups from all over Scotland applied to the BBC and the success of the application in the face of such stiff competition is a measure of the problems faced by the remote communities on Mull and Iona.

The Balamory Bus will replace a community minibus that was transferred by Argyll and Bute Council to Oban four years ago, leaving the area with no practical community transport given that the nearest minibus is based in Salen, a round trip of 80 miles.

The minibus will be used by groups such as the schools for PE, swimming and music as well as off island trips, by other children's and community groups and also by people with no other means of transport for fundamentals like healthcare visits and shopping.

The application to the BBC was made by local development officer Morven Gibson who works for the Mull and Iona Community Trust on a project funded by Highlands and Islands Enterprise under their Growth at the Edge programme.

After extensive community consultations, the project steering group identified the lack of community transport as one of the many problems facing residents of the isolated communities. Addressing the lack of community transport is one of the key objectives of the development plan produced by Morven.

Moray Finch, general manager of the community trust, commented: 'This is fantastic news and is such a boost for the residents of the area, particularly the kids who will now be able to access facilities like PE and swimming lessons that are taken for granted elsewhere.'

'The area is buzzing with the news and I'm sure that Morven and the steering group will have great support when it comes to finding volunteers to help with running of the bus.'

'This gets the development plan off to a wonderful start by delivering one of the key objectives earlier than we had hoped possible.'

The community trust hopes that this is the first of several vehicles which will be acquired to address similar problems in other communities on Mull. llaefish33

CAFE Fish Tobermory is one of only 16 restaurants selected from the whole of the UK to compete on ITV's Britain's Best Dish, which is a fantastic achievement for the small family run business.

Chef Jane MacDonald called the news a 'fantastic achievement'. She said: 'Well done the whole team. Not forgetting Johnny and Andrew, Davie and boys, Inverlussa Mussels, Gordy and Kenny Croig, Stephen, Willie, Mull Scallops and all our other hardworking local suppliers.'

IT WAS ONLY a shopping list - but one that summed up an island. German TV celebrity chef Horst Lichter believes an area can be characterised by its food so when his filming travels took him to Mull he asked Jo Currie, of restaurant with rooms Highland Cottage to prepare him a list of some of the Hebridean island's top ingredients.

Jo, who owns and runs the hotel in Tobermory with husband Dave, sent him off to the town's harbour to buy lobster and fish, Glengorm Castle estate for Highland cattle beef, a local cheese factory, and other sources of some of the food and drink for which Mull is renowned.

Lichter, 49-year-old star of the channel programme Kuchenschlacht (Kitchen Wars), was on the island to make part of a series on European food and stayed four nights at Highland Cottage.



Anne is presented with a basket of flowers from Tom Strachan.

KILMORE

THE 100 Club winner for July was D Whyte and August winner was L Mudie (Banchory).

Kilmore Hall fundraising group held a burger stall at the Lorn Show and raised £921 towards the refurbishing funds and grateful thanks go to all the volunteers that day who worked very hard cooking and to Taynuilt Butcher for supplying excellent venison and beef burgers.

Renovation work to the Hall should be starting this month and more volunteers will be needed to help with painting and finishing work later in the summer.

Everyone interested should contact a member of the Hall Committee.

KILCHRENAN

IN SPITE of the dreadful weather last Wednesday, a large number of residents and visitors turned out to enjoy the Sale of Work, teas and cakes in Kilchrenan village hall.

Thanks must be given to the organisers and, of course, the



Kilchoan Coastguard Rescue team in west Ardnarmurchan have said good-bye to long serving team member Jon Haylett, who has retired after 14 years of service. Coastguard sector manager, Phil Wren, said: 'John was involved in just about every incident over the years. His enthusiasm took the team from strength to strength in their successful bid to become rope rescue technicians alongside their already acclaimed search and rescue competencies.'

Prize - Samantha MacLean. Primary school with most points in children's classes, Dunvegan Show Committee Cup - Dunvegan Primary. Dunvegan Community Council Shield for best garden - John and Shirley, Roag House. Handicrafts: most points, Mrs Stewart Cup - Linda Jackson; Best Hand Knitted Exhibit, Paton & Baldwin Shield - Linda Jackson; Best Exhibit in classes 1 to 11, Jean Buchan Memorial Cup - Irene Owen; Best Exhibit in Classes 12 to 22, Clachan Gael Voucher - K C MacKinnon; Best Article of Crochet, Margaret MacKinnon Cup - Audrey Laing; Best Handspun, Woven or Knitted Garment, Shilasdair Yarn - Becky Salter. Home produce: most points, Dunvegan SWRI Cup - Alison Stables; Best Exhibit in Home Produce, Fasgadh Stores Prize - Nigel Burrows; Best Cloutie Dumpling, Jessie Khaliq Shield - Shona Macdonald; Horticulture: most points, Sligachan Challenge Cup - Andy Stables; Best Potatoes, Ardmore Memorial Trophy - Catherine Mathieson; Best Pot Plant, Denis Alston Cup - Kate Elliott; Flower arrangements: Mary Macdonald Challenge Cup - Moira Campbell. Children's music competitions: Guitar 5-10 years - 1 Caetano Hayes, 2 Mhairi Hillhouse. Guitar 8-10 years - 1 Alexander MacPhee, 2 Evan Hillhouse, 3 Iona Brennan. Most points and winner of trophy donated by Revd Ted Redhead - Caetano Hayes. Wind instrument 5-8 years - 1 Calum MacKay, 2 Chiara MacLean, 3 Lachlan Canning. Most points and winner of trophy donated by Bill and Shirley Richmond - Calum MacKay.

WIN tickets to see Dolly The Show! five pairs TO BE WON. The Oban Times has teamed up with The Corran Halls in Oban to offer 5 lucky readers a pair of tickets each to see Dolly, The Show at the venue on Saturday September 3, 2011. This glitzy two-hour show features a full cast of singers, the Dolly Mixture Dancers and superb musicians all playing live to celebrate the career of award winning legend Dolly Parton. The show is packed with some of Dolly Parton's greatest country hits, including 9 to 5, I Will Always Love You, Islands in the Stream, Jolene, Here You Come Again, Coat of Many Colours and many more, all performed on a great stage set. To enter, simply answer this question: Which type of music is Dolly Parton famous for? a) Rock b) Country c) Reggae Send your answer to The Oban Times Competition, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB by Thursday 25th August 2011. Winners will be notified by telephone on Friday 26th August 2011. Answer: Name: Address: Telephone: Terms and conditions: The prize is as stated. No cash alternative. The Editor's decision is final. Winners will be chosen at random. The winner may be asked to take part in publicity and their name may appear in a Wyvex Media publication and website. This competition is not open to Wyvex Media and associated company employees. For over 18s only.

Email your district news to editor@obantimes.co.uk



CD review
Jim Malcolm Bard Hair Day
 Jim Malcolm's Bard Hair Day - see the wig and you'll understand the name - music and comedy that brings Robbie back to life in a new way, and will give Burns fans a laugh the world over. Glorious Burns songs and more laughs than you can shake a stick at, as Robbie swipes back at his critics, winks at the lassies, sings for his haggis supper, dances with his wee man and enjoys a dram or three with his auld acquaintances Wullie and Alan. Jim Malcolm's first DVD is a lot of fun - in honour of Robert Burns' 250th birthday in 2009, Jim dressed up as the Bard for all of his concerts last year and played the second half as a tribute to Robbie. Friends, fans and family gathered in Perth and filmed the return of Robert Burns.

Margaret Bennett, Doris Rougie and Friends In Our Day - Reminiscences and Songs from Rural Perthshire (Book and CD)

Life in the glens and villages of Perthshire viewed through the eyes of local people. CD of local songs with the lyrics in the book. The book is based on recorded interviews with people who grew up and worked in Perthshire over the past 100 years and contains stories and reminiscences on themes such as school, wartime, earthquakes, auld hooses, suffragettes, farm life and Gaelic speaking. It includes photographs and illustrations. As viewed through the eyes of shepherds, farmers, crofters, estate workers, housewives, gardeners, professionals, trades-people and children.

McGoldrick, Fletcher and Dinan Future Trad Collective
 A project from Michael McGoldrick, Ian Fletcher and Andy Dinan - trad instruments within a myriad of musical styles. Over the years Michael McGoldrick has been a member of Toss The Feathers, Flook and Lunasa, and has toured and recorded with Afro Celt Sound System, Kate Rusby Band and RTE Concert Orchestra. He has also been a full time member of Capercaille for over thirteen years. Mike recently played on Mark Knopfler's album Get Lucky, as well as with John Cale, Alan Stivell, Ornette Coleman and Youssou N'Dour. His solo projects have gained him worldwide acclaim, allowing him the freedom to explore a sound that is both inspiring and truly unique.

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Argyll artists throw open their doors

REPORT
 by CHRISTINE MCCARTNEY
 cmccartney@obantimes.co.uk

ARTISTS across Argyll had a busy weekend as they threw open their doors for the annual Artmap open studios event.
 More than 40 artists took part, demonstrating the breadth and diversity of local talent.
 Taking part for the first time was the Artmap's most northerly studio.
 Textile artist Midge Gourlay and her husband Alex, a painter inspired by landscapes in the South of France and the West Coast of Scotland, met at art school and now run a small studio at Port Appin.
 Midge said: 'The opening was very successful.'

'We had more than 100 visitors over the four days and were able to donate £150, a percentage of sales, to the Disaster Emergency Committee's East Africa Appeal.'
 The small gallery in their home displayed a range of large canvases, prints, wall hangings, handmade cards and a selection of delicate and colourful shoes.
 Midge said she was initially inspired to make the shoes when she helped to pack up costumes and other artefacts at Dunollie House to prepare the historic building for its renovation.
 Artmap organisers are offering those who visited any studio the chance to win £100 in art vouchers for helping them evaluate the event.
 Further details are on the organisation's website.



Midge, who makes delicate handmade shoes, took part in Artmap Argyll open studios with husband Alex in Port Appin. 08_133art01

Robert to rescue at summer ceilidh

AT LAST Thursday's summer ceilidh in Taynuilt, local accordionist Robert Robertson kindly came to the rescue and filled in for the missing piper as well as playing an enjoyable selection of tunes during his own two separate spots in the programme.
 Trish MacKay dancers Catherine Henderson and Lora MacLeod gave fine displays of Highland dancing while Connel's Rebecca Hill delighted the audience with her excellent clarsach playing.
 Mòd gold medalist Duncan MacDonald sang an enjoyable selection of songs both in Gaelic and English while six-year-old Brodie Sloss, Lora MacLeod and Lauren MacDonald also produced beautiful singing. Brodie, Lora and Lauren are pupils of Benderloch's Janet Fergusson and the audience were delighted to hear Janet and pupil Lora sing a duet.
 Bean an taighe for the evening was Helen Pearson who had the audience in stitches with some memorable jokes. DP

Full steam ahead at Ardmaddy Castle for Lorn Garden Fete

ARDMADDY Castle and gardens proved a fitting venue for the Lorn Garden Club Fete on Sunday.
 The club, which has around 50 members, was kindly granted use of the grounds by Charles and Minette Struthers for the fundraising event.
 As well as enjoying the beautiful gardens, visitors took in various stalls and were even able to take a trip on a working model steam train.

The train was part of a display by Lorn Model and Model Engineering Club, which also featured steam tractors.
 Lorn Garden Club meets on the second Tuesday of each month between September and April at St John's Cathedral lower hall and regularly has speakers and garden visits.
 New members are welcome.



Lorn Model and Model Engineering Club member Richard Stennett, Taynuilt, takes Ellen, Katie and Mike Barlow from Luig on a train ride at the fete at Ardmaddy. 15_133fete01



Angus MacColl with the Silver Chanter.

A first Silver Chanter for prizewinner Angus

PIPER Angus MacColl continued his prizewinning season by taking the Silver Chanter back home to Benderloch.
 Playing 'I Got a Kiss of the King's Hand', this is the first time Angus has won this prestigious event, which takes place annually at Dunvegan Castle, Skye. Also competing were William Geddes, who played 'Lament for Donald Duaghal MacKay', Stuart Liddell, 'MacCrimmon's Sweetheart', Dr Angus MacDonald, 'MacLeods Salute', Gordon Walker, 'Lament for the Earl of Antrim' and Roddy MacLeod who played 'Earl of Ross's March'. The Piobaireachd competition, which is sponsored by Glenfiddich, has been held annually since 1966.

Judges cast eye over great gardens

THE JUDGES for this year's Oban in Bloom garden competition had a very difficult job picking the winners.
 President Jim Kirkpatrick said the entry was much higher than in previous years and the quality of the gardens on show was also of a very high standard.
 The winners will receive their prizes on Saturday August 20 after the charity auction of produce at the Oban and Lorn Horticultural Society's annual show in the Church Centre, Glencruitten Road.
 The doors open at 12noon and there will be the usual classes to be judged at the show, including flowers, vegetables and photography. Teas and home baking will also be available. The charity auction will take place around 3.30pm.

Plenty of folk dive in to council pools

THE TARGET for the number of visits to council-run swimming pools has been exceeded in this quarter.
 The Argyll and Bute Council Executive committee was told in a report on community services that from April to June 2011, a figure of 182 people per 1,000 of the population was achieved; the target was 140.

Newsdesk:
 01631 568000

Take a trip to...
Islay
 IF A TRIP to the Hebrides is on your list of things to do this summer, there can be few places as interesting to visit as Islay.



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 Couple that with a tremendously rich human history that dates back to 7,500BC, miles of breathtaking coastline and a competitive golf course, and you find a destination that you'll never tire of visiting.
 Whisky is, of course, the island's main draw, with no fewer than eight

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working distilleries producing some of the finest examples of Scotland's most famous export.
 For the connoisseur, there can be no better way to discover the roots of your favourite dram than to take in the delights of a few distillery tours.
 Wildlife is the island's other major attraction, with the over 200 different species of birds regularly seen there every year - 100 of which breed on the island.
 Don't worry if birds aren't your thing; the island is also home to wild otters, seals and deer. On occasion, if you're lucky, you can also spot the dolphins and basking

sharks that regularly lurk in the island's waters.
 The gulf stream brings warm summers and mild winters, so there's no excuse not to break out the walking boots and camera to see the isle's sights.
 Being an island, water-born sports and activities are an Islay mainstay. Why not then try your hand at fishing while there or even join up with local canoeists to see the island from a new perspective.
 We're only scratching the surface though, so why not take one of Calmac's iconic ferries over to the island and see for yourself what makes it so special.

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Top duo hit the high notes on silver anniversary tour

SCOTLAND'S favourite musical duo, Phil and Aly, played on Mull, Iona and in Oban last week as part of their Silver Anniversary Tour.

Accordianist Phil Cunningham and fiddler Aly Bain told The Oban Times how 'a few gigs together' turned into a 25-year partnership when they came to Oban's Skippinsh Ceilidh House, as part of a 40-date tour throughout August and September.

The duo has perfected a 'routine' of mesmerising musicianship with hilarious anecdotes, delivered in almost stand-up fashion. It was delivered with precision to about 300 people in Oban's ceilidh house last Friday.

'When we first played together we didn't know each other very well,' admitted Phil. 'We only played

together because Aly's accompanist didn't turn up to a show and I played piano for him. I became part of his band and we then did a few gigs - and that was honestly the intention - but things just snowballed and it was all we did for a while.'

It took time for Phil and Aly to find common ground musically and, in the early years, made most of their money in continental Europe, because there was not much of a 'scene' for traditional music in Scotland.

'There was compromise with the music, until we met in the middle but that took us a couple of years,' said Aly. 'We shared a love of strong melodies and we quickly realised people liked it.'

Phil said: 'Communication with the audience is key. We are both naturally

quite shy but if you are going to entertain an audience you have to talk to them. If you do that it breaks the ice.

'It's important to know your audience too. A lot of young musicians want to challenge the audience all the time but sometimes that isn't true. Some people will come out to a show because they have had a hard week and just want to chill out.'

The duo also had some lifestyle tips for up-and-coming traditional artists. 'On the health front, don't do what we did,' says Aly. 'Drink sensibly, don't smoke fags and get to bed early!'

Having played in venues all over the world, including New York's Carnegie Hall, it may come as a surprise to learn Phil and Aly's favourite venues

are Tobermory's An Tobar - 'Jean's Reel' by the late Bobby MacLeod from Tobermory is Phil's favourite tune - and Eden Court in Inverness.

But it will come as no surprise to their fans that they will continue to play for as long as they can.

'We will do this for as long as we are able to,' says Aly.

'We have toured for the same two months every year for 25 years and I don't know what else we would do. It has become a big part of our lives.'

The duo feels its success has grown with the rise in popularity for traditional music but asked to sum up the past quarter of a century, Aly replies simply: 'Went by too quickly.'

Phil and Aly play Fort William's Skippinsh Ceilidh House on August 26.

Craignish Arts Festival a resounding success

FROM a scarecrow sitting on a toilet reading *The Oban Times*, to pirates running amok in Ardfern - there was never a dull moment during this year's Craignish Arts Festival.

There has been a host of events for people of all ages, from art exhibitions to a Viking re-enactment, yoga sessions, poetry, music, archery and bushcraft, Tai Chi, and much more.

The weather stayed dry for the annual pirate parade. More than 100 revellers entered into the spirit of things with parrots, treasure chests and swords all a common sight as pirates paraded from Craignish Village Hall to the Galley of Lorne.

Following the parade the winners of the Craignish Arts Festival Scarecrow competition were announced. They were as follows: the most elegant scarecrow: Kintraw Farm;

the most colourful: Bluebell Cottage; the most appropriate use of materials: Ardfern Yacht Centre; the most traditional scarecrow: the Bevan family; highly commended: Carn House; the outright winner: Mill House. A special additional prize was awarded by the pirates, at the last minute, for the palm tree pirate scarecrow outside the fire station.

On Sunday dozens of people braved the rain to try and break a Guinness World Record attempt. One hundred and six people lined the road from the Galley of Lorne to the Fire Station to take part in the Reel of the 51st.

Unfortunately the record wasn't broken on the day as 250 people were needed. One of the event organisers, Jan Brown, said: 'One hundred and six is still a pretty good number considering the rain we had.'



Duncan Strachan and Kay Simpson visit *The Oban Times* on their return to Oban.

Adventurers' highway trek back to Oban

OBAN adventurers Duncan Strachan and Kay Simpson have returned to the town from Australia via the Trans-Siberian Highway.

The couple, who ran Oban Rare Breeds Park between 1986 and 2001, clocked up 30,000 kilometres during the two-and-a-half month journey in their Landcruiser and made *The Oban Times* their first port of call on their return to the town.

'We have done Oban to Cape Town and travelled across South America, Australia and the Sahara Desert but this was the hardest journey we have ever made,' said Duncan. 'The roads are on a swamp and there are a lot of lorries to contend with but it was a great journey too.'

'We would get directions from Nomads and use the sun for direction.'

The couple said they hoped to catch up with a few friends in Oban but most of all were looking forward to a fish supper.

'Among the highlights was seeing Mongolia and the Gobi Desert.'

Duncan and Kay, who have houses in Oban, Skye, Australia and Spain will return to Australia after a brief stay in Scotland.

After living in Australia during the 1970s, the couple built a boat in Singapore and sailed to the west coast of Scotland. They settled in Oban and bought Baranrioch Farm, from which they later established the rare breeds park.

'We will come back to Oban again next year, although I'm not sure how,' said Duncan.

'Maybe we'll build a plane!'



Upon the throne: Winners of this year's Craignish Arts Festival Scarecrow competition are pictured with the winning scarecrow by Mill House, Ardfern.

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Skipinsh Ceilidh House	11pm till 2am Free Entry
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For more information contact Mike Rowell on 01631 770334

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The winner will also receive a bottle of champagne and a bouquet of flowers.

If you know a carer who deserves to win this fantastic day, then please write to The Studio, Breadalbane Street, Oban, Argyll, PA34 5PH and tell us in no more than 100 words why they should win.

Please send in your nominations by Monday August 29 2011.

Terms and conditions: The prize is as stated. No cash alternative. The Editor's decision is final. The winner may be asked to take part in publicity and their name may appear in a Wyvex Media publication and website. This competition is not open to Wyvex Media and associated company employees.

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DON'T MISS NEXT WEEK'S 150 YEAR Oban Times SUPPLEMENT

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

The bigger picture

THE recent riots south of the border may have reinforced the impression that today's younger generation are less than perfect citizens.

Of course, the opposite is true - it is just that the vast majority who lead a blameless existence and add much to society are not the sort who generally attract the headlines.

Last week's *The Oban Times* told how Mull's 18-year-old Naomi Robertson produced some astounding exam results - among the best in Scotland. This week, the bouquets go to a young lad who was on holiday with his family and whose quick thinking helped save three fellow tourists from danger. Take a bow Alex Pedlay, 16 and from Barnsley, in Yorkshire.

So next time you see the television screens filled with young vandals, looters or whatever unspeakable acts are being committed, think of Naomi and Alex and remember there is a bigger picture.

GLASGOW LETTER

Edinburgh visits Glasgow

DURING the week of the Piping Live festival in Glasgow it is now customary for performers from the Edinburgh Tattoo to travel to George Square to showcase some of their programme and this year they were greeted by a huge crowd.

The massed band on this occasion, made up of Scottish regiments together with Irish, Australian, German and the Gurkha Rifles musicians, received a tumultuous reception as they entered the sun bathed arena having marched through the adjoining streets. This was a great spectacle enjoyed by workers in surrounding offices.

The programme, a shortened version of that provided in Edinburgh, was sustained by bands from the Netherlands, Germany and Brazil with their contrasting and colourful uniforms, and in some cases intricate marching choreography, and a huge troupe of Highland dancers contributed to the colour of the occasion.

On a morning when national news was dominated by city riots, it seemed even more moving to be part of an occasion brought to a close by the massed singing of Auld Lang Syne with the crowd linking arms. Later that evening the main concert was the popular quartet competition in the Strathclyde Suite. Eight top bands took part, each playing a March, Strathspey and Reel in the first half and a medley in the second half in front of a knowledgeable crowd and 10 unidentified judges.

In what must have been a difficult decision for the judges, the deserved winners were Inverary and District Pipe Band, with Pipe Major Alastair Henderson, a further confirmation of the meteoric rise of the band formed a couple of years ago and made up of top musicians who were not members of a competing band took part.

Unfortunately, after the first two days of sunshine, the weather deteriorated and the bands which should have been performing outside in the Square each day were forced indoors to the large marquee and this restricted the numbers who could enjoy their performances.

However Piping Live has such an extensive programme that it is possible to choose indoor events. For example a visit to the College of Piping allowed one to take in the Piobaireachd of the Day played by Pipe Major Gordon Walker and then an hour of selections from four members of the Field Marshall Montgomery Pipe Band led by Gold Medal winner Alastair Dunn. This was typical of the quality of piping entertainment to be experienced throughout the week and much of it free of charge.

This year's concert sponsored by Bord na Gaidhlig, Orain nam Piobairean, took place in the auditorium of the

National Piping Centre and featured Brian O hEadhra accompanied by flautist Calum Stewart and his wife Fiona on vocals, youngsters of the Armagh Piper's Club who are frequent visitors to Glasgow festivals and the recently formed Gaelic Group Manran. Brian sang many of his own compositions in both Scot's and Irish Gaelic in what was a most enjoyable performance and he was followed by the Irish youngsters, 12 of them playing the range of traditional instruments and singing. As with many of our own young traditional musicians the Armagh Piper's Club are top class exponents of their craft.

Manran then showed why in such a short period of time they have become one of our most popular groups with a range of instrumental tracks and vocals from their recently launched CD. This concert was the culmination of a day in which the festival celebrated the fascinating history between piping, Scottish Gaelic and Irish Gaelic, a day which included workshops and tastings as well as a book launch, The Moirdart Collection 2 (The Second Hundred) by Allan MacDonald. It was also the day when the concert, sponsored by the Phoenix Honda Glasgow Sky Pipe Band, took place in the Concert Hall and featured the Scottish Power Pipe Band in a concert with a difference which also featured Finlay MacDonald and Chris Stout.

For those with stamina at the end of the day the Festival Club, featuring many of the artists who had appeared earlier in the day, took place each evening from 10pm till around 2am. In next week's edition I shall round up the events of the Piping Live festival.

Diary dates

Wednesday August 17: Phil Cunningham and Ali Bain, Howden Park Centre, Livingston, 7.30pm. Summer Ceilidh, Tolbooth, Stirling, 8pm.

Thursday August 18: Phil Cunningham and Ali Bain, Perth Concert Hall, 7.30pm. Live at the Star, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm, Nathan Rogers.

Thursday August 25: Phil Cunningham and Ali Bain, Greenock Arts Guild Theatre, Campbell Street, Greenock, 7.30pm. Live at the Star, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm, Jeanna Leslie and Siobhan Miller.

Saturday August 27: Blazin' Fiddles, Tolbooth, Stirling, 8pm

Sunday August 28: Blazin' Fiddles, Universal Arts Centre, Edinburgh New Town.

Pub scene

MUSIC in the Park Bar this weekend will be provided by Ballochmyle on Friday, Pneumatic Drills on Saturday and Gunna Sound on Sunday while in the Islay Inn it will be Deoch' Dorus on Friday and Parting Glass on Saturday Neil Murray. Tel: 0141 954 8105. Email: neilmurray@yahoo.co.uk.



Oban's original roll-on, roll off ferry terminal

Jim Donn of Aberdeen submitted this week's flashback photograph which shows Oban's original roll-on, roll-off ferry terminal at the Railway Pier before the large shed was demolished. It was taken prior to the beach in the background being filled in to provide berths for the fishing boats and the Lismore ferry. We invite readers to send in flashback photographs. Please send prints to *The Oban Times*, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB, or email editor@obantimes.co.uk. Prints or emails must be accompanied by a caption, name, address and telephone number. Anyone wishing their prints returned must supply a stamped addressed envelope.

Letters to the editor

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Wrong drivers being persecuted

Sir, Thank you so much for your item on single track roads.

Plainly the wrong people are being persecuted - and prosecuted - in this matter.

The situation is quite clear - see photograph below. Drivers are clearly obliged to allow overtaking. Some of these notices even carry the message as a police directive. Not to comply must surely carry a penalty.

There is a wider issue too. The roads are the lifelines of our communities - the very arteries of our economic and social life. They are not for the exclusive use of sightseeing tourists doing 30 mph on a 60mph highway.

Unfortunately many of these roads are not up to the job; opportunities for overtaking are few and far between. You have to take your chances where you can, and that leads to appalling accidents.

There ought to be a clear message: dawdle and you'll get done. If there's someone 'tailgating' you, then either speed up or move over.

It could be a doctor, a vet, a social worker on child protection or even, as on Mull, the local postie trying to get his job done! Thanks again for your timely news item. John Gosling, Barchaldine.



A clear message to drivers on how to drive on single track roads.

Working hard to solve Kerrera ferry car park problems

Sir, I would like to respond to Jennifer Shaw's letter in last week's *Oban Times* regarding the congestion at Kerrera ferry car park.

The community on Kerrera have held many meetings over many years to try to improve basic infrastructure for visitors and the community with little to no success.

I would agree with all Jennifer's points raised and go further to say in the event of a fire or medical emergency beyond the ferry terminal, fire tenders and ambulances could find their path blocked at the congested ferry terminal with potentially tragic consequences.

As ferry operator, every conceivable effort is made to keep hay lorries and freight away from peak times but they also have to synchronise with tides weather and a variety of other considerations meaning it is not always possible.

I would also add that while the

car park is of great concern in high season, it falls well down the list for other community concerns that are more pressing.

As with most solutions it will require significant investment well beyond the means of any estate or private individual.

If the Scottish Government and Argyll and Bute Council continue their historical stance towards the island of Kerrera - in that it is not their responsibility - it will be very difficult to find lasting solutions.

Your readers should be aware that Argyll and Bute Council receives Special Islands Needs Allowance payments from the Scottish Government for the islands, of which Kerrera is included, but not provided for in lifetime or most routine council services.

This letter is written with the recognition that highlighting problems is easy while finding cost effective workable solutions agreeable to everyone is much more challenging, especially in the current economic climate.

As I have mentioned in previous editions of *The Oban Times* we look forward to the hearing the outcome of the Ferries Review and hope the car park is considered within this context so visitors to the island of Kerrera are not charged £180 for their day out and find their car has been towed away.

Keep Oban charity shop as it is

Sir, McCaig is wrong to suggest that the 'White Building' might be partly used as a visitor centre, *The Oban Times*, August 11.

If Argyll and Bute Council has any sense, it will ensure that a suitable arrangement is made to allow McQueen Brothers to continue its use as the excellent charitable fundraiser it is now.

Manager Grace Scott and her inspired team of dedicated workers deserve that encouragement. The council's need to save money in these critical times is accepted but let us not deny there is also a moral need to back up the good works carried out by good citizens.

W Raymond Shaw, Drimvargie Road, Oban.

Rare flowers must be conserved

Sir, Many thanks to Transerv and others for not mowing the magnificent Northern Marsh Orchids on the Mallaig road in Fort William, one of the finest displays of this beautiful flower in the country, *The Oban Times*, August 11.

They should be conserved, however untidy it looks. A mixture of rare and common wild flowers is more valuable in every way - biodiversity, food chain for insects, birds, mammals and other wildlife, general interest, educationally and aesthetically - than a closely mown green desert.

But please may I correct two mistakes. First, I counted 550 Northern Marsh Orchids there this summer, about the same number as I counted last year - not 'over 1,000'. Secondly, sadly, they have now - August 14 - all been mown, with the pods still green and long before the seeds

ripened - see photos below. To propagate naturally, they should, of course, have been left until the seed pods were dry and empty.

There is an even finer display of rare orchids further along the same road at Loch nan Uamh. In 2010, along 800 metres of road, there were 262 Northern Marsh Orchids and 294 of the rare Greater Butterfly Orchid - possibly the largest colony of that species in Scotland. The Chequered Skipper butterfly flies there.

Despite this, the orchids are mown every year right in the middle of the flowering period - a shameful act of destruction. On June 22 2010, when they were in full flower, I phoned both Transerv and Scottish Natural Heritage to try to get this stopped. Despite assurances, a few days later, most of the orchids were mown, and the same happened in 2011. Much of the road is straight, so safety is not a problem. Also, why mow the outer sides of bends? These cannot affect visibility and, at that site, these held the best concentrations of orchids.

Road verges are one of the few remaining havens of beauty and biodiversity in vast areas of overgrazed moorland or managed farmland and commercial forest. More control of this official vandalism is needed, please.

Future generations will be amazed that we destroyed botanical treasures, just for the sake of tidiness along relatively short lengths of road. Clive Craik, Grendon, Barchaldine.



Expensive wind farm scam

Sir, We are informed, in certain parts of the country, there is considerable undercapacity of passenger carrying capabilities in the rail network.

However, do not worry, as our government has decided, it is its wisdom, to subsidise a new train engine which actually only works 20 to 25 per cent of the time. To help out the rail system for the other 75 to 80 per cent of the time there will be other trains on stand-by to keep things running.

One way or another all the cost of this will be added to your ticket price. That will be disguised so that it will be impossible to work out how the increase was calculated.

All this, so far, sounds completely unbelievable and impractical until one substitutes wind turbines for train engines. Can I suggest the exploitable public are being taken for a ride in the most devious, baffling and expensive wind farm scam. Only the manufacturers, agents and land owners gain vast amounts

of our money. I am utterly convinced scientists are working on a much more sophisticated form of energy production than 'windmills'.

We have always found an answer to our problems and most certainly new energy sources are essential.

Twenty years ago, a civil engineer said to me: 'What happens to the wind beyond a wind farm as we get nothing for nothing? Scotland is being swamped with turbines yet our government still want more of this intermittent, so called power source which will have such a detrimental effect on our main asset, tourism.'

George W Stewart, Seil Island.

Wrong to criticise Main Issues Report

Sir, I must take issue with the article in *The Oban Times* of August 4 in which Mike MacKenzie, SNP list MSP, backed by Roddy McCuish, heaps criticism upon Argyll and Bute Council and the Main Issues Report (MIR).

Roddy McCuish is vice chairman of the council's planning committee and has been privy to all meetings and consultations which led up to the public consultation. Councillor McCuish has never voiced any adverse comment in council to my knowledge over the past year during which time members attended many meetings along with the public, key stakeholders and statutory consultees.

In his position he is well aware that the MIR is a draft document for discussion to eventually produce a local plan by 2013.

As for Mr MacKenzie, is he not aware that it is his government that has presided over an unprecedented cut in Housing Grant from the Scottish Government from a high of £22m annually to this year when there is only about £3m available if that.

Argyll and Bute Planning department has granted permission for 1,500 homes in recent years which because of lack of investment remain unbuilt.

What is required is a stimulus from the Government for Argyll to improve the economic prosperity of the area which they seem unwilling to provide.

Councillor Bruce Marshall, Bute and Cowal Area Chairman, Spokesperson for Environment, Dunoon.

Thanks for helping at crash scene

Sir, I was involved in a road traffic accident on the Glegarry road on Thursday August 4.

I was with my daughter and 15-month old grand-daughter. We were helped at the roadside by a very kind guy called Alan, originally from Oban but living in Stornoway.

He stayed with us until the emergency services arrived. He kept us calm and let my grand-daughter sit in his van out of the rain and away from the midgets.

Thanks go to Alan, all the emergency services, the doctor at Fort Augustus and staff at the Belford Hospital in Fort William. **Shona Anderson, Paisley.**



Beachd Ailein

Ailean Caimbeul

CARSON a bhith eamaid a' gabhail annas à mòr-shluagh a' dol nam bòil le foirneart is mèirle?

'S e tinneas-builg neo lethtaobhadh ainmean na trioblaid far am bheil daoine a' call smachd air an rian a tha gan cumail san staid giùlan àbhaisteach agus dh'fhaodais argamaid gum bheil tomhas den sin ri fhaicinn bitheanta am measg luchd-taice spòrs agus aig curmearan-ciùil.

'S dòcha gu dearbh gum bheil na tachartasan sin nam meadhan air anshocrachd a leigeil à coimhearsnachd, a' fàgail dhaoine a' faireachadh nas ciùine às an èididh. Tha daoine, mar na caoraich, dualach a chèile a leantainn agus chunnacas sin ann an bailtean mòra Shasainn bho chionn ghoididh le feadhainn a tha dòigheil agus ciallach san àbhaist gam faotainn fhèin an sàs ann an cron cha mhòr gun fhiosa dhaibh fhèin. 'S e cùis cagail a bha seo, gu sònraichte le cho borb 's a bha na gràisgean agus an eucor a' sgapadh cho luath 's gum robh cumart gun robh poileas a' call smachd air an t-suidheachadh.

Mar a bhiodh dùil, tha aitheamhan de sgrìobhadh air nochdadh as na pàipearan is cile agus gu tàmailteach, tha luchd-poilitigs a' feuchainn ri coire a chur air càch a chèile an àite bhith a' sireadh leasachadh. Na mo bheachd fhìn, tha cumart ann doannan gum faod lethid seo de dh'ùpraid tachairt agus chan eil a dhith ach rud beag neo dhà tighinn còmhla gus lasair a dhùsgadh.

Gun teagamh, tha duilgheadas na h-eaconamaidh agus na gearraidhean is dith- cosnaidh a tha na chois a' toirt buaidh air sunnd dhaoine an-dràsta agus tha mi a' creidsinn gum bheil cuid aig nach robh cus dòchais roimhe a-nise a' call misneachd air adhartas sam bith nam beatha. Bhiodh sin na adhbhar gu leòr dha mòran briseadh a-mach agus nuair a chuirear an cois sin an ire gum bheil stèidh theaghlach air fuasgladh le cloinn òga a' fàilbh 's a' tighinn gun fhios neo fàighneachd phàrantan, tha suidheachadh againn a dh' fhaodas spreadhadh uir sam bith. Cha bheag an dùbhlann smachd a chumail. Chan eil mi den bheachd gum gabh cur às dhan chunnart ach faodar a lasachadh le goireasan a chruithachadh far am faigh sean is òg cothrom nas sìobhalta an cuid feirg a leigeil. Seo aon de na suidheachaidhean far am bheil cumart nach tuig luchd-poilitigs beairteach de da-riubh a tha a dhith agus carson!

THERE is nothing new about mass hysteria. Examples can be regularly seen among sports supporters and music fans and it is likely that much built-up frustration is safely vented in this way. I believe there is a constant potential for such an outburst requiring only a chance catalyst to ignite the situation.

The risk cannot be totally removed and containment is a challenge, but part of a solution must be the provision of opportunity for young and old to release their anger in a safe environment. It is important that ultra wealthy politicians understand what is required and why!

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

A view from the tower

by McCaig

Second-rate revolution

OVER the past week we have seen an attempt to bring insurrection to parts of England's biggest cities.

This at cost of lost lives, vast sums of money wasted by looters and those who would declare Britain a totalitarian state where a revolutionary state would be created, dedicated to taking all from those who have worked for what they have earned.

I have never really understood why those who provide employment should be vilified by those to whom they have given jobs or by those who despise having to work as a member of a staff rather as a boss who has done little to run a business that without initiative and hard work will ultimately fail. But, it is not, on this occasion the armchair socialists who have turned nasty, it is those who have been spoon-fed through an over-generous welfare state who have suddenly woken up to the facts of real life and want to make it 'right' by looting and rioting.

Some of the Labour opposition are accusing a somewhat lack-lustre Prime Minister of 'knee-jerk' reactions to what trouble has been seen in the big English cities. He and his side-kick Nick Clegg have been pretty mediocre in their responses as they have tried to dress-up old solutions which they know don't work and present them as the 'emperor's new clothes'.

They are going to have to do better than that or else there will be rebellion no matter how much we believe that 'it couldn't happen here'. Yes it can as it already has in a number of European countries. It may not be as violent but it will be designed to cause a major amount of irritation to those who want to remain passive and little change to a lifestyle that rather suits them. The revolutionaries will eventually be forced to choose between change, little by little, or follow the South American states and go for some form of 'socialism' by which the majority of the country's wealth is seized by the socialist 'thug' who makes himself very wealthy and eventually is either murdered or has to flee to any country that will give refuge.

However, the type of disturbance we are currently seeing in England is very similar to that which is portrayed in the novel 'No Mean City' by A McArthur and H Kingsley Long about Glasgow and its knife gangs.

No national police force!

SCOTLAND'S First Minister Alex Salmond is fond of referenda but only on subjects he supports and reckons he can win. Hence the promise

that there will be one in just over two years time. This will cost millions of pounds which he expects the Westminster government will pay for. If it does agree to stump up, it will want a say in the questions that will be put to the Scottish people and one obvious one that will go along with 'Do you want total separation from the United Kingdom?' is 'do you want total control of armed forces and the police?'

Now, for once, he is being honest but not for the reasons he gives. He now talks about the cost of having individual forces as there is just now as being 'terribly expensive.' This is the first time I have ever heard Mr Salmond express his concerns about money. While everyone else knows there aren't funds to pay the costs of education as it is currently costing, he and his Education Minister Mike Russell say there is 'bags' of cash and no need to close any primary school even although there are no pupils just now. I wonder why he is so worried about the cost of policing.

He says that he knows that a single force is cheaper; but is that the only important consideration? What all of us who have the interests of rural Scotland at heart know is that a single force is bad news for all who live outside the Central Belt as they will get a second-class service. Our last hope is that the current Chief Constable of Strathclyde does become Chief Constable of the Met and maybe become the third holder of that force to have to resign.

The supermarkets could do better

THIS is a strange government initiative that it is going to appoint a commission to study the costs of paper bags.

In particular, whether it should allow the owners to charge for them. My answer is: 'Most certainly' They already charge for the stronger varieties and seem to be pleased with the number they sell at a very modest 10p and can be reused and are easy to slip into pockets.

I get angry when I enter one of Oban's biggest stores and hear an assistant behind a cash desk asking customers: 'How many bags do you need?' Naturally, as big a number as possible is demanded. If even one penny were to be charged there would be a considerable reduction and customers would learn that they, too, can help the environment.

Good luck to the Government's campaign to try to stop needless litter!

McCaig

YOUR LETTERS

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

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Carefully managed Ulva Ferry farm in running for prestigious RSPB award

A MULL farm, once described as an 'overgrazed hill farm', has been nominated in the RSPB Farming Awards for its broad range of habitats.

The upland livestock 750ha farm at Treshnish Farm, near Ulva Ferry, has been recognised for the wide number of habitats that farmers Carlyne and Somerset Charrington manage while running a busy farm and holiday home business.

The couple took over the farm in 1994. They set out to run a sustainable, profitable farming enterprise, whilst creating and restoring key habitats such as native broadleaf woodland, wetlands, peat bog, heather moorland and species-rich grasslands.

Species have responded to targeted grazing regimes and newly created habitats, including wildflowers such as wood bitter-vetch and field gentian, priority bird species such as corncrakes and curlews, and a host of invertebrates - including 10 species of dragonfly and more than 300 species of moths and butterflies.

The couple has been praised for their work. Dr Tom Prescott, of Butterfly Conservation Scotland, said: 'The quality of species-rich areas on the farm were exceptional, a testament to the previous



Treshnish Farm Steading on the Island of Mull. The farm is up for an RSPB Farming Award.

and current sympathetic management. I have not seen such a diverse and colourful sward at any other farm or nature reserve in Scotland before.'

Dave Sexton, Mull RSPB officer on Mull, said: 'It scored top marks as they tick all the right boxes on the score sheet. A RSPB spokesman said:

'Treshnish is managed as a whole entity, with 400 hill black faced ewes and an in-bye flock of 60 Cheviot ewes producing better lambs than the cast black faced ewe flock they replaced.'

'A small cattle herd mainly comprises of Aberdeen Angus, with a few Highland shorthorn cross cows.'

'When they took on the farm there was no grazing policy or specific habitat management plan - with the majority of habitats overgrazed. Reducing the number of hill sheep to around 400 from over 700 has resulted in healthier sheep, higher lambing percentages and increased grass for winter grazing.'

'A Whole Farm Review was undertaken a few years ago, and as a result various tweaks have been made to management to ensure continued sustainability for the farming business.'

'They are very keen to demonstrate that a successful/profitable farm can be beneficial for the environment, not only through the habitats on the farm and associated species, but in the way that the waste is managed, food miles and fuel use are considered.'

To vote for Treshnish Farm to be the Farm of the Year log onto www.rspb.org.uk



Winner of the Highland cattle class and reserve open champion in beef - Lolair Buidhe 9th of Glenkinglass. Sired by Angus of Gartchonzie out of lolair 10th of Glenkinglass, the cow is owned by Mr and Mrs R D Schuster of Duiletter Farm, Dalmaily. The cow was shown by Donald Dempster. 06_a33mid27

Dalmally success in Mid Argyll Highland contest

REPORT by EDEL KENEALY ekenealy@obantimes.co.uk

NORTH Argyll farmers dominated the Highland cattle competitions at Mid Argyll Show on Saturday.

Farmers from Appin and Loch Awe took both champion and reserve champion in the open competition for Highland cows.

A veteran of the agricultural show circuit, Donald Dempster, showed Lolair Buidhe 9th of Glenkinglass on behalf of Mr and Mrs R D Schuster of Duiletter Farm, Glenstrae, Dalmaily.

Winning the Highland cattle class and reserve open champion in beef, it was a successful show for the highlander, sired by Angus of Gartchonzie and out of lolair 10th of Glenkinglass.

Reserve champion in the Highland section came from Appin and Mr and Mrs O'Hara of Cnoc Fold, with Cannach the 27th of Achnacloch.

The heifer, sired by Angus of Turlosck and out of Cannach the 21st of Achnacloch, was named first in the three-year-old heifer category and reserve champion in the open highland cattle contest.

In the overall open championship for beef it was Duncan Semple from Carradale who won first place with his 10-month-old steer, sired by Carradale Adrenaline out of a Limousin cross cow. Representing Mid Argyll,



The open champion in beef came from DW Semple and Son, Dippen. The 10-month-old was sired by Carradale Adrenaline out of a Limousin cross cow. 06_a33mid29

Douglas Anderson, of Barnkall Farm, Cairnbaan, was confined cattle champion, whilst the Lithgow family at Ormsary Estate was named reserve confined champion with their Highland cattle.

Whilst torrential rain in the days before show led to concerns that fewer competitors would turn out to take part in the event, numbers in the cattle competitions are said to be on a par with those of last year.



This Texel one crop ewe was named supreme open champion at Mid Argyll Show. Owned and shown by Greig Gillespie, the ewe has lambed with triplets. Greig bought the ewe from Jimmy Warnock of Lanark. 06_a33mid31

Mull Blackface judged champion at Sunart Show

SUNART and District Agricultural Show on Saturday attracted spectators to Strontian despite less than perfect weather.

All the competitions went ahead regardless of the persistent rain, although a planned pony demonstration was cancelled.

The champion animal of the show was judged to be a Blackface from Knock Farm on Mull. David Wright Senior, Greenacres, Clovallon, Ardgoor, won the Cooper MacDougall and Robertson Cup for Best animal in Beef Cattle Class while a Highland Cow from Conaglen Estate, Ardgoor, was named Best Highland Animal.

One of the highlights of the day was a display from 'Drakes of Hazzard' - a popular sheepdog and duck show which involved a number of young volunteers. Members of Lochaber Pipe Band also played for the crowds throughout the day.

The day was finished off with a marquee dance with Dodgy Ground providing the music.



Champion of champions: The Blackface from Knock Farm on Mull. 20_f33show01



David Wright Senior with his animal which won Best in Beef Cattle Class. 20_f33show02



A Highland Cow from Conaglen Estate, Ardgoor, was judged Best Highland Animal. 20_f33show03

Sheep association appoints new chief

THE National Sheep Association (NSA) has appointed Philip Stocker as its new chief executive officer in succession to Peter Morris.

Philip Stocker joins NSA from the Soil Association, where he worked for 14 years, the last three of which were as director of farmer and grower relations.

NSA honorary treasurer David Croston MBE chaired the process to find a new CEO and expressed delight at the outcome. He said: 'We have undertaken an extremely rigorous and open process to make this appointment which is of vital importance to NSA.'

'There was an excellent selection of

quality applicants to interview which demonstrates how highly NSA is regarded within the industry.

'We are all delighted with this result and are confident that Phil will build on the progress that has been made within the association in recent years.'

Mr Stocker said: 'Sheep farming will have challenges to face, but I believe there is even more in the way of opportunities and I look forward to meeting as many members as possible to make sure the NSA continues to provide the leadership and support the industry needs.'

Phil Stocker will start in his new role in November 2011.

Premier show and sale of store lambs in Oban

Lambs were a-leaping at Oban Livestock Mart's Premier Show and Sale of Store Lambs and Sale of Feeding Ewes. The gallery was packed for the sale, with many optimistic of good prices for this year's stock. Report and details to follow next week. 15_t33sheepsale1



MART REPORTS AND PRICES

Dingwall

Dingwall and Highland Marts Ltd sold 8,262 store lambs at its

at their annual district sale in Dingwall, to average £54.82 (+£3.21 on the year).

Quality, well bred and stronger lambs showed a £3 to £4 increase on the corresponding sale of last year, with second draw weathered lambs showing a lesser increase of £1 to £2.

Cheviot wedder lambs averaged £53.33 (+£2.51) and sold to £72 from Carnlaggie, Helmsdale. Cheviot ewe lambs averaged £53.07 (+£4.39) and sold to £75 for a pen from 91/92 Achviach, Dornoch.

Texel cross lambs averaged £60.04 (+£1.39) and sold to £72.50 for a pen from Knockglass, Dornoch.

Suffolk cross lambs averaged £63.47 (+£3.82) and sold to £74 for a pen from Woodlands, Dingwall.

Other breeds averaged £46.60 (-£1.45) and sold to £67.50 for Beltex crosses from Dunlichity Farm, Farr.

Stirling

United Auctions UNITED Auctions sold 1,062 store cattle, suckled calves and young bulls and 154 cows and 5,152 store sheep at its Stirling sale last week.

Bulls averaged 185.18p (+£3.65) to 218.80p per kilo for a 361kilo Simmental X from Bogside and £1,170 for a 584 kilo Charolais X from Cairnhouse. Heifers averaged 185.37p (+£4.65p) to 212p per kilo for a 382 kilo Limousin X from Woodhead and £1,080 for a 579 kilo Charolais X from Ladybank. Suckled Calves averaged

184.25p to 218p per kilo for a 359 kilo Charolais X from Braendand and £915 for a 470 kilo Charolais X from Braendand.

Young Bulls averaged 165.88p to 193.5p per kilo for a 341 kilo Limousin X from Stockholm and £1,080 for a 620 kilo Simmental X from Innerwick.

Forward Cattle averaged 150.24p to 173.10p per kilo for Limousin X from Glenpark and £1465 for a Charolais X from Mid Cambushinnie.

Cast Cows averaged 124.86p to 181.60p for a Limousin X for Little Inch and £1135 for a Charolais X for Langbank of Balhaldie. Bulls: Up to 250kg - Polwhilly £330, 143p; 251-300kgs Knollhead £600, Graystale 213.5p; 301-350kgs Raithill £680, Newhouse 210.6p; 351-400kgs Newfield Mains £840, Bogside 218.8; 401-150kgs Ardnornish £900, Killernie

204p; 451-500kgs Killernie £1030, 208.5p; 501-550kgs Millrig £1130, Kirkliston 212.4p; 551-600kgs Carinhouse £1170, 200.3p; 601-650kgs Barmickhill £1090, 179.9p; 651-700kgs Corscaplie £130, 167.7p.

Heifers: Up to 250kg Graystale £420, 117.2p; 251-300kgs Newhouse £550, 205.2p; 301-350kgs Newhouse £660, 201.8p; 351-400kgs Woodhead £810, 212p; 401-450kgs Ardnornish £880, Newfield Mains 201.5p; 451-500kgs Ladybank £970, 201.2p; 501-550kgs Ladybank £1000, 197.6p; 551-600kgs Ladybank £1080, 186.5p; 601-650kgs Auchenwincie £1070, 165.1p.

Young Bulls: Up to 250kgs Easter Greenhill £400, 177.8p; 251-300kgs Graystale £435, 162.3p; 301-350kgs Stockholm £665, 193.5p; 351-400kgs Graystale £680, Easter Greenhill £760, 183.6p; 401-450kgs

Easter Greenhill £760, 183.6p; 451-500kgs Innerwick £930, 185.6p; 501-550kgs Overton £925, 177p; 601-650kgs Woodhall £1080, 174.2p.

Store Sheep: Wester Bleaton (Suffolk X) £72.50; Bishopswalk (Texel X) £72; Springfield (Texel X) £71; Wester Bleaton (Suffolk X) and Tiraghoil (Suffolk X) £70.50; Museum (Mule) and Ardiona and Kilpatrick (Texel) £70; Achavaich (Charollais X) £69.50; Craiganet (Texel) £68; Sandbank, Cairncurran and Campbeltown (Suffolk X) £67; Muirpark (Mule) £64; Gribloch (Mule) £63; Craighton, Jerah and Easter Auchencroch (Mule) £60; Tombreck (Mule) £59; Pinnerry (BF) £57.50.

Stirling

United Auctions UNITED Auctions sold 5,732 prime sheep including 4,386 lambs averaging 171.3 per kilo

(-0.9p) and 1,346 ewes and rams at its Stirling sale last week.

Texel Club show and sale champion was from A and R Paton, Easter Greenhill, Avonbrige - 45 kilos for £90. Reserve champion was DH McKendrick, Tomaig, Campbeltown, at 41 kilos and £77.

Stirling

Caledonian Marts CALEDONIAN Marts (Stirling) Ltd had forward 2,529 store and feeding ewes at its Stirling sale, with a strong sale from J and J McInnes, Culbhuirg, Iona. Store Lambs averaged £60.84 (+£8.12 on the year) to £76 for Suffolk from Culbhuirg, while Ewes averaged £54.58 (+£4.12 on the year) to £75 for Mules from Culbhuirg, Isle of Iona. J and J McInnes' sold 352 lambs on the day, averaging £66.90 (+£6.44 on the year).

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West Coast Property Guide

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16V 53, Low mileage of 73500 miles, 12 months MOT. Taxed till Oct 2011. Ideal first car. Only selling as owner is off to College. Some minor scuffs to be expected but mechanically sound.

Tel evenings: 01631 770211 to arrange viewing.

£1800 o.n.o.

PEUGEOT 106, 1.1L (LOW INS)



77,200 miles Tax Sep 2011 MOT 23 Nov 2011 03 Plate.

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Argyll & Bute Hospital, Lochgilhead

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18.5 hours per week
Fixed Term until 30 April 2013 due to funding allocation

The Argyll and Bute Addiction Team has the opportunity to recruit an RMN to develop, co-ordinate and provide the treatment and support for all clients referred to the Drug Treatment and Testing Order Service within the North Argyll, Mid Argyll, Kintyre and Islay areas of Argyll and Bute. Some work in Cowal and Bute may also be required. You will be based in Lochgilhead working as part of the DTTO team in the Criminal Justice Partnership based in Dumbarton. You will carry out in-depth and holistic assessments and care plans; providing appropriate and effective interventions yourself, as well as providing onward referral to other professionals / agencies. The post will also involve effective work with other disciplines and agencies when appropriate. Provision of formal reports for the courts will be a regular task. You will carry a small caseload and will be able to work both independently and in partnership with health, social work and voluntary sector staff.

Full, current driving licence and the use of own car for work purposes is essential.
Informal enquiries are welcomed by David Greenwell, Lead Professional (Addictions) on 0781 807 6378 or email d.greenwell@nhs.net
Application packs are available from HR Department, NHS Highland, Argyll & Bute CHP, Aros, Lochgilhead, Argyll PA31 8LB, call 01546 606788 (24 hour answering service) or email: recruitment.lab@nhs.net
Please quote the appropriate job reference.
Closing date for receipt of applications: 2 September 2011.

www.nhshighland.scot.nhs.uk

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Completed application forms together with a covering letter detailing why you wish to be considered for this position should be returned by 31 August 2011.

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Customer Services Assistant
Campbeltown

35 hours per week
Salary Grade 10 (£15,646 - £17,385)

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Lochgilhead 15hrs per week

Previous experience preferred but not essential, duties will include vacuuming, mopping, emptying bins, cleaning toilets and other duties involved in cleaning the school to a high standard. Successful applicant will be asked to provide an enhanced Disclosure; any new costs will be met by the employer.

Please send CV to Amy.Hughes@mitie.com
Closing date: 22 August 2011

CLEANER
Argyll & Bute 20hrs per week

Previous experience preferred but not essential, duties will include vacuuming, mopping, emptying bins, cleaning toilets and other duties involved in cleaning the school to a high standard. Successful applicant will be asked to provide an enhanced Disclosure; any new costs will be met by the employer.

Please send CV to Amy.Hughes@mitie.com
Closing date: 22 August 2011

Experienced Mechanic required
Knowledge of electronics and diagnosis is advantageous.

This is a full time permanent position.
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The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined between the hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) at the AREA PLANNING AND BUILDING STANDARDS OFFICE, FULTON HOUSE, GORDON SQUARE, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6XY; online at www.highland.gov.uk and, where given, the alternative location(s).

Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description	Alternative locations where application may be inspected
11/02875/FUL	Mingary Park Guest House And Self Catering Lodges Acharode PH36 4DX	Change of use from hotel to guest house and alterations & extension	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
11/02825/FUL	Riverview Allour Road Speen Bridge PH34 4EZ	Erection of extension to house	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)

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CORPACH, BANAVIE AND CAMAGHAEL COMMON GRAZINGS
Formal intimation under the Crofters (Scotland) Act 1993

NOTICE is hereby given that Donald Andrew John Cameron, Younger of Lochiel has applied to the Scottish Land Court for an Order authorising resumption of approximately 0.733 hectares of the Common Grazings of the Townships of Corpach, Banavie and Camaghael, for the purpose of selling the said area for the development of fourteen houses.

On 13 July 2011 the Court appointed this intimation by newspaper advertisement and ordered the Applicant to send to the Clerk to the Grazings Committee copies of the Application, associated productions and the Court's Practice Note No. 4 (which emphasises the need for crofters to protect their own rights). The Court ordered any shareholder or other person having a legal interest who opposes the Application or who wishes to claim compensation or a share in the value of the land to be resumed, to lodge Answers including details of any such claim, with the Principal Clerk, George House, 126 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 4HH within 15 days from the date of the final advertisement. Copies of the Application, Productions and Practice Note have been sent to Mrs M E Dennison, Torri, Corpach, Fort William, PH33 7JR and these documents may be inspected either there, or at the Courts' offices in Edinburgh, or at the offices of the Agents. Copies of the Practice Note may also be obtained from the Principal Clerk (telephone number 0131-271-4360). It should be noted that any further Orders of the Court, including the Final Order, will be intimated to those persons who have lodged answers to this advertisement and to the Clerk of the Common Grazings Committee. Copies of any further Orders may be obtained from the Principal Clerk upon request.

Lindsays, Caledonian Exchange, 19A Canning Street, Edinburgh, EH3 8HE
Tel: 0131 229 1212 (Ref: KYM/MJY/CA/492/302)
Agents for the Applicant

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Thursday 25 August 2011 at 7.00pm

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OBAN U3A AGM
Tuesday 6th September, 2011 at 10.30am
Caledonian Hotel, Oban
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The Island Parrot Sanctuary

We would like to advise customers that we are currently closed to the public. Due to expansion we are now awaiting zoo status classification. This requires ground work alterations which for safety reason means public access is not possible. We look forward to re-opening soon.

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Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

CROFTERS COMMISSION COIMISEAN NAN CROITEARAN DECROFTING APPLICATIONS

Applicant, Croft, Extent & Purpose, Case number
Mr R Wright
Woodend, Ardgour
0.140 ha - Site for dwellinghouse
4.86.34043

Mrs Sharron MacKintosh
2 Balmaglaister, Kilmornivaig
0.81 ha - Site of an existing dwellinghouse (part of this site, extending to 0.483 ha, has previously been decrofted)
4.86.33746

Comments can be made to the Crofters Commission by any member of the crofting community within the locality of the land, within 14 days of the date of this newspaper. Applications marked with an asterisk - Interest can be expressed in obtaining the tenancy of the area subject to the application.
Crofters Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW
info@crofterscommission.org.uk

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Argyll & Bute COUNCIL

PLANNING
These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00 - 17:00hrs Monday to Friday at Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, at the alternative locations detailed below or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk. Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location Of Plans
11/01106/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse	Plot C Land East of 4 Macdougall Place Bunnassan Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Bunnassan Isle of Mull
11/01433/PP	Alterations and extension to dwellinghouse	Woodcroft Kilmoran Argyll and Bute PA35 1HG	Sub Post Office Taynult
11/01454/PP	Amendment to planning permission reference 09/00615/PP incorporating details of access and amendment to visibility splays.	Land Adjacent to Kilmore and Kilmore Parish Church Kilmore Argyll and Bute	Oban Area Office
11/01460/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse.	Land Adjacent to Craig Lora Keil Gardens Benderloch Oban Argyll and Bute PA37 1QP	Sub Post Office Ledaig

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location Of Plans
11/01104/PP	Erection of extension to provide additional classroom and store	Taynult School Taynult Argyll and Bute PA35 1JE	Sub Post Office Taynult

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00 - 17:00hrs Monday to Friday at 67 Chalmers Street Ardrossan PA30 8DX, at the alternative locations detailed below or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk. Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location Of Plans
11/01179/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse, formation of new access and installation of new treatment unit.	Land 550 Metres East of Tormsdale Croft Port Charlotte Isle of Islay Argyll and Bute PA48 7UE	Sub Post Office Port Charlotte

Argyll and Bute council encourages planning applications to be made on-line through The Scottish Government website: <https://planning.scotland.gov.uk>

The Council maintain a Register of planning applications which can be viewed during normal office hours at Planning and Regulatory Services, Dalriada House, Lochgilhead, Argyll, PA31 8ST.

A weekly list of applications can be viewed at the above address and at all Council Libraries.

Any letter of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website. Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered.

www.westcoastclassifieds.co.uk

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LOCAL services

BABY EQUIPMENT

BABIES MOBILE Fisher Price lights and music unit. Standalone, plays melodies and projects lights on to wall, ceiling etc. £8 Telephone 01631 720305.

BABY WALKER red kite baby walker with removable toy bar. Red, green & blue, immaculate condition, £15 Telephone 01866 822068.

BATH SEAT yellow bath seat, for babies that can sit unaided. Suckers to bath, £5 Telephone 01631 720305.

CHICCO HIGHCHAIR excellent condition, hardly used comes with complete with storage net. costs £60 new. (Oban), £25 Telephone 07810 876042.

FISHER PRICE 2 in 1 musical turtle gym, £10 Telephone 07920 795295.

GARDEN GYM lamaze spin and explore, boxed, £10 Telephone 07920 795295.

LINDAM STAIRGATE white stairgate, no longer needed, used but still in good condition, £5 Telephone 01631 720305.

MAMAS AND PAPAS PRAM/PUSHCHAIR Black, good condition with rain cover and cosytoes. Lies flat, suitable from birth, £20 Telephone 01631 720305.

MAXICOSI CAR SEAT Cabrio fix baby carrier type, with easy base. Suitable from birth, removable canopy, red & black, immaculate condition, £49.99 Telephone 01866 822068.

PLAY PEN Lindam safe and secure soft sided, £40 Telephone 07920 795295.

PLAYNEST Galt farm, boxed, £10 Telephone 07920 795295.

POTTY 2 Potties, 1 blue - Boots and 1 green Tesco. £2 each or, £4 Telephone 01631 720305.

STIM MOBILE Wimmer and Ferguson, £5 Telephone 07920 795295.

BICYCLES

10 INCH Thomas the Tank engine bike with stabilisers and sounds. Suitable for 2+ years, £25 Telephone 01546 600097.

BOYS BIKE 6 speed 20" wheel y frame suspension boys bike, red and blue paint work, good condition, £25 Telephone 01631 564335.

MAN'S BIKE Raleigh Speedo/ not mountain bike, needs two tyres, £20 Telephone 01631 563935.

BOOKS

CHILDREN'S PICTURE BOOKS huge selection of brand new children's picture books. Ideal for individuals, nurseries or play groups. Top publishers, 50p each. Telephone 01546 602769.

BUILDING / DIY

PLASTER FOR SALE 5 25kg bags of brown plaster, 1 25kg bag of finishing plaster, excess to requirement, £4000 Telephone 07876 765945.

SKIRTING MDF 120 X 15mm, moulded decoration at top. White primed, 3 x 3m and 1 x 2.4m lengths, £7 Telephone 01631 770311.

TIMBER Mahogany timber - various lengths and sections. Ideal for boatbuilding and decorative house interior, £49.99 Telephone 01852 316204.

WOODWORK TOOLS Morticer, 240v ripsnorter and various others, £49.99 Telephone 01852 316204.

CAR ACCESSORIES

MID EXHAUST mid exhaust for Toyota Hilux Surf LN130, £45 Telephone 07733 337163.

ROOF RACK Trukrax roof rack galvanised, 4 bar roller rail to fit most family vehicles, £49.99 Telephone 01852 316204.

THULE 520 KAYAK/CANOE BRACKETS fits to car roof bars for carrying kayak, clean and good condition. Folds down when not in use, £29 Telephone 01631 770698.

THULE ROOF BARS Black and lockable, 114cm wide and will fit up to a car with bars up to 110cm wide. 2 keys included. Were on Audi Avant, Oban, £49.99 Telephone 07801 352184.

CARAVAN EQUIPMENT

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AIRWOLF DVD BOXSET seasons 1-3, in great condition, £40 Telephone 01586 553967.

KNIGHTRIDER COMPLETE BOXSET Knight- rider complete DVD boxed set (from 1980s), all 4 seasons (plus pilot episode), in huge presentation box! vgc, £49.99 Telephone 01586 553967.

NEW TRICKS DVD complete set of Series 2, £5 Telephone 01631 720305.

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THUNDERBIRDS BOXSET complete DVD boxed set (every episode) in mint condition, £40 Telephone 01586 553967.

CLOTHES, SHOES AND ACCESSORIES

WINTER COAT ladies double breasted, brand new size 18, brown, £45 ono Telephone 01631 563361.

COMPUTERS AND GAMES

BROADBAND ROUTER BT voyager 205 with disc, instructions, cables and 2 filters. Only used for a short while, £5 Telephone 01631 770311.

COMPUTER MONITOR Acer 15" LCD screen with matt silver frame. Model AL1716. Tilts, VGA and AC sockets. Good working order, £25 Telephone 01631 770311.

DOMESTIC APPLIANCES

PHILLIPS BLENDER hand blender, rarely used, in box with chopper, beaker and whisk. 600w, Viva collection, £18 Telephone 01631 720305.

RAYBURN BOILER/STOVE Rayburn 499KB, blue, Kerosene, good working order, £800 Telephone 07748 787532.

TUMBLE DRYER table top, Creda with timer H 675 W 459 D 500, £40 Telephone 07766 110747.

DOMESTIC PETS

COCKER SPANIEL PUPPIES white and brown, KC registered, micro chipped, from working parents, 1 bitch, 3 dogs, bitch £450, Dogs £350 each. Telephone George 07502 386811.

COLLIE/SPANIEL PUPPIES black/tan and white markings, very gentle natures. Telephone 01631 740554.

ENGLISH SPRINGER SPANIEL Puppies liver and white, ready now, £250 Telephone 07413 507419 after 6pm.

EQUESTRIAN

IRISH COB 5yr, 14h, good natured, able family pony, £2000 Telephone 01681 701033.

REGD. NEW FORREST YEARLING Colt, jet black, passport and micro chipped £250. Mary or Flora 3yr Jenny Donkeys, quiet to handle 'Sam' Yearling skewbald gelding, will make 16HH + related to top eventers £1000. Telephone 01631 564085 or mob. 07990 731845.

FIREARMS

.303 & 22 RIFLES 1917 ENFIELD SMLE beautiful original condition shoots well nice group, 22 BRNO perfect working order with mod. FAC. POA. Telephone 07766 421169.

FURNITURE

2 FIRESIDE CHAIRS upright pink velour, matching fireside chairs, £29 Telephone 01631 564848 Office Hours.

BEDSIDE CABINETS 2 matching bedside cabinets, £14 Telephone 01631 564848 Office Hours.

BLACK LEATHER SETTEE 3 seater, £39 Telephone 01631 564848 Office Hours.

CHEST OF DRAWERS pine, 5 drawers, £49.99 Telephone 01631 720284.

CHESTERFIELD SOFA brown leather Chesterfield sofa, 3 seater, £49.99 Telephone 01631 564848 Office Hours.

COTTAGE SUITE small, green velour, cottage style suite, 2 seater and 2 chairs, £19 Telephone 01631 564848 Office Hours.

DINING CHAIRS set of 4 dining chairs, pine/green, £19 Telephone 01631 564848 Office Hours.

DINING ROOM TABLE (MCINTOSH) 6ft in extending to 6ft10in. Also 6 dining chairs all in very good condition, £250 ono Telephone 01866 822297.

DINING SUITE Stag mahogany table and 6 chairs (2 carvers) sideboard and mirror, very good condition, £1500 Telephone 07789 446495.

KITCHEN AND BATHROOM

BATHROOM TAP SET Bristan art deco design, 2 hole bath taps, new still in box. Single hole basin tap, used in good condition, £40 Telephone 01631 770311.

SHOWER PLUG HOLE Hi flow shower waste plug hole. Chromed brass cover, new in box, £5 Telephone 01631 770311.

DINING TABLE circular, pine dining table, £9 Telephone 01631 564848 Office Hours.

DOUBLE BED with mattress, £19 Telephone 01631 564848 Office Hours.

DOUBLE BED + MATTRESS small double bed, light blue checked base in 2 parts, storage at the bottom with 2 sliding doors, buyer must collect (Oban), £45 Telephone 07810 876042.

DRAWERS modern white chest of drawers, £15 Telephone 01631 564848 Office Hours.

DRAWERS modern white chest of drawers, good condition, £20 Telephone 01631 564848 Office Hours.

DROP LEAF TABLE Ikea wall mounted, £150 Telephone 07513 376666.

DROP LEAF TABLE, £15 Telephone 01631 564848 Office Hours.

LOUNGE SUITE three piece lounge suite, £19 Telephone 01631 564848 Office Hours.

SECTIONAL BOOKCASE, £19 Telephone 01631 564848 Office Hours.

SINGLE BED single Divan bed with mattress, £9 Telephone 01631 564848 Office Hours.

SMALL GREEN VELOUR SETTEE Small green, 2 seater, velour settee, £15 Telephone 01631 564848 Office Hours.

TEAK BOOKCASE by Morris of Glasgow, immaculate condition (h) 57" x (w) 27" x (d) 11", 5 shelves. Can collect from Lochgair, £49.99 Telephone 01546 886328.

TWO SEATER CREAM LEATHER settee, good condition, £49.99 Telephone 01631 720452.

GARDEN

8' X 6' GARDEN SHED good solid frame floor and roof, some T&G requires replacing, £49.99 Telephone 01631 562750.

HEATING, FIRES AND FIREPLACES

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HOME ENTERTAINMENT

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HOME FURNISHINGS

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BALLERINA wall clock and bin for kids bedroom, £5 Telephone 01631 770311.

DUVET new single 15 tog duvet + pillow, £6 Telephone 01631 564012.

DUVETS new 13.5 double duvet, £6 Telephone 01631 564012.

FREE STANDING SHELVING 7 shelves, £35 Telephone 01631 563935.

HALL/COAT STAND 1950's Hall/Coat stand, £9 Telephone 01631 564848 Office Hours.

OBLONG RUG beige 100% wool, with pinks and greens, £15 Telephone 01631 564012.

VASE crystal, in box, £10 Telephone 01631 564012.

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LARGE MODERN DESK Large modern desk, as new, £9 Telephone 01631 564848 Office Hours.

KITCHEN

BATHROOM TAP SET Bristan art deco design, 2 hole bath taps, new still in box. Single hole basin tap, used in good condition, £40 Telephone 01631 770311.

SHOWER PLUG HOLE Hi flow shower waste plug hole. Chromed brass cover, new in box, £5 Telephone 01631 770311.

LIFE JACKETS 2 junior lifejackets, used, £15 Telephone 01631 770311.

O'NEILL WETSUIT detachable arms, suit age 6-7 years, £15 Telephone 01631 710448.

O'NEILL WETSUIT detachable arms, suit approx age 10 years, £15 Telephone 01631 710448.

SWIM FINNS WIN swim fins, yellow, children's size 11-13, £5 Telephone 01631 710448.

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PERSONALS

THANK YOU Doreen Gordon would like to thank staff, pupils and parents for their kindness shown to her over the years and to wish them all well at the start of the new term at Strath of Appin Primary School. I will miss you all.

OUTDOOR SPORTS EQUIPMENT

BOOKS a selection of hard back books on fishing, excellent condition all for half the retail price, £8 each Telephone 01631 565241 or 07561 341825.

GOLF CLUBS ETC half set Goldenbear golf clubs with extra drivers, also included golf bag, several golf balls and tees, £45 Telephone 07879 685771.

GOLF SHOES Stubert golf shoes black size 7, worn once, £15 Telephone 07879 685771.

GOLF TROLLY E-zee glide golf trolley, £15 Telephone 07879 685771.

HELLY HANSEN LIFE-JACKET 100N, crotch strap, built in whistle, reflective elements, suitable for weight 30 - 40 kg, £15 Telephone 01631 710448.

HELLY HANSEN LIFE-JACKET 100N, crotch strap, built in whistle, reflective elements, suitable for weight 20 - 30kg, £15 Telephone 01631 710448.

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PHOTOGRAPHY BOOKS a selection of hard back books on photography, excellent condition all at half retail price, £8 each Telephone 01631 565241 or 07561 341825.

HAMA STAR 8 MONO AS NEW height down 40cm, up 141cm. 5 section lens, quick action locks, weight 250g with carry strap, boxed, £10.50 Telephone 01546 606475.

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SCRAP METAL all types of scrap metal, we uplift scrap cars, call Mr Cook, West Coast Scrap Metals. Telephone 01499 500638 or 07787 991636.

PERSONALS

Oban Times PERSONALS

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BIRTHS

GARDNER - Alan and Emma (née Rayworth), Biggar are delighted to (finally) announce the arrival of Calum Michael Alexander at Wishaw General on Friday August 5, 2011. A special grandson for Sandy and Helen, Biggar and Mike and Margaret, Invercreran. Many thanks to staff in Ward 22.



MACKECHNIE - Iain and Lindsay (née Smith) are delighted to announce the birth of their beautiful baby girl Quinn Tierney MacKechnie on the July 26, 2011 at the Royal Hospital, Paisley. A first grand-daughter for Frances Tierney and a second for Gilbert MacKechnie and Fiona Manson. A huge thanks to the Oban and Paisley maternity units.



RALPH - Gordon and Mary (née Marshall) are delighted to announce the birth of their beautiful son Archie Wallace, on July 7, 2011 at Paisley. Second grandchild for Douglas and Nancy Ralph and first grandchild for Essa and the late James Marshall, Mull.

DEATHS

MACDONALD - Jess (née Ellerington) passed away suddenly but peacefully at home, Lora View, North Connel on August 13, 2011, beloved wife, phenomenal mum and grandma and wonderful friend. Funeral will take place at Church of Scotland, Glencruitten Road, Oban on Tuesday August 23 at 1.30pm. Thereafter to Pennyfuir Cemetery. Family flowers only, please. Retiring collection / donations if desired to Yorkhill Family House Ltd., Ronald McDonald House Charities. You will be sadly missed by us all.

MACLENNAN - Peacefully at Dunaros hospital, Isle of Mull, on August 15, 2011, Annie (née Morrison), aged 78 years. Beloved wife of the late Jimmy, much loved mother of Iain, Donald, Nancy and Alison and cherished gran. Funeral service on Friday August 19 at 12.30 in Salen Church followed by interment at Pennygown cemetery.

McNEILL - Alex. Suddenly at home on August 14, 2011, Alex, beloved husband of the late Lily McIndoor McNeill, much loved dad of Nigel, Margaret, Anna and Dorothy and a dear papa to his grandchildren and great grandchildren. Funeral Service will take place at Co-operative Funeralcare, 15 Maxwell Drive, East Kilbride on Monday August 22 at 9.30am, thereafter to Philipshill Cemetery due 10am.

NEILSON - Naim John (Jack). Peacefully at home on Mull with his family by his side on Thursday, August 11, 2011. Loving husband of Cathie and father of John, Christine and Fergus, and grandfather of James, Emma, Alex and Will. Close brother to Margaret and Uncle to Neil-John. With heartfelt thanks from the family to wonderfully supportive and caring friends, carers, social workers, nurses and doctors. Funeral service 1.30 pm, Thursday August 18, at Torosay Church, Craignure, Mull, followed by a gathering at the Isle of Mull Hotel to which all friends are respectfully invited. No flowers please, but a donation for Christian Aid would be welcomed.

NICHOLSON - Peacefully at Inverclyde Royal Hospital on Thursday, August 11, 2011, Rosina (Ina) née Robertson, beloved wife of the late Lachlan, formerly of (Grimsay, North Uist), much loved mum of Mairi, Archie, John, Fiona and loving granny of Gillian, Calum and Aileen, dear sister to Iain and the late May and Jenny. Funeral service will take place at Free Church of Scotland, Jamaica Street, Greenock, on Friday, August 19, at 1.00pm to which all friends are respectfully welcome, thereafter to Greenock Crematorium for committal at 2.00pm. Family flowers only please.

ACKNOWLEDGE-MENTS

HENDERSON - Alasdair, Freda, Donna and Kieran would like to express sincere and heartfelt thanks to their family members for the overwhelming support shown to them following the sudden and sad loss of their son, Brother and Uncle Alistair Stephen. Thank you also to all relatives, friends, colleagues and neighbours for the kind expressions of sympathy extended to them by way of cards, visits, gifts

and floral tributes. Heartfelt thanks to Father Ross Crichton, Father Donald MacKay and alter server Willie Bauld for the lovely service and comforting words, to Angus MacPhee and Frasers Inverness for the efficient and sensitive funeral arrangements. Finally many thanks to all who paid their last respects at the church and graveside and for the contributions made to the retiring collection which raised a total of £808.54 and has been forwarded to the Make a Wish Foundation UK. Alistair Stephen will be sorely missed but always in our hearts R.I.P.

LIVINGSTONE - Jenny and family would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for their kind expressions of sympathy, floral tributes, cards, letters and telephone calls received since the sad loss of Archie on August 6, 2011. Special thanks to all medical staff, Rev. Jeff McCormick for a comforting service, Hamish Hoey & Son for efficient funeral arrangements, Falls of Lora Hotel and all who attended the church and graveside. Retiring collection raised £1015.02 for Ward C, Lorn & Islands Hospital.

MACKINTOSH - The family of the late Iain MacKintosh would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for their kind expressions of sympathy and support for their attendance at the church and graveside. We are especially grateful to Dr Joe Tangney for his outstanding care and attention to Iain over many years and particularly in his final illness. Grateful thanks are also due to District Nursing Sister, Catriona Forbes and to Mr David Sedgewick, Belford Hospital, Fort William for his kindness and care of Iain over many years. Our thanks also to Revs C MacRae, G Mair and S Sutherland for a most comforting service, and to Mike McFall, Funeral Directors and his staff for their caring and professional service. A collection was raised on behalf of Glen Mor Medical Practice, Fort William.



McKIE - Iain, Sheila, Kevin, Catriona and Calum would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for the many kind expressions of sympathy extended to them on their recent sad loss. With the support of staff from Lorn Medical Centre, Medico, Carers Direct and other medical services Flora managed to stay at home despite declining health and we would like to extend our thanks to them. We would also like to thank Donald MacKinnon for his comforting and personal service and Hamish Hoey & Son for their sensitive and professional arrangements. Finally sincere thanks to all who attended the service at the Parish Church and Pennyfuir Cemetery. £440 was collected and has been donated to Oban Hospice.

YOUNG - Dr. J.J. Sheila and families wish to thank everyone who attended Jim's funeral. Special thanks to Dr. Fiona McLennan and medical staff who made it possible for Jim to be nursed at home; to the many friends for their love and support over the past months; for the many cards, letters and kindnesses; to Rev Andy Campbell & Rev Cat Knott for conducting the service in Oban; to Dr Andy Henderson for the uplifting music; to Mr Donald MacKinnon for his constant care and the service at Paisley Crematorium. Thanks also to D & A Munn for efficient funeral arrangements. £411.00 was collected in Oban for the Oban Hospice.

IN MEMORIAM

CAIRNS - Christine Mary passed away August 17, 2008, dear wife of the late James Cairns and loving mother of Robert, Derek, and Douglas and much loved grandmother and mother-in-law. Sadly missed and always in our thoughts. **CAIRNS** - In loving memory of my sister and our aunt Christine, who died August 17, 2008. Another year has slipped away but in our hearts you will always stay. - Cathie and family, Caol, Corpach and Falkirk. **CAMPBELL** - In loving memory of a dear auntie Tootsie, who died August 16, 1989.

Silent thoughts of times together Hold memories that will last forever. - Catherine, Kenneth, Margaret and families. **DOHERTY** - (Jimmy Texaco). In loving memory of a dear father who died August 23, 1995. Always in our thoughts. - Love Mary, Peter and family. **DIGNAN** - Grace. A special person A special face Someone we love and can't replace Never selfish, always kind These are the memories you left behind. Loved always. - Andrew and the family. **FLEMING** - In memory of my dear husband Donnie who died on August 15, 1984. We'll meet again. - Loving wife Margaret, 4 Iona Drive. **HOGG** - In affectionate remembrance of my dear brother Davie, who died August 20, 1976 and Peter, who died August 19, 1997. Loving memories silently kept No need for words We will never forget. - Grace, Colin, Shiona, Colin, David and Serena. **MACDONALD** - Treasured memories of Alistair, a devoted husband and father, who passed away on August 18, 2001. The many things you did for me In your kind and loving way Give me memories to treasure As I think of you each day. - Helen. We miss you dad, our hearts are sore With each new day we miss you more No longer in our lives to share But in our hearts you're always there. - Iain, Deirdre and Mhairi. **MACFARLANE** - (LAFFERTY). In loving memory of Nadia MacFarlane who passed away August 12, 2008. You left a place no-one can fill We miss you now and always will. - Brian, Pene and family xx **MACFARLANE** - Neé Lafferty. In loving memory of my sister Nadia, who died on August 12, 2008. A sadness still comes over me Tears in silence often flow Memory keeps you ever near me Though you died three year's ago Love Isobel x **MACFARLANE** - Neé Lafferty. In loving memory of our sister Nadia, who died on August 12, 2008. As angels keep their watch up there Please God let her know That we down here do not forget And love and miss her so. Love John and Kathleen x x **MACFARLANE** - Nadia (née Lafferty), passed away August 12, 2008. A dear sister and friend much loved and never forgotten xx - Terrance and Shirley **MACKENZIE** - In loving memory of my mother Isobel who died August 19, 2010. Always in my thoughts. - Her son Roddy **MACKENZIE** - (Isobel) In loving memory of a dear mother, granny and great granny, who died August 19, 2010. Always in our thoughts - Allic, Liz and family. **MACKENZIE** - Isobel. In loving memory of a dear mother, granny and great granny. Sadly missed. Andrew, Mary-Joan and family. **McGRATH** - Achaleven Farm. Precious memories of our dear mum and Shen who died on August 23, 2006. We think about you every day We talk about you to We sit and laugh about the things You used to say and do There's much in life that changes There's much in life that's new But never in a million years Will there be another like you Loved and remembered always. - Your loving daughter Marie and grandson Duncan xxx **McGRATH** - In a lovely garden sleeping Where flowers softly sway Lies a precious mum and shen Who's loved and missed each day For you were such a special mum With lots of love to share And knowing you're no longer here Is very hard to bear. Your loving children Josephine and Denise, grandsons Owen and Gabriel and son-in-law Kevin xxx **ROBERTSON** - Remembering my lovely sister in law, aunt and great aunt Heather, who passed away on August 17, 2007. Too good to be forgotten - Mary, Arthur, Vincent, Tammie, Alex and Joe.xx

CHARITY DONATIONS

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Oban Hospice Ltd
The Croft
Kilmore

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Oban & Lorn Fundraising Branch
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Please contact
Mrs Lillian Kermode
Tynwald, Glenburn,
Soroba Road, Oban
01631 571009

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Sunday 21 August 2011
Trinity 9
St John's Cathedral, Oban
Holy Communion.....08.00
Sung Eucharist.....10.15
Loop System
Large Print Hymn Books
All Welcome
Norman MacCallum,
Provost.
(01631) 562323
St James, Ardbrecknish, Cladich
Holy Eucharist.....11.00
St Columba, Gruline, Mull
Holy Eucharist.....11.00
St Columba, Iona
Bishop's House, Iona
Holy Eucharist.....08.00
Evensong.....20.00

ASSOCIATED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, OBAN
Campbell Street Church
Sunday 21 August 2011
11 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.
Phone-In 'Worship Link' available
Rev. Archie McPhail
MA, MTh
(01631) 567076
All welcome

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Stokes Memorials
Carrie Ferguson, Morvern, Glen Nevis graduated from Duncan of Jordanstone Art School (Dundee University), with a First Class Honours in Textile and Design. Carrie is a former pupil of Inverloch Primary and Lochaber High Schools, she is the daughter of John and Caroline Ferguson, Glen Nevis, grand-daughter of the late Ian and Jessie Ferguson, Glen Nevis and John and Isobel Corbett, Caol. Carrie will start work as Junior Designer with Bluebell Gray, Glasgow.

Stokes Memorials
Sarah Jackson graduated from the University of Strathclyde with a 2:1 BA Honours degree in Psychology. Sarah is the daughter of John & Yvonne Jackson, Appin and the granddaughter of Jimmy & Betty Jackson, Appin and Norris & Eleanor Belcher, Gaudry, Fife. She is a former pupil of Strath of Appin Primary School and Oban High School.

Stokes Memorials
Robert Nairn graduated from RSAMD with BA Honours in Scottish Traditional Music. Robert is a former pupil of Achacrae Primary School, Lochaber High and Ardnarmurchan High Schools. He is the son of Stewart and Sheila Nairn and grandson of the late Robert and Nan Cameron, Kenra and the late George and Pauline Nairn, Knightswood and Belshill.

GRADUATIONS



Fabiene MacMillan graduated from Abertay University with a BA Honours in Games Production Management, he is the son of Neil and Tootie MacMillan, Caol and the grandson of the late Alex and Patsy Duncan, Fort William and the late Allan and Susie MacMillan, Benbecula. Fabiene is a former pupil of Caol Primary and Lochaber High School.



Catriona MacLeod recently graduated from St. Andrews University with the degree Master of Arts with Honours of the Second Class (Division 1) in English. Catriona attended Tobermory High School and is the daughter of Marti and Alasdair MacLeod, Tobermory and the grand daughter of Nan and Eddie Van der Vlies, George, South Africa and the late Jean and Bobby MacLeod, the Mishnish, Tobermory.



Sarah MacKay graduated from Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen with a BSc (Hons) in Diagnostic Radiography. Sarah is a former pupil of Caol Primary School and Lochaber High School.



Duncan MacGregor graduated from Strathclyde University with a B Eng Hons in Naval Architecture with Small Craft Engineering. Duncan is the younger son of Sheila MacGregor and the late Jack MacGregor of Easdale, Isle of Seil.



John MacLean graduated from Glasgow University with Master of Engineering (M.Eng), 1st Class Honours. John is the son of Hugh and Myra MacLean and a former pupil of Oban High School



Sarah Ann MacKenzie, daughter of Iain and Morag MacKenzie, granddaughter of Iain and Janet MacColl, Isle of Seil and the late Alex and Margaret MacKenzie, Lochgilphead, graduated from the University of Strathclyde with Joint Honours in Psychology and Marketing.



Alexander Taxter, who grew up on the Isle of Kerrera and attended Oban High School, has graduated from Aberdeen University with a BSc (Hons) in Geography. Alexander is making his home in Aberdeen where he is working in the energy field.



Kirsty Boyd graduated from the University of Glasgow with a Master of Arts (Social Sciences) with Honours in Politics. Kirsty is the daughter of Iain and Isobel Boyd, Connel and granddaughter of Angus and Myrtle Smith, Dunbeg and the late Dougie and Cathie Boyd, Oban. Kirsty is a former pupil of Achaleven Primary School and Oban High School.



James Whyte Livingstone, son of Isobel and the late Dugie Livingstone, graduated from Glasgow University with a Bachelor of Engineering in Electronics and Electrical Engineering. James attended Dalmally Primary and Oban High School.



Rosslyn Oman has graduated with a BA (Hons) in Fine Art from Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art, Dundee, also gaining the MacNeil prize for Painting and Drawing. Rosslyn is the daughter of Kate and Les Oman, Campbeltown and granddaughter of Mary and Hector MacKinnon, Campbeltown and Margaret and the late Colin Oman, Carradale.



John Frame graduated from Edinburgh University with LLB (Hons) Law. John is a former Head Boy of Lochgilphead High School.



Lynne Frame graduated from Edinburgh University with BSc (Hons) Chemistry with Environmental and Sustainable Chemistry. Lynne is a former Head Girl at Lochgilphead High School.

Clash of the titans in Macaulay Cup final

IT'S the clash of two shinty titans this weekend as KYLES – unbeaten in the league – take on Newtonmore in the final of the Artemis Macaulay Cup at Oban's Mossfield stadium.

Both sides have won the trophy nine times previously and a cracking match between two in-form teams is on the cards.

Kyles, without a competitive game last weekend, used the time for extra training and coach James Perlich will have a full squad to choose from for the final.

His side has enjoyed a good record against Newtonmore in recent times, but James knows the cup can be anything but predictable.

'We have had some good results in recent weeks, but I'm hoping a slightly disappointing game against Oban, which we drew 3-3, will work in the boys' favour.'

Apart from an extra bit of training for the big match, James said Kyles would be approaching the game as they have all others this season.

'We have tried to concentrate on our strengths. If we play to our ability, I think we will be okay.'

However, it could be a clash of styles at Mossfield.

'They are a very powerful, physical team, whereas we are more mobile – two totally different kettles of fish.'

James said there would also

be a big crowd coming up from Tighnabruach to support Kyles.

The big games are coming thick and fast for NEWTONMORE as they prepare for the final.

With the premier division title race set to go the wire and a Camanachd Cup final against Kingussie still to come, the 'More will be looking to pick up their first trophy of the season.'

The two teams, separated by two points in the league, drew 1-1 when they met at The Eilan earlier in the season.

Newtonmore needed extra time to book their place in the Scottish Cup final after a scrappy match with Inveraray finished 2-2 after 90 minutes.

Glen MacKintosh opened the scoring in the 10th minute before two Russell McKinlay goals gave Inveraray a shock 2-1 lead. David Cheyne hit the back of the net with 15 minutes left to force the extra period.

Newtonmore's superior fitness told as MacKintosh grabbed two goals in extra time, and Steven MacDonald's goal in the last minute sparked major celebrations on the sidelines as 'More secured their first Scottish Cup final appearance since 1997.'

Both sides ended the game a man down, with Inveraray's Euan MacMurdo and Newtonmore's David Cheyne both being sent off.



Ronald Ross, Kingussie, with Kilmallie's Alan MacDonald in close attendance. Photo Dave Fallows.

Defeat at Lovat leaves Oban Camanachd looking to re-group

KILMALLIE and KINGUSSIE will go head-to-head again on Saturday a week after they met in the Camanachd Cup semi final.

Kings won the semi 6-0, but if Kilmallie take the win this weekend they would move above Kings in the league.

Kilmallie will have inspirational captain John Stewart back in the side after he missed the semi final through suspension.

Kilmallie coach Johnnie Morrison said: 'We'll try to do a couple of things differently and see what happens. We could really do with the points – another couple of wins and I think we'll be safe.'

Kings will be much changed for this weekend's match, with key players Ronald Ross, Ryan Borthwick and Fraser Munro all suspended after picking up too many yellow cards. Lee Bain is also likely to miss the tie because of work commitments.

'It'll be all change this weekend, but it's all good experience for the younger boys who are going to come into the side. We had six guys under 21 involved on Saturday, and it's great to see them coming through.'

OBAN CAMANACHD are hoping home advantage will help them secure their future in the top flight, despite luck evading them in recent weeks.

The side has a week to re-group after poor finishing, coupled with the loss of a sloppy goal, cost them two vital points at Lovat on Saturday.

The 1-0 victory leaves Lovat one point clear of Oban and two ahead of Inveraray as the relegation battle heats up, although John MacRitchie's men have played more games.

Greg Matheson scored the all-important winner in the 58th minute of a tightly fought match at Balmacara.

Lovat do not have a game this weekend and will use the free time to train for their critical remaining league fixtures.

INVERARAY will have to do without Euan MacMurdo for two games after an extra time defeat at the hands of Newtonmore on Camanachd Cup duty on Saturday.

Manager John Smylie had challenged his players to stand up for themselves physically in the semi-final tie at Spean Bridge playing field, but the last thing he wanted was for his team to be reduced to 11 men during the

fiercely competitive match – even if Newtonmore endured the same hit.

It is yet another unwelcome blow to a team ravaged by injury throughout the season and struggling desperately against relegation.

However, Inveraray were heartened by their display in the cup tie, having matched their opponents throughout normal time, only losing out to three late goals that made the scoreline look worse than it was.

John Smylie said: 'We are in the relegation spot at the moment and we need at least four or six points from our last four games.'

'We just have to take one game at a time.'

Davie MacPherson has joined Inveraray's injury table, having pulled a hamstring against Newtonmore, ruling him out of next Saturday's game against Kingussie.

But Camanachd also had a goal controversially ruled offside and president Nigel Evans is hoping that with four home games from five fixtures remaining, fortunes will turn and help drag them away from a relegation dog-fight.

He said: 'It was a disappointing defeat to Lovat. We created a good number of chances and should have won but, unfortunately, we lost a sloppy goal and thereafter we were always chasing the game.'

'We've got a free week to re-group. I don't think we're playing that badly but we're not enjoying the rub of the green. We're creating chances; we're just not taking them.'

LOVAT moved above Oban Camanachd after claiming a vital win against their relegation rivals last weekend.

Newtonmore's Glen Macintosh and Inveraray defender Andrew MacMurdo tussle for the ball. The Inveraray player was booked in the second half and sent off in extra time for persistent fouling.

Managers Johnnie Morrison and Johnnie Morrison said: 'We'll try to do a couple of things differently and see what happens. We could really do with the points – another couple of wins and I think we'll be safe.'

Morrison said he was happy with how his side played in the first half of the semi, but felt conceding a goal so quickly at the start of the second half left them with too much to do.

He said: 'We probably shaded it in the first half, but we got caught cold a little bit at the start of the second half and it gave us a mountain to climb.'

Kingussie assistant coach Russell Jones said he was always confident his side could win the semi final.

He said: 'I was delighted with the performance. It's the best we've played for quite a few weeks.'

'We were against quite a strong wind in the first half. The defence played well and we forced their keeper into making a few good saves. We were quite happy going in 0-0 at half time because we knew we'd have the wind behind us.'

'Once we got the goals the pressure was off us a little bit and the boys started to relax.'



Photo: Dave Fallows

Kinlochshiel hope to secure the title at Portree

KINLOCHSHIEL will clinch the north division one title this weekend if they avoid defeat away to Skye Camanachd.

Their march towards the premier division continued as they picked up their 11th straight win by crushing bottom side Strathglass 10-0 last Saturday.

After a first half where both sides had chances, Kinlochshiel upped the game in the second half to take the points, with Finlay MacRae scoring a hat-trick.

Manager Johnston Gill said the first half had been more challenging than the scoreline suggests.

He said: 'We didn't get our first goal until the 40th minute. Both goalkeepers had to play well for the first 40 minutes but after that they seemed to tire. Then we seemed to score every five minutes.'

'Skye won't want us to win it on their ground, but we'd like to win it there. But if we play the way we did in the first 40 minutes then we won't be winning anything.'

SKYE CAMANACHD manager Nui MacDonal said stopping their opponents from being given the silverware at their ground would give the game an added edge.

He said: 'It's a big incentive for us. I think they would be pretty pleased to lift the trophy in Portree.'

Ian Murray and Kerr Gibbs are amongst the Skye players who will miss Saturday's game.

MacDonal admitted most spectators will be expecting a Kinlochshiel victory.

'The odds are stacked against us,' he said. 'All we can do is go out there and give it our all.'

'From what I hear their strongest

areas are in midfield and up front so we'll go out there with a strong defence and then we can concentrate on midfield.'

LOCHABER have their first game in Spean Bridge for a number of weeks this Saturday when Caberfeidh visit.

The team have kept away from their home park as part of preparations for the Camanachd Cup semi finals which took place last weekend.

Lochaber face leaders Kinlochshiel on the final day of the season, but manager Michael Delaney thinks the chances of the game being a title decider are slim.

He said: 'I would say Kinlochshiel will probably wrap up the title this week. Caberfeidh will be a tough game, and we haven't played at home for a while. If the park is as good as it was at the weekend, we'll be fine.'

LOCHCARRON moved above Caberfeidh into fourth position in north division one after beating the Strathpeffer side 3-1 last weekend.

Andrew Mackenzie's men got off to a perfect start when Iain Mackenzie opened the scoring in the fourth minute at Castle Leod. Peter Mackenzie made the score 2-0 four minutes into the second half and grabbed his second of the game 16 minutes later.

Caberfeidh pulled a goal back

in the 72nd minute through Kevin Bartlett but Lochcarron were able to hold out for the win and the two points.

Lochcarron have this weekend free as they prepare for their final three games of the season.

In the south, OBAN CELTIC'S Davy Hamilton, will be without forward Alan Duffy after he saw red during Saturday's dramatic win against Taynuilt.

While he has a spare week to consider his options ahead of their encounter with Ballachulish, he was pleased with his side's determination and work-rate as they held on to put Taynuilt to the sword with a fine 2-1 win.

Duffy will be missing for two matches, but Ally McKerracher netted twice to ensure both points went to Celtic, possibly ensuring their future in the division.

Hamilton said: 'I don't have any complaints with the sending off. There was a coming together and he stood up and reacted by moving his head forward.'

'It was backs to the wall stuff for a while, but it was a valuable two points for us as it should make us safe from relegation.'

John Hill returned to fitness for the Taynuilt clash, but long term injury victim, centre Neil Carmichael, remains a doubt for the final three games of the campaign.

LOCHSIDE ROVERS will find out how close they are to cup success on Saturday when they take on Aberdeen on league duty – but they are in desperate need of a penalty taker.

The Oban side secured their spot in the Bullough Cup final – which will be against Aberdeen – with a 4-3 win against Tayforth on Saturday, coming back from

Fixtures

Fixtures for Saturday 20 August
All throw ups 2.30 unless stated

Scottish Hydro Premier Division
Kingussie v Kilmallie
David Mitchell

Marine Harvest North Division 1
Skye v Kinlochshiel
Graham Irving
Lochaber v Caberfeidh
Graham Cameron 3pm

Marine Harvest North Division 2
Lochaber v Skye
Evan MacRae 12 noon
Fort William v Glengarry
Donald MacRae
Kilmallie v Glenurquhart
Joek Matheson
Kinlochshiel v Kingussie
John Angus Gillies

Marine Harvest North Division 3
Caberfeidh v Ardnamurchan
Barrie Dallas 12 noon
Aberdeen Uni v Strathglass
Euan Pearson
Lochcarron v Boleskine
John Macleod
Inverness v Beaulieu
Kevin Cheeseman
Lochbroom v Lewis Camanachd
John Sloggie

Marine Harvest South Division 1
Lochside Rovers v Aberdeen
Iain Kennedy 12 noon
Taynuilt v Glasgow Mid Argyll
Innes Wood 12 noon
Bute v Kilmory
George O'Rourke

Marine Harvest South Division 2
Strachur v Tayforth
Ronnie Campbell
Aberdour v Inveraray
Jim Innes

Artemis Macaulay Cup Final
Kyles Athletic v Newtonmore
Deck Cameron.
At Mossfield Stadium, Oban

League tables

Scottish Hydro Premier Division

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Fort William	15	10	2	3	22
Kyles Athletic	12	9	3	0	21
Newtonmore	12	8	3	1	19
Glenurquhart	16	7	2	7	16
Kingussie	12	5	4	3	14
Kilmallie	13	7	0	6	14
Lovat	15	5	1	9	11
Oban Camanachd	13	4	2	7	10
Inveraray	14	4	1	9	9
Glenorchy	14	0	1	14	0

Marine Harvest North Division One

Kinlochshiel	11	11	0	0	22
Beaulieu	12	6	4	2	16
Lochaber	10	7	1	2	15
Lochcarron	11	4	4	3	12
Caberfeidh	11	5	2	4	12
Skye	12	3	2	7	8
Inverness	13	1	3	9	5
Strathglass	14	1	2	11	4

Marine Harvest South Division One

Bute	11	11	0	0	22
Glasgow MA	12	8	3	1	19
Lochside Rovers	13	7	2	4	16
Ballachulish	14	7	1	7	13
Taynuilt	13	5	2	6	12
Oban Celtic	13	4	3	6	11
Kyles Athletic	12	5	0	7	10
Kilmory	11	2	2	7	6
Aberdour	13	1	1	11	3

Marine Harvest North Division Two

Newtonmore	16	15	0	1	30
Fort William	13	10	2	1	22
Glengarry	14	10	0	4	20
Kingussie	15	6	1	8	13
Glenurquhart	15	6	0	9	12
Lovat	15	6	1	8	11
Lochaber	14	5	0	9	10
Kilmallie	16	3	3	10	9
Skye	14	4	1	9	9
Kinlochshiel	14	4	0	10	8

Marine Harvest South Division Two

Tayforth	13	11	1	1	23
Strachur	13	11	1	1	23
Colglen	14	7	0	7	14
Bute	12	5	3	4	13
Glasgow MA	13	4	8	6	10
Ballachulish	13	4	1	8	9
Inveraray	11	4	0	7	8
Aberdour	13	1	0	12	2

Marine Harvest North Division Three

Aberdeen U	16	16	0	0	32
Beaulieu	17	12	2	3	26
Boleskine	16	11	1	4	23
Caberfeidh	15	10	1	4	21
Lochcarron	15	7	1	7	15
Lochbroom	16	5	4	7	14
Inverness	17	5	1	11	11
Strathglass	17	4	1	13	9
Ardnamurchan	17	4	0	13	8
Lewis	16	1	1	14	3

Results

Scottish Hydro Premier Division
Glenorchy v Glenurquhart
Postponed
Lovat 1, Oban Camanachd 0

Marine Harvest North Division 1
Beaulieu 2, Inverness 0
Caberfeidh 1, Lochcarron 3
Strathglass 0, Kinlochshiel 9

Marine Harvest North Division 2
Kilmallie 3, Kingussie 1
Skye 6, Kinlochshiel 2

Marine Harvest North Division 3
Lochcarron v Aberdeen Uni
Postponed
Inverness 1, Strathglass 5
Lochbroom 1, Caberfeidh 5

Marine Harvest South Division 1
Oban Celtic 2, Taynuilt 1
Glasgow Mid Argyll 1, Bute 6
Kilmory 1, Kyles Athletic 3

Marine Harvest South Division 2
Bute v Glasgow Mid Argyll - postponed
Inveraray v Ballachulish - postponed

Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup
Inveraray 2, Newtonmore 3
Kingussie 6, Kilmallie 0

Strathdearn Cup
Glengarry 10, Glenurquhart 1
Fort William 2, Newtonmore 3

Bullough Cup
Aberdour 1, Col Glen 1
Aberdour win 2-1 on penalties
Lochside Rovers 4, Tayforth 3

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.

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 "Spot the Shinty Ball" Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon Tuesday. You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

Competition Rules

No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery.

The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.

In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company.

The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time.

Employees of The Oban Times Limited, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.

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LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE...

This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:

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I enclose £1 (note) for 20 crosses (tick box) The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules. How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1.

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Open pairs at Oban Bowling Club

BOWLS



Open Pairs winners Sandy Cameron and Donald Crawford. SATURDAY was the busiest day on the green this year.

The competition was the annual open pairs sponsored by Carpet Services of Oban. The trophy is the W. Hay cup.

Teams travelled from all over Argyll and four teams from Bellsburn Club in Linlithgow - 68 players in total.

Amid sunshine and showers four sections of seven teams threw up eight winning players.

After an exciting semi final the final was played out between the teams of Andrew Forbes and Roddy MacLeod, from Oban and Donald Crawford and Sandy Cameron, from Ardrishaig, the latter came out on top.

Registration night

PRIMARY FOOTBALL

OBAN Primary Football League player registration night will be held on Tuesday, August 23, at 7pm in the meeting room at Atlantis Leisure where new P1's can register as well as any player within primary school age who do not have a team can come along and the committee will do their best to find them a place.

Residential camp for young rugby players

RUGBY



The players and coaches pictured at last weekend's rugby camp in Oban. 15_133rugby2

MORE THAN 30 players aged between 11 and 16 attended the first ever Argyll and Bute residential rugby camp in Oban last weekend with youngsters from Mid Argyll RFC, Isle of Mull RFC, Oban Lorne RFC and Etive Vikings mini section being put through their paces.

The players were involved in a weekend full of intense and enjoyable coaching sessions focussing on Scottish Rugby's

four key national themes run by local club coaches, also focusing on individual skill as well as positional and team play. This was followed by short matches for each age group on the Sunday afternoon.

The players' hard work and commitment to the weekend was rewarded with activities at

Atlantis Leisure on the Saturday evening as well as some constructive and positive feedback from the staff and coaches who attended the camp.

The weekend was based at Glencruitten Clubhouse and pitches, with Glencruitten Hostel

used for accommodation over the two nights. Dee Bradbury, president of Argyll and Bute RFC organised the weekend which was run by Argyll and Bute rugby development officer, Allan Wright.

Allan said: 'This was a great opportunity for us to work for an extended period of time with the players. It also lets us see the numbers and the quality of our squads for next season. I was thrilled with the effort, behaviour and high performance level of the players throughout the weekend.'

This is something that we hope to build on this season and look to plan again for next year.'

The weekend was supported by Argyll and Bute RFC, Scottish Rugby, Argyll Leader project and Highland Spring who sponsored water for the event.

Scottish championship success for Scott

OBAN'S Scott Sinclair enjoyed an almost perfect weekend in the Scottish Quad Racing championships at the Rhynie track, near Huntly.

Saturday kicked off late with a win in race one in a field of 21 quads of various classes, with Scott leading from the third corner and pulling away to record a victory by 50 seconds.

His good form continued in the second and third races, giving him first overall and first in his class, the quad running fault-

lessly in perfect conditions on an upgraded track.

Sunday started early with the practice all going well and then onto race one when the quad developed an intermittent electrical fault which caused him to pull out and head back to the pits to remedy the fault.

With only a small amount of time allowed for the repairs, the bike wiring had to be stripped completely before a broken wire deep in the loom was found and fixed and the bike rebuilt with

seconds to spare before the start of race two.

Having not finished the previous race, Scott started from last spot but made a brilliant start and was first to cross.

As he had on Saturday, Scott recorded the win by a good margin and still had enough in the tank to take the last race to complete an almost perfect weekend. The weekend's efforts leave Scott trailing first place in the championship by 16 points but with an outside chance of

QUAD BIKING

catching up if he wins all three races at the last meeting on September 11 and other results go his way.

'All I can do is try my best to win the three races and watch what happens,' he said.

'I took part in the British Quad championship two weeks ago in Deanmoor, Cumbria, and finished both races in a strong third place in a much larger and more experienced field of riders.'



Coach Murray Hamilton puts the players through their paces on the scrummage machine. 15_133rugby01

Saints fail to deliver at Postal

FOOTBALL

Scottish Amateur League Premier Division Postal United 1 Oban Saints 0

OBAN Saints travelled to Haghill Sports Centre to take on last season's Premier Division 1 champions Postal United in the first league game of the new season.

The visitors should have taken the lead in the first minute of the game when Donald Campbell was played through the middle, but with only the keeper to beat Donald shot straight at the Postal netminder and a glorious chance was missed.

The visitors were finding it hard going on the narrow playing surface with Postal having most of the territorial advantage and had a claim for a penalty turned down when Alex Craik seemed to impede Brian Hughes in the box.

Postal threatened on a couple of occasions, but keeper Graham Douglas saved well from a John Jarvis pile-driver and Alex Craik was on hand to head a net-bound effort off the line.

Saints were defending well, but were dealt a cruel blow in the 36th minute when Brian Hughes,

clearly in an offside position, turned and thumped a great shot over Graham Douglas and into the net.

Despite vehement protests from the Saints players referee Andy Seymour allowed the goal to stand.

Despite being under the cosh for long spells Saints looked dangerous on the break and should have drawn level just before the interval when Ross Maitland was clean through with only the keeper to beat, but like Donald Campbell earlier in the half Ross shot straight at the keeper and another great chance was missed.

Saints had the advantage of the breeze in the second half and started off well putting Postal under pressure and created several half chances, but credit to the United defence they were defending well.

Craig MacEwan had two opportunities in quick succession, but he hit one straight at the keeper and the other he was unlucky with a cut-back across the face of the goals, but there was no takers.

The visitors introduced Lewis Cameron on the right and the youngster provided more width

and he sent over a couple of great crosses, but again there was nobody on hand to take advantage.

With two minutes left on the clock Saints thought they had scored a late equaliser when Asen Gaydardzhiev got in front of his marker to bullet the ball into the net, but to the amazement of everyone the referee chalked the 'goal' off for an infringement in the box. This seemed a very harsh decision as it looked a perfectly good goal.

Saints pushed forward in an attempt to get a last gasp equaliser, but alas time ran out and they lost by the narrowest of margins.

Manager Iain Jackson said: 'Two major decisions went against us today, but in saying that we created two or three excellent chances which we failed to take and at this level it is going to cost you and that is exactly what happened. We never got going in the first half, but the second was much better against a very good Postal team.'

Saints have no game this Saturday.



Prizewinners at Taynuilt Open

S&S Services Taynuilt Open

THE S & S Services sponsored Taynuilt Golf Club Gents Open event took place over the Taynuilt course on Sunday.

Playing in showery conditions and with the course in excellent condition, Jim Carmichael from Taynuilt and Airdrie Golf Club took the Handicap Trophy with a score of 60 (19). Second and third places were taken by Taynuilt members Robbie MacLarty 61(9) and Alan Wilson 62(11).

The Scratch Trophy was won by

GOLF

Alan McKie from Glencruitten GC with a score of 66 with James Muir from the Glencruitten club in second place (67). Iain MacCalman from Clober GC took the third place (70).

The Longest Drive at the 1st/10th was won by Andrew Diggory (Taynuilt), the Nearest the Pin at the 2nd/11th by David Howie (Taynuilt) and at the 8th/17th by Willie Currie (Glencruitten).

Angus and Mary Ann win Skippinish Cup

SAILING

TREE Regatta celebrated its centenary in style, with perfect weather and a brisk south/south east wind helping Angus MacKinnon's Mary Ann win the Skippinish Cup.

The trophy - first presented to the winner of the event 100 years ago - was presented to Mr MacKinnon together with a scroll of the earliest record of the competition; a poem that featured in *The Oban Times*, April 1911, entitled Oran Do Reis A'Chuan 'Bha 'N Eilean Throirdh.

Mr MacKinnon had triumphed over 16 competitors at the event on Saturday, with his Tree dipping lug one of seven in the class that jostled for top position, a number which could well be a Scottish record.

The boats were not built to be raced, but worked, so when racing they row out to and hold their position on the start line. On the start gun, the lug's sails are rapidly hoisted, adding a touch of the spectacular. Starting at 2pm, most boats

made a perfect start, but after two hotly disputed rounds, the Mary Ann won both the lug class and the overall handicap.

Meanwhile, Finn MacDonald, 10, crewed his Pico and in doing so made a bold statement as to his ambitions at being a contender for Regatta glory in future years.

Away from competition, two new additions to this year's programme were the Hawaiian craze of stand up paddle boarding and a Jet Ski race.

The Tobermory lifeboat made a surprise visit, allowing many spectators to go aboard and gain an insight of their work.

Regatta organiser, Robert Trythall, said: 'The Centenary Regatta drew to a close with the traditional trawler race, after which the event adjourned to the marquee for an evening of revelry, which lasted well into the wee sma' hours of a memorable day.'

Junior athletics at the Argyllshire Gathering

JUNIOR ATHLETICS

THE Argyllshire Gathering takes place next Thursday, August 25, at Mossfield Park and the organisers are hopeful that there will be a good entry of junior athletes.

The junior section is open to boys and girls under 16 years and the programme includes five individual events made up of two track events and three field events.

Generous prize money is on offer for the first five places in each event with additional cash prizes for the top boy and girl accumulating most points on the day.

The junior events start at 11am and athletes are advised to register by 10.40am.

Oban Games is the last of the Argyll Games this summer and a junior points league has been in operation with the final events

concluded at Oban. Annual trophies will be awarded to the top boy and girl over the series of three Highland Games affiliated to the Scottish Highland Games Association.

Competitions

After the competitions at Inveraray and Mull, Ben Coates from Kilmore leads the boys contest on 17 points followed by Cullen McClymont from Craignure

on 14 and Gordon Thomson from Oban on 13 points.

Abigail Evans from Oban leads in the girls contest ahead of Sian Henderson from Salen on Mull with Freya Corner from Inveraray in third place.

For more information on the junior events and relays phone 01546602664 or 01852500649.

Weather

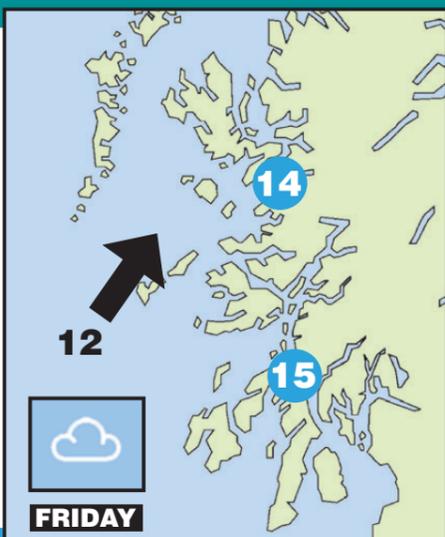
Thursday Light rain.
Winds light, north, north westerly
Temperatures 10°C to 14°C

Friday Cloudy.
Winds light, south, south westerly
Temperatures 12°C to 15°C.

Weekend Sunny Intervals.

Outlook Winds moderate, south westerly.
Temperatures 13°C to 16°C.

Ferry Crossings/Sea States
Oban to Barra/South Uist Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay Moderate



Tides

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, August 18, 2011** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur	02.16 1.1 07.52 3.7 14.25 1.2 20.16 3.8	
Fri	02.48 1.3 08.20 3.6 14.54 1.4 20.45 3.6	
Sat	03.22 1.5 08.52 3.4 15.25 1.6 21.16 3.3	
Sun	04.03 1.7 09.28 3.2 16.04 1.9 21.54 3.1	
Mon	04.58 1.9 10.15 3.0 17.07 2.1 22.52 2.9	
Tues	06.08 1.9 11.30 2.8 18.33 2.1 *** **	
Wed	01.56 2.8 07.22 1.9 14.18 2.9 20.08 2.0	

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrishaig	-5.35	Portree	+0.55
Campbeltown	-5.30	Tobermory	+0.16
Crinan	-0.47	Dover	+5.30
Islay Port Ellen	2.00		
Lochboisdale	+0.30		
Mallaig	+0.25		

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