

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Established 1861 No 7960

Thursday, September 17, 2009

www.obantimes.co.uk

75 pence



Princess Royal comes west

My Village Callander



Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup Final PREVIEW

OAPs hit by extra charges

PENSIONERS in sheltered housing facing extra charges of £10 a week will not be entitled to any extra housing benefit to help meet the costs.

Argyll and Bute's MP, Alan Reid, described the news as a 'bombshell' for tenants of Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA), which runs 11 complexes where the service charges were introduced last month.

ACHA says the charges are necessary after funding from Argyll and Bute Council's Supporting People grant came to an end last year.

Now Mr Reid has been told the extra charges cannot be covered by housing benefit.

Explaining

Mr Reid said pensioners would end up cutting back on food or other essentials. He added: 'The council has a lot of explaining to do. The Scottish government says it gave the council supporting people money. The council failed to pass this on to ACHA.'

'Now they're refusing to give tenants housing benefit because they can't pay housing benefit to cover rent increase brought about by their cuts.'

A meeting will be held tomorrow, Friday, with representatives of ACHA, the council and the Scottish government.

The council receives a lump sum each year under the supporting people scheme and the amount has been steadily falling from £14.5million in 2004 to £10.8m this year.

A council spokeswoman said this money is used to provide care packages for vulnerable people.



Camanachd Cup fever comes to town ahead of Saturday's big final

Park Primary School, Oban has won many shinty trophies over the years but it will be a few years yet before these pupils will get a chance to play for the Camanachd Cup. The Park A-team got to grips with the trophy on Monday during its tour around the north west of Scotland to promote the Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup final, which takes place at Mossfield Stadium, Oban, this Saturday. The visit of the cup coincided with shinty taster sessions at Park primary and Oban High School. This year's finalists are Fort William and Kyles Athletic. Fort William are aiming to retain the trophy for a third year, and are playing in their seventh consecutive Scottish Cup final, while Kyles haven't won shinty's main prize since 1994 - when they defeated Fort William 3-1.

For a preview of this year's shinty showpiece final see pages 25 - 27. Budding sports journalists can also win a chance to report on the game for The Oban Times and win themselves a laptop courtesy of Camanachd Cup Final sponsors Scottish Hydro, by entering the competition on page 28. 07_138cup03

Jobs and services crisis for council

EXCLUSIVE

By LOUISE LEE

THE ECONOMIC crisis is about to rock Argyll and Bute.

Figures to be revealed today (Thursday) from the Scottish government show that the area's council faces a massive budget cut. Councillors are faced with having to savage services and jobs or set council taxes rocketing.

It is understood that there will be as much as a 15 per cent budget cut in Argyll and Bute from the Scottish government for the next financial year. This could mean a shortfall of between £12 and £15 million - that's £143 for every man, woman and child in the area.

Council insiders believe that there are many efficiency savings that could easily save millions - but many of the decisions would be unpopular with voters.

One councillor said: 'We could consider a pay freeze - saving about £4 million, or a cut in services saving in the region of £2 million - but it is easy to see that no one measure will meet the shortfall we are expecting. 'The final settlement has not been revealed but it will

Huge budget cuts will leave councillors facing horrendous choices

be substantial and hit the area hard. I hope that everyone in the area can work together to reduce the impact.'

Council leaders throughout Scotland are wrestling with tough financial decisions. But it is widely considered that Argyll and Bute will be among one of the regions hardest hit because of the number of services demanded by a diverse rural and isolated environment.

An Argyll and Bute Council spokeswoman said: 'It is generally accepted that the financial outlook for the public sector is very challenging.'

'Across the country there has been talk about the levels of budget available to support the public sector. However, it would be premature at this stage to speculate on what the precise impact might be for Argyll and Bute.'

'The Scottish government budget is due to be announced, but individual council funding allocations are not likely to be known for

another couple of months. 'Argyll and Bute Council will be embarking on its service planning and budgeting process in the near future. Based on the presumption of a very challenging outlook, all areas of the council's budget will be scrutinised to make sure we are as efficient as possible and that our budget is directed to our core priorities.'

'The council would of course welcome the assistance, support and understanding of the community during this process.'

'We recognise we are facing similar challenges to the vast majority of residents and businesses in trying to balance budgets while seeking to cope with the impact of economic recession.'

It is understood that every department of the council is being encouraged to look at savings including social work, education, elderly care, travel expenses and community services.



9 771461 487051

Kranenburg Fine Art

Gillian's Jumble Sale

An exhibition of new works by Gillian Goodheir

Preview Friday 18th September 2009 from 6pm in our Stevenson Street Gallery. The exhibition will continue until 10th October.

Mimosa in The Sun | Gouache | 15 x 18"

Kranenburg Fine Art Galleries
Stevenson Street & Star Brae,
Oban, Argyll, PA34 4AZ
01631 562303
gallery@kranenburgfineart.com
www.kranenburgfineart.com

Dial 999 for boy in blue!

THERE is little debate over what Connor Blue's lucky number will be.

The Dunbeg tot was one of the first babies in Scotland to be born last Wednesday, the ninth day, of the ninth month, of the ninth year. In a bizarre coincidence, his weight at birth was just shy of nine pounds.

Louise, who works at Tesco in Oban, said: 'My due date was September 10 but I was taken to the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Paisley a day early.'

He was one ounce short of being nine pounds, so it is a funny coincidence.

'Because his birth date reads 09.09.09 and his surname is

blue, we have had all the jokes about him being a policeman when he is older!'

Connor was born at 1.15am, meaning he was one of the first babies in the country to be born on September 9. He is a younger brother for two-year-old Lucy.

Mark, who works in Egypt in the oil and gas industry, said: 'I worked two months straight so that I could have two months off at home with the family when Connor was born. I'm going back to work at the end of the month for a rest!'

Connor's middle name is Brian, in memory of Mark's younger brother who died in January this year.



At home in Dunbeg with newborn Connor Blue are mother Louise, sister Lucy and father Mark. 07_138nine01

The GRAB Trust In Partnership with Tیره Environmental Action & Recycling (TEAR)

As the alternate weekly collections are about to commence and residences have been provided with a free compost bin to help separate out raw food and garden waste, GRAB are to hold a COMPOST AWARENESS EVENT, which is open to everyone on the island.

A presentation, followed by a Q&A session, will cover everything you wish to know on composting: - location, installation on a windy site, what to put in, maintenance, hygiene and what to do with the resulting compost!

Meanwhile the TEAR group will be holding their next meeting on Monday 14th Sept 2009 at 7.30 in the Resource centre
Recycling and environmental issues concern everyone, all ages are welcome.
Contact Jackie Jones for more information

HOME COMPOSTING EVENT at An Talla on Saturday 19th September 13.30pm

Waste Aware Argyll & Bute
The GRAB Trust
Argyll & Bute Council

Lots of bed deals on show now!

Single beds from only £149
Double Beds from only £229
Multi Drawer Double Divan £699 £349
Silentnight Lyon Drawer Divan £699 £479

Lots of Mattresses & Beds available from stock

Tweedmill, Soroba Road, Oban.
Tel: 01631 565195

Tragic jet ski accident claims life of Kilchoan four-year-old

A GRIEF stricken family paid warm tribute to a four-year-old boy who was tragically killed in a jet ski accident in Ardnamurchan.

It is understood that Caleb Cameron from Kilchoan was playing on the pier at Kilchoan at around 2pm on Saturday September 12 when a jet ski, thought to have been driven by a family friend, came out of the water and struck him.

There is speculation that the throttle on the jetski jammed before it collided with the slipway although police say investigations into the accident are continuing this week and a report will be sent to the Procurator Fiscal. Caleb was treated at the scene by a team of specialists before being airlifted to Glasgow's Southern General Hospital where he sadly died 24 hours later.

His parents, Bert and Gail Cameron, who were nearby when the accident happened, spoke about a 'fun loving boy' who touched the hearts of everyone who knew him.

Mrs Cameron said: 'Caleb was a smart, fun-loving little boy who touched the hearts of everyone who knew him. The family are all devastated to have lost him.'

'We are grateful to all of our family and friends for their support and would like to thank all the emergency services involved, the Southern General Hospital in Glasgow and in particular the local nurse.'

A special assembly was held this week at Kilchoan Primary School where Caleb was one of only five nursery

pupils. The head teacher of the school, Lynne McLuckie, expressed the great shock felt in the community at the loss of Caleb.

Mrs McLuckie said: 'It is with a heavy heart that I write these lines about a little boy who was so dear to us all in Kilchoan Primary School and Nursery.'

'Caleb attended nursery for over a year and every day he brought a bundle of fun and happiness with him. He had a lovely sense of humour and a sparkle in his eye, particularly when he was up to something mischievous.'

'Caleb was a happy, polite and enthusiastic boy. He enjoyed listening to stories, music and singing.'

'He was always asking questions, curious to know about everything and being interested in all that was going on in the world around him.'

'He always had a story to tell and would look forward to talking about his latest discovery.'

'We have talked with the children and given them an opportunity to discuss what has happened. This is the start of a painful process as the news starts to sink in.'

'School and nursery will continue as normal, keeping the children busy, but we will also stop and take the time to answer their questions and support them emotionally when they need it.'

'Caleb was a credit to our nursery and we have all been honoured and touched by knowing him at the beginning of his short life. Caleb will be greatly missed.'



Ingrid Henderson in full flow supporting The Barra MacNeils at the sell-out concert at Roy Bridge Village Hall. 10_f38blas05

Star-studded Blas Festival 2009 a stunning success

THE 2009 Blas Festival has proved to be a stunning success with venues in Skye, Lochalsh and Lochaber sold out throughout its nine-day run.

The event took on special significance in the Year of Homecoming, with world traditional music legends the Barra MacNeils making the trip across the Atlantic from Cape Breton to play at Portree and Roy Bridge.

The main concerts aside, thousands of Highland schoolchildren learned more about their music, culture and the Gaelic language through workshops and classes with Blas performers.

Festival director Donna MacRae highlighting the unique way the Blas reached out to people. 'There cannot be

many festivals with such widespread reach into their communities. Highland Council is to be commended for its determination in helping us to have such an important cultural impact across the whole Highland region,' she said.

Glenelg hosted the final concert on Saturday, a ceilidh and dance with Fergie MacDonald and Friends.

The star-studded Blas line-up also included Glenfinnan's Iain MacFarlane, Ishbel MacAskill from Point, Lewis, Dougie MacLean and Blazin' Fiddles, Mary Ann Kennedy and Na Seòid, The MacCollective and Feisean Lochabair Ceilidh Trail.

The Barra MacNeils at Roy Bridge: Page 5.

Rescue bid for Gaelic unveiled

£6,000 'golden hello' promised to trainee Gaelic teachers

A RADICAL plan to tackle the desperate shortage of Gaelic teachers in Highland secondary schools will be unveiled next week, *The Oban Times* can reveal.

EXCLUSIVE
By STEPHEN NORRIS

The blueprint, forged following talks between Gaelic Minister Michael Russell, Highland Council and Bòrd na Gàidhlig, will recommend a string of incentives designed to attract new talent into Gaelic language tuition.

Highland Council Leader Michael Foxley will outline the ambitious proposals at the Gaelic committee next Friday.

They will include: 'Golden hellos' for probationer teachers willing to go into Gaelic medium education or the general teaching of Gaelic in schools.

Retraining for qualified teachers, and training for suitable non-teaching Gaelic-speaking candidates in a possible pilot scheme with Sabhal Mòr Ostaig.

One day per week set aside for teachers to prepare and design Gaelic materials for lessons, which are currently in short supply.

Continuous

professional development to create a route towards chartered teacher status in order to address concerns about a lack of promotion prospects.

Possible retention of local authority housing to be allocated to incoming Gaelic teachers as 'key' workers.

In an exclusive interview with *The Oban Times*, Councillor Foxley said the number of Gaelic teaching posts at Mallaig High School, Lochaber High School and Ardnamurchan High School were currently only one sixth of where they should be, after several rounds of advertising failed to attract suitable - or any - candidates.

Councillor Foxley said he had met with Gaelic Minister Michael Russell twice over the last six weeks as negotiations over the new package and who should fund it crystallised.

Outlining the scale of the problem, he said: 'There should be Gaelic medium education in five subjects and Gaelic language tuition in S1 and S2, but in Lochaber we

have only two high school teachers, whereas we need at least 12.

'It's also very tight at primary, with no spare capacity and no supply teachers available in the event of illness.'

'But now, after years and years of discussion, we are very close to a complete agreement between Highland Council, Bòrd na Gàidhlig and the Scottish Government as to how we can provide serious incentives, which should significantly increase the number of Gaelic teachers across all schools. 'We are also very close to agreement on the money - which part should come from the council, from Bòrd na Gàidhlig and from the Scottish Government.'

'That has to be done so we are quite clear that the funding mechanism is in place.'

Gaelic education at secondary level is in dire straits across much of the West Highlands, leading many to question whether its grass roots development has been forgotten amid the fanfare surrounding TV and radio.

Radio nan Gàidheal and the arrival of BBC Alba has given the language an unprecedented media foothold, but those advances have been mirrored by a worsening shortfall of Gaelic teachers.

'We are very close to an agreement... which should significantly increase the number of Gaelic teachers across all schools,' - Councillor Michael Foxley.

Clansman forced to turn back

A FERRY bound for Barra and South Uist was forced to turn back to Oban after technical problems occurred on Sunday.

Caledonian MacBrayne arranged hotel rooms for 89 passengers on board MV Clansman and engineers worked through the night to fix the problem. The craft sailed as scheduled on Monday afternoon, without the need for a relief vessel.

A spokesman for Calmac said: 'It is highly regrettable that the MV Clansman suffered a technical breakdown on the way to Castlebay and Lochboisdale and we can only apologise to passengers for the inconvenience.'

Boost for company

POTENTIAL anti-inflammatory products gleaned from sea creatures by a Dunstaffnage biotechnology company could soon be available commercially.

GlycoMar Ltd has been given a £55,850 grant from Highlands and Islands Enterprise towards an 18-month programme to bring two of its products it has been working on over the past three years to the nutrition and cosmetic markets.

The potential products use anti-inflammatory agents to improve joint health and intestinal health and in skin care to promote anti-aging. Charlie Bavington, managing director of GlycoMar, said: 'It is very satisfying to see our research activity progressing through development to a marketable product.'

'This is an important step for GlycoMar which has been made possible by support from investors and HIE.'

Delight as rocket base jobs saved

CHEERS from staff greeted the news that the Ministry of Defence has abandoned plans to downgrade a Western Isles missile range.

The announcement on Tuesday by Scottish secretary Jim Murphy secures jobs at the base's command centre on South Uist, a tracking station at Hirta, St Kilda, and West Camp, Benbecula.

Speaking at the Hebrides Range officers' mess in Balivanich, Mr Murphy said: 'Despite what some people are suggesting this was never a done deal. I said at the outset, and defence equipment minister Quentin Davies said when he came to visit, that this was never a done deal and the decision still had to be taken.'

'I think we have come to the right decision, common sense has prevailed. It's a victory for common sense, because having looked at all the costs involved it's

clear that the Ministry of Defence could of course make savings, but the cost to the islands economy, to local families wasn't worth paying the price for those savings.'

He emphasised that QinetiQ, contractors which operate the base, were not being asked to go back to the drawing board to 'come up with a plan B'.

Relief
He said: 'There is no drawing board, no Plan B. When I met the workers today there was a sense of relief and a sense of pride in their work and a determination that there's going to be a long-term future here for the range. The UK government will do whatever we can to continue to support that.'

The political sub-text in Mr Murphy's words came to the surface when he added: 'Of course we benefit from being part of the United Kingdom, because if there

was no Ministry of Defence, there wouldn't be one MOD job. It's inconceivable that if Scotland was to come away from the UK that England Wales and Northern Ireland would place firing ranges in another country. It's a non-starter. What we have here is a strategic asset for the UK and other NATO allies.'

Forbidden
QinetiQ employees are forbidden to speak to the press, but local residents going about their business in yesterday welcomed the news with thumbs-up and a sense of relief.

However, some preferring not to be named said they felt the u-turn was purely political and designed to wrong-foot the SNP and secure the local Labour vote in next year's elections.

One business man said: 'They'll get rid of the jobs gradually over time but just do it quietly.'



Secretary of State for Scotland, Jim Murphy told staff in Benbecula that the base will not be dismantled.

Argyll generosity praised by charity which helps some of the world's poorest people

A SCOTTISH charity has thanked people in Argyll and Bute for helping to bring hope to some of the world's poorest people.

Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund, SCIAF, in Argyll and Bute has donated a staggering £32,400 towards the charity's life-

saving work in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

In Oban alone, supporters from St Columba's Cathedral and beyond, have donated more than £21,000 since January.

In Fort William supporters donated more than £2,900 and in

Lochgilhead the figure was more than £2,200.

Valuable
SCIAF's chief executive, Paul Chitnis said: 'I would like to thank everyone in Argyll and Bute for their valuable support. 'This money will help us to save

lives and bring fresh hope to some of the poorest and most troubled parts of the world.

'The money we receive from people here in Scotland enables SCIAF to give poor communities around the world the tools, training and practical support they need to

lift themselves out of poverty and build a brighter future.

'SCIAF works through local partners to help people in more than 20 of the world's poorest countries - including India, Haiti and Ethiopia - provide for themselves and their families.'

1,000 mink now caught in island project

CONSERVATIONISTS in the Western Isles have now caught 1,000 mink in a five-year project to remove the semi-aquatic mammals from the islands to protect wading birds.

The Hebridean Mink Project (HMP) was set up in 2001 by Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) with the aim of removing mink from the islands of North Uist, Benbecula, South Uist and the Sound of Harris. Since the project started 1,000 mink have been taken from an original population thought to be around 1,200 to 2,000 individuals.

'This is great news and it means we're having the effect we want to have on the mink and helping conserve the wading birds and seabird colonies on the islands,' said Iain Macleod, the Hebridean Mink Project (HMP) manager.

'But we aren't being complacent even though we have 7,500 traps on Lewis and Harris and we reckon that you're never more than 500 metres from a trap.'

'There are still 'refugees' that can escape as in recent sightings of mink in the Uists which we have dealt with.'

Iain also extended an invitation to Leodhasachs and islanders to come along to a public meeting to be held at the Caladh Inn in Stornoway this Friday September 18 at 7pm.

Tea and coffee will be provided after a short project report and a question and answer session.

Bird species suffering serious declines from mink predation are Arctic tern, common tern, little tern, black throated diver, red throated diver, corncrake, dunlin and ringed plover.

Meeting considers Mull hospital proposals

MULL's Progressive Care Centre was due to take step closer to reality yesterday, Wednesday, at a meeting of Argyll and Bute Council's planning department.

The centre had received three supportive letters from island residents and the council's planning department was recommending that the facility and three dwelling houses be granted permission to build.

The land at Java and a large amount of community money are going into the project that will house hospital services and elderly care on the island - close to the ferry terminal at Craignure.

A83 landslide cleared

LAST week's landslide on the A83 at the Rest and Be Thankful was cleared within 48 hours minimising the impact on Argyll residents, businesses and visitors to the area.

The road re-opened at 3pm last Thursday following the landslide two days earlier. More than 1,000 tonnes of earth and rubble covered the road, causing lengthy diversions for north and southbound drivers.

A spokesman for Scotland Transerv said: 'Following prompt action by the landslide patrol that identified the likelihood of a landslide in this area, swift action was taken to clear more than 1,000 tonnes of debris, repair of the lower embankment and clean the road.'

Transport minister Stewart Stevenson said: 'I'm delighted the A83 at the Rest and Be Thankful reopened just 48 hours after the landslip, minimising inconvenience and disruption to the local community. The response has been swift and we appreciate the patience shown by the general public while the road was made safe and brought back to normal operations.'

Scotland Transerv staff are continuing to patrol the area, monitor the hillside conditions and manage traffic.

But MSP Jamie McGrigor is asking the Scottish government what plans they have to make the road safer as well as providing an answer on when the temporary traffic lights will be removed.

'Knowing that landslides occur in that area it is a nerve-wracking area for drivers to sit at a traffic light in the very place where the landslides occur. There is a real tragedy waiting to happen,' he said.

Got a story for The Oban Times? Call 01631 568000

Man jailed for assault on partner

OBAN man John Johnstone, aged 61, of no fixed abode, was sentenced to a total of 100 days in jail for assaulting his long-term partner and pretending to police he had a knife and would use it on them.

At Oban Sheriff Court on Monday Johnstone admitted punching his partner on the head on September 12 at an address in Combie Court and breaching the peace at Oban police station.

The court heard Johnstone had a lengthy list of previous convictions relating to domestic violence, usually related to drinking.

Weapon found in search

A MAN found in Oban with a knuckleduster in his pocket has had his sentence deferred after admitting at Oban Sheriff Court to carrying an offensive weapon.

John Mullen, aged 21, 88 Nativie Park, Ballingry, Fife, was remanded in custody on Monday until September 29 for background reports. He was a passenger in a car stopped by Oban police in George Street on September 10 and during a search on other matters the knuckleduster was found in his jacket pocket.

He told police it was his, he had forgotten it was there and it was just for protection.

Hammer attack

A TWENTY-nine-year-old man has been arrested following a serious assault involving a hammer on Sunday.

A 28-year-old man is alleged to have been struck by a hammer at a house party in the Oban area and was taken to Lorn and Islands Hospital in the town where he was kept in overnight for observations.

Teamwork saves community garden

OBAN'S employability team, run by Argyll and Bute Council, has been hard at work to prevent a burn from flooding a community garden.

Lynside Community Garden and a footpath from Burnside Court to Dalintart Drive have been plagued with flooding in recent weeks following heavy rain.

After The Oban Times highlighted the situation, thanks to nearby resident and community garden enthusiast Margaret Powell-Joss, the council, which has responsibility for clearing debris where flooding of more than one property might occur, cleared some of the debris from grates above Burnside Court and Glenfoot Terrace.

But after heavy rains last week the lane and garden flooded again.

Margaret was beginning to despair but was able to report last week that the employability team had been back.

'They lifted almost a pick-up-load of rubbish from the burn. Their work is highly appreciated. Thank you also to whoever called them in,' said a delighted Margaret.



Some of the rubbish lifted from the burn at the back of Burnside Court-Glenfoot Terrace in Oban. Photo courtesy Margaret Powell-Joss



Landing stage and pontoons have brought extra visitors

A NEW landing stage at Cardingmill Bay, Oban has brought in an estimated 2,000 extra visitors to the town, according to the group behind the project.

The landing stage and 15 visitor moorings, run by Oban Bay Berthing, have brought in thousands of pounds of revenue to the area in its first season.

The pontoons and landing stage work on an honesty box system of payment and from April to the end of July took in £8,600.

Oban Bay Berthing completed the development this year with funding from Argyll and Bute Council, help from the community and work in-kind from North West Marine.

Oban Bay Berthing is made up of members of Cardingmill Bay Mooring Owners Association and Oban Sailing Club.

Oban Bay Berthing representatives
Joey Gough and Eric Chapman at the landing stage. 07_138pont02

Sailing club commodore Joey Gough said: 'We reckon that around 2,000 visitors came ashore this summer - that is 2,000 people that wouldn't have come to the town if the landing stage wasn't here because the big complaint about Oban was the lack of a 'walk on' facility.'

'They pay to use the landing stage but they will spend money in the town because of the convenience of being able to come ashore.'

Oban Bay Berthing member Adrian Lauder said: 'Sailors have given me really good feedback about this and one guy said, 'Oban is the Gateway to the Isles but you have opened the gate'.'

Oban Bay Berthing said its development would not compromise the success of the Oban Bay Marine project to install berthing in Oban Bay.

Mr Gough said: 'The Oban Bay project will allow sailors to get straight into the middle of town, while our landing stage is in a quieter area. There is definitely a need for both.'

Former Oban man jailed for 28 months

Strong warning for drug dealers

OBAN'S sheriff and fiscal both fired out strong warnings this week that drug dealing in the area would be punished severely - as a 31-year-old man was jailed for 28 months.

At Oban Sheriff Court on Monday, Derek Darrah, pleaded guilty to being in possession of more than seven grammes of heroin with intent to supply it to others.

Sheriff Douglas Small told Darrah, appearing from remand in Gageside Prison, Greenock: 'Dealing in drugs is a pernicious trade that can - and often does - have devastating effects.'

'I have repeatedly said from the bench that people who concern themselves in dealing in drugs can expect a severe sentence.'

'In your case you have a lengthy record of previous convictions for being in possession of illicit drugs with intent to supply.'

He told Darrah, formerly of Oban, his sentence would have been 42 months if he had not pled guilty at the earliest opportunity. His sentence

was backdated to July 6 when first remanded.

Darrah was stopped by police on July 4 in Oban's Shore Street after he had been seen in the bar of a hotel counting a large sum of money. When searched at Oban Police Station he was found with £900 in one bundle and £450 in another.

He told police some of the money was from doing tattoos and the rest was savings.

Searched

When searched, a lump of heroin was found and a second package with nine wraps of the drug, each approximately 0.2 grammes or a 'tenner wrap', with a total street value of around £490.

Procurator fiscal Craig Harris told the court Darrah had 93 previous convictions, including two for supplying drugs.

Defence agent Ian McClelland said his client had been trying to detox from Methadone but had found it 'impossible to cope with' and had lapsed back on to heroin, got into debt with his dealer

and been lured into dealing himself to help pay his debt.

Speaking following the conviction, Mr Harris said: 'As with all cases of this nature, we as prosecutors were committed to ensure that the accused was brought to justice for this serious crime involving illegal Class A drugs.'

Corrosive

'I am in no doubt about the corrosive effect that the supply of illicit drugs can have on a community and I am acutely aware of how strongly the people of Oban and Argyll and Bute feel about the wider effects of drug-related crime.'

'I want to assure the public that the investigation and prosecution of drug-related crime in our communities is a top priority for myself and my staff.'

'This conviction and sentence sends a clear message to all those who would intend to supply drugs in our communities that these destructive crimes will simply not be tolerated and that those responsible cannot escape justice.'



Inspector Julie Edward, the new inspector at Oban police office. 09_138insp01

New police inspector takes over in Oban

OBAN police have a new inspector in their ranks, following the move by Inspector Neil Wallace to Lochgilphead.

Inspector Julie Edward joins Strathclyde Police Oban from East Kilbride where she was communities inspector for two years.

Inspector Edward has been in the force for 16 years, originally serving in North Lanarkshire and then East Dunbartonshire. She followed this by joining the recruitment department at the force training centre for two years before heading for East Kilbride.

She was pleased to have

got the Oban post as she is interested in the outdoors and outdoor activities. 'I am looking forward to the unique challenges that this area can bring, such as the marine and mountain rescue side of things, along with the town centre and high level of tourism,' she said.

One of her first jobs will be to oversee the annual public consultation survey which informs policing plans and identifies which areas communities are concerned about. 'I am going to go out and meet as many people as I can and get out to the as many communities as I can,' she added.

Teenager fined £360 for assault

A TEENAGER who admitted assaulting a man after derogatory comments passed between them has been fined £360.

Oban Sheriff Court heard on Monday that earlier in the evening of Friday March 6 Michael Cameron, aged 18, 19 Lunga Road, Oban, had crossed swords with his victim and the pair had met up again in the early hours of March 7 at the taxi rank in Queen's Park Place.

Cameron had made a comment which his victim had taken exception to and approached Cameron about.

Punched

The accused had punched the other man on the head first before the pair wrestled to the ground where Cameron had punched his victim on the head and kneed him in the chest.

Defence agent Duncan Durbin said Cameron, a trainee HGV mechanic, was normally of a good-natured disposition but tended to be volatile when drinking.



Tutor Shirleyann Varney, left, and head of the equestrian section James Munroe, right, with the students who received their certificates in equestrian skills. 15_138skil01

Students show they have horse sense

SIXTEEN students from Oban and Lorn have been awarded equestrian skills certificates thanks to a distance learning course rolled out by North Highland College in Thurso.

The students have all gained National Certificates in basic horse care or basic horse care and equitation by studying over two years and completing 14 modules.

Practical sessions have been taken at Benderloch Equestrian Centre, where a classroom has been specially built for students and at weekend courses at North

Highland College, where students can take their practical riding exams on the optional riding modules.

Fourteen of this year's successful students have enrolled to do the Advanced HNC Equine Studies Certificate on the back of the first course.

Course tutor in the Oban area Shirleyann Varney explained that the course suited anyone who had an interest in horses but did not necessarily have to own one.

Many of the 16 did not initially have a horse but thanks to the confidence the course had given

them, had gone on to get their own or access to a horse on a regular basis.

The course runs over two years between September and March and already 32 students have enrolled on the next course starting later this month.

James Munroe, head of the equestrian section at North Highland College, explained that the college had received European Social funding to roll the course out across the Highlands and islands and now had 350 students doing the open learning National Certificate, with 11 tutors.

Man injured in 40-ft fall

A MAN was flown to Glasgow's Southern General Hospital on Sunday after falling from Gillies' Rock in Oban.

The man, believed to be Michael MacDougall, aged 35, from Oban, fell around 40-feet from the rock on the hill between the Soroba

and Dalintart areas. He was initially taken to Lorn and Islands Hospital in Oban before being transferred to Glasgow where a head scan revealed injuries to be minor.

Police inquiries are continuing into the circumstances of the fall.

Biker in accident

A MOTORCYCLIST had to be taken to the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Paisley after coming off his bike near Taynuilt on Sunday at around 2.30pm.

Fractures

The bike caught fire and the driver, believed to be from the Falkirk area, suffered fractures to one of his legs.

He was initially taken to hospital in Oban before being transferred to Paisley.

Christopher is twenty-three. He's an alcoholic and for the past few years hasn't had much luck in life. He used to be happy, no trouble to anyone, **but** then his parents died. That **is** when **he** started to go off the rails. He was seen harassing an **innocent** woman when he was drunk. He didn't harm her and he felt **guilty** afterwards. When he discovered that she claimed he took her bag, he denied it. It's her story against his. You could fine him, give him a sentence **or** let him go. But then he may harm **someone** next time, **who** knows? We do know it **needs** a decision. Your task is to use your judgement to **help**. It's Christopher's future on the line. Can you decide which way it should go?

Do you think you're up to the challenge of being a Justice of the Peace? You don't need legal training to apply and you could be making a real difference to people's lives. Visit jpscotland.org.uk or call 0131 528 5101 for more information. Closing date for applications is 30th October 2009.



Lorn Lines



IF YOUR mis-spent youth did not include throwing peevers and skimming stones you can still make a difference at this year's Stone Skimming Championship on Seil Island by helping out in the car park.

Richard Wesley of Seil Village Hall said: 'As car parking has always been a problem at Ellenabeich during the stone skimming championships, the hall committee decided to control the car park at the hall.'

'Last year we made sure visitors parked correctly and that somebody was in attendance throughout the day. In return we asked for donations towards the hall gardens project. Amazingly we raised more than £180, so this year we are hoping to do the same. This time we shall be asking for donations towards the children's play area, our next project.'

'We will need volunteers for Saturday September 26 between noon and 4pm and on Sunday, September 27, from 9am to 5pm for a few hours at a time.'

If you can help please email richardwesley@btinternet.com.



OBAN'S Saturday Club is holding an open day on Saturday October 3 from 11am - 2pm at Lorne Resource Centre, Oban

The centre will be set up for visitors to try out the activities that the group organise for club members with autism. Staff will be on hand to answer any questions. For further information please contact Tony on 07811409199.



ARGYLL charity Mary's Meals has upped its efforts in Kenya to help prevent people starving in the drought-stricken country.

The charity - formerly known as Scottish International Relief - already provides a free meal for 7,400 school children in Kenya during term time but a recent drought has made their work even more important.

Such is the desperate need for food in the country, the Dalmally-based Mary's Meals has been asked to provide meals during the school holidays as well and has had to find funds to carry on their work for an extra 20 days.

The Kenyan government has mobilised its army to distribute food aid and has appealed to schools across the country to stay open, despite the holidays, because in many cases the food they receive there provides children's most dependable source of nutrition.

The United Nations recently launched an international appeal, stating that as many as one in ten Kenyans are in desperate need of help.



A FILM about the war between Israel and Palestine will be shown in Oban as part of a local drive to increase awareness of the conflict in the area.

Oban Concern for Palestine - a group sympathetic towards the Palestinians' plight - is hosting a viewing of the film Jerusalem...East Side Story in the Church of Scotland Centre, Glencruitten, on September 23 at 7.30pm.

Group member Graeme Pagan said: 'After the film there will be a short discussion about the situation and how it has come about. The evening is free and for anyone who is interested in finding out more about what is happening in Palestine.'

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

Taynuilt teenager found guilty of assault avoids fourth time in Polmont

A TAYNUILT teenager has been spared a fourth sentence in Polmont Young Offenders' Institution for assaulting a man in Oban in February this year.

Daniel Kelly, aged 19 of 40 Achlonan, Taynuilt and his co-accused Lance McCuish, aged 18, of 1 Polvinister Gardens, Oban were found guilty at Oban Sheriff Court

on August 10 of assaulting a 20-year-old man at Millpark Lane, Oban, by repeatedly punching him on the head to his injury.

Both men had their sentences deferred until last Tuesday, when Kelly was given 100 hours of community service.

Defence agent for both men, Edward Thornton, said: 'Mr Kelly will finish

his sentence from a previous offence on September 18. This was his third time in Polmont and he wants that to be his last time.'

In sentencing Kelly, Sheriff Paul Wade said: 'You've got an appalling record and have been in Polmont on three occasions. 'I see no significant remorse or sorrow

from you in regard to this incident. 'But with considerable reluctance I am prepared to make a community service order.'

McCuish, who is awaiting the completion of a community service order before applying to join the army, had his sentence deferred until December 8.

Oban celebrates 100 years of guiding



Event organiser Mary Norris with some of the rainbows, guides and brownies at the centenary celebrations in Oban. 16_137guides02

MORE THAN 350 rainbows, brownies and guides from Oban district celebrated the launch of Girlguiding UK's centenary celebrations with a special birthday bash.

The action packed event at the Argyllshire Gathering Halls in Oban was one of hundreds that took place at the same time throughout the UK to mark the first 100 years of guiding.

Four birthday cakes The party was opened with a warm welcome from district commissioner, Mary Norris, when the candles on four large birthday cakes were lit while everyone sang 'Happy Birthday'.

At the conclusion of the event all girls were presented with certificates and a booklet containing guiding memories.

Jaimie from North Connel has just moved up from brownies to guides and she said she loved the dancing at the party. When she was a brownie she added that she really enjoyed pack holidays as well as working on her badges.

Morven from Kilbrandon Guides on Seil said she really enjoyed guides because she gets to meet up with her friends and do fun activities together. Morven really enjoyed eating the cakes at the party.

Event organiser, Mary Norris, said it was a wonderful way to launch the year.

'It was great to see so many girls of all ages having fun together,' said Mary. 'There are a variety of events organised throughout the year, including a princess party for rainbows at Inveraray, a weekend of fun for the brownies in June including a day in Perth, and a large camp for all the guides and senior section at Fordell Firs.'

'Our centenary celebrations will close with a grand finale in Oban on October 20. Please look out for information on further local activities.'

The guiding movement began in 1909 when a small group of young women gatecrashed the boy scout rally at Crystal Palace in London and lobbied Robert Baden-Powell for 'something for the girls'.

The centenary is an opportunity to celebrate the impact that the organisation has made on the lives of girls and young women and how modern guiding continues to support more than half a million members around the UK to make new friends, develop skills and achieve their full potential in a unique girl-only space.

Locally, girls take part in activities such as camps and adventure holidays, international travel, community action over and above their weekly meetings following their guiding programmes.

Swine flu pandemic plan in hand

HEALTH services in Oban, Lorn and the isles have made plans for a swine flu pandemic, according to the area's clinical services manager.

Christina West made the assurance at a meeting of the area's Locality Public Partnership Forum in Lorn and Islands Hospital on Monday.

She said: 'If the Glasgow hospitals become full we have to make arrangements here to look after people with swine flu, so we are looking at the skills of our existing staff have and at a mass vaccination plan.'

'We hope the vaccine will be made available nationally by mid-October to vaccinate the public at large, however, there will be priority groups, including health staff, who will receive the vaccine first.'

'All members of the community will be offered immunisation.'

It was noted at the meeting that there were enough resources to provide both the swine flu and seasonal flu vaccinations, with the latter being available sooner.

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

This year's Royal National Mod programme is officially launched

THE OFFICIAL programme of the Royal National Mod's return to Oban in this Year of Homecoming 2009 has been launched.

John Morrison, chief executive of An Comunn Gàidhealach, organisers of the week-long Gaelic cultural and music festival of competitions, said that the organisation was 'delighted' to be bringing the Mod back to Oban, 'the place where it all started'.

The official opening ceremony will take place in Oban's Corran Halls on Friday October 9, attended by president of An Comunn Gàidhealach John Macleod, Mod

director Janet MacDonald and managing director of Caledonian MacBrayne Philip Preston.

The week's events of competitions and concerts for junior choirs, senior choirs, soloists, duets, quartets, pipers, fiddlers, clarsach players and Gaelic speakers culminates on Saturday, October 17, with the massed choirs in Oban town centre.

The Mod was first held in Oban in 1892 and is now the second biggest festival in Scotland.

'We are expecting a great turn-out this year and hope that the location will make

it accessible for as many people as possible so that everyone can enjoy the event,' said Mr Morrison.

Argyll and Bute Council leader Councillor Dick Walsh said: 'It is particularly fitting in this Year of Homecoming that the Royal National Mod should return to its roots.'

'Not only will it be a huge economic boost for Oban but will impact on the whole of Argyll and Bute.'

Mr Preston said: 'CalMac has been the main commercial supporter of the Royal National Mod since 2002 but this year's event in Oban will be extra-special for

everyone at CalMac.

'Oban sits at the very heart of the CalMac network and is the arrival and departure port for many of the ferries that bring competitors and visitors to the Mod.'

The competitions start in earnest on the Monday with the children's events running over two days. Wednesday sees the heats for the Gold Medal and Traditional Gold Medal solo competitions with the finals on Thursday and the choral events on Thursday and Friday culminating in the competition for the prestigious Lovat and Tullibardine Trophy.

Advertisement for Scottish Field magazine featuring 'THIS MONTH IN SCOTTISH FIELD...' and 'NOW ON SALE'. Includes text about Inverness, Edinburgh, and other Scottish locations.



Oban girl is Shell Step finalist

Linda Griffiths from Oban was one of four finalists in a student event hosted by Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE). The national Shell Step programme in the Highlands and Islands this summer enabled 37 university students and graduates to spend two months working with a business related to their studies.

Legion sale raises over £1,400

THE Royal British Legion, Easdale Branch held its annual sale of work, raising more than £1,400.

The event was opened by Hazel and Neil MacCorkindale of Scammaldale whose son Douglas is in active service in Afghanistan.

Branch secretary Jean Alexander said: 'We would like to thank everyone who supported us. All the money will be given to the charities who support our returning troops in need of help.'

First time buyers in Argyll and Bute can't get foot on ladder

ARGYLL and Bute has the lowest proportion of first time buyers in Scotland, according to a study by the Bank of Scotland.

Biggest

The bank's Rural Housing Review showed that 26 per cent of home buyers in the county are first time buyers, compared with a national

average of 28 per cent. In the same review, Highland Council recorded the biggest house price growth since 1999 at 190 per cent.

House prices in rural areas have not fallen as much as those in urban areas over the past year but the average house price across rural Scotland fell by 11 per cent.

NEWS DESK Direct Tel: 01631 568060

Corporate stationery

Business cards, letterheads, envelopes, comp slips

Personal stationery

Matching paper & envelopes, postcards, address labels

Wedding stationery

Invitations, order of service, menus, place cards, thank you cards

Event stationery

Invitations, raffle tickets, thank you cards

Promotional material

Posters, flyers, leaflets, calendars, tickets

Photocopies/Laminating

Colour double sided copies up to A3, Laminating up to A3

krisp print logo and contact information: Contact us at: Krisp Print & Stationery, Burnbank, Burnside Street, Campbeltown, Argyll PA28 6JD Tel: 01586 554975 Email: staff@krispprint.co.uk www.krispprint.co.uk

Man locked up for stealing sweets

A MAN who had been out of jail for four days is back in custody after stealing a packet of crisps and a packet of sweets worth 94p.

Stuart Wilson, aged 34, of no fixed abode, was seen by a shop assistant opening a packet of crisps and eating them and then opening a packet of sweets.

Wilson admitted stealing the crisps and sweets on September 6 when he appeared last week at Oban Sheriff Court.

Sentence was deferred until September 29 for a social inquiry report and Wilson was remained in custody by Sheriff Gail Patrick, who pointed out that Wilson had 32 previous offences for dishonesty.

STEP into the Den

ENTRANTS stepping into the Dragon's Den are being asked to 'Adapt, Evolve and Survive' in a competition worth £5,000 due to be held in Oban.

Argyll and Bute Social Enterprise Network, ABSEN, is running a two-day spin off of the popular TV programme in the Royal Hotel in Oban from September 30.

Prizewinners in the Den will receive up to £5,000 to develop their business idea.

James Hilder chairman of ABSEN, said: 'This is the biggest event of the year for social enterprises and I am thrilled that we have the chief executives of Scotland's leading social enterprise organisations to come to this event and share their knowledge and judge local enterprises.'

'With changes to funding and years of public expenditure cutbacks, the third sector will only survive by taking an enterprise approach to their work - this three-day event will help show the way forward.'

'The Den offers the opportunity for ABSEN members to make a pitch for and win one of the five prizes on offer. This year's theme celebrates of Charles Darwin and has the theme Adapt, Evolve, Survive.'

For further details about ABSEN and free membership contact www.absen.org.uk

Parking at Port Appin causes problems for community project

A LACK of parking in an Argyll village has caused spat between tourists and residents and an estimated £10,000 of lost revenue from its community-owned shop.

The problems caused by a lack of car parking in Port Appin was highlighted at an Appin Community Council meeting.

Dr Iain McNicol told the meeting that the shoppers'

car park at the Appin Community Co-operative is blocked by visitors' cars, some being left there for several days, and he estimated that the shop had lost £10,000 in revenue during the summer.

Money raised by the co-op is put into the Appin Community Trust, which supports local charities and clubs.

Dr McNicol said: 'In July

and August we had a drop in turnover of 10 to 15 per cent, even though the rest of the year has been busier than usual.'

'You can see visitors drive past us towards the pier but you know they are coming back because they are not going to find a space,' said Dr McNicol. 'And when they see that the shop car park is full they just leave.'

Villagers say the increasing number of tourists this year, particularly during Homecoming Week on the nearby island of Lismore, has seen Port Appin reach saturation point.

Altercation
On one occasion this summer an altercation ensued after a tourist was boxed in at the village hall car park by a resident who was attending a function in the hall.

One resident told The Oban Times: 'The visitor held his hand on the horn until someone came out of the hall. I don't think he realised that when a function is on, only hall users are allowed to park there.'

Alternative parking sites had been sought on the outskirts of the village, but permission from landowners to allow parking there has not been granted.

Parking has also become a problem at Strath of Appin Primary School. Events at the school sometimes prevented residents at Lonruadh, the road leading to the school, from parking outside their houses.

Argyll and Bute Council said it was aware of the parking problems in the Port Appin area and that Oban Lorn and the Isles area committee had allocated

A85 road works warning

THE A84/A85 Stirling to Crianlarich trunk road will undergo a £169,000 upgrade, funded by Transport Scotland, to start on October 5 for approximately two weeks.

The works which will be carried out by Scotland TranServ, involve the resurfacing of the existing carriageway, renewal of carriageway markings and essential patching works.

The works take place 1.2km south of the A85 Lochearnhead junction and extends, in a northerly direction, for a distance of approximately 1.3km to a point 100 metres north of the A85 Lochearnhead junction. Temporary traffic lights will be in place for the duration.

Service to be held for those who served in world war

THERE IS to be a national memorial service in recognition of the passing of the generation who served in the First World War.

The service will be held in Westminster Abbey, London on Wednesday, November 11 of this year.

It is anticipated Her Majesty The Queen and His Royal Highness, the Duke of Edinburgh will attend.

The service will be prestigious, attended by public figures and broadcast live on BBC1.

The congregation will include people of all ages and walks of life who are related or connected in some way to those who saw some form of service in the First World War.

Tickets will be in pairs, which means that an individual will be invited and will be able to take along a spouse, partner, friend or carer.

Argyll and Bute has been allocated two tickets and anyone wishing to be considered should apply to the Clerk to the Lieutenancy, Bank of Scotland Buildings, Oban, Argyll PA34 4LN by September 30.

If applications exceed the number of tickets allocated, a ballot will be held.

Connel man crashed after long-haul flight

Traveller from Australia involved in road accident a few miles from home

A MAN who had travelled 22 hours from Perth, Australia, to Glasgow and then decided to drive home to North Connel crashed into another car a mile east of Connel.

But John Rothead, aged 48, told Oban Sheriff Court last week that he would not have driven himself and his daughter if he had not felt fit to and had slept most of the 13-hour flight from Hong Kong to London and from London to Glasgow.

Denied guilt
Rothead, 34 Lora View, denied driving dangerously on the wrong side of the A85 on October 31 last year, causing his car to collide with another being driven by Ian Fleming.

As a result of the accident, Mr Fleming and his father, William, were injured with Mr Fleming's teenage son suffering minor injuries.

Ian Fleming, who was going from Oban to Dalavich, told the court: 'I was driving along, came round the corner and saw the lights and knew they were on the wrong side of the road.'

'The next thing he hit me.

I had nowhere to go and no time to react and after that I was trapped in the car.'

His thigh bone was shattered in the accident and his father, who was in the back passenger-side seat had a broken sternum and broken ribs.

'My son had seat belt injuries and was shocked but he managed to get out the car,' said Ian Fleming, who still needs a crutch to walk and may need a second operation on his leg.

Road policing officer Brendan Keown told the court the debris pattern showed Rothead's car had been on the wrong side of the road but his speedometer had stuck at 40mph, indicating he had not been going that fast, and there were no braking tyre marks.

Rothead, who works offshore in a senior management position, said that having slept on the planes there was 'no reason why I couldn't drive'.

He said: 'I don't remember a great deal, which I believe is due to the impact and injuries I received at the time. I do recall making

comments to other people at the time about something having hit the car. I do remember being startled in the car and I remember a car that passed just before the incident.'

Fined and disqualified
He said he did not remember driving on the wrong side of the road and denied being tired.

'There was no indication to me that I was getting tired; I know when I am tired or when I am getting sleepy. If I had felt sleepy I would have pulled in somewhere.'

Rothead's arm was broken in four places and his ankle shattered as a result of the accident and he said he had only just returned to work.

Defence agent Stephen Macleod argued that there was reasonable doubt about the cause of the accident but Sheriff Gail Patrick found Rothead guilty, adding: 'It was your inadvertence that, whether you fell asleep or not, caused the accident.'

Sheriff Patrick disqualified Rothead from driving for a year, at the end of which he must re-sit the extended driving test and fined him £800.



These Ardchattan cubs are facing the doors being closed on them permanently if a new leader or leaders cannot be found to help. 15_137cubs01

Cubs thwarted by lack of help

CUBS from North Connel, Connel, Benderloch, Appin, Dunbeg and even Taynuilt have been unable to continue their activities this term.

The 37th Ardchattan Cub Pack is on hold after efforts to find someone to help out the only leader have failed.

Chris MacPherson, Benderloch, has been running the cub pack, with parent help, as the only leader for the past year but feels he can no longer do the cubs justice.

'I don't feel I am giving them the range of badges, camping trips and adventurous activities that I want to,' he told parents in a letter. 'At this moment there is no prospect of restarting.'

There are 18 cubs, aged eight to 11 years, with the

and do everything from playing games, to baking to crafts to work towards specific badges to outdoor activities.

Anyone interested in becoming a cub leader would have to go through Disclosure Scotland and training is available if necessary.

'I love running the cubs,' said Chris. 'We have a fantastic group who deserve to experience scouting the way it should be.'

'I truly hope that the right person or people will come forward to help me, so that our cubs will continue to meet.'

Anyone interested in being a cub leader can find out more from Chris on 01631 720286 during office hours.

Forward thinking group to plan next series of Oban improvement projects

OBAN Forward, the group formed to improve the town, will use the coming winter months to plan its next series of projects.

Positive response

The group said it was pleased with the response it received from the public after decorating the town with hanging baskets,

bunting and lights.

A spokesman for the group added that the employment of former police constable Raymond Law as cruise ship ambassador had been well received.

The spokesman said: 'There is no doubt that we have made improvements to the town but we have more plans that we will

finalise over the winter.

'We are planning to do a lot more for the cruise ships, which brought a lot of money to the town this year.'

'We will meet with cruise ship operators to try and organise more local trips for their passengers and making sure they spend more time in Oban.'

'At the same time we will ask traders to offer deals or reductions to cruise ship passengers and restaurants to take part in promotional activities.'

Oban Forward has also helped to secure the short-term future of the town's Christmas Parade and has backed a call to make Oban's Argyllshire Gathering a public holiday.

www.mgmtimber.co.uk

Suppliers of Quality Timber and Building Products to Trade and Public

- Decking & Fencing
- Hardwood Flooring
- Sheet Materials
- Wetwall
- Doors
- Trusses
- Laminate Flooring
- Windows
- Insulation
- Aggregates
- Cement / Plasters
- Block / Brick

Special Offer
5 ltr Sandtex Masonry Paint
Trade £11.85 + VAT

Parador flooring products now available

Scotland's Timber Merchant of Choice

t: 01631 563948
Lynn Road, Oban
www.mgmtimber.co.uk

Perth - Inverness - Oban - Dundee
Glasgow - Dunfermline - Glenrothes
Edinburgh - Wishaw - Grangemouth
Prestwick - Hillingdon



John MacArthur, John MacDowall and Bruce Duthie receive their long service awards from Argyll operations manager Donald MacKinnon.

Scottish Hydro rewards employees' staying power

THREE Argyll men who started work on exactly the same day 30 years ago for the same company have been rewarded for their staying power.

90 years' service

Scottish Hydro Electric's Bruce Duthie, John MacArthur and John MacDowall were treated to a special lunch and given long-service awards from Argyll operations manager Donald MacKinnon for generating 90 years' service between them.

Bruce Duthie from Oban joined the company, then called North of Scotland Hydro Electric Board, as a trainee engineer and after working his way through various engineering

roles is now a district support engineer based in Oban.

John MacArthur began as an apprentice in Oban before moving to his native Tiree as a linesman but has since returned to Oban.

John MacDowall, a well-known face on Mull, also started as an apprentice and is now island lead hand.

Mr MacKinnon said: 'What a fantastic achievement - they are a real credit to the company and I'm delighted that we are celebrating their loyalty. We are very proud of them all.'

'It's good for our other staff to have such tremendous experience around them to learn from.'

WOULDN'T YOU LIKE A BIGGER CHALLENGE?

Regular and Special Constable Recruitment Event

Wednesday 23 September 2009, 3.30pm - 7pm
Atlantis Sports Centre, Oban PA34 5JE

Become a **special constable** with Strathclyde and you'll be on the front line working in our communities. You'll patrol with our regular officers, wear a uniform, share similar powers and be just as committed to keeping our communities safe places to live and work in.

We're interested in who you are - not what you are. To become a special constable, you'll be at least 18 years old, physically fit and interested in police work. You'll have a mature attitude to life, a good general education, be able to think on your feet and keep a clear head in challenging situations. This is a role that's about you as a person - not your qualifications or where you're from.

If you can give us a lot of your personality and a little of your time, we'll give you training, knowledge and a unique experience - one that will stand out on any CV. At Strathclyde, we're recruiting hundreds of new special constables over the next two years. If you want to make a positive, personal difference to your community - and to yourself - we want to hear from you. For more details about becoming a special constable, visit strathclyde.police.uk/recruitment or call 01355 566364.

Working Together - Building Safer Communities

STRATHCLYDE POLICE

HEALTHY WORKING LIVES



JET SETTING musician Colin MacIntyre from Mull is winging his way from An Tobar, Tobermory to The Living Room in New York.

The singer songwriter has been asked to perform stateside to celebrate the USA launch of his album *Island* - recorded in the Tobermory's arts centre. Colin said: 'I am playing the Lower East Side venue on October 6. It is the place where Bob Dylan lived and all the creatives and beatniks worked before the rent got too high. I am hoping to have The Strokes in attendance as I toured with them a few years back, and the Living Room is where they started out. They were very interested in seeing Mull by the end of our tour I remember - but couldn't hold their whisky.'

A ONE-stop shop for saving the planet is up and running in Bunnassan.

The charity shop on the Ross of Mull has been running for a number of years but two new initiatives have brought it up-to-date. The Mess Shop, selling clothing, household textiles and bric-a-brac, has been kitted out with new fittings, and the community power down officer is about to move into the building.

Mairi Greig, of Mull and Iona Community Trust, said: 'Despite its size, the shop stocks a wide variety of items from chairs, tables, pots and pans and now boasts a public internet access point, and with the opening of an Energy Information Office in partnership with ALenergy and the community trust's power down project taking place this week, this truly is a one-stop shop.' Staff are planning to show off the new shop by holding a fashion show within the next couple of months.

AMULL man has discovered a previously unknown species of super rat in Papua New Guinea.

Film maker Gordon Buchanan discovered the giant bosavi woolly rat while filming with the BBC in a volcanic crater. The rat, which has no fear of humans, measures 82cm long and weighs 1.5kg, placing it among the largest species of rat in the world. The creature, which has not yet been formally described, was discovered by an expedition team filming the BBC programme *Lost Land of the Volcano*. Like the other exotic species, the rat is believed to live only within the Mount Bosavi crater.

'I had a cat and it was about the same size as this rat,' said Mr Buchanan. 'I can hardly believe it is a rat, it is so big. I am next to scared of rats but I can happily sit next to this one.'

Sponsored by M.V. Lady Jayne Boat Trips Telephone: 01680 300444 Web: www.mullcharters.com



Cameron Grant from Salen was competing in his first Mull Local Mod. The four year old was happy to be taking part but a bit scared to be standing on the pier wall. 16_138mullmod06

business gateway

SELF ASSESSMENT FOR THE SELF EMPLOYED

This FREE course is organised and run by HM Revenue & Customs. It is designed for sole traders and partnerships and will give instruction on how to complete a Self Assessment return. The course will cover the expenses and allowances you can claim, the deadline you need to meet, how to pay your tax and guidance on online submission of returns.

Tuesday 6 October 2009 from 12.30pm - 4pm at Queen's Hall, Argyll Street, Dunoon

Wednesday 7 October 2009 from 10am - 1pm at Community Centre, Manse Brae, Lochgilphead

To book a place on a course please call 01546 605459 or e-mail business.gateway@argyll-bute.gov.uk

Argyll & Bute COUNCIL

Man who assaulted partner during Mull holiday is fined

A HOLIDAY on Mull went awry for a man and his partner after an evening's drinking led to a heated argument and four days in a police cell for the man. Andrew Bellis, aged 42, of 9 Stone Street, Barnsley, was staying with his partner at the Fisherman's Cottage in Tobermory's Main Street when the incident happened on September 4. An argument started on the way back from the pub at 9pm and escalated, resulting in Bellis, a press photographer, shouting and swearing, ripping curtains and curtain rails from the wall, smashing a picture frame and chair before hitting his partner on the back of her head with his hand. A witness called the police. At Oban Sheriff Court last week Bellis, a first offender, was fined £100 and ordered to pay £120 compensation to the owners of the cottage.



Beachd Ailein

Thadhail mi an latha roimhe air a' chroit air an robh mo shinn-seanair, taobh mo mhàthar, agus ginealaichean roimhe 's dòcha, ann am baile ris an canar Na Gilean ann am Bhatairnis san Eilean Sgitheanach. 'S e faireachadh car annasach a bh' ann dhomh a bhith a' smaointinn air na daoine a dh' fhalbh a bhineadh dhomh ach nach b' aithne dhomh. Dè seòrsa daoine a bh'unnat? Dè bha cudromach dhaibh agus an robh iad sona?

Ceistean inntinneach ach nach gabh freagairt aig an ire seo ann an eachdraidh, agus gu deimhinneach m' fhaic mi an duine mu dheireadh a dhùraicheas gun d' rachadh aig càrn chlach a bha uair na thobhta taighe, an seuglach fhèin aithris.

Air an aon latha bha mi ann an dùthaich m' athar ann an Gleann Dail, a' deasbad le muinntir baile nàbaidh mu làrach nan seann chrìochan eadar cùl-cinn nam bailtean. Cha robh cus suim ga ghabhail nuair a bha na daoine ann leis an eòlas; cha robh sinne a' tuigsinn mar a dh' fhalbhadh uimhir, agus cho luath!

Tha farmad mòr agamsa, mar Sgitheanach, ri muinntir nan Eilean Siar aig an bheil sreath làidir luachmhor de Chomuinn Eachdraidh a tha a' toirt cothrom uimhir de dh' fhiosrachadh prìseil a chlàradh fhad 's a tha an t-eòlas sin beò anns a' choimhearsnachd. Fhuair daoine air feadh na Gàidhealtachd an aon chothrom air airgead leasachaidh còrr air deich bliadhna fichead air ais, agus mar a bhiodh dùil chaidh cuid gu deagh fheum agus cuid eile nach d' rinn uimhir. Ach as na h-Eileanan Siar stèidhich iad Comuinn Eachdraidh a tha an diugh nan tasglainn inntinneach, agus nan tobraichean fiosrachaidh luachmhor.

Chuala mi aon Sgitheanach ag radh gun robh sinn ro fhadalach tòiseachadh a-nise leis gun robh uimhir air chall mar tha, agus ged a tha uabhas air falbh leis gach ginealach tha e cudromach gun glèidh sinn na ghabhas ùir buinidh an eachdraidh dhan sgìre agus mar sin buinidh i dhan t-sluagh a th' ann an diugh ge b' e cò às a thàinig iad. Tha eachdraidh na coimhearsnachd mar èideadh a tha còmhach na tha a' fuireach innte, agus nach bu mhath gum biodh iad a' caitheamh sin le eòlas ceart is le moit.

Visiting the ruins of a great-grandfather's croft house I felt the desire to know more about my own ancestry. That need to know about family history has created a growing business in genealogical research in most parts of Scotland.

But there is much more in the way of local history which merits collection, collation and retention, and I jealously admire the successful historical societies in the Western Isles.

One fellow Sgitheanach suggested it is too late to start when so much has already been lost in Skye, and where many of the residents are not indigenous. In my view history goes with the land, and the residents have a responsibility to retain it.

They should be enabled to undertake that duty with knowledge and pride.

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

Bowmore Primary will be site of £150,000 building

New classroom for Gaelic learners on Islay

YOUNG Gaelic learners on an Argyll island are to have a new classroom built due to the increasing popularity of early years education in the language. School as a result of increased demand for early years places. Bòrd na Gàidhlig chairman Arthur Cormack said he welcomed the funding which would help Argyll and Bute Council expand Gaelic medium provision in Bowmore. He said: 'Hopefully this will lead to increased demand for Gaelic medium places at primary school level in the years to come. An increase in parents choosing a Gaelic education for their children is essential if we are to ensure that a new generation of Gaelic speakers emerges. Confidence 'The support of the Scottish government in making capital funds available will, hopefully, lead to parents in all areas having the confidence to engage with their local authority with a view to securing a Gaelic school, or increased Gaelic provision, in their locality. All in all, this is great news for Argyll.' Mr Russell also announced a £500,000 grant for Glasgow City Council to increase provision in its area. The funding will be used to renovate classrooms in Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu, the Glasgow Gaelic School, which has seen increased demand for places in primary one and early years. Mr Cormack added: 'Bòrd na Gàidhlig has made clear its view that more stand alone Gaelic schools will be needed if we are to grow a new generation of Gaelic speakers. 'Stand alone schools offer significantly more opportunities to acquire a wider vocabulary and make greater use of Gaelic.'

Princess opens £13.7 million pier

HRH PRINCESS Anne visited Islay to officially open Argyll and Bute Council's redevelopment of Port Askaig Pier.

Islay residents turned out to greet The Princess Royal, as did councillors and council officials.

The pier redevelopment has come under criticism for running over the intended schedule and budget, with final costs totalling £13.7 million, and for alleged inadequacies with the Jura ferry slip.

But at the official opening last Thursday Argyll and Bute Council said the redevelopment was one of the most complex recent infrastructure projects it had undertaken, taking nine years from inception to completion.

The project increased the number of parking and mustering areas to relieve congestion at the pier and create space to allow the next two phases to go ahead. The marine works



The Princess Royal on her visit to Jura Progressive Care Centre, is pictured with Willie Cochrane, manager of Jura Distillery. Picture by Konrad Berkowski

involved the construction of a new linkspan, the extension and upgrading of the main ferry berth and a new aligning structure for the Jura ferry as well as creation of terminal buildings for passenger accommodation.

Tribute Council leader, Councillor Dick Walsh, said today's Royal seal of approval was a fitting tribute to the enormous amount of work which

had gone into the redevelopment. **Quality** Councillor Walsh added that it was a measure of the project's quality that the first phase of the work was awarded a

Saltire Society Project Commendation for Civil Engineering in 2005. The Princess Royal also travelled over to Jura to visit the Jura Progressive Care Centre, where she met staff and residents.

Mull Local Mod flourishes

IN THE bright late summer sunlight the Mull Local Mod got underway last Friday and Saturday, and this year the 71st annual event was busier than ever.

Riona Whyte, organising committee secretary, was delighted at the numbers attending the event. She said: 'We have attracted entries from all over the place - from Orkney to the central belt of Scotland. 'This year we have a new prize in memory of Lady Maclean of Duart. Lady Mary was a great

support of the Mull Mod and she loved children. 'The prize that Sir Lachlan has given in her honour will give a monetary support to choirs who have the most points in any individual competition. This will mean that the cost of attending Mull Mod can be offset by the prize money.'

Choirs The senior competitions on Saturday were attended by the Argyll choirs Mull, Taynuilt, Tarbert and Oban as well as county choirs Atomaig

Piseag and Coisir Cean an Tuirc. However, Lothian Gaelic Choir were also in attendance, seeking one final adjudication before the Royal National Mod next month. Taynuilt, conducted by Ann Barlow, were the top choir on the day, winning the mixed voice and the Puirt a beul competitions. Mull were runners up in both.

There were also very competitive solo sections, featuring many of the Mod gold medal favourites.



Còisir Ghàidhlig Taigh an Uillt had a successful day winning both choir competitions, mixed choral section and the puirt a beul. 07_138mmod02



Còisir Ghàidhlig an Eilein Mhuilich finished second in both mixed choir competitions. 07_138mmod03



Ulva Primary pupils Martha Charrington, Kate Millward and Charlie Roth-Strachan 16_138mullmod04



Lochdonhead Primary School performed in the Action Song competition. 16_138mullmod11



Tobermory youngsters who took part in the Action Song competition. 16_138mullmod10

• For more pictures see the next edition of Mull and Iona Life

Police files

SOMETIME between August 27 and 31, two windows were damaged at the Old Caol Clinic on Kilmallie Road, Caol.

OVERNIGHT on September 3 and 4, a window was damaged at the Angus Centre in Fort William. A second window was damaged overnight on September 8 and 9.

A MOTOR car was damaged while it was parked on Lochiel Road, Inverloch, overnight on September 5 and 6.

POLICE received reports on September 7 that three bus stops, all on the A82 at North Road, Fort William, had been damaged. The exact date the damage was caused is not known.

SOMETIME between 5pm on Friday September 11 and 8.30am on Saturday September 12 a pick-up vehicle was damaged where it was parked in the Angus Crescent/Lochaber Road area of Fort William.

Anyone with knowledge of these incidents is asked to contact Fort William Police Station on 01397 702361 or the confidential line on 01397 702000.

Members of the public may also report any crime/offence or anything suspicious by phoning Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

Edinburgh pupils visit Skye on art exchange

PUPILS from a Gaelic-speaking primary school on Sleat and Tollcross Primary in Edinburgh are taking part in an exciting new visual arts project.

In part one of the exchange last week, 31 Gaelic medium P6/7 pupils from Tollcross joined their Bun-sgoil Shleite friends to visit Tarskavaig on the Sleat peninsula, Torrinn and Sligachan.

During three days of art workshops, pupils investigated the local landscape and environment, learning about the natural history of the area and extending their Gaelic vocabulary.

The second stage of the initiative will see 20 P4-7 Gaelic medium pupils from Sleat visiting Edinburgh for a week from September 28.

New technology is enabling the children to work jointly to share their drawings and experiences.

The 18-month Air Iomlaid exchange was set up to give youngsters across Scotland the chance to share ideas and techniques and to explore culture and language in schools in different parts of the country. Air Iomlaid has been developed by Fruitmarket Gallery artist Julie Brook and Lasair Ealain, the arts committee of pupils at Bun-sgoil Shleite.



Iain Archie MacAskill.



Alina MacAskill Simpson.

Bid to bring bard home to Berneray

THE REMAINS of a Berneray bard could be returned to Scotland if a fund-raising campaign by his grand-niece succeeds.

Iain Archie MacAskill, a soldier, policeman, crofter and Gaelic poet, left his native island on New Year's Day 1925 as a 27-year-old hoping to succeed as a farmer in Western Australia.

But drought, illness, poverty and homesickness for Scotland brought him to an early death and a pauper's grave aged only 36.

In that time, however, he wrote prolifically, composing songs and poems shot through with pain and grief at being unable to return home.

Now, after researching his life and works, his grand-niece Alina MacAskill Simpson, from Glasgow, is raising money to repatriate Iain Archie's remains on the 75th anniversary of his death.

EXCLUSIVE

By STEPHEN NORRIS

Alina, who has Berneray roots and spends all her holidays there, told *The Oban Times*: 'We have decided it is time to bring him home and finally lay him to rest on the island he desired to be, along with his family.'

'To do this I need to raise around £6,000. Any money raised outwith the required amount will be donated to Berneray Community Council for the new cemetery road.'

'I became intrigued by Iain Archie's story and set out to piece together the circumstances surrounding his life and death. Through the legacy of his many published poems and songs and speaking with family members, I unravelled his unfulfilled wish to come back to the island he loved.'

'In 1983 my late uncle Dr John N MacAskill, from Fort William, traced his unmarked grave and erected a

headstone. A local Western Australia paper quoted a Mr Nicol as saying 'medical records would probably say he had died from an illness, but it was believed MacAskill succumbed to loneliness and homesickness and the thought that he could not return to Scotland'.

Iain Archie was born on February 19 1898, the second son of Donald and Ann MacAskill. In 1914 he enlisted in the Cameron Highlanders and was one of the pipers who led the 5th Camerons into action in Loos in September 1915.

From 1919 to 1923 he was a constable in the City of Glasgow police and a prizewinning piper before he returned to Berneray to work his father's croft and began to write.

In 1961 Alick Morrison MA (Hons) published a book, *An Ribheid Chiuil*, the poems of Iain Archie MacAskill, Bard of Berneray Harris.

One poem, Oran a 'Chianalais, contains the lines: 'Nan robh mi mar shaoileag/ Readh aotrom air chuairt/ Gum fàlbhainn gu h-aotrom/ Ri faontradh is cruas/ Gun si ìbhlainn air sgiathan/ S chan iarrainn a nuas/ Gu laighinn 's a' chearn ghlas/ A dh'araich mi suas. (If I were a seagull, so light in flight, I'd soar away lightly, though lonely and sad. On wings I will travel, nor seek to come down, till over the green pastures, where I was brought up).

Alina has organised a ceilidh at the Piping College, Otago Street, Glasgow, on Friday October 2 from 8pm, featuring Norrie Maciver and Sineag MacIntyre.

A second ceilidh will be held with Deoch 'n' Dorus on Friday October 30 at Hyndland Bowling Club.

Anyone wishing to attend or donate can contact Alina at alinasimpsom@hotmail.com.

Spean Bridge Mill rebuild work to start soon

SPEAN Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry Community Council has welcomed news work is to start soon on rebuilding Spean Bridge Mill, which was devastated by fire in January.

Chairman Richard Wallis reported work would start within a month.

Mill owners Edinburgh Woollen Mill (EWM) had to redeploy the 24 full and part-time staff to other Lochaber outlets pending the building's reconstruction.

The attraction, popular with tourists, housed a cafe, gift shop and weaving demonstration centre.

EWM's David Read told *The Oban Times*: 'We are really looking forward to getting back in there and trading again.'

A Highland Council spokesperson confirmed permission for the rebuild had been granted on August 6.



Pupils from Lochaber High School pictured in Paris.

Lochaber pupils enjoy Paris visit

ONE HUNDRED pupils from Lochaber High School have enjoyed trips to Paris in France this year with the latest group returning home this week after a week of sightseeing and cultural activities.

The 39-strong group travelled to Paris by coach, crossing the North Sea overnight from Hull to Zeebrugge.

The pupils visited the Eiffel Tower and other popular city centre attractions.

They also enjoyed a visit to the world famous

Louvre art gallery to see paintings including the Mona Lisa.

There was also a chance to browse the streets of Montmartre, an evening cruise on the Seine, a visit to the Grévin wax museum, an evening of bowling and a day at Disneyland.

The journey home was via Rotterdam with time to explore the attractive Belgian city of Bruges en route, where the group also enjoyed a short canal cruise.

Fort William shortbread is a winner

NEVIS Bakery is celebrating after winning a prestigious Great Taste award at a star-studded event in London.

The Fort William bakery has been presented with a coveted three star Gold Great Taste Award and the Scottish Speciality regional award for its Demerara Shortbread.

Out of 4,873 entries, only 83 were awarded three star gold, reserved for products which are considered faultless and one of only three awarded to Scottish products.

As well as winning the three star gold for Demerara Shortbread, Nevis Bakery also won one gold star for its Highland Oaties and also for its oatcakes.

The awards ceremony took place at a glittering event hosted by specialist food and drink presenter Nigel Barden at Fortnum and Mason's in London on September 7.

Archie Paterson of Nevis Bakery said: 'We are delighted with the two gold awards and Scottish Regional Award we received at the Great Taste Awards. We aim to make only the highest quality products and to see this recognised at a national level is testament to the hard work and commitment from all at Nevis Bakery.'



Archie Paterson of Nevis Bakery with the award.

Government blamed for affordable housing cuts in Lochaber

A HOUSING association in Lochaber has blamed a Government funding decision for its failure to fulfil its objective to increase the amount of affordable housing in the area.

The claim was made by chairwoman Alison Gainsford at Lochaber Housing Association's (LHA) annual general meeting this week as the organisation defended its decision to scale back development in light of funding cuts it says were made by the Government.

Ms Gainsford told delegates that despite a reduction in 'development ambitions' during 2008/09 because of funding constraints, the association had continued to see improvements across its housing management and maintenance services, including the establishment of a subsidiary company to carry out maintenance for the association 'in-house' and the completion of several new-build developments.

Ms Gainsford said: 'Our principal objective is to supply increasing numbers of high quality affordable housing throughout

Lochaber. Regrettably, for the first time in the association's 21 year history, we have felt we have not completely fulfilled this important objective.

'This has been because of a government decision to amend the way in which it calculated the amount of private finance that housing associations have to borrow for each new home we develop.

'This would, in our view, result in unsustainable levels of borrowing for the association. We would need to either inject the association's cash reserves to development activity or to cross-subsidise development using our housing stock over which no security for borrowing has been taken.

'Both of these alternatives have been considered by the management committee to be incompatible with the need to ensure that we retain sufficient reserves to support our long-term planned maintenance obligations to tenants.'

Ms Gainsford, however, added that the association had decided to seek government

approval to develop a limited number of new homes, 42 in total, in the coming year, subject to being able to secure private finance on acceptable terms, and said a recent meeting with the minister for housing and communities Alex Neil MSP had been 'very positive'.

'The management committee therefore remains hopeful that a way forward can be found,' Ms Gainsford added.

The association spent £3.8 million on housing development in Lochaber during 2008/09. Five housing developments, totalling 29 new homes, were completed, including 16 homes for rent at Kings Way, Mallaig; four homes for rent at Old Banavie Road and three homes for rent at Union Road, Fort William. A further 22 homes at Arisaig and five homes for shared equity at Achintore Road, Fort William, are due to be completed in the near future.

Projects due to start on site in 2009/10 include 21 homes for rent at Heathercroft, Fort William, and 22 homes at the former industrial units at Claggan.

TAKE CONTROL. BE REWARDED.

GET PAID TO USE LESS ENERGY

PLUS FREE ENERGY MONITOR Worth £45*

If you'd like to use less energy and save money, we'll do everything in our power to help you. Including paying you when you reduce your energy use! It's called our **better plan** and comes complete with FREE energy monitor (worth £45*) and all the hints and tips you'll need to get you started. How rewarding! So why not take control and switch to **better plan** today!

Take control and be rewarded.

hydro.co.uk

0800 294 8402

Scottish Hydro energy made better

*better plan is subject to availability. Terms and conditions apply. *Limited offer whilst stocks last.

Lochaline

Your correspondent is Alistair Scouler: 01967 421285

Firm secures contract

THE KILMORY based construction company D and A MacDonald has secured the contract to build the River Rannoch/Loch Tearnaid hydro electric scheme on Ardtornish Estate.

Prior to damming Loch Tearnaid, which will raise its level by one metre, and upgrading the existing River Rannoch scheme, the company will be concentrating on strengthening and widening the old three-mile long track that leads from Achranich to the loch.

Hospice event success

THE AMOUNT of money raised for the new fuel pumps in Lochaline in no way curtailed what was realised at this year's Highland Hospice fund-raising event at its new venue in Knock Park following the annual shinty match played in memory of the late Angie MacIntyre, who was the husband of the charity's organiser Eilidh.

An excellent barbecue was set up by Mrs MacIntyre's eldest son, Fort William chef and restaurateur Brian, which, with other activities and helpers raised £2,200, which is £92 up on last year's total.

Trophies galore

TORR-NA-FAIRE resident and stockman on Ardnornish Estate John Nudds has again gained no fewer than 16 trophies when displaying his Blackface sheep at the Sunart and Lochaber annual shows.

Petrol pump fund nears target

MORVERN Community Council is rapidly nearing its £10,000 target to fund the replacement of the Lochaline fuel pumps - entirely through local fund-raising and donations.

It has been a very short campaign, launched on July 18 at Morvern Highland Games when £540 was raised through a raffle and donations bucket.

A few days later, during the local gala week, a sponsored one kilometre swim in the chilly fresh water of Loch Arienas, by 20 hastily recruited volunteers, added



Children waved homemade flags to give Princess Anne a royal welcome. 08_a38roy14

Crowds line harbour as Princess Royal visits Tarbert

ON A busy day of west coast engagements, Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal spent an hour in Tarbert.

She visited the village's youth centre, which opened earlier this year, meeting members of Tarbert Youth Club, Tarbert Academy, the Six Circle Group and Big Green Tarbert.

A keen sailor, the Princess Royal was intrigued to hear about the Loch Fyne skiff built using traditional methods by Tarbert youngsters. She inspected the boat before it was blessed and cast off from the harbour. Crowds of onlookers lined the harbour wall to catch a glimpse of the royal visitor, while children from Tarbert Academy waved homemade flags.

For a full report of the Princess Royal's visit, see this week's *Argyllshire Advertiser*.



Robert McPhail, chairman of Tarbert Conservation Initiative, was the Princess Royal's guide for much of her visit. Here he introduces her to young people involved in the skiff project. 08_a38roy13

£200 to the fund. On four of August's five Mondays, a series of soup, roll and home-baking lunches, organised by Morvern Community Council, raised £842.80.

While the lunch on August 10 returned £169.30, this was further boosted by a donation of £100 for the council's secretary and chairman of Morvern Community Development Company (MCDC) Robin Smart to don Highland dress and entertain the company with piping selections.

Four figure donations have also been handed to the fund anonymously.

Community council chairman Iain Thornber said: 'Perhaps it's not up to me to

say, but Morvern Community Council is making progress on a number of fronts even though some may not yet be obvious.

'High on the list must be the lead that the council has taken in raising money for the MCDC village petrol pumps.

'The way in which virtually the whole community has come together in such a positive and encouraging manner is commendable in any man's language.

'I cannot recall when last we have been so united. The community council is committed to serving the parish to the best of its ability and because we are using a different approach does

not make the commitment any less. From the many favourable comments we have had since we took office, it is obvious the majority of folk in Morvern believe we are working well.

'We will hold our course and continue to carry on the job we were elected to do with fairness and openness without breaching confidences.'

Meanwhile, the council's other crusade, the long-running campaign to have an independent postcode - not one shared with Oban - will continue until the end of September.

The latest tactic was to set up an electronic petition to the Scottish Parliament

and at the beginning of the month nearly 170 petitions, including some from Australia, Canada, Holland and the USA, had been received at Holyrood.

Islay

Your correspondent is Susan Campbell: 01496 850215

Islay Airport Open Day and Airshow

ISLAY Museums Trust thanks everyone who made the 2009 Airport Open Day and Airshow such a success. Particular thanks go to

Highlands and Islands Airports Limited, Argyll and Bute Council, The Schroder Trust, Alastair and Judith Ross, Rachel and Alastair Whyte, Baker and Laird (Contracts) Islay Limited, Adrian MacKenzie, John Connor, D & N MacKenzie, Jean McGilvray, Seumas Alex MacDonald, The Nippy Chippy, Douglas MacTaggart and Dugald Cameron for the sound system.

Lord George Robertson opened the event and Iain Gibson provided inimitable commentary.

Thanks to all the participating pilots, car parking attendants, the emergency services for their displays, Islay Motor Club,

Islay Pipe Band, Jessie and Stewart Campbell, Murray and Rena Omand, Bowmore Distillery and the ladies who provided the buffet for the pilots, everyone who donated raffle prizes and Duncan MacGillivray and his staff without whose hard work and commitment there would be no airshow. Mòran taing na h-uile.

Ben Nevis charity climb

THANKS go to everyone who supported Keith, Kevin, Ann and myself in our Ben Nevis Climb for charity.

We had a great, although exhausting, day. Our fundraising page will close on September 27. Please make all donations by then so that funds can be transferred to Ronald MacDonald House.

Thanking you all in advance for supporting and cheering us on and for donating at justgiving.com. Type in 'Mairi MacKay' to get to our page.

Traditional music shindig at Port Mòr

Friday September 18, 9pm, 'The Keelies'. This is the popular Irish/Scottish folk band's first visit to Islay. They are a big name on the Glasgow pub circuit.

Saturday September 19: Concert with piper Lorne MacDougall, Young Traditional Musician of the Year 2009 finalist, 7.30pm, followed at 9.30pm by 'Meantime' ceilidh dance band with Gaelic singing, piping, box and fiddle. Dance the night away with this 'must hear' CD chart topping band which makes regular appearances on BBC Alba.

Sunday September 20: 'Trail West', from 3pm till 9pm. Enjoy the energetic and unique musical experience of this young band from Tiree. A great way to end the weekend at Port Mòr.

Clay shoot on Jura

THE CALUM Bell Memorial Clay Shoot will be held on Saturday September 26 - 12.15 ferry.

Limited to 40 guns. All names to Gordon MacAffer, 07824 612819, by Saturday September 19.

Islay Gaelic choir

CÒISIR Ghàidhlig Ìle, Islay's adult Gaelic choir, will travel to Lochgilphead's local Mòd on Saturday.

As well as singing in the Mixed Choir and Ladies and Men's choirs' competitions,

a number of Islay's Gaelic choir members will take part as soloists and in quartets.

Port Mòr concerts

THE PORT Mòr Centre, near Port Charlotte, will bring a host of talented musicians to Islay throughout September.

Among the bands playing are The Keelies, on their first visit to Islay, piper Lorne MacDougall, Meantime and Trail West.

Scalpay

Your correspondent is Donald Morrison: 01859 540217

Minister

THE FREE Church on Scalpay has been bereft of a minister since the departure of the Rev Dr Malcolm MacLean.

Rev Dr MacLean and his wife Katie have left for a congregation in Inverness.

The congregation here had become so attached to them both and we wish them God's blessing and support in the future.

Recently Rev Dr MacLean's place has been taken by supply preachers Rev Norman MacLennan and Rev Kenneth MacDonald.

Yachts

ONE OF six yachts that recently arrived in the North Harbour struck the Cuitig Sgeir rock, damaging its hull.

Tourist season

THIS year's tourist season seems to have been the best on record in the Hebrides as a whole.

Hopefully these visitors will take good memories of the Western Isles home with them and perhaps return in 2010.



New Canna primary one pupil

Canna Primary School welcomed one new primary one pupil through its doors at the start of term.

Campbeltown Lifeboat rescues sailor and cat

A CAT on the high seas had to be rescued last week along with her owner after the 22-foot yacht they were on got into difficulties in gale force winds round the Mull of Kintyre.

Campbeltown lifeboat was called out at 3.30pm on Thursday after the sailor, with his cat Sukie on board, asked for help when the engine on his boat *Shaffa* failed in a force seven to eight northwesterly, with the wind

going against the tide. 'We have rescued a deer before but this is the first time we've rescued a cat,' said David Cox, coxswain of Campbeltown lifeboat.

'It was a poor day and the yacht was in the thick of an ebb tide against a strong northwesterly wind off the headland of the Mull, not the most pleasant place to be especially if your engine goes.

'It took a number of attempts to get

alongside the yacht but I took advantage of a break in the waves and we were able to grab the man and Sukie aboard the lifeboat. They were shaken up but thankfully are now both safe and well.'

A grappling hook secured the yacht to the lifeboat until it could be towed to calmer waters.

There a stronger tow was established and the yacht was taken back to Campbeltown.



Second green flag for Ardechattan primary

Ardechattan Primary School, Bonawe, recently celebrated receiving its second Eco Schools green flag after a lot of hard work. The school had to address a variety of issues from healthy living to litter and biodiversity to school grounds and in order to keep the green flag it has to be applied for every two years.

Appin phone box contest

A COMPETITION is to be launched to find a new use for Port Appin's red phone box.

It was sold to the community after BT decided that the popularity of public phone boxes had waned since the introduction of the mobile phone, despite the fact that in Port Appin mobile phone reception is poor.

Several light-hearted suggestions for use of the phone box include a shelter for dogs and an art gallery.

The only stipulation made by BT is that another telephone cannot be installed in the box.

IAN BURTON ANTIQUE CLOCKS

Est. 1972

Quality Antique Clocks Bought and Sold, Restorations, Repairs, Servicing for clocks and their cases Valuations

125 High St, Auchterarder, PH3 1AA

07785 114800

ian@ianburton.com www.ianburton.com

Collection and delivery service available in Argyll



Benmore

Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh at

A MUST SEE!

See the newly restored Victorian Fernery in its unique mountainside setting!

- Coach parties welcome
- Group discounts
- Guided tours
- gift shop
- Café
- Events

OPEN DAILY FROM 10AM

Benmore Botanic Garden, Argyll PA23 8QU
Tel 01369 706 261 | www.rbge.org.uk/benmore

STORE RE-OPENS
Friday
18th September 11am

**2 FANTASTIC BRANDS...
NOW UNDER ONE ROOF!**



Unit 2, North Road Retail Park, Fort William, PH33 6PP

ethelaustin
...Value fashion for the family

NOW WITHIN

AU NATURALE

money off autumn FASHION



boyfriend cardigan

NOW £6
usually £8



poplin shirt

NOW £5
usually £7



skinny rib top

NOW £4
usually £6

AMAZING VALUE

from **50p**



roma dinnerware

from **£1**



mugs

50p



pan set

£15

PLUS

fantastic "opening offers in store!"



TO CELEBRATE...WE'RE GIVING OUR FIRST
500 CUSTOMERS A

FREE £5 voucher



Be there Friday 18th September 11am!
These offers will not last!

ethelaustin AU NATURALE interiors

*** Save £3 off any £15 spend**

Free £3 voucher

*This voucher cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer or voucher. Offer excludes fragrance. Only to be redeemed at Ethel Austin/Au Naturale, Unit 2, North Road Retail Park, Fort William. PH33 6PP. Valid until 18th October 2009

We accept... **Love2shop**
The high street gift voucher

Visit our website: www.ethelaustin.co.uk | www.aunaturale.co.uk

*Design
your own
Perfect
day.*



Autumn Weddings

From the most beautiful wedding dresses and elegant stationary to delicious wedding cakes and professional photographers, this is the perfect feature to help you begin on the road to the most perfect day of your life.

Autumn is probably not the first season that comes to mind when weddings are being planned, yet a vast number of people decide to tie the knot then. Actually it is probably just as well they do because logistically it would be quite impossible for everyone to get married in spring and summer. But surely autumn cannot be that bad a time, especially when you consider autumn weather can often be better than that in the spring?

The bride can still choose a romantic white wedding but she will have to give due regard to the fact that the weather may be slightly less clement than at the height of summer, and so choose her dress accordingly.

Wherever the ceremony is to take place, the chances are there will be less need to book quite so early for an autumn wedding. Spring and summer are the popular times for religious weddings, but civil weddings take place all year round.

The photographer will be in his element with an autumn wedding since the autumn light will be more conducive for outside shots than the summer glare of the sun.

Traditional Island Weddings

At the réteach or formal betrothal, it was often said by the bride to be's father :

"Ma tha ise deònach, tha mise ro-dheònach, agus mura bi sin mar sin, cha bhi seo mar seo" which means "If she is willing, I am very willing and if that weren't so, then this wouldn't be so"

The banns were called three Sundays in succession (this is no longer done) and on the Tuesday after the last calling the wedding would take place.

The greatest chore for a wedding was the plucking and cooking of innumerable hens presented for the party by friends of the bride and bridegroom from all over the island. A delegation was formed just to deal with this part of the feast which consisted of cold chicken, roast mutton, scones and bannocks, fresh and salt butter, new cheese and many another special delicacy of the island, with the ever-present tea, and whisky and port wine for the toasts. Chickens were considered such an essential part of these feasts that when an epidemic killed a lot of hens on the

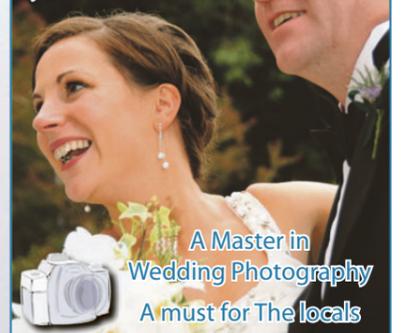
island, Seonaidh Caimbeul, the local bard, made a song about it in which he refers to the grief of prospective brides at the impossibility of making proper wedding feasts without them.

After the religious service, the wedding party was met at the church door with the firing of guns and the skirl of bagpipes, which, playing the fine tune Highland Wedding, led the procession home to the wedding breakfast. The celebration continued through the day and night. The guests sat down to the banquet in relays while songs and toasts were given, the songs often starting with a new song composed by the local bard especially for the occasion. Dancing began with a Scots foreshore reel for the bride and groom and best man and first bridesmaid. Then the guests joined them on the floor and danced until morning. South Uist is famous for its pipers and a great delight of such a day was to listen to their perfect playing and pointing of the lovely tunes.

Written on Canna in 1955 by Margaret Fay Shaw in her book *Folksongs and Folklore of South Uist*, published by Aberdeen University Press.

Perfect Images Photography

By Justin Dammarell



A Master in Wedding Photography
A must for The locals

Web: www.PerfectImagesOban.co.uk
Phone: 01631 571 179 Mobile: 07907 482 433

Argyllshire Gathering Halls
The perfect wedding venue!

- Full Catering Service • Seating for 250 guests
- Dance facilities for 500 guests • Full bar facilities

Wedding Function Suite hire £350 • Hall hire £100 per evening

For full details please contact Amanda on 01631 569407
Email: enquiries@argyllshiregathering.com • www.argyllshiregathering.com

Argyll & Bute Council

CORRAN HALLS
OBAN'S WEDDING VENUE

BEAUTIFUL MARQUEE
COMFORTABLY CATER FOR UP TO 150 RECEPTION GUESTS
& AN ADDITIONAL 150 EVENING GUESTS

WEDDING PACKAGES AVAILABLE
PLEASE CALL MARY OR SHARON ON
01631 567333 TO ARRANGE AN APPOINTMENT

INFO@CORRANHALLS.CO.UK

TAYCHREGGAN

Hidden in the Scottish mountains and right on the shores of Loch Awe you will find the perfect place for your wonderful intimate and romantic wedding.

Cosy intimacy, professional service and excellent cuisine await you.
It enjoys an idyllic setting, in 40 acres of ground on the shores of Argyll's Loch Awe.

Licensed to offer Civil Wedding Ceremonies.
Contact Fiona Sutherland Wedding Planner

Tel: 01866 833211
www.taychregganhotel.co.uk
info@taychregganhotel.co.uk

energie fitness clubs

Getting married?
Try our fantastic 6 week émpower programme
Guaranteed Results or your money back!
Personal training, advice and support.
All for £65 and no contract.
Look amazing for your special day!

Call today **01631 565000**
17 Lochavullin Road, Oban, Argyll PA34 4PL
Conveniently located just behind Argos
www.energiefitnessclubs.com

'GOLD'
Bridal Car Hire
For Your Special Day

Chauffeur Driven 'Topaz Gold' 'S' Type Jaguar
Complementary champagne for the Bride & Groom
Call Liz at 'Gold' to discuss your requirements
01397 703542 or 07909790552
email: gold@alltonside.co.uk

Civil Wedding Venues

- Manor House Hotel*, Oban..... Tel: 01631 562087 Contact Mr Gregor McKinnon
- Isle of Mull Hotel, Craignure*, Isle of Mull..... Tel: 08709 506267 Contact The Manager
- Corran Halls*, Oban..... Tel: 01631 567333 Contact Mary Buchanan
- Taychreggan Hotel*, Kilchrenan..... Tel: 01866 833211 Contact Fiona Sutherland
- Western Isles Hotel*, Tobermory, Isle of Mull..... Tel: 01688 302012 Contact The Manager
- Argyllshire Gathering Halls*, Oban..... Tel: 01631 569407 Contact Amanda MacPhail
- Melfort Hotel*, Arduaine..... Tel: 01852 200233 Contact Mrs Rachel Ross
- The Pierhouse Hotel*, Port Appin..... Tel: 01631 730302 Contact Mr Nicholas Horne
- McCaigs Tower*, Oban..... Tel: 01631 567930 Contact Calum Black
- The Oyster Inn*, Connel..... Tel: 01631 710666 Contact Mr James McEachern
- Melfort Pier & Harbour*, Kilmelford..... Tel: 01852 200333 Contact Hazel Wragg
- Regent Hotel*, Oban..... Tel: 01631 562341 Contact Andy Whitlow
- Barcaldine House*, Ledaig..... Tel: 01631 720219 Contact Julie Maclean
- Tigh an Daraich*, Self Catering Lodges, Bridge of Awe..... Tel: 01866 822693 Contact Margaret Holden
- Druimneil House*, Port Appin..... Tel: 01631 730228 Contact Janet Glaisher
- Wide Mouthed Frog*, Dunstaffnage Marina..... Tel: 01631 567005 Contact Carina McLachlan



www.PerfectImagesOban.co.uk



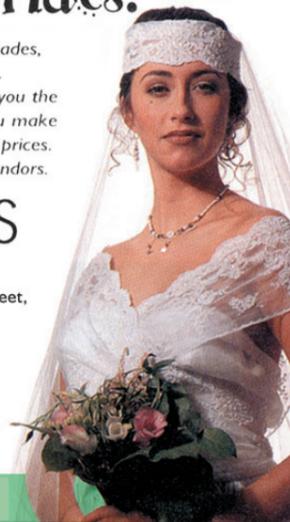
www.PerfectImagesOban.co.uk

Material Girls make beautiful brides.

Beaded lace, silks, satins, brocades, tulle, veiling and ribbons... We are gathered here to bring you the materials and advice to help you make your day. And at well groomed prices. Get it all together today at Mandors.



Fleming House, 134 Renfrew Street, Glasgow G3 6ST.
Tel: 0141 332 7716/4221
131 East Claremont Street, Edinburgh EH7 4JA.
Tel: 0131 558 3888
www.mandors.co.uk
Open 7 days



Ardlamont Estate



Offering you Romance, Elegance and a truly wonderful day

Ardlamont House is a classic Georgian property dating back to 1664 offering packages designed to bring together the delights of our unique location, all the romance associated with historic Ardlamont House, and a hugely practical function suite, which includes the Cedar House, and a permanent Marquee, looking out over two beautifully landscaped ornamental ponds, with illuminated fountains

Set at the bottom of the Cowal Peninsular, Ardlamont Estate boasts wonderful views of Arran, Bute and the Mull of Kintyre.

We offer:

- A wedding package designed for you
- Self catering cottages on the Estate for your guests
- Horse Drawn Carriage
- We can be registered to hold weddings within the estate
- We can organise a top quality catering service who offer a wide range of wedding feasts and other banqueting options.
- For real honeymoon romance we offer our private yacht complete with crew to cruise round the surrounding Islands.

To make your day truly special contact Niki on 01700 811364
E-mail: enquiries@ardlamont.com
www.ardlamont.com

Making Your Special Day that Little Bit Extra Special

When you tie the knot at the Western Isles Hotel, you can be sure that your memories will be absolutely perfect! The hotel itself is a beautiful old character building, situated prominently over Tobermory harbour and enjoying stunning views across the Sound of Mull. What's more, you can choose from several venues within the hotel, giving you the freedom to conduct your ceremony indoors or out, in our spacious dining room, on the terrace, or in the more intimate lounge.

You'll find that the whole team here are dedicated to making sure that your special day really is extra special. From your first arrival to the moment you depart you'll be looked after in true style – and your family and friends will feel equally welcomed.

To find out more about getting married at the Western Isles Hotel, why not visit us today
www.westernisleshotel.co.uk, or call us on 01688 302012 for an informal chat.



– you'll be glad you did!

A ROMANTIC WEDDING
THE FINEST VIEWS ON THE WEST COAST...

LOCH MELFORT HOTEL & RESTAURANT
COUNTRY HOUSE HOTEL IN A BEAUTIFUL SETTING

Civil wedding licence both indoor & outdoor

Formal or buffet dining for up to 90

25 ensuite bedrooms all with stunning views

Loch Melfort Hotel, Arduaine, Oban
Call 01852 200 233 or visit www.lochmelfort.co.uk

Ewan Baxter Photography

Seize the moment...
www.EwanBaxterPhotography.com
Tel: 01688 301127

Wedding stationery
Invitations, order of service, menus, place cards, thank you cards

Event stationery
Invitations, raffle tickets, thank you cards

krisp print

Contact us at: Krisp Print & Stationery,
Burnbank, Burnside Street,
Campbeltown, Argyll PA28 6JD
Tel: 01586 554975 Email: staff@krispprint.co.uk
www.krispprint.co.uk

Manor House Hotel & Restaurant

Consider us for a small intimate service and wedding breakfast

Overlooking the harbour
Gallanach Road • Oban • 562087

Eleanor's The Hair Salon

Have a perfect wedding Day!
Perfect Hair!
Perfect Make-up!
Perfect Nails!
Book your appointment with Nathalie, for the complete Wedding Package!
Tel 01631 562970
20 High Street, Oban

Fort William
Wedding Fair 2009
25th October

The Ben Nevis Wedding Fair is not only for Brides, also a wonderful ladies day out.

- Free Entry
- Complimentary Glass of Champagne
- Goody Bag for every lady
- Numerous stalls and displays
- Live Music from 'Wonderland' and 'Maple Leaf' String Trio
- Colour Consultants
- Live Models
- Beauticians

There is one £150 Unique Beauty Gift Voucher going free so please leave your details to win this fabulous prize. Unique Beauty, specialists in numerous face and body treatments

True Colours are also giving away one Free Colour Consultation so make sure you visit The True Colours Stand

Collection in aid of Lochaber Mountain Rescue

Ben Nevis Hotel & Leisure Club, North Road, Fort William
01397 702 331
email bennevisales@strathmorehotels.com

Cadouk

For evening, prom and bridal wear showing at the Ben Nevis Hotel Wedding Fayre

OR special discounts on day of Wedding Fayre visit our new website:
www.brideandbridesmaid.net

PRECIOUS THINGS
LINGERIE

FEEL GORGEOUS ALL OVER
LOOK AND FEEL GREAT FROM HEAD TO TOE ON YOUR WEDDING DAY.

Braza **lepel** **freya**
FANTASIE **cette** **TRINNY & SUSANNAH**

ELOMI LINGERIE WILL LEAVE YOU SIMMERING WITH CONFIDENCE

elomi

OPEN :
MONDAY - SATURDAY
9.30AM - 5.30PM .

114 GEORGE STREET
OBAN TEL 01631 562510

The Oban Times

& West Highland Times

Now Argyll will feel the crunch

WHEN compared to areas that have lost thousands of industrial jobs and bemoan empty high streets because of the recession, Argyll has been getting through relatively unscathed - until now, perhaps.

Argyll and Bute Council is cash-strapped at the best of times. We have become accustomed to the 'not enough money' explanation, in relation to local services regarded as sub-standard.

However, the huge budget cut expected today may be unlike any seen for several years. Council officials can soften the blow of a £12m-£15m deficit by making service cuts and raising council tax, but our elected representatives will have some difficult choices to make.

This may be the time when Argyll really feels the impact of the recession. It's time to tighten those belts.

Too good to be true?

IT IS a sad indication of our mistrust of politicians when seemingly good news is welcomed with caution - as demonstrated by some in the Western Isles following the announcement by Jim Murphy MP to abandon the Benbecula-based missile range downgrade.

Mr Murphy said the importance of jobs to the Western Isles outweighed any advantages that a cost-cutting downgrade would yield. He declared it a victory for common sense - and there were cheers of joy and relief from Qinetiq staff.

But some islanders have already branded the decision as political one-upmanship and claim jobs will be discarded through the back door. Does the carefully scripted word of a politician do more to worry than to reassure?

Glasgow Letter

Clydebank's 'Golden Oldies'

DID YOU read last week's *Glasgow Letter* with its emphasis on young talented musicians?

If so, forget you ever heard the word 'young' mentioned, for just one week later in the city it was all about 'old'!

The monthly ceildh of Clydebank and District Highlander's Association was described, and not by me, as a night for the 'Golden Oldies' with reference perhaps to the audience as well as the artistes, with the exception of young and very competent piper Andrew Caulfield.

On the same evening, just along the road in Partick, Govan Choir had an Old Fashioned Ceildh.

Interestingly, Clydebank stole two of Govan's 'olds' with Sheena Walker singing and Cameron Mackichan chairing its concert as well as singing.

Ivor Brown provided the accordion musical selections while Anne Gilbey was the Scot's singer and there was a rare appearance of Traditional Mod Gold Medallist Ailean Domhnallach, brother of former president Katie MacDonald who, as well as singing provided the audience with humorous anecdotes.

With Anna Cameron as accompanist this was a ceildh which very much appealed to the Clydebank patrons.

In keeping with the theme for the evening, the association presented faithful supporter Calum Lamont with a gift in recognition of his 90th birthday which had taken place during the summer break.

The Govan Choir's venture of having an Old Fashioned Ceildh turned out to be a very happy and successful fun evening.

Music for dancing was provided by Lex Keith and the singers were conductor Sandy Sinclair, Mairi MacArthur, Calum MacDonald and duettists Fiona Ross and Mairi Fernandez-Ares and Cathie all the way from Virginia and now a choir member played fiddle selections.

Like all the other choirs, the Govanites will have to stop the fun and get on with the serious business of learning their songs for the National Mod in a few weeks time.

Piping Times Trophy

HAVING started with eight invited pipers participating in a knockout competition, it is now time for the final of this trophy in which Dougie Murray and John Patrick will play.

This will take place in the College of Piping tomorrow evening (Friday) at 7.30pm and as in previous rounds the audience will choose the winner.

Diary dates

Thursday September 17: Star Folk Club, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm. Bill Adair with Bridgend Sessions Band.

Friday September 18: Glasgow Skye Association Opening Concert, Partick Burgh (Lesser) Hall, 7.30pm. Piping Times Trophy - see above. Eilidh Grant in Concert, City Halls, Recital Room, 8pm.

Saturday September 19: Glasgow Lewis and Harris Association ceildh, Partick Burgh (Mid) Hall, 7.45pm. An Comunn Gaidhealach Stirling Branch, Opening Ceildh, Lesser Albert Hall, 7.30pm. Aly Bain and Phil Cunningham, Old Fruitmarket.

Sunday September 20: Aly Bain and Phil Cunningham, St Nicholas Church, The Cross, Lanark.

Monday September 21: Kris Drever, John McCusker, Roddy Woombie, Brunton Theatre, Musselburgh, 7.30pm.

Thursday September 24: Star Folk Club, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm. Jez Lowe. City Halls, Recital Room, Lauren McColl, 8pm.

Saturday September 26: Ceol's Craic, Centre for the Contemporary Arts, Sauchiehall Street, 7.30pm. Poetry and Songs from Scotland and Ireland. Tolbooth, Stirling, Jenna Reid Band, 8pm. Celebration of Music of Gordon Duncan, Perth Concert Hall, 7.30pm.

Pub scene

MUSIC in the Park Bar this weekend will be provided by Eriskay Lilt on Friday, the Burns Brothers/Islay MacTaggart on Saturday and Gunna Sound on Sunday while in the Islay Inn it will be Crooked Reel on Friday and Deoch'n Dorus on Saturday.

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



The Oban Times reaches Tokyo, Japan

Grant MacKinnon from Tobermory, Isle of Mull, and his fiancée Naoko Akiyama, who recently got engaged in Japan, took time out in the Asakusa district of Tokyo to check out *The Oban Times* and all the latest goings on back home. We would like readers to send in flashback photographs and photographs of *The Oban Times* being read in far flung places. Please send prints to *The Oban Times*, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB, or email editor@obantimes.co.uk. Prints or emails must be accompanied by a caption, name, address and telephone number. Anyone wishing their prints returned must supply a stamped addressed envelope.

Letters to the editor

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

Telephone: 01631 568000
Fax: 01631 568001

Policing concern

Sir,
As a parent and an owner of an Oban business, I would like to express my concern following Mr Hall's letter in last week's edition.

I was greatly saddened by the retirement of Fred Hall earlier in the year.

A man of principle, he was a breath of fresh air for Oban and it is worrying that a person in such an important position and with such practical experience should feel so strongly about the lack of police officers in Oban, Lorn and the Isles.

Do we really need to wait for a major incident before it becomes obvious that Mr Hall was correct?

The existing police officers do an excellent job and I am full of admiration for them, but let us cut through the spin and find out why they are not being supported.

I would like to know why, during a time of record funding in real terms, it seems we have fewer police officers?

'Additionality' is a great term but I am positive most of us would understand a number more readily.

How many officers did we have in 2007 and how many do we have now?

Robin Morton, Managing Director, Energie Fitness, Oban.

Stop dumping rubbish in burn

Sir,
Whenever Glenruitten receives a few consecutive days of heavy rain, floods affect a part of the Lynnside Community Garden and a lane connecting Miller Road with Dalintart Drive, Oban.

A footbridge across the burn, a narrowing gully and lots of rubbish present obstacles to the flow.

On Thursday morning, September 10, members of the Oban Employability Team lifted almost a pick-up-load of litter from the burn. Their efforts are much appreciated.

But how many more times will they have to do this before something more sustainable is done about this burn?

And how long before people stop tossing their rubbish in?

More about the Lynnside Community Garden Project - a work in progress generously supported by Argyll Community Housing Association, Argyll and Bute Council, Glenruitten Residents and Tenants Association and others - can be found at

www.lynnsideprojectblog.blogspot.com or telephone 07810 714421. Margaret Powell-Joss, for the Lynnside Project, Oban.

Good value for money and help for young pipers

Sir,
Following an article in a recent edition of *The Oban Times* regarding the future of the Argyllshire Gathering/Oban Games at risk because of a shortfall in funding to meet costs, I would like to make the following points:

Firstly, the suggestion that gate charges are possibly the highest in Scotland is incorrect. Entry to Cowal Games on Saturday August 29 was £14 per adult. The reality is that in this day and age £10 does not seem bad value for what is a full day's entertainment with the opportunity to enjoy our traditional sports, music and dance.

It may not be commonly known but financial support provided by the Argyllshire Gathering Trust is an important element in the current renaissance of piping in North Argyll as it makes a substantial monetary contribution to the schools' piping programme. Without this assistance many young pipers would not have the opportunity to learn traditional music.

Oban's got so much to offer

Sir,
I expected to read a flurry of letters from locals in last week's issue, September 10, after the critical letter the week before from Dave Crawford, Buckingham, but it didn't happen.

I would, therefore, like to balance Mr Crawford's criticism with due praise for the town of Oban.

My wife and I had our first holiday there in 1983 and fell in love with the place, so much so that we married there in 1985. We have had holidays, short breaks and day trips every year since. In July we had what is now a customary week in Oban before spending the following week in Tiree.

Our daughter and son, aged 22 and 20, have inherited the same love for the place as we have and are frequent visitors themselves.

I am somewhat mystified that Mr Crawford was extolling the virtues of Fort William - another fine town - yet was disparaging about Oban while both have similar attractions and services. Might it just be that he was

unfortunate to have had wet weather in Oban and Fort William just seemed better on his day trip because it was a dry day?

Dry or wet, we've always found things to do and see and places to go. When we were married in Oban all those years ago, we spent two weeks in the town and we had one - yes one! - dry day. We actually stayed in that day to watch the Live Aid concert on TV in the guest house. All the other days were spent touring about the town and beyond to Mull and Iona.

I'm sorry to hear of one family who didn't appreciate what Oban has to offer, but rest assured, there are many people apart from my own family who do. There's nothing more enjoyable than someone who you've encouraged to visit the town returning and saying what a great time they've had and I will continue to be an unofficial tourist information rep for the area.

Hugh McGinnigle, Milngavie, Glasgow.

A client's tribute

Sir,
To 'Davy' Hector MacNeill, my hero.

As an ex-client of this wonderful man, I would like to add to the moving tribute given by Duncan Durban and Graeme Pagan.

What can you say? He was a man of socialist ethics of honour and a total disregard for petty rules.

For example, here was I shaking like a leaf half an hour before a ten o'clock appearance. 'Davy' would reassure me that all would be well. Seeing that I was unconvinced, he'd say 'Go into the cupboard'. There I found a bottle of MacCallans 12-year-old malt whisky. 'Pour a large one for yourself and the same for me.'

I said: 'Davy, is this not contempt of court?'

'Not unless the sheriff sees us,' he replied.

That was 'Davy'. Long

way up, short way down. David Hector MacNeill, I salute you in death as I did in life. You will never be forgotten, you were the Lawrence Olivier of the court-room. Your rhetorical outbursts, like that of a Shakespearean actor held the court, waiting on your next line. Eloquent, splendid and always amusing, he would change a stern sheriff's face into a smile. Only he could do this. 'Davy' you will always be remembered for your generosity and humanity. Oban is a sadder place without you.

My thoughts also go to his wife Dr Elizabeth. Rest in peace 'Captain MacNeill'.
Name and address supplied.

Fascinating characters

Sir,
I was entranced by the two well-written obituary tributes you offered in your edition of Thursday August 27.

Two more fascinating and life affirming characters [David Hector MacNeill and Mary Leitch McLaine] each in their different way, it would be hard to imagine.

It was these rather conformist days, to read of people who so combined individualism with service was refreshing indeed.

John Cotman, Coll-Earn, Balvicar.

Concentrate on constituents

Sir,
I do wish Jim Mather would find time to answer letters from constituents instead of squabbling with McCaig.

C J Hughes, Ferry House, South Cuan, Luig, Oban.

Tourists might stay away

Sir,
As a result of Scottish Justice Secretary Kenny MacAskill's decision to release the Lockerbie bomber, 2010 may be the 'Year of Not Coming' as far as American tourists to Scotland are concerned.

Douglas W Tott, Bruichladdich, Isle of Islay.

Barcaldine walled garden memories

Sir,
We were interested to read 'Those Were The Days' in your August 23 edition.

We are the current managers of the campsite at Barcaldine which is still owned by the Camping and Caravanning Club.

We would love to hear from anyone who has any photos or stories about the walled vegetable garden as it was before it became a campsite.

For the last three years we have been trying to build up the history, as we believe it has a good one, but even though we have spoken to old owners and locals nothing has been forthcoming for us to display and tell everyone about our history.

We had the story of the big bronze fountain being stolen from outside the campsite gates overnight and it appearing on BBC Crimewatch.

Who else knows anything of life here? Are some of the gardeners or their relatives still alive? We would love to know everyone's story, so we can pass it on to our interested campers.
Angela Field.

A VIEW FROM THE TOWER

By McCaig

Police numbers in Argyll and Bute

I WONDER how the Argyll and Bute Constituency MSP Jim Mather is now regarded by his Cabinet and party colleagues since he has broken ranks on the thorny question of the location of the extra 1,000 police officers that his Ministry of Justice has paraded in the Scottish media.

He has spoken out - quite justifiably - on the advice of the now retired Chief Inspector Fred Hall as to why Oban, Lorn and the Isles policing numbers have actually been reduced rather than increased by between six to nine officers.

As if the Minister Kenny MacAskill has not enough problems on his plate, this matter of the allocation of extra officers has thrown a spanner in the SNP government's calculations.

When this subject was raised earlier this year there was an attempt to ignore the public concern that had been expressed by a number of public bodies, members of Argyll and Bute Council and by this column.

I am prepared to admit I was the member of the public who asked the question at the recent public meeting, called by Strathclyde Police to attempt to quell the anger of a large number of members of the community about the failure of the police authority to provide an adequate number of officers for the proper policing of Oban, Lorn and the Isles.

Chief Inspector Hall had mentioned it a number of times in interviews for *The Oban Times* and on Oban FM that he was six to nine officers short of the complement required to properly provide a secure environment for the people who lived there.

Now the question was directed at Assistant Chief Constable John Neilson who has served in this area as a junior officer, but he passed the buck to Chief Superintendent John Thomson to answer.

He ignored the real kernel of my question but gave an answer that was not correct.

I never asked him about the staffing of the whole of Argyll and Bute but about that of Oban, Lorn and the Isles - the most vibrant and forward-thrusting part of Argyll and Bute.

The question I asked and am still asking is why has the number of police officers in this area been reduced and, I'm sure Fred Hall will be happy to prove his case. After all, he has a qualification in statistics.

A rudderless force

THE CURRENT rudderless police force based in Oban, Lorn and the Isles shows it needs direction.

That could be due to having an acting Chief Inspector who is said to be having to move on and is not to be seen on the streets at any time.

A new Inspector has

been appointed to succeed Inspector Neil Wallace who has chosen to take up a new post in Lochgilphead.

It is inevitable a sergeant will be in charge as well as fulfilling his duties as a shift sergeant.

All these deficiencies and we don't have a staffing crisis!

When this matter was first brought out into the open it was obvious that Assistant Chief Constable John Neilson was despatched to Oban to re-assure residents everything that was concerning them and their councillors was being dealt with.

The exact opposite is the case. The overwhelming desire of the public is to see police on the beat and that simply is not happening. We were told that a new shift system would solve all concerns. No sign of it coming into force, no sign of Superintendent Raymond Park paying a rare visit to meet the public, no sign of any proper reassurance for the public that they are to get the service from the police they deserve. More power to your campaigning Mr Mather.

The bonus culture

THE CURRENT credit crunch has inevitably thrown up the disturbing question of receiving a bonus as a part of remuneration or in addition to it.

Bankers, joint stock or merchant, insurance companies or financial investment houses have become the victims of the ignorant media who find them an easy target, due mainly to the massive rewards received by Sir Frederick Goodwin - Fred the Shred as he is popularly known - for a failure that cost the Royal Bank of Scotland millions of pounds.

However, this is not about Fred - he can look after himself and has certainly done so.

This is about another strand of society which collects substantial bonus payments without any of us knowing about them.

I'll bet you didn't know that Chief Constables and their assistants get very substantial bonuses. How these are determined is difficult to establish.

Chief Constable of Strathclyde Police and his four assistant chiefs had a poor year in 2008 as they only received £95,786 while the previous year it was a bonanza - £133,299. Not only did they get such they also drew up the targets themselves for their extra pocket money. Meanwhile, the council accountants are looking for a solution to the £35 million budget deficit over the next two years.

Start with these ridiculous bonus payments and look at all the others that councils are paying out.

That could be due to having an acting Chief Inspector who is said to be having to move on and is not to be seen on the streets at any time.

A new Inspector has

Your letters

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

PRESS POLICY

WE AT *The Oban Times* do our utmost to make sure that all our reports are fair, accurate and balanced, but we accept that, on occasion, mistakes can occur in the hectic process of producing the biggest local newspaper in the West Highlands.

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

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

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

Islay and Jura air-link to Oban?

ISLAY and Jura residents are being asked if they would prefer an air link to Oban for hospital appointments, in order to reduce the number of patients travelling to Glasgow.

HITRANS, the strategic transport planning authority for the Highlands and Islands, has tasked consultants with looking at transport links for patients from the Highlands and Islands getting to hospital and a questionnaire has been circulated to health service officials and residents of Islay and Jura.

It is thought that flying patients to Oban would cut costs and make more use of the multimillion pound investment by Argyll and Bute Council in Oban Airport.

Islay and Jura Transport Forum is meeting next week and will look at the detailed questionnaire.

New malt has bigger 'punch'

A NEW even peatier version of Islay's Bruichladdich Distillery's Octomore single malt is set to pack a bigger punch than the first bottling.

The flavour comes from the malted barley, which has been given a huge peat smoke punch.

Jim McEwan, head distiller, said: 'It's a great equation - massive peat, plus Bruichladdich elegance = awesome spirit.'

'We dialled up the peating level of this second bottling of Octomore because it seemed churlish not to!'

He said the whisky, described as an iron fist in a velvet glove, was 'not for the faint-hearted'.

'At this peating level it is for savouring; a little goes a long way,' he added.

Green first for CMAL

A FERRY company serving the west coast of Scotland has become the first to get 'green passports' for two of its fleet.

Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd (CMAL) plans to audit all its Clyde and Hebridean ferries under the scheme, which makes it easier to safely dispose of ships and recycle materials at the end of their useful lives.

The MV Raasay, which serves the route from Sconser on the Isle of Skye to the Isle of Raasay, and the MV Canna, serving Ballycastle to Rathlin, are the first in the UK to be certified. A third vessel, the MV Saturn, which serves Arran in the summer months, is expected to get its green passport shortly.

The passports, officially known as the Inventory of Hazardous Materials, are issued by Lloyds' Register and will soon be compulsory.

Isle of Tiree's closure threatened lunch club gains reprieve

TIREE'S lunch club is to stay open, for the moment, following moves by Argyll and Bute Council's social work department to close it.

Improvement
'We have won the battle but not the war,' said Kate MacCallum, who first brought the closure to the attention of The Oban Times.

'To go from complete closure to a three-quarters service is a vast improvement,' she added.

The lunch club was closed at a week's notice by the social work department, which said it was a 'day service' that was being transferred to Tigh-a-Rudha care home.

But Mrs MacCallum, whose mother attends the club, and other members said people depended on the lunch club for their social contact.

Now the council has relented and agreed to keep supplying the meals from Tigh-a-Rudha and

transport when possible, with volunteers plugging the gaps.

Review

Kate said: 'Because [the council] is having staffing issues, volunteers are still manning it.'

'It is up for review again in four months' time and we are under no illusions, this is just the beginning.'

'The whole issue whether or not it is day care or a lunch club is not important the issue is that it provides

a service for vulnerable people on Tiree,' said Kate, who was sent a letter of apology by service manager Ann Austen for the way in which people were notified of the intended closure.

Councillors Roddie McCuish and Mary Jean Devon, on the island for a regular surgery, visited the lunch club and put their weight behind the fight to keep it going.

Councillor McCuish said: 'Coming here can only

endorse what Ann Austen said. It was handled poorly and having seen the facility for myself along with my colleague we will be doing our utmost to keep this vital service.'

'We knew nothing about the situation until Mrs McCuish contacted us and we are thankful that she did, and we will be more than happy to help continue this crucial service.'

'Sustaining communities in fragile rural areas is a

big priority for us, and we will continue to support islanders for these essential services.'

Councillor Devon said: 'This is more than a lunch club it is a community resource. We spent a few hours at the club last Monday and it was a treat talking to all the people who attend. I hope that the council will see the benefit of this community resource and continue to support it for many years to come.'

Kintyre windfarm nears completion

WORK on the extension of Tangy Wind Farm near Campbeltown is now entering the final commissioning stages.

The existing 13megawatt (MW) wind farm built in 2002 consists of 15 turbines and Scottish and Southern Energy has added the new turbines that will bring the total capacity to almost 19MW once completed.

A Scottish and Southern Energy spokeswoman said: 'Work on the extension is now entering the final commissioning stages and it is hoped that the turbines will be operational shortly.'

The Tangy Wind Farm provides enough energy to power around 14,900 homes and is located about 8km to the northwest of Campbeltown.

Braveheart challenge

A SCHOOL enterprise competition, which began on the Isle of Bute, is celebrating its tenth year at the Palace of Art, Glasgow.

The BraveHeart Challenge features 15-year-old pupils from various schools around the country and will take place tomorrow (Friday).



The oldest SWRI in Argyll celebrates its 90th birthday in style

THE OLDEST SWRI group in Argyll celebrated its 90th birthday on Saturday.

Formed a few months after the end of the First World War, Appin SWRI enrolled 51 members at its first meeting, but by 1961 numbers had dwindled to such an extent that it was suggested the group be wound up.

However, this did not happen and today there are 43 members.

Playing host to institutes from Benderloch and Connel on Saturday, Appin celebrated with a dinner and

ceilidh for 150 members and guests.

The buffet dinner was provided by the members and a 90th birthday cake was made by Ellen McCorquodale and Christine Jackson.

Entertainers were Emma Law, piper, Freddie MacKenzie and Janet Fergusson, singers, Ann Gibson, piano, Ross MacPherson and Calum MacPhail, accordion and fiddle and Muckairm Ringers, who played Happy Birthday on handbells.

A pageant, introduced by Pat Wyeth Webb, with poetry and the history of the institute, was augmented by fashions through the ages.

Left: Members of Appin SWRI celebrate the institute's 90th birthday.

Kilchoman Distillery comes of age

Islay's youngest distillery releases first bottling

KILCHOMAN Distillery in the Rhinns of Islay celebrated the release of its first three-year-old single malt last Wednesday as the new bottling flew off the shelves.

The island's youngest distillery - the first cask was filled there in December 2005 - had a first release of 8,475 bottles, with most going to Asian and European markets.

But the 609 offered in the distillery shop and online were snapped up in only four hours.

At the launch, distillery managing director Anthony Wills welcomed renowned whisky writer Charles MacLean and other guests.

Also present was the distillery's production consultant Dr Jim Swann and managers from other island distilleries.



Kilchoman Distillery production consultant Dr Jim Swann

Oban couple celebrate golden wedding and birthday double

DUNCAN and Margaret Johnston of Oban, celebrated their Golden Wedding and both of their birthdays on Saturday, September 12.

Duncan worked at The Oban Times for 21 years, starting as an office boy and qualified as a linotype operator before moving on to the Edinburgh-based Scotsman newspaper for a further 21 years.

Margaret was a primary school teacher in Dunoon and Campie School, Musselburgh, where one of her pupils was Scottish international footballer Kenny Miller, who she affectionately refers to as 'my wee Kenny'.

The couple were married in St Columba's Cathedral, Oban, in 1959, by Monsignor Ewen MacInnes and they returned there last Saturday evening with their family and grandchildren for a service of thanksgiving and a blessing from Canon Donald MacKay.

The family finished the celebration in style with a meal at the Manor House Hotel, Oban.



Duncan and Margeret Johnston.

Knoydart raises totem pole to toast first 10 years

A TOTEM pole is to be raised at Knoydart today (Thursday) to celebrate the 10 years of community ownership.

There have been lots of events this year to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the community buyout of the Knoydart Estate. These include include Knoydart's first music festival, a Big Rhodie Bash, a Renewables Week, an Art Exhibition and most recently a Log Building Course.

Still to come is the Knoydart 10km Run, a photography competition, and a ceilidh. Today the community will be raising a Totem Pole designed by the local children and carved by members of the community over the summer. The event is the official celebration of the anniversary of the buy-out and an opportunity for the community and the Knoydart Foundation to thank everyone

who has helped over the years, friends and partners, in what has been a very successful time for Knoydart.

Angela Williams of the Knoydart Foundation said: 'There will be lots of guests attending and friends and visitors are most welcome to come along and help celebrate.' The event will be filmed on behalf of the Foundation who are compiling a DVD to remember the year by.

Award-winning Jura - Tayvallich ferry service under threat

A LACK of passengers is threatening the award-winning passenger ferry service between Jura and Tayvallich.

Pilot scheme
The service, which began as a pilot scheme two years ago, allows islanders to access mainland Argyll in less than one hour instead of travelling to the mainland via the neighbouring Isle of Islay.

It has also brought thousands of pounds in extra revenue to the island.

Argyll and Bute Council agreed to subsidise a three-year pilot scheme but the subsidy alone may not be enough to keep the service

going, as it comes to the end of its second season.

And ferry operator Jura Development Trust is already trying to find an alternative means of funding, should council funding cease when the pilot scheme ends.

Whilst the ferry has been hailed as a great success by islanders, the lack of tourist traffic using the service has threatened its future.

Dick Mayes, former chairman of Initiative at the Edge, the group that established the ferry service, says the future of the service is uncertain.

He added: 'The number of passengers using the ferry is not

as high as we expected it to be, so the amount of money coming in is not enough to run a service six days per week, from Easter to the end of September.'

'After next year we really don't know where the money is going to come from so we will need to assess that with the council and other organisations.'

'It is an absolutely brilliant service; you can go to Oban and back in one day and if you leave on the 7am, you can be in Glasgow by 11.30am.'

'It has also had huge benefits for the friends and family of people here, who have visited more regularly.'

Arduaine group looking for new members

THE GROUP set up to stop the Arduaine Garden from closure are appealing for more members to support their on-going work.

At a meeting, held in Kilmelford Village Hall a group of 30 people heard about the work a steering group had undertaken to stop the garden closing. And organisers have planned a way forward to promote the garden and build a trust fund. But the group want the help of anyone interested in the garden to work with them.

Rick Potter, a support group member, explained the group had gained a year's reprieve from closure and

the group were now working to keep the garden open permanently.

He said: 'We want to invite all those interested in supporting the garden to become members of the Arduaine Garden Support Group, for a small annual membership fee, in order to generate the relevant funds.'

Calum Ross, a member of the current steering group, appealed for as many people as possible to become members of the group and for volunteers to join the steering committee. The group can be contacted via arduainegardensupportgroup@googlemail.com

free holiday west highland

July 2009

free holiday west highland

Your holiday starts here... Discover the West Highlands

Your award-winning free holiday guide

500,000 readers

Where to go • What to see • Where to eat • Where to stay

Packed with tourist attractions, hotels, restaurants and events throughout the West Highlands and Islands

CAIRNBAAN HOTEL

The essential guide for a great holiday in the West Highlands & Islands

Pick up a copy today from your local Tourist Information Centre and most tourist attractions

01631 568000

Subscribe to The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

To subscribe* complete the form below, call

Subscriptions on 01631 568000 or subscribe online at www.obantimes.co.uk/shop

Please tick your choice

	3 months	6 months	1 year	2 years
U.K.....	£22.00	£32.00	£58.00	£100.00
Rest of World.....	£35.00	£55.00	£100.00	£175.00

I would like the Oban Fort William Edition (Tick appropriate)

Deliver to (Name) Mr/Ms.....

Address.....

Postcode.....

From (if different from above).....

Address.....

Postcode.....

I wish to pay by Cheque, payable to Wyvex Media Ltd for £.....

I wish to pay by Credit/Debit Card. Please debit my account for £.....

Card Number..... Expiry Date.....

Start Date..... Issue No.....

Card Verification Number (Last 3 digits on back of card).....

Name on card (block capitals please).....

All subscribers please Sign..... and Date.....

Please return to: Subscriptions Department, Wyvex Media Ltd, P.O. Box 1, Oban, Argyll, Scotland PA34 4HB. Tel: 01631 568000

*Subscribers should note that to keep down the cost of postage, some special supplements may, on occasions, be excluded from the subscribers' editions of the paper

OUT NOW

Mull & Iona Life

Ulva the beginning and end of the Earth

The Unknown Sailor McDermott's View

WIN

The next edition of this exciting magazine is available now

pick up your copy today

01631 568000

www.thehighlandtheatre.co.uk for full listings and future presentations
www.thehighlandtheatre.co.uk

Cinema The Highland Theatre

George Street, Oban, PA34 5NX - Box Office: 01631 562444

From Friday 18th September For 7 days

CLOUDY WITH A CHANCE OF MEATBALLS Cert U 89 min
DAILY 5.00, 7.00
SAT MATINEE 1.00, 3.00
SUN MATINEE 3.00

THE FINAL DESTINATION Cert 15 82 min
DAILY 6.30, 9.00
SAT/SUN MATINEE 2.30

THE YES MEN FIX THE WORLD Cert 12A 87 min
FRI, SUN, TUE, THU 4.30, 8.30

KISSES Cert 15 80 min
SAT, MON, WED 4.30, 8.30

FROM FRIDAY 25th SEPTEMBER
FAME - PG - MOON - 15

Oban and Lorn
Tourism Association

www.oban.org.uk the definitive web guide to Oban that enjoys 20 million hits

We can help you to help your business.
Visit: www.oban.org.uk TODAY!

ARGYLL ANIMAL AID

TOOTS

Typical little fluffy boy, Gorgeous and affectionate 5 year old boy. Has been here forever and needs somebody to love him.

Please contact Pat on 01852 300362
aaa.rescueteam@btconnect.com
<http://www.smallpaws.co.uk>
Reg. charity SCO13211

Four out of five adults use their local paper to find out what's on

★★★★ "Your local paper - a must-see"

Source: Consumers' Choice 'The Independent Study'

Regional Press
CLOSE TO HOME

gig argyll guide your essential guide to live music in argyll

Mon/Thurs/Sat > Scottish Shows
Skipinnish Ceilidh House 8pm - 10pm

Most Thursdays > Karaoke
The Woody

Every Saturday > "Mixed" - Club Night with DJs Mark & Stuart (after Scottish Show)
Skipinnish Ceilidh House

Every Weekend > Live Music 9pm till 12 O'Donnell's

Thursday 17 September > Karaoke
The Woody

Friday 18 September > Phil Cunningham and Aly Bain - 8pm
Skipinnish Ceilidh House

Friday 18 September > Autaban
The Woody

Saturday 19 September > Solo Night O'Donnell's

Saturday 26 September > Tragic O'Hara and Colin Hunter
O'Donnell's

Tuesday 13 October > Skerryvore
Skipinnish Ceilidh House

Wed 14 & Thurs 15 October > Vatersay Boys
Skipinnish Ceilidh House

Friday 16 October > Skerryvore and Skipinnish
Skipinnish Ceilidh House

what's on

Various > Ballet, Jazz
Ballet West Classes Body conditioning
Tel: 01866 822641

Various > Kundalini Yoga
Energie Fitness
Tel: 01852 300174 for details

Mondays > Pilates
Rockfield Primary Campus 6.30pm

Mondays & Wednesdays > Pilates
Energie Health & Fitness Club
Monday 11am / Wednesday 7pm

Thursdays > Beginners Tai Chi
Church of Scotland Centre 7.45pm

Thursday 17 September > Local Producers Market
Kintaline Farm, Benderloch

CINEMA LISTINGS

Cloudy With A Chance Of Meatballs
CERT 'U'

A scientist has spent his entire life creating inventions that did not work, or were not wanted. Finally, while trying to solve world hunger, he develops a method to directly convert water into food, and releases the effects on the world, only to see things go awry as food falls from the sky in abundance. Based on the children's book by Judi and Ron Barrett, the film has an incredible sense of unpredictability, coupled with some breathlessly paced and visually stunning action scenes, making this the animated success of 2009... at least until 'Up' opens next month.

The Final Destination
CERT '15'

Number four in the series and the characters are still flimsy and interchangeable, the actors portraying them bland and the script serves as merely a framework for a series of shock deaths which are clearly signposted well in advance. But that's half the fun: giggling as the shadow of a loaded crane looms menacingly overhead or a bottle of slippery hair oil tips silently across a well-polished floor. Some of the more gratuitously nasty scenes do leave a sour taste and the film's 15 certificate is surprisingly generous. But this is harmless, inventive fun.

The Yes Men Fix The World
CERT '12A'

Political activists, hoaxers, a thorn in the corporate world's sides, The Yes Men are all these things and more. This, their second documentary, follows the duo as they pose as big-business insiders, talking their way into boardrooms in order to undermine the company ethics they loathe. At one point they inveigle their way onto BBC World as representatives of Dow Chemical to highlight their part in the Bhopal catastrophe and wipe two billion US dollars off the company's share price in the process. Education and entertainment that tickles the justice-for-all glands and as lot funnier than Bruno to boot.

Kisses
CERT '15'

"How to escape if you can't escape?" That's the quandary posed by writer/director Lance Daly's enchanting and award winning indie. Echoing early Shane Meadows, it follows 11-year-old slum-kids as they flee the domestic horrors of home for a wild night sleeping rough in Dublin. Part cautionary tale, part fairytale, the film shifts almost imperceptibly from black and white into colour as they explore a city alive with possibility and peril, derelicts and Bob Dylan impersonators. Arguing like an old married couple, the pair discover Dublin's (extremely) dark underbelly, in the process falling a little bit in love in a way they don't yet have the words for. It's harrowing, heartbreaking stuff.



Some members of The Flying Fiddles.

Fiddlers fly off to pastures new

A GROUP of girl fiddlers from the Uists are 'bowing' out of their band to make way for the next generation. The Flying Fiddles, a core group of seven young musicians from Sgoil Lionacleit in Benbecula, cut a CD this year and have performed extensively around the UK and Canada - all while still at school. The group was formed in 2000 by local community group Gleus, tutored by Deirdre Morrison, with Ceolas stepping in later to fund weekly tuition at Sgoil Lionacleit. Four of the original band members have been offered places on Strathclyde University's prestigious applied music course, beating 450 competitors to make a significant presence in this year's 30-strong class. Kirsty MacMillan and Mairi Gilfedder, both from South Uist, and Eilidh MacLeod from North Uist, all pictured, begin the course this week, joined by fellow fiddler Lachie Dick, while Amy Macaulay of South Uist, pictured, heads to Australia with her fiddle to see

where the music takes her. Each of the Flying Fiddles has composed at least one track on the CD they launched this summer with the support of top musicians. Musician, composer/arranger and teacher Anna Wendy Stevenson, aged 34, originally from Edinburgh, took over the Flying Fiddles when she moved to the Uists in 2004. She said: 'Because piping is so strong here, I wanted to give the fiddle a stronger presence and get the band involved in composition.' She praised Sgoil Lionacleit's music teacher Robert Gillies as being fundamental in the band's success, along with the ongoing financial support of Ceolas. Kirsty MacMillan, 18, of 352 South Boisdale, said her experience with the band had given her confidence. She said: 'Being able to play in a group, including solo, is easier than by yourself and your confidence grows.' She added: 'The album was really hard work and challenging

because when you hear yourself back, it doesn't necessarily sound the same as you hear it when you are playing. Eilidh MacLeod, 18, said: 'It's been a brilliant experience. It's helped us on the way to making a career out of music, hopefully.' Mairi Gilfedder, 18, said she hoped the girls would form a band in the future to take on tour, adding that she was also interested in the teaching side. Another group of young Uist musicians will now step into the girls' shoes to become the second generation of Flying Fiddles. They will benefit from the experienced eye and ear of Christina Campbell, from Gramsdale, Benbecula, a founder member of the group at the age of 12. Now 16, she is the youngest of the first generation of Fiddlers, and will stay with the band for her remaining year at Sgoil Lionacleit while working towards her goal of a university place to study French and PE.



By CAMPBELL CAMERON

Music from the Northern climes

PAUL Anderson and Fiddlers Bid have the violin in common. Both also have new albums out this month. Anderson's 'Home and Beauty' follows 16 years of playing in various forms for the Tarland boy and it covers his input to all genres he has performed in, from folk to rock - altogether a great collection of tunes. Fiddlers Bid launch a fifth album - the Shetland band formed in 1991 and with a front line of four fiddlers and support from guitar, piano and clarsach have wowed audiences ever since. 'All dressed in yellow' is a great new addition to their repertoire and was to be showcased at the Fruitmarket Glasgow on September 11. Speaking to Chris Stout, he is very excited about it and can't wait

to get on the road to promote the music. 'I'd love to play Oban. I haven't managed that yet although we did have some very fine oysters on the way through to play on Mull last time.' That's the Seafood Capital of Scotland confirmed! **Donald Grant** ANOTHER great fiddler breaks cover this week with support from Fiddlers Bid duo Catriona MacKay and Fionan de Barra on his new debut album 'The Way Home'. The Roy Bridge boy was brought up on a diet of Gaelic tunes and has used the experience well in this collection of self penned tunes. Karen Matheson, Donald Shaw, and Seamus Egan also lend their talents to this fine album. The title track and 'To the West' showcase the easy style of Donald Grant. You will hear more from this emerging talent. See www.myspace.com/donaldgrantmusic. Treat yourself.



Kiyonori Kanasaka from Kyoto.

Spotlight on famous traveller from Mull

AN EXHIBITION in Tobermory will explore the journeys of one of the town's most famous travellers. The exhibition of photographs by Professor Kiyonori Kanasaka from Kyoto University in Japan retraces the footsteps of Isabella Bird, a Victorian adventurer, travel writer and photographer who spent much of her time in Tobermory. During the 19th century Isabella travelled throughout North America, Oceania, East and Central Asia, Europe, the Middle East and Africa. Her travels are documented in the many books she wrote. The exhibition, at An Tobar, features 100 photographs taken by Professor Kanasaka, fellow of the Royal Scottish Geographical

Society, who has spent the last 20 years retracing Isabella's journeys and studying her life, and also includes a number of early photographs taken by Isabella. The photographs are of special significance to Tobermory as Isabella spent much time in the town, where she rented a cottage for her sister, Henrietta. And had the Main Street clock tower built in her memory. In a letter sent from Korea in January 1897, to her London publisher John Murray, Isabella wrote: 'I am far more at home in Tokyo and Seoul than any place in Britain except Tobermory, and I very much prefer life in the East to life at home.' The exhibition is at An Tobar, The Tobermory Arts Centre, until October 31.

Mull Gaelic Choir invites Petula Clark to join

A MESSAGE from Tobermory to singer and actress Petula Clark is inviting the star to join Mull Gaelic Choir.

The actress who starred in British film *I know Where I am Going* at the tender age of 13, which was filmed on the island of Mull, has been asked to launch a Canadian film festival with the classic war-time love story. Councillor Mary-Jean Devon was invited to send a message to the actress and she took no time in telling the international star that she should come back to the island of Mull - but this time to sing with the island's Gaelic choir. Ms Devon said: 'I was approached to send a message to the actress and as she is someone I have always admired so I was delighted to do so. 'I am so delighted that Mull has another link with North America and I am thrilled that Petula Clark, who is so well thought of, is our ambassador. I would like her to come and join in with our Gaelic choir and present another performance of the film here on Mull.' Festival organiser Paul Kastner said: 'Ms Clark is opening the premiere revival in Wiarton's

Peninsula Shores District School Performing Arts Centre on Friday 18 September. This Friday's event is a fund-raiser for social housing in the peninsula area of Tobermory, Ontario.'

Johnny Cash Story ticket winners

WINNERS of a pair of tickets to see The Johnny Cash Story at the Corran Halls, Oban, on Friday night at 7.30pm are Donald MacKay, Oban; Eilidh MacInnes, Oban; Catherine MacInnes, Oban; Jean Morrison, Dunbeg and Margaret Gracie, Oban. There are still tickets available from the box office on 01631 567333.

Local Producers Market

Thursday 17 September
Kintaline Farm, Benderloch,
1 mile along the Tralee road
10 am to 3 pm

LOTS TO EAT AND DO
Every First / Third Thursday
Interested Producers contact
01631 720223
Local Origins Rural Network
www.lorn.org.uk

YOUR STARS WITH PATRICK ARUNDEL

ARIES Mar 21st - Apr 20th 090 6612 4520
Restless energies are still bubbling away. Feel exhausted? Go and check out with your doctor and see if there are ways you can explore to better your situation. Don't just slog on, uncomplainingly. Yet despite this, you can show great concentration. This can help you to see the small details that others miss, and you can emerge with credit if you do. Call now for more news and astral advice...

TAURUS Apr 21st - May 21st 090 6612 4521
Work hard at your talents. Just don't be too hard on yourself. All any of us can do, is maximise the natural gifts we are given. No-one can surpass them. It may be the same romantically. Here too it can be easy to think everybody has a better hand than you, but many more could have a worse one. At work, some talk of changes can prove stressful. Call me now for your love scope in full...

GEMINI May 22nd - Jun 21st 090 6612 4522
Mercury may still be twisting backwards, but this has its merits, and a home improvement scheme or move, which has stalled, can now become a reality. Funny enough you might be pleased that things have been delayed because your ideas may have changed. This can also be a time when quality residential care could be sought for an elderly relative. Call for more news and advice...

CANCER Jun 22nd - Jul 23rd 090 6612 4523
If your life seems humdrum and routine, even if you've got pressing responsibilities, this would be a good time to think about night classes, doing a professional diploma, or taking up a new hobby or activity. You can find yourself craving both a challenge and greater mental stimulation. If you've ever thought of writing a novel, why not try now? Call now for your in-depth forecast...

LEO Jul 24th - Aug 23rd 090 6612 4524
Venus's arrival in your sector of everyday finances is an excellent portent for you Leo. This and the Sun's move can give you a lot more energy but strangely don't be tempted to try too hard. Keep chipping away and a slice of fortune can fall for you. In love, you can start to feel more amorous and less concerned by being close and intimate to someone new. Call me for more...

VIRGO Aug 24th - Sep 23rd 090 6612 4525
You may have been highly critical of yourself lately, and can fall into this trap again. However, Venus asks you to be gentle with yourself. No-one is perfect, and striving endlessly for it, is counter productive. Although you may project your dissatisfaction onto life, look within yourself. If there is any bitterness that has been festering, try to release it. Call now for more advice...

LIBRA Sep 24th - Oct 23rd 090 6612 4526
Both the Moon and the Sun are set to revive both your spirits and energy. However, with Pluto laying in wait in a sharp right angle, the need to be very conscious of your emotional needs is strong. It would be unlike you to just dive into situations without any forethought, but if you've felt under pressure, this may be somewhat of a temptation. Call now for your in-depth forecast...

SCORPIO Oct 24th - Nov 22nd 090 6612 4527
It's an astral fact that energies converge or conflict. This week is a point in case. You have probably been learning who will be supportive through any life changes you've been facing and whose been switched off and preoccupied with their own needs. There may be more little-tattle to emerge. However, one friend can now take on a special importance. Call me for more advice...

SAGITTARIUS Nov 23rd - Dec 21st 090 6612 4528
There probably should be more idealism in business, but often it comes down to unsentimental decisions, based on the immediate financial reality. A longer term view would create a lot more stability and maintain the social fabric. But...that doesn't mean you can't do your bit, to ensure that people are at the centre of your world and not material values. Call me for more advice...

CAPRICORN Dec 22nd - Jan 20th 090 6612 4529
This week can involve quite a lot of travel, or be linked to courses or higher education. Yet there can also be a degree of nervous tension. Try to get some exercise, be it aerobics, swimming, tennis, anything which can help you to free yourself of excess electricity, will be beneficial. At work, someone you need to impress may prove to be a tough cookie. Call for more news and advice...

AQUARIUS Jan 21st - Feb 19th 090 6612 4530
If you can harness your originality, with down to earth application, this can be a progressive phase. This may not be stunningly obvious, but as pleasing as major success, is the reassurance of steady but also potentially long lasting improvement. If money has been a source of worry, be open-minded, for solutions may not lie right on your doorstep. Call now for your financial forecast...

PISCES Feb 20th - Mar 20th 090 6612 4531
Can you be a bit up and down in your emotions? Part of this is that you can sometimes find the harsh realities of life tough to bear, and move position in order to better reflect your mood on any given day. But this is being heightened by the disruptive powers of Uranus and someone could take you to task for being evasive, or shifting your position. Call now for more astral advice...

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

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

<p>Argyll Animal Aid Sponsored Dog Walk Sunday 4th October At 12 noon From Oban Yacht Club to Puffin Dive (for treats) and back - Approx 3.5 miles Sponsor forms available from Oban Vets, Tweeddale Street, Pets at Home Store, Oban, Creature Comforts, Oban</p>	<p>One Step Up Art Group <i>An Exhibition of Exploration</i> Easdale Island Hall September 18th - 24th open between 1 and 4 p.m. except Saturday and Sunday open 1-3p.m</p>	<p>JERUSALEM THE EAST SIDE STORY A film show at Glencruitten Church Centre On Wednesday, 23 September @ 7.30pm Organised by Oban Concern for Palestine ENTRY FREE</p>	<p>Kilmartin House Museum Introduction to Felting 26th September 2009 10am to 4pm Come along and learn about the material and then create small samplers to take away Cost £25. Bring a packed lunch. For more details ring 01546 510278 or e-mail admin@kilmartin.org.</p>
<p>To advertise in the WHAT'S ON COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD Telephone: 01631 568000</p>	<p>Indoor Car Boot Sale St John's Hall Oban Local Charity Stalls Sat 19th September 10 - 2pm</p>	<p>North Argyll House Coffee Morning Glencruitten Church Centre Sat 19th September 10am - 12 noon Admission by donation All donations welcome Baking Stall</p>	<p>Advertise in the Community Notice Board for just £14.00 (plus VAT) This section is available to charitable organisations with a charity number. All AGM's will be placed on the Public Notice Page Please ask for details</p>

My Village Callander



These Victorian ladies inspect the restored fernery at Benmore Botanic Gardens.

Victorian ladies launch historic fern

A HUGE glasshouse filled with ferns has been unveiled at Benmore Botanic Gardens near Dunoon, recreating a Victorian passion for the plant.

The fernery has been restored over the past 18 months, faithful to the original one that stood on the site from the 1870s to the early 20th century. The work, which cost £550,000, was made possible by grants from the Younger Benmore Trust and the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Professor Mary Gibby, Royal Botanic Gardens director of science and one of the country's foremost fern experts, said the Victorians had something of a 'fern craze'. She said: 'Such a magnificent building would have caused huge excitement in its heyday. The Victorian era witnessed increased interest in natural history at a time when improved transport links provided better access to the countryside.'

Members of staff helped guests at the launch to travel back in time by dressing in Victorian costume. The fernery, which includes more than 70 species, will also contribute to the botanic garden's conservation work.

MP's mortuary fees concern heeded

PLANS to introduce mortuary fees at hospitals in Oban and Mull have been shelved for the moment.

NHS Highland had planned to introduce the fees to undertakers for the storage of bodies until collection at Oban's Lorn and Islands and Mull's Dunarros hospitals.

Argyll and Bute MP Alan Reid raised the issue with NHS Highland after concern that the charges of between £18 and £60 would be passed on to bereaved families.

'These charges would be a severe blow to families mourning the loss of a loved one,' he said.

'I hope that they will confirm soon that they will not be going ahead with them. If they had got away with introducing them in Oban and Mull, I am sure that they would have quickly introduced them at other hospitals in Argyll and Bute.'

The fees were to be introduced to bring hospital charges in line with every other mortuary in the country and provide 'best value' to the public purse.

'As a result of some of the concerns raised locally we have decided to look at the issue again,' said a NHS Highland statement.

Three lochs re-opened

THREE lochs in Argyll previously closed to shellfishing have been re-opened.

Loch Striven, West Loch Tarbert and Loch Scridian on Mull had been closed because of high levels of naturally occurring algal toxins. Weekly checks will be made by Argyll and Bute Council's environmental health department on all sites.

What makes the village special to you?
Callander is a beautiful town with wonderful scenery with plenty of goings on. I love the friendship that is all around within the Callander community.

Were you born there or when did you come to live there?

I was born in Dollar, although I have lived in Callander for 74 years - no my family is not from there. I was brought to Callander when I was only a few weeks old. My father had a job in Callander as a stoker in the local gasworks.

How would you describe it to someone who has never been there before?

Callander is a main town in the Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park. There are several lochs within a few miles, and Venacher, Lubnaig and Katrine are all a short drive away. Mountains are all near at hand - Ben Venue, Stuc-a-Chroin, Ben Ledi are all within easy reach. Rambling is a must in and around Callander, there are plenty of walks with beautiful scenery.

Do you have a favourite place in the village?

To stand at the east end of Callander opposite the Bracklinn Road entrance to look west towards Ben Ledi, especially on an early winter's morning, is a must.

What is your favourite building?

It is St Kessog's Kirk, now the Rob Roy and Trossachs Visitors Centre.

How much has Callander

Alex Walker has lived in Callander all his life and is a stalwart of Callander Heritage Society. He tells The Oban Times about the stunning setting, matched only by the sense of community, which make it a special place.

changed since you were a child?

The biggest change I notice is the amount of traffic passing through and stopping in Callander. In the tourist season it seems to be bursting at the seams. Using green spaces to build new houses seems rather a shame. People also always seems to be in a hurry. I feel that Callander has lost its identity with the increase in population and the traffic increase.

What is the best time of the year to be there?

The start of winter because of the colour of the trees. The silence in the early morning is breathtaking.

How would you improve your village?

I would leave that to the professionals.

Is there anyone famous from your village?

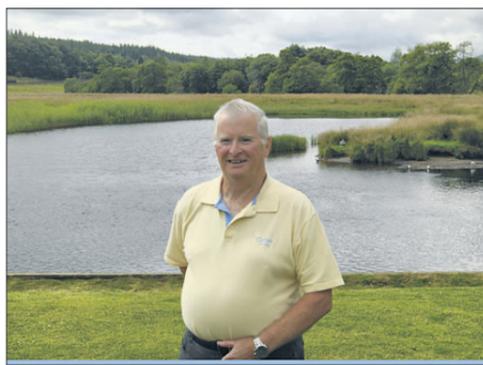
Helen Duncan, a spiritualist jailed by the government during the last war - the exact story I cannot remember. Sir Walter Scott, Queen Victoria, Dr Johnson, Dorothy and William Wordsworth all visited the area many times. It also been the location for quite a few films including Dr Finlay's Casebook, Thirty Nine Steps and Rob Roy.



The former St Kessog's Kirk, now the Rob Roy and Trossachs Visitors Centre, dominates the centre of the village. It is Alex's favourite building. t27ca118



Callander's road bridge over the River Teith. t27ca112



Alex Walker by the banks of the River Teith. t27ca111



Left: Callander's Main Street. t27ca117

THE MYRTLE INN

Stirling Road, Callander

Good Food and Entertainment

The First and Last Inn in the National Park

01877 330919

McLaren Leisure Centre

For all your fitness and exercise needs visit McLaren Leisure Centre, Mollands road, Callander, FK17 8JP
Tel: 01877 331849 www.mclareingleisure.co.uk

AutoService centre

Welcome Home to Better Service

MG ROVER Specialists

There's only one place to go for genuine MG Rover XPertise and original parts.

XPert AutoService centres are a new national network, specialising in the service and repair of MG Rover. And we are near you, staffed by experienced MG Rover mechanics with all the technical resources, factory approved diagnostics and quality original parts at our disposal. So, if you want to keep your MG or Rover in tip top condition, give us a call.

Dreadnought Garage

01877 331099

20 Years Ago

Those Were The Days

The Oban Times

Thursday September 21, 1989



Oban hostel to open at last

OBAN'S new hostel for handicapped people due to be opened about a year ago is now finally to open. There were long delays in announcing the opening date because trade unions and Strathclyde Regional Council could not agree staffing levels.

The new hostel, at Soroba, cost £477,000 to build. Until it opens provision for handicapped people remains short in Oban and often they have to stay in hospital unnecessarily. The Oban hospital has space for 14 residents.

At a meeting last week, Strathclyde Regional Council's manpower services committee finally approved staffing levels, meaning a date can now be approved for opening the hostel. Talks on staffing had started some time ago but agreement was finally reached when the region approved the appointment of one extra care officer to work 20 hours a week.

The report on staffing levels which was before the manpower services committee last week stated that the

unions were still not entirely happy with the region's staffing level, contained in their regional staffing review.

Scaring Islay's geese

THE ROYAL Society for the protection of Birds is calling on the government to abolish all licensed killing of barnacle geese on Islay this winter and instead to employ an official 'goose scarer'.

A goose scarer would operate from a van equipped with a radio telephone and would be permanently on call as a service to farmers with problems with the barnacle geese. Bird scaring devices would also be used.

The barnacle goose is rare in world terms but the Greenland population, many of which winter on Islay, causes serious damage to crops and grassland during its island stay. New grass is particularly vulnerable.

Because of this nuisance the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries in Scotland issues licences for farmers to kill the geese, and in Islay in the past two winter 1,700 have been shot.

Now, a month before the first barnacle geese are due to arrive on Islay again, the

RSPB has launched a campaign aimed at MPs and governments officials. In the society's view, the solution to the conflict between the farmers' interests and conservation of the geese lies with the government.

Oban halls will be sold

THE DUNOLLIE Halls, a popular venue for local concerts and mods for many years, are to be sold.

At a meeting of the congregation of the new united parish in Oban last week, no dissenting voice was raised when the motion was put to sell off the hall. The Rev Brian Wilkinson said that the meeting was very amicable, lasting for only 25 minutes. It was attended by 50 members of the parish of Kilmore and Oban, about the average attendance for congregational meetings. The kirk session and the congregation board had earlier agreed to the sale.

However, the halls will not be advertised immediately for sale. Mr Wilkinson said that now agreement had been reached on the course of action to be taken, the process of putting Dunollie halls on the market could now begin.

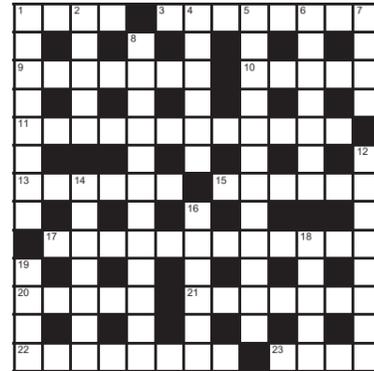
GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD

Across

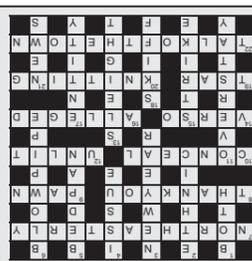
- Cast a ballot (4)
- Spring flowers (8)
- Shielding outside from in (7)
- Boredom (5)
- Home of many passages (6,6)
- Reproductive cell (6)
- Flower organ (6)
- Moving in water with no restrictions (4-8)
- Soul (5)
- Metallurgic element (7)
- Where vessels are created (8)
- Periods of history (4)

Down

- Home for a good man? (8)
- Beat (5)
- Fame (6)
- Small fruit (6,6)
- Light shaft (7)
- Berth place (4)
- Medical treatment (12)
- Final stages of activity (8)
- Shaken, not stirred? (7)
- Bender (6)
- Cake topper (5)
- Beanies (4)



Last Week's Solution



BEST FOR NEWS, VIEWS & PHOTOS

The Oban Times

Tel: 01871 568000
www.obantimes.co.uk

Sponsored by Wallace Optometrists

For people who really care about their eyesight

Call today and book your comprehensive eye examination

Wallace Optometrists
0845 230 EYES (3937)

Barra lambs sell to £55.50 at Dalmally

UNITED Auctions held their second sale of all classes lambs and sheep at Dalmally Auction Mart when 5,387 head was sold.

All classes sold at current rates and the sale average rose by £10.48 on the year.

An increased entry in the Blackface lamb section resulted in more second draw lambs forward.

At the show of Blackface lambs, sponsored by the Blackface Sheep Breeders Association, Mr Haigh Murray, Dunbia, judged the pens of over 50 head and the following were his awards

1 Littleport, 2 Drissaig Farm, 3 Keillator.

Cheviot lambs from 85 Borve, Barra sold to £55, with Suffolk crosses from the same home to £53. Blackface lambs from Lower Tervine sold to £51.

Cross Texel ewes from Cour Grazings and Cheviot cross ewes from Ruairigan, Mull sold to £41.

Lamb trade back a little at Dingwall

DINGWALL and Highland Marts Ltd sold 14,179 store lambs at Dingwall last Thursday when trade failed to meet the extreme rates of the previous sales but still showed an increase of £9.64 on the year.

Cheviot lambs averaged £41.35 and sold to £56 for a Cheviot ewe lamb from Rootfield West, Muir of Ord.

Cross lambs averaged £45.27 and sold to £58.50 for a Suffolk cross from Slaggan Croft, Dingwall.

Highland Mule gimmer trade rises £61.48 on year at Dingwall

DINGWALL and Highlands Marts Ltd, sold 4,271 ewe lambs and gimmers at the Highland Mule Breeders Association annual show and sale at Dingwall on Monday when an excellent show of gimmers and ewe

lambs leading to extremely strong prices throughout.

The gimmer judge, Mr A Duncan, Daviot Farms, awarded the Challenge Cup for best pen of gimmers to a pen of 30 Mules from Croftdhu, Tomatin, which

realised £160.

Mr G. Smith, Towiemore Farm, who judged the ewe lambs, awarded the Secretary's Cup to a pen from Blackford Farm, Croy, which realised £108 to the judge.

Highland Mule gimmers averaged £147.64, up £61.48 on the corresponding sale last year, and sold to £160 on five occasions for pens from Aberchaldy, Invergarry, Croftdhu, Tomatin, Blackford Farm,

Croy, and two pens from Nether Comisty, Forgue.

Cheviot Mule gimmers averaged £141.92, up £43.92 on the year, and sold to £150 from Dell Farm, Farr. Highland Mule ewe lambs were also in demand and

averaged £83.14 (+ £28.03 on the year) and sold to £108 from Blackford Farm while Cheviot Mule ewe lambs averaged £94.07 (+ £36.65 on the year) and sold to £105 gross from Flichity Mains, Farr.

Half Bred lambs sell to £67 in Lochoisdale

UNITED Auctions held their first sale of all classes of lambs and sheep at Lochoisdale Auction Mart when they sold 2,576 head.

An increased entry resulted in more longer keeping lambs being forward and sold well with trade rising £10.73 on the year.

The sale was topped with a pen of Half Bred lambs from Mr Walker, 5 Howmore, South Uist which realised £67.

Lurignish Limousin is Fort William champion

DINGWALL and Highland Marts Ltd sold 448 weaned calves and store cattle and 14 Over 30 Month cattle at their annual show and sale at Fort William when all classes continued to sell at excellent rates showing an increase of fully 30p per kilo on the corresponding sale of last year.

The judge, Mr A. Shaw, Upper Cullernie, Balloch, awarded the champion to a 420kg Limousin cross bullock from Mr W. Macleod, Lurignish Farm, Appin, realising £750, the reserve went to Messrs A. Smith and Co., Aberchaldy, Invergarry for a 394kg Charolais bullock, realising £760.

Bullocks averaged 206.4p per kilo and sold to 261.7p per kg for a pen of 235kg Charolais crosses from Moy Farm, Banavie and £880 for a 476kg Limousin cross from 2 South Laggan, Spean Bridge.

Heifers averaged 215.4p and sold to 256.6p per kg for a pen of 226kg Charolais crosses from Ardornish Farms, and £660 for a 447kg Aberdeen Angus cross from Dunlichity Farm, Farr.

Achnaba heifer is Oban show and sale champion

CALEDONIAN Marts (Stirling) Ltd had forward 285 suckled calves, store, breeding and Over 30 Month cattle at their September show and sale at Oban Livestock Centre on Tuesday.

The judge for the day was Craig Malone, Corbiewood Drive, Stirling and he selected as his show champion a 440kg Limousin heifer calf from A and M Buchanan, Achnaba, North Connel which went on to attract a final bid of £1,220 from judge Craig Malone.

Judge Malone chose as his reserve champion a 410kg Limousin heifer from Douglas MacDonald, Tyree, Benderloch which later sold at £1,000 to John McAlister, West Thomaston, Banknock.

Prize list:
Bullock calf,
1 A Buchanan, Achnaba, North Connel 445kg Limousin £900 to A Wilson, Gree, Beith.
2 Messrs Troughton, Ardachy, North Connel 405kg Limousin £810 to R Prentice, Downfield, Cupar.
3 D McDonald, Tyree, Benderloch 385kg Limousin £845 to R Prentice, Downfield, Cupar.

Heifer calf
1 & Champion A&M Buchanan, Achnaba £1,220 to Craig Malone, Stirling.



Oban show champion on Tuesday was a Limousin heifer calf from A and M Buchanan, Achnaba, North Connel. The 140 bullocks forward averaged 172p and sold to 219p per kg for a 385kg Limousin cross from D MacDonald, Tyree, Benderloch and to £900 for a 445kg Limousin cross from A & M Buchanan, Achnaba, North Connel. The 104 heifers on offer averaged 162p and sold to 277p per kg and £1,220 for a 410kg Limousin cross from Achnaba, North Connel. On the same day, the firm also had 1,853 lambs and 1,626 feeding ewes forward. Store lambs sold to £54 for Texels from A Brodie, Ballard, Isle of Coll. Feeding ewes sold to £47.50 for Texels from A Taylor, Lonbann, Isle of Coll.

Uigle sells breeding cattle to £1,420 at Stirling

UNITED Auctions sold 969 store cattle and 7,950 store sheep at Stirling last Wednesday.

Bullocks averaged 167.7p (+8p) and sold to 198.4p per kg for a Charolais cross from Birkenhead and £1,005 from Graystale.

Poltalloch sold light bullocks to £430 and 183.8p per kilo.

Heifers averaged 159.1p (+5.4p) and sold to 184p per kg from

Graystale and £920 for a Charolais cross from Cowden.

Uigle, Kintyre sold cows with calves at foot, with a Limousin cross cow and Limousin bull calf selling to £1,420; British Blue cow with Limousin heifer calf to £1,400; British Blue cow with Limousin bull calf to £1,380, and a Limousin cross cow with Limousin heifer calf to £1,320.

Cast cows averaged 94.9p and sold to 151.1p and £1,045 for Aberdeen Angus crosses from Wraithouses.

A show of Blackface wedder lambs was kindly sponsored by Blackface Sheep Association. First prize was awarded to G Wilson, Stobohope Farms, Peebles by judge Mrs A MacFadzean for a pen of 110 lambs realising £51.50 per head; second prize to Stobohope, pen of

150 selling to £47 and third prize to Mr K Taylor, Dall pen of 51 selling to £36.50.

Texel cross lambs from Oatfield sold to £55.20 with Mules from Ballymenach to £48.20. Blackface lambs from Letar sold to £48. Suffolk cross lambs averaged £49.51, with Texels averaging £47.90 and Mules £43.67. Blackface lambs averaged £39.97.

Stirling - prime

UNITED Auctions sold 6355 prime sheep at Stirling last Thursday.

Texel lambs from West Ochtermuthill sold to £82.50 with Beltex from Oatfield to £74.50. Blackface lambs from Sauchrie Mains sold to £60. Texel ewes from Middle Thirld sold to £93.50 with Suffolks from Kinburn to £92. South Armloss sold Blackface ewes to £55.

OBAN Caledonian Marts (Stirling)

Bullocks:
250-300kgs 210p Tyree, £670 Tyree;
301-350kgs 200p Fidden, £670 Fidden;
351-400kgs 219p Tyree, £845 Tyree;
401-450kgs 202p Achnaba, £870 Achnaba;
451-500kgs 191p Achnaba, £870 Achnaba;
500-550kgs 145p Muckairn, £770 Muckairn;
551-600kgs 150p Balmackillichan, £850 Balmackillichan.

Heifers:
0-250kgs 144p Kilbride, £360 Kilbride;
251-300kgs 153 Poltalloch, £440 Glencreran;
301-350kgs 188p Achnaba, £650 Achnaba;
351-400kgs 197p Tyree, £770 Ferlochian;
401-450kgs 277p Achnaba, £1220 Achnaba;
451-500kgs 243p Ferlochian, £1000 Ferlochian.

OTM Bulls: £920 Achnaba.
OTM Cows: £680 Achenrier.
Breeding Cows:
£780 Achnalarig.
Limousin Bullocks: £870 Achnaba, £850 Inion, £810 Ardachy, £790 Achnaba.

Aberdeen Angus Bullocks:
£850 Balmackillichan, £835 Balmackillichan, £550 Poltalloch, £425 Kilbride.
Charolais Bullocks: £750 Muckairn, £700 Muckairn, £610 Tyree.
Shorthorn Bullocks: £690 No.3 Balleuvullin, £655 Muckairn, £580 East Hynish.
Simmental Bullocks: £770 Muckairn, £700 Stroneskar, £690 No.3 Balleuvullin, £610 Ardencaple.

Limousin Heifers: £1220 Achnaba, £1000 Tyree, £730 Ardachy, £680 Achnaba.
Limousin x Heifers: £690 Ardachy, £680 Tifur, £660 Achnaba & Glenare.
Sheep

Store lambs:
Texel: 141 Bervig, Barra £52.50;
Suffolk: Kilbride £48.50;
TexelX: 25 Garrygall, Barra £47.80;
Continental: Stalker £44.50;
Mule: Gordonlea £43;
Blackface: Lonbann £41.
Ewe lambs:
Texel: Ballard £44.20.
Feeding ewes:
Cross: Lonban £47.50,
Cheviot: Lonban £45;
Suffolk: Lonban £42.50;
Blackface: Lonban £34;

DALMALLY United Auctions

Lambs
SuffolkX £53 and £49 85 Borve, Barra £47. Oatfield Lodge.
TexelX £50.50 Oatfield Lodge £50 Tullochan.
Cheviot £55.50 85 Borve, Barra £45 Lagganbuidhe.
Cross £50 Tullochan £46.20 Otter Estate £46 Alcan Highland Estates Blackface £1 Lower Tervine £44 Glenstrae Farmers £43 Corrylorn and Littleport £42.80 Braglenmore £42.50 Fearnoch £42.20 Otter Estate £41 Braglenbeg £40.50 Keilator £40 Kullundine Estate and High Balantyre £39.50 Keilator £39 Ormsary Farmers £38.50 Tullochmhor £38.20 Achnacarron £37.50 Castles Estate £37. Balliemeanoch, High Carse and Lower Tervine £36.80 Glenstrae Farmers, Castles Estate and Barachander £36.50 Garraron and Melfort Farms and Drissaig £35.50 Corrylorn £35.20 Stroneskar, Tigh Na Fraoich and Fearnoch £35 Garvachy, Braglenmore and Ardchnonnel.

LOCHBOISDALE United Auctions

Lambs
SuffolkX: £55 319 Kilphedar and 6 Rhughashinish £54.50 88 Bualadubb £54 6 Dunganichy and 409B Smerclate £53.50 15 Carinish £53 St. Peters, Daliburgh, 43 Linique and 15 Carinish £52.50 426 North Lochboisdale and 409/410 Smerclate £52 356 South Boisdale £51.50 330 North Boisdale and 3 Howbeg £50.50 6 Rhughashinish £50 392 Garrynamonie and 405 Smerclate £49.50 6 Frobost £49 Cnoc An Torr and 3 Howbeg £48.50 6 Rhughashinish, 6 Rhuban and 409B Smerclate £48 88 Bualadubb, Ardnhor and 9 Kildonan.

TexelX: £58 St. Peters, Daliburgh £57 11 Carinish £55.50 340 North Boisdale £55 3 Howbeg £52.50 383 Garrynamonie and 27 Ardavachair £52 8 Locheynort and 99 Carman; £51.50 3 Howbeg £50 287 Kildheddar £48.50 330 North Boisdale £48 3 Howbeg and 11 Carinish.
CheviotX: £52 5 Torlum £48 247/8 Garryhallic, 9 Milton and 203 Stoneybridge £45.50 298 Kilphedar and 43 Linique.
Cross: £51.50 3 Howbeg £46.50 32 Liniclate.

Mule: £60 287 Kilphedar £50 6 Rhughashinish £48.50 287 Kilphedar £48 6 Rhughashinish and 301 Kilphedar.
Blackface: £43 35 Eoligarry, Barra £37.50 325 North Boisdale £36 27 Ardavachair.

HalfBred: £67 5 Howmore £57.50 9 Milton.
Ewes
CheviotX:
£38 Cnoc An Torr; £34 391 Garrynamonie £31 409B Smerclate £30 296 Kilphedar
Cross: £30 409/410 Smerclate

FORT WILLIAM Dingwall and Highland Marts

Bullocks up to 200kg Ardtornish Farms, £490, Moy Farm, 261.1p; 201250kg - Moy Farm, £615, 261.7p; 251300kg - Dunlichity Farm, Mucomir Farm, Spean Bridge, and Glendoe Estates, Fort Augustus, £625, Dunlichity Farm, 237.6p; 301350kg - Faichemard Farm, Invergarry, and Insh Farm, Spean Bridge, £640, Mucomir, 194.8p; 351400kg - Aberchaldy, £760, 192.9p; 401450kg - 2 South Laggan, £830, 187.4p; 451500kg - Lurignish Farm, £755, 2 South Laggan, 184.9p.

DINGWALL Dingwall and Highland Marts

North West Ross
Cheviot wedder 98 Achiltibuie, Ullapool, £50.50.
Cheviot ewe lambs 67 Strathcanaird, Ullapool, £53
Cross - 55/57 Rhue, Ullapool, £56.
Inverness and South

TexelX Upper Gartally, 198.3p
Drumnadrochit, £56.50
Cheviot ewe lambs Upper Gartally, £54
TexelX ewe lambs Upper Gartally, £54.
Black Isle and Mid Ross
Cheviot wedder Rootfield West, £55;
TexelX ewe lambs Innisachro, Conon Bridge, £51.50;
Cheviot ewe lambs Slaggan Croft, £46.50. Easter Ross
Cheviot wedder Anvil House, Delyn Muir, £53;
Cheviot ewe lambs Milton Croft, £44.
Wester Ross
Cheviot wedder Eilean Darrach Farm Company, Dundonnell, £51;
Cheviot ewe lambs 9 Mellon Udrigle, Achnasheen, and 11 Stirkhill, Achnasheen, £43.50.
Mid Sutherland
Cheviot wedder Ardgayhill, Ardgay, £51.50;
Cheviot ewe lambs Ardchronie, Ardgay, £54
SuffolkX Achue, Spinningdale, £58;
SuffolkX Achue, £57.
East Sutherland
Cheviot ewe lambs - Drumbhan, Bonar Bridge, £41.50.
North West Sutherland
Cheviot wedder Culkein, Drumbeg, £50.50.
Caitness
Cheviot wedder Sandside Estate, Reay, £49
TexelX ewe lambs Sandside Estate, £44.50.
Skye and Outer Isles
Cheviot wedder Isle of Pabbay, £52.50.
Cheviot ewe lambs No. 4 Eynort, £54.50.

Upper Gartally, 198.3p
Drumnadrochit, £56.50
Cheviot ewe lambs Upper Gartally, £54
TexelX ewe lambs Upper Gartally, £54.
Black Isle and Mid Ross
Cheviot wedder Rootfield West, £55;
TexelX ewe lambs Innisachro, Conon Bridge, £51.50;
Cheviot ewe lambs Slaggan Croft, £46.50. Easter Ross
Cheviot wedder Anvil House, Delyn Muir, £53;
Cheviot ewe lambs Milton Croft, £44.
Wester Ross
Cheviot wedder Eilean Darrach Farm Company, Dundonnell, £51;
Cheviot ewe lambs 9 Mellon Udrigle, Achnasheen, and 11 Stirkhill, Achnasheen, £43.50.
Mid Sutherland
Cheviot wedder Ardgayhill, Ardgay, £51.50;
Cheviot ewe lambs Ardchronie, Ardgay, £54
SuffolkX Achue, Spinningdale, £58;
SuffolkX Achue, £57.
East Sutherland
Cheviot ewe lambs - Drumbhan, Bonar Bridge, £41.50.
North West Sutherland
Cheviot wedder Culkein, Drumbeg, £50.50.
Caitness
Cheviot wedder Sandside Estate, Reay, £49
TexelX ewe lambs Sandside Estate, £44.50.
Skye and Outer Isles
Cheviot wedder Isle of Pabbay, £52.50.
Cheviot ewe lambs No. 4 Eynort, £54.50.

STIRLING United Auctions
Bullocks
Up to 250kg Poltalloch £430, 183.8p
251-300kgs Auchencorth £555, 190.1p
301-350kgs Birkenhead £695, 198.4p
351-400kgs Gateslack £760, Drumtee

COVENTRY for FENCING

Scotland's No. 1 WIRE, STOCK FENCING, BARBED, HIGH TENSILE, MILD STEEL - BEST PRICES
TIMBER DIRECT FROM OUR SAWMILL
Depots throughout Scotland
Delivery available
For a competitive quote
please call 01631 566866

The Morris Leslie Group

Tuesday September 20th 2009 10am

SALE BY PUBLIC AUCTION OF MODERN CONTRACTORS PLANT, COMMERCIAL VEHICLES, AGRICULTURAL AND GROUND CARE EQUIPMENT

Errol Airfield, Errol, Perth
Viewing Monday 28th September 9am - 5pm

AUCTION ENTRIES BEING ACCEPTED ON SITE NOW!

TEL 01821 642940
EMAIL david.brown@morrisleslie.co.uk
www.morrisleslie.com

Business is built on many things. So make sure you get to as many customers as possible. Call Fiona on 01631 568000 to find out how we can help promote your business. We are here to help

The Oban Times the newspaper with the big reach

'It's been a ceilidh all the way

As he prepares for retirement, The Oban Times congratulates Hugh MacLean and looks back on nearly half a century with the firm of Hamilton Bros

HUGH MacLean is leaving big shoes to fill when he retires from Hamilton Bros Engineering next month.

After almost 50 years with the firm, most of it selling agricultural machinery in Argyll, there is barely a field or farmer he does not know between Stornoway and Campbeltown.

In that time he has seen a mechanical revolution in agriculture and witnessed the rise and fall of farming estates. 'I'm dealing with grandsons of my original customers,' he told the Oban Times. 'It is tremendous to be working with the third generation, we must be doing something right.'

Hughie, as he is universally known, began working in the company's stores before moving to sales. As Hamilton Bros expanded west in the 1960s, developing their markets in Argyll, Islay and the other islands, it became his patch and he settled in Tarbert with his wife Violet. 'Back then we were order-taking,' he recalled. 'There was more money in farming; people were

mechanising. Now we have got to go out and sell. Then it was £807 for a tractor; that same tractor is over £15,000 now. Today it's all communications and marketing. I think I just happened to get here at the right time.'

But for Hughie the job is not only a matter of making sales. An important part is 'planting seeds and linking people up,' he said. His contacts leave him well-placed to connect someone selling a second-hand tractor or a hand-milking dairy cow with a buyer. He enjoys getting to know his customers and spending time with them, whether it's the regular meeting of his five clients on the Isle of Berneray or the annual visit with four Islay farming friends to check his barrel of whisky at Bruichladdich distillery.

The business has changed from the days when Hamilton sold only one make of tractor. Hughie said: 'Lots of opponents have disappeared and we are still here somehow. I think the reason is in Argyll and the islands, there were wee places they started off with a grey Fergie and moved on to a larger one. The other thing is the parts - you can still get parts for a Ferguson tractor that's 50 years old.'

Selling ground care machinery in Argyll also made sure Hughie saw the world. His success as a salesman won him numerous holidays and competitions. The highlight was an all-expenses paid trip to the Montreal Olympics in 1976 after he sold more Massey Ferguson tractors than anyone else in the UK.

'The big growth market is in telescopic handlers,' he said, 'because everything that comes off farm is on pallets. There have been eight sent onto the island of Islay this year and that's just by us.'

In the early days, Hughie ran up 50,000 miles a year in his Hillman Imp. Organising the logistics of demonstrating, collecting and delivering heavy machinery across the region and especially to the islands is no mean feat. 'I've got 27 islands from Lewis to Gigha; MacBrayne's only to go 23, I think,' he said. He recalled a particular challenge getting a bailer to Gometra, off Ulva. Hughie and the customer were following the heavily-loaded craft in a smaller boat, when

McHale

Hughie, Thank You for your hard work over the years and best wishes on a well earned retirement, from all at McHale.

McHale, Ballinrobe, Co. Mayo, Ireland
Telephone +353 94 95 20300
Fax +353 94 95 20356
www.mchale.net

MULLAN ENGINEERING

'Best of luck to Hughie in the future from Mullan Engineering'

180 Tatymoyle Road, Fintona BT78 2JR
Tel: 02882 840 143 Fax: 02882 841 355

LOGIC

To Hughie: Many thanks for your help and support over the years.

Wishing you a very long and very happy retirement, from all at Logic

Caledonian Marts (Stirling) Ltd

Best Wishes Hughie for a long and happy retirement From all at Caledonian Marts

JCB

Hughie, Best wishes on your well earned retirement and Thank You for your hard work over the years, from all at JCB Agriculture

JCB A PRODUCT OF HARD WORK

www.uagroup.co.uk

UnitedAuctions

— Since 1858 —

TREE - UIST - ISLAY - DALMALLY - OBAN - STIRLING

United Auctions are pleased to have had a long association with Hughie MacLean and wish to take this opportunity to wish Hughie a long and happy retirement.

We would also like to wish Hughie and Violet an enjoyable trip to Australia.

HUDSON TRAILERS

28 Cabragh Road Armagh, Northern Ireland BT61 8EY
Tel: 028 3752 2573
Fax: 028 3752 5894
Mobile: 07771 790 416

Thank you for your hard work for Hudson Trailers.

Wishing you a long and happy retirement.
James George, Managing Director

www.hudsontrailers.co.uk
Email: james@hudsontrailers.co.uk

We would like to wish **Hughie and Violet** all the best for the future

Thank you for all your help and contributions over the years

Alan Stephens & LELY UK Ltd.

www.ley.com

GO FOR THE FUTURE innovators in agriculture

HUGHIE

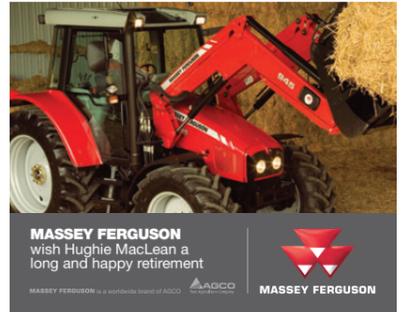
WISHING YOU ALL THE BEST FOR YOUR RETIREMENT FROM ALL AT RITCHIE

RITCHIE

www.ritchie-uk.com the perfect partner



Hughie MacLean knows every inch of Argyll after four decades as a salesman for Hamilton Bros. 08_136hugh01



MASSEY FERGUSON wish Hughie MacLean a long and happy retirement

a fishing boat came racing down the strait and nearly tipped both.

As he approaches retirement, Hughie has been given a clutch of awards and honours, recognising his decades of work for the firm and farming communities, including a presentation at Dalmally and Mid Argyll shows and winning the unsung hero of the year in the Scottish Farmer supplier awards.

He will be sorely missed by the company, according to Jackie McFarlane, stockman at Hamilton Bros Campbeltown depot. She said: 'He's just Hughie. He gets on with everyone and he puts in some long hours. I have never seen a salesman like him, so he will be sadly missed.'

Manager Director Eric Gardiner agreed Hughie had made a considerable contribution to the firm. He said: 'He has been a friend, a colleague, a company man through and through all these years. They say no-one is

irreplaceable but he is a unique character.' 'I can't see him stopping, he will still have farming connections and he can't keep his nose out of it - hopefully he'll keep giving us leads.'

Retirement will certainly be a change of pace, with a two month trip to Australia planned for the end of this year and caring for his wife full time. But he is certainly not done with tractors: 'I have got nine old tractors myself. I would like to do one or two up to take to the vintage shows.'

'If you have done 50 years, you have done not bad and it's time to give a young lad a chance. It's been a ceilidh all the way.'

Hamilton BROTHERS

Hughie started with us on the 4th of June 1960 and will officially retire on the 16th of November 2009, a loyal service to Hamilton Brothers and his customers for of over 49 years!

From all at Hamilton Brothers, we wish both Hughie & Violet many years of happy retirement, and will remember for a long time to come all the good times enjoyed and shared with Hughie.

With Hughie's retirement, will come Hughie's replacement, and we hope to let all concerned know of this appointment very shortly. It will be very much - "Business As Usual"

Hamilton Brothers Eng Ltd

Bishopton
Campbeltown
Tarbolton

Crofters hear alarm bells ringing as grant schemes face cut backs

HIGHLAND politicians have sounded alarm bells over crofting support funding following leaked information that the Scottish Government has made cuts of £1.7m to two grants seen as fundamental pillars of the crofting system. They are also to remove ring-fencing safeguards from the £5m of grants available under the Crofter Housing Grant Scheme (CHGS) and Crofting Counties Agricultural Grants Scheme (CCAGS). This follows several cuts in the budgets in previous years. According to the Crofters Commission's figures, CCAGS now has an annual budget of £2.4m, yet in November 2007, the budget was £3.162m and it was projected to remain at £3m until 2011. The CHGS was cut by £1m in 2007 and now stands at £2.6m annually.

Highland Lib Dem MSP, John Farquhar Munro said this was an ideological attack on crofting. Mr Munro

said: 'I find it difficult to believe that the Scottish Government's finances are in such dire straits that they have to cut £1.7m from crofting grants. That leads me to conclude that the cuts, and removing the ring-fencing from the remaining grant is an ideological attack on crofting. Judging from the removal of various schemes, making others more difficult to apply for, and now removing ring-fencing from these two grants, there are ministers and civil servants in Edinburgh who want to see the end of crofting.'

Mr Munro added: 'Removing ring-fencing means that these two grants will be included in the general agricultural financial pot. That means that the money meant to go to crofting could go to larger farming enterprises for which they were never intended. Crofters are expected to prepare elaborate business plans to get money, and they simply



don't have the resources to do that, which means the money will go to the people who can afford to draw up the complicated business plans in the first place.'

Donald John MacSween, prospective Western Isles Labour candidate for Westminster, has written to First Minister Alex Salmond. He said: 'The move will inevitably lead to both agricultural and housing grants, which are

currently ring-fenced for crofting, being eroded year by year as they competed within the general budgets of the Scottish Government's rural affairs department. This hasn't been consulted on or formally announced by Ministers. Yet every crofter will recognize the threat that it contains. It is a highly political move towards removing the distinct status which has helped

to sustain crofting tenure over the years. Crofting has survived everything that has been thrown at it for more than a century but the way things are going, it will have a hard job surviving four years of an SNP administration in Edinburgh.'

Mr MacSween said: 'When it suits his purpose, Mr Salmond claims that he wants to let the people speak. He should therefore be told in no uncertain terms that, on this crucial matter, the crofting people have had no opportunity to speak - and if they had, not one of them would have supported what is going on. Hardly a week goes by without another body blow to crofting from the SNP administration. They want to hand crofters over to the bankers, they are proposing punitive charges for every crofting transaction, they have refused to reinstate

the loan element of the Crofter Housing scheme and the draft Bill is a shambles. There seems to be nobody within the SNP administration who understands the importance of crofting tenure and nobody representing the SNP in the Highlands and Islands who is prepared to break ranks in order to resist any of this.'

Roseanna Cunningham, Minister for Environment, said: 'These reports could not be more wrong.'

'Individuals would be doing crofters a far greater service by offering constructive solutions for debate rather than seeking publicity on the back of inaccurate scaremongery.'

'Both the Crofter Counties Agricultural

Grants and the Crofter Housing Grant Scheme have always been part of the Scottish Government's budget. Both schemes are here to stay. In fact, not only are they here to stay, we have actually submitted proposals to the EU to increase the funding available under CCAGS to young crofters by 10 per cent.'

'I look forward to these individuals and others congratulating the Government on this work!'

John Farquhar Munro said that over the past few years, there has been a steady stream of actions by civil servants in Edinburgh, aided by ministers who do not understand crofting, to undermine the crofting system. He said:

'We have seen one of the livestock support schemes ended and the bull hire scheme under severe threat. The budgets for CCAGS and CHGS have been cut, they are not protected and the sums for housing in particular are totally inadequate. The majority of Less Favoured Area Support is targeted at areas of Scotland which don't need it. We have a draft Crofting Reform Bill which no one seems to support in the crofting areas. I can only conclude that they want to get rid of crofting and I have put a motion to the Parliament to debate this latest issue, because it has been done with no consultation, and must be halted until it can be fully discussed by MSPs.'

TO BOOK THIS PROPERTY SPACE CONTACT
The Oban Times
 A WEST HIGHLAND TIMES
ON 01631 568000
 OR Email: property@obantimes.co.uk

West Coast Property Guide

Sell your property online at our new website:
www.westcoastpropertyguide.co.uk

Holiday Properties NEEDED
 Our Scottish based family-run booking agency (established 1986) requires well cared-for holiday properties to let throughout Scotland. We pride ourselves on a friendly personal service to both owners and holidaymakers.
www.hamstercottages.co.uk
Hamster Cottages tel. 01764 685 400

DAWSONS

BALVICAR
 For Sale: A delightful traditional Cottage sympathetically extended and upgraded into a deceptively spacious home quietly situated overlooking its garden. Accommodation comprises Sitting Room, Kitchen, 4 Bedrooms, Bathroom, Shower Room. Double glazing, Oil-fired central heating. Attractive garden, Patio, Shed, Wood store. **Offers Over £200,000**

GLENCRUITTEN ROAD, OBAN
 For Sale: A pleasantly situated Detached Bungalow of Dorran type construction set in a large level garden within easy reach of the town and amenities. Electric heating, secondary glazing, in need of some modernization. Easily managed accommodation comprising Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Bathroom & 2 Bedrooms. Established garden. **Guide Price £100,000**

1 George Street, Oban, PA34 5RX
Tel: 01631 563901
www.alexanderdawson.co.uk

FOR SALE

1E Longsdale Terrace
 A rare opportunity to purchase this two bedroomed top floor flat in walk in condition. Home report available.
Offers over £92,000

For more details call 075180 54994

MACARTHUR STEWART
 Visit our website at www.macarthurstewart.co.uk

OBAN OFFICE (01631) 562215
12 SOROBA ROAD, OBAN
 Opportunity for the First Time Buyer or buy to let market to acquire a first floor flat a short walk from the town centre. The flat is in good decorative order and early entry is available. Accommodation - Lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms and shower room.
FIXED PRICE £90,000

Four Bedroom DETACHED HOUSE
 Fully Furnished
 Excellent Location
 CONNELL
£700 pcm + Utilities & C/Tax
 Available for 6 months
 From Oct. 1st or Nov. 1st
 No D.S.S., smokers or pets.
 Ref. essential
Tel: 01631 710560 email: black663@btinternet.com

Three bedroom flat to let Fort William
 Furnished
£650 per month plus council tax and bills
 No DSS, smokers or pets
 References required.
 Telephone **07919385859**

FLAT TO LET Taynuilt
 One Bedroom
 Beautiful Location
£460 pcm including C/Tax
 Sorry no smokers, pets or D.S.S.
Tel: 07796024419

The Oban Esplanade 2 Bed unfurnished ground floor flat
 6 month's let, £550 pcm.
 Sale Price circa. £210,000.
21st Century Tel 0141 424 4444.

FOR LET Fully furnished two bedroom bottom flat available for long let.
 Near Dalintober Primary School, Campbeltown. Own back and front door access.
 No DSS, pets or smokers.
 Available from end of September
£380 pcm + council tax. Apply to Box No. 4348, Campbeltown Courier, Longrow South, Campbeltown PA28 6AE.

Newly upgraded one bedroom flat for rent in Campbeltown
 Contact **07776 175038**

FOR RENT Port Askaig 3 bedroom fully furnished flat
 Telephone **07860956683**

LONG LET KINTYRE ARGYLL
 Unfurnished 2 bed. Cottage 7 miles North of Carradale, on B842 at Cour, on private estate with beach and beautiful views to Arran.
 Telephone **01880 760 236**
www.cour.org

Restaurant / Café / Shop premises for lease
 Fully equipped restaurant / café / shop premises extending to approximately 71m² (763ft²) together with additional food preparation and storage area extending to approximately 27m² (286ft²) located in a prime trading position in Lochgilphead available for lease.
 Entry date is by arrangement
 The property comes fully equipped with all equipment, cutlery, crockery, cooking appliances etc. for use as a retail food outlet although it may be suitable for other use.
For further information contact Gordon McLeod, 1 Argyll Street, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8LZ. Telephone 01546 602986

West Coast West Coast West Coast West Coast West Coast Property Guide Property Guide Property Guide Property Guide

HOLIDAY COTTAGES WANTED
 ONLY AGENCY COMMISSION **10%** until Jan 2011
 For details and an Owner Information Pack please contact Karen McWilliams
 Email: karen@scottish-cottages.co.uk
01665 570 715
www.scottish-cottages.co.uk

Wanted: Holiday Cottages
 • Payment in advance
 • Free no obligation advice and property inspections
 • Award winning website
www.sykescottages.co.uk
01244 356861 Sykes Cottages
SYKES COTTAGES

Large Unit To Let In North Connell
 Suitable for Workshop or Storage
Tel: 01631 710882
West Coast Property Guide

West Coast West Coast West Coast West Coast West Coast Property Guide Property Guide Property Guide Property Guide

PUBLIC NOTICES

DEER COMMISSION FOR SCOTLAND

COME AND MEET US

An invitation is extended to all those with an interest in deer issues to attend an open public meeting at:

ISLE OF MULL HOTEL, CRAIGNURE, ISLE OF MULL PA65 6BB
on MONDAY 28 SEPTEMBER 2009 at 7:30pm

There will be a short presentation followed by the opportunity to discuss deer issues with Members of the Board and DCS staff.

If you are interested in deer, please come along and share your views with us

DEER COMMISSION FOR SCOTLAND

BOARD MEETING

The next meeting of the Board of the Deer Commission for Scotland will be held at:

CRAIGNURE VILLAGE HALL, CRAIGNURE, ISLE OF MULL PA65 6AY
on MONDAY 28 SEPTEMBER 2009 at 2:00pm

Members of the public are warmly invited to attend for all or part of the meeting.

You can download a copy of the agenda and papers from our website on www.dcs.gov.uk Or by contacting the Commission's Inverness office on 01463 725000

GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE

Donald George MacKay trading as D.G. MacKay of 8 Creran Gardens, Oban PA34 4JU is applying for licence to use Moleigh Yard, Oban PA34 4QR as an operating centre for 2 goods vehicles and 5 trailers. Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds LS9 6NF stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A guide to making representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office.

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us @ www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

Argyll & Bute COUNCIL

PUBLIC MEETINGS

LOCH FYNE INTEGRATED COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT (ICZM) PLAN

Following a public consultation on the draft Loch Fyne ICZM plan at the end of 2008, comments received during the consultation process have been collated by the Marine & Coastal Development Unit and analysed and considered along with other available evidence to develop a final draft of the Loch Fyne ICZM plan.

Public meetings have been arranged to present the proposed final plan and changes made as a result of the consultation. The meetings are open to all, but in particular those who live adjacent to, or work on Loch Fyne. Following these meetings the final plan will be considered by the relevant Area Committees in October and will then need to be approved by the Executive and full Council in November.

Dates for meetings
 Strachur Memorial Hall Wednesday, 30th September 2009, 7.00-9.00 pm
 Lochgilphead Community Centre Thursday, 1st October 2009, 7.00-9.00 pm

The Loch Fyne ICZM plan is non-statutory, is designed to complement the Argyll and Bute Development Plan (Structure and Local Plan) and aims to provide guidance for local authority planners, regulators and stakeholders on the future use and development of Loch Fyne.

The proposed final plan, consultation report and individual consultation responses can be accessed on the Argyll and Bute Council website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/lochfyne and a copy of these documents on CD can be requested from:

Mark Steward, Marine and Coastal Development Unit, Argyll and Bute Council, Lorn House, Albany Street, Oban, PA34 4AR
 T: 01631 567972 email: lochfyne@argyll-bute.gov.uk

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined between the hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) at the AREA PLANNING AND BUILDING STANDARDS OFFICE, FULTON HOUSE, GORDON SQUARE, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6XY and, where given, the alternative location(s).

Written comments should be made to the Area Planning and Building Standards Manager at this office within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description	Alternative locations where application may be inspected and time period for comments
09/00343/FULLO	Heather Cottage Torlundy Fort William PH33 6SW	Change of use from residential annex to house	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
09/00357/PIPLO	Land South of Oakbank Glenfinnan	Erection of house	Glenfinnan Post Office (14 days)
09/00360/FULLO	Land 270m North West of Dunera Kentra Acharacle	Erection of holiday cottage	Acharacle Post Office (14 days)
09/00362/FULLO	Glenugie Inn Glenugie Lochailort PH38 4NG	Renovation of inn	Glenugie Post Office (14 days)
09/00363/FULLO	Highland Lodges North Laggan Spean Bridge PH34 4EB	Erection of 2 holiday lodges	Invergarry Post Office (14 days)
09/00364/FULLO	Site 50m North West of Highland Lodges North Laggan	Erection of house	Invergarry Post Office (14 days)
09/00366/PIPLO	House Plot 20 Metres West of Caberfeidh Omich Fort William	Erection of house	Ballachulish Post Office (14 days)

Area Planning and Building Standards Manager, Ross, Skye & Lochaber:
 Dafydd Jones, Highland Council, Fulton House, Gordon Square, Fort William, PH33 6XY
 Tel: (01397) 707015 Fax: (01397) 707022 e-mail: planning.lochaber@highland.gov.uk

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us @ www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

Argyll & Bute COUNCIL

PLANNING

Applications for planning permission listed below together with the plans and other documents submitted with them may be:

Examined at Lorn House, Albany Street, Oban, PA34 4AR between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday to Friday and by logging on to the Council's Website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk and clicking on online planning applications.

Written comments for the following applications may be made to Planning Services, Lorn House, Albany Street, Oban, PA34 4AR by the 8th October 2009 for the following list of application for planning permission.

● Ref No: 09/01260/PPP
 Applicant: Lindon Properties Limited
 Proposal: Site for the erection of 3no dwellings houses
 Site Address: Site South of Dalra, Glencruichten, Oban, Argyll and Bute
 Applications for planning permission listed below together with the plans and other documents submitted with them may be:
 Examined at Lorn House, Albany Street, Oban, PA34 4AR or Dalriada House, Lochmell Street, Lochgilphead PA31 8ST between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday to Friday and by logging on to the Council's Website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk and clicking on online planning applications.

Written comments for the following applications may be made to Planning Services, or Dalriada House, Lochmell Street, Lochgilphead PA31 8ST by the 8th October 2009 for the following list of application for planning permission.

● Ref No: 09/01084/DET
 Applicant: Mr and Mrs Henderson
 Proposal: Exterior refurbishment of property.
 Site Address: Breachacha New Castle, Isle of Coll, Argyll and Bute, PA78 6TB
 It should be noted that where an application has been the subject of Pre Application Consultation (PAC) and an individual or organisation made comments during the PAC process, this does not prevent them from making further comments on the proposal to the planning authority within the above mentioned timescales.

Argyll and Bute Council maintain a Register of planning applications which can be viewed between 9 a.m. and 5 pm at Planning Services, Dalriada House, Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8ST.
 An extant list of planning applications which can be viewed on the Councils website www.argyll-bute.gov.uk
 A weekly list of applications which can be viewed at Planning Services, Dalriada House, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8ST and Argyll and Bute Council Libraries.

TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED LEGISLATION PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Take notice that the applications in the following schedule may be inspected during normal office hours at the location given below, Dalriada House, Lochgilphead and 67 Chalmers Street, Ardrishaig, PA30 8DX and by logging on to the Council's Website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk and clicking on Online Planning Applications. Anyone wishing to make representations should do so in writing to the undersigned within 21 days of the appearance of this notice, whichever is applicable as indicated below. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

SCHEDULE - DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION OF PLANS

● Ref No: 09/01198/LIB
 Applicant: Mr and Mrs Brook
 Proposal: Replacement of existing windows in the Sun Lounge and enlarging porch area
 Site Address: Kilchoman House Kilchoman Isle of Islay Argyll and Bute PA49 7UY
 Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Bridgend

TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED LEGISLATION PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Take notice that the applications in the following schedule may be inspected during normal office hours at the location given below, Dalriada House, Lochgilphead and Planning Services, Lorn House, Albany Street, Oban, PA34 4AR and by logging on to the Council's Website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk and clicking on Online Planning Applications. Anyone wishing to make representations should do so in writing to the undersigned within 21 days of the appearance of this notice, whichever is applicable as indicated below. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

SCHEDULE - DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION OF PLANS

● Ref No: 09/01229/PPP
 Applicant: Jennifer McLeellan
 Proposal: Erection of shed and installation of thermal solar panels on dwellinghouse
 Site Address: Faradh Isle of Iona Argyll and Bute PA76 6SP
 Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Isle of Iona

Any letter of representation the council receives about a planning application is considered a public document.
 Please therefore note that representations will be made available for public inspection and, under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act, will be copied on request. They will also be published on the council's website. The author of such a representation is solely responsible for its content and accuracy.
 Anonymous representations will be "shredded" and those marked confidential will be returned to the sender. Neither will be taken into account when the application is being considered.
 Details of representations we receive on planning applications can be viewed on the council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/publicaccess

crofters commission
 ughdarras nan croitearan

Proposed Let of a Croft

Mr James Adam, Garraron, Ardferris is applying to the Crofters Commission for consent to let the tenancy of part of the croft at New croft Kilvaree, Connell to Mrs Gaynor Anglesea, The Old Schoolhouse, Ardchattan, North Connell.

If you have any objection to the proposal, you may submit representations in writing or some other permanent form to the Crofters Commission, Castle Wynd, Inverness IV2 3EQ or info@crofterscommission.org.uk, by 5 October 2009 quoting the above case number.

A copy of any valid comments will be served on the applicant.

crofters commission
 ughdarras nan croitearan

Gordon I MacCormick has applied to de-croft part of the croft at Sithean, Maol Kilfinichen & Kilvickeon extending to 0.199 ha for the purpose of providing a site for a dwellinghouse. Ref: 4.86.19275

If you are a crofter, shareholder or owner of a croft in the township you may submit comments on the proposal in writing or some other permanent form to the Crofters Commission, Castle Wynd, Inverness IV2 3EQ or info@crofterscommission.org.uk, by 5 October 2009 quoting the above case number.

A copy of any valid comments will be served on the applicant.

EVENT TO PUBLICISE?

The Oban Times
 A WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Be seen by over 40,000 readers

Tel: 01631 568000
www.obantimes.co.uk

Castle Stalker Appin

Will be open to the public 21st - 25th September
 Subject to tides and weather.
 Tel: 01631 740315 during this period for times and bookings
 Adults £8 Children £4

The Highland Council Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd

Draft Cemetery Management Rules

Highland Council are empowered to make Rules and Regulations for the management of cemeteries in Highland in terms of Section 17 of the Burial Grounds (Scotland) Act 1855 and Section 112 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982.

Draft rules have been prepared and are held at local Service Points, Libraries, and all TEC Service offices.

The public are invited to peruse these Management Rules and make comments to the following address -
 The Director of Transport, Environmental and Community Service, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness IV3 5NX

Comments must be submitted by Noon Friday 16th October 2009

CROSSROADS Caring for Carers NORTH ARGYLL

A.G.M. 26th OCTOBER 2009 7.00pm

North Argyll Carers Centre Albany Street, Oban
 ALL VERY WELCOME
 REFRESHMENTS AFTER THE MEETING

69% of the business community read the regional press

Connel Flower Show success

ST ORAN'S Church, Connel and Dunbeg's Flower Show took place on Saturday, September 5 in the Connel Church Hall.

Entries in the flower sections were down due to the weather on the lead up to the show but the organisers were delighted with the overall level of entries and proceeds from

the show increased this year.

Judges were - flowers and vegetables, Les Servant; floral art, Joyce Miller; baking and preserves, Debbie Dunlop and Alison Mac-Corquodale.

The prizes were presented by Ruth MacKay.

Results
OPEN CLASS:
 Four Pansies or Violas (Sadie Black Trophy) - 1st Ian Brown, 2nd Ian Brown, 3rd Ian Brown; Vase of Annuals one kind, 1st Ian Brown, 2nd Mrs D Hay; Vase of Sweetpeas, 1st D MacDougall 2nd Ian Brown, 3rd Five Dahlias Mixed, 1st Billy Hay, 2nd D MacDougall, 3rd Ian Brown, 4th Decorative Dahlias, 1st Billy Hay, 2nd D.M. MacDougall, 3rd George MacKenzie, 4th Cactus Dahlias, 1st D.M. MacDougall, 2nd Billy Hay, 3rd Ian Brown; Four Pom Pom Dahlias, 1st Billy Hay, 2nd D MacDougall, 3rd Duncan Black; 4th Ball Dahlias, 1st Ian Brown, 2nd Billy Hay, 3rd Billy Hay; Four Large Dahlias, 1st D.M. MacDougall, 2nd Ian Brown, 3rd Vase of One Rose (Catherine MacCallum Trophy), 1st Mrs D Hay, 2nd Ian Brown, 3rd Hugh MacLeod; 4th Stems Carnations, 1st Billy Hay, 2nd Billy Hay; Two Long Shaped Potatoes, 1st George MacKenzie, 2nd Billy Hay, 3rd Hugh MacLeod; Two Round shaped Potatoes, 1st George MacKenzie, 2nd Hugh MacLeod, 3rd Achaleven Primary School; Two Carrots Stump, 1st George MacKenzie, 2nd Hugh MacLeod, 3rd Hector MacKenzie; Two Onions, 1st Billy Hay, 2nd George MacKenzie, 3rd Hugh MacLeod; Two Leeks, 1st Hugh MacLeod, 2nd George MacKenzie, 3rd Achaleven Primary School; One Cucumber, 1st George MacKenzie, 2nd Ian Brown, 3rd Mrs M Hay, 4th D.Hay., (Duncan MacPherson Memorial Trophy) Collection of

Vegetables three kinds, 1st Billy Hay, 2nd George MacKenzie, 3rd Sean Hay; Henderson Trophy) Pot Plant in Bloom, 1st Ian Brown, 2nd Hugh MacLeod; Pot Plant Foliage, 1st Hugh MacLeod, 2nd Isobel Groat, 3rd Isobel Groat;
CONFINED CLASS:
 (Hugh Gillies Memorial Trophy), Annuals One Kind, 1st A Pringle, 2nd Ian Brown, 3rd Ian Brown; Three Pom Pom Dahlias, 1st Ian Brown; Four Dahlias at least two different kinds, 1st Ian Brown, 2nd A Pringle, 3rd A Pringle; Four Pansies or Violas, 1st Ian Brown, 2nd Ian Brown, 3rd Ian Brown; Hanging Basket, 1st Jim Groat, Collection of Vegetables Three Kinds (Includes Tomatoes) (Evan MacDonald Memorial Trophy), 1st George MacKenzie, 2nd Achaleven Primary School, 3rd Achaleven Primary School;
FLORAL ART: (Achnacloch Trophy/Louvain Cunningham Trophy) Flower Arrangement with Candle, 1st Alison Dawson, 2nd Marion Fisher; Arrangement of Flowers in a Basket, 1st Marion Fisher, 2nd Alison Dawson Foliage Arrangement, 1st Marion Fisher, 2nd Alison Dawson;
**PRE-SCHOOL (Falls of Lora Trophy) Face on plate using Pasta and Cereals, 1st Rachel Steward JUNIOR (Campbell Trophy) Primary 1-3, Arrangement of Flowers, 1st Emma Hill; MacLean, 3rd Nathan MacPherson; Primary 4-7, Arrangement of Flowers, 1st Kate Little, Animal made from Natural Materials, 1st Kate Little; Garden on a Plate, 1st Kate Little; Painting of Favourite Zoo animal, 1st Lorne Sinclair 2nd Kate Little 3rd Shaun Reynolds;
HIGH SCHOOL, Arrangement of Flowers in a Mug, 1st Beth Little,
BAKING, JUNIOR Primary 1-3, Four Fairy Cakes Emma Hill, Biscuits, Silver Emma**

Hill
ADULT BAKING Four Over Scores: Gold Liz Lamb, Cathy MacDonald, Silver Isobel Groat; Four Pancakes Gold Marion Fisher, Silver Isobel Groat, Red Liz Lamb; Gingerbread, Gold Isobel Groat, Silver, Liz Lamb, Margaret Forbes, Red Marion Fisher; Fruit Loaf Gold Liz Lamb, Margaret Forbes, Silver Isobel Groat, Marion Fisher; Decorated Sponge Gold Liz Lamb, Silver Isobel Groat; Merangue Shells Red Marion Fisher, Liz Lamb; Tablet/Sweets Gold Liz Lamb, Silver Isobel Groat; Raspberry Jam Gold Margaret Forbes, Isobel Groat, Silver Marion Fisher, Cathy MacDonald; Lemon Curd Gold Margaret Forbes, Silver Liz Lamb, Isobel Groat; Strawberry Jam Silver Margaret Forbes, Red Marion Fisher, Marmalade Silver Margaret Forbes;
TROPHY WINNERS: Falls of Lora Trophy: Rachel Steward, Campbell Trophy Floral Art P1-3, Emma Hill, Campbell Trophy Floral Art P4-7 Kate Little, Campbell Trophy (Baking P1-3) Emma Hill, Mnse Trophy Beth Little, Peggy Sinclair Trophy Baking, Isobel Groat/Liz Lamb Centenary Trophy Runner-up Baking, Margaret Forbes, Achnacloch Trophy Floral Art, Marion Fisher, Louvain Cunningham Trophy Runner-up, Alison Dawson;
 Catherine MacCallum Trophy, Danielle Hay; Sadie Black Trophy, Ian Brown; Hugh MacPherson Trophy, Billy Hay; Duncan MacPherson Memorial Trophy, Hugh MacLeod; Hugh Gillies Memorial Trophy, Ian Brown, Angus Ferguson Trophy, Jim Groat, Evan MacDonald Memorial Trophy, George MacKenzie; St Orans Challenge Trophy (Best Exhibit in Show) Billy Hay; Jimmy Black Trophy, Billy Hay/Ian Brown.

Rain fails to dampen enthusiasm for Isle of Barra produce show

THE RAIN was pouring down outside Castlebay Community Hall on September 5 but inside there was a buzz of excitement and anticipation as exhibitors prepared their items for the show.

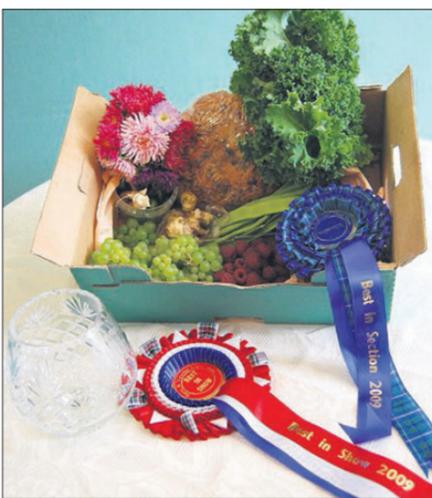
Seventy-two people of all ages took part in the open sections (garden, industrial, fishing and crofting) and 82 children took part in the children's section of Barra and Vatersay Island Produce Show.

There were 366 exhibits with the best supported section being the industrial with a vast array of baking and crafts. The children really worked hard, with many decorated wooden spoons, pictures, crabs, baking, crafts and Lego models.

Judges Hector MacAulay, Veronica Beaton, Jimmy Ferguson and Mary Greenacre had a difficult job deciding on the prize-winners.

This year there were new prizes for the best exhibit in each open section and the best in the show. This prize was kindly donated by Hector MacNeil Coaches.

The winners were: Garden - Mary Greenacre for her vase of a selection of herbs; Industrial - Kristie Boyd for her sponge; Croft and Fishing - Karen MacLean for her box of local island produce. Overall winner of the best exhibit in show was Karen MacLean with her box which contained baking, crafts, flowers and home-grown fruit and vegetables.



Barbara Carmichael with a massive 218 points and the reserve champion was Sarah MacLean with 120 points.

Barbara worked really hard and entered a total of 39 classes - a very worthy winner and in fact she managed a clean sweep of all the open section trophies.

At the end of the show the produce was boxed and auctioned off. All the money raised on the day will go towards the running of the show, setting up a gardening club and school growing projects.

The organisers thanked sponsors The Cooperative Group - Scotland, Barra and Vatersay Community Ltd, Hector MacNeil Coaches and MacNeil and Mrs MacNeil of Barra. Friends of the event - Alasdair Allan MSP, Angus MacNeil MP, Barra Fishing Charters, Barra Auto Supplies, Barra Medical

Practice, Castlebay Community Council, Castlebay Post Office, Clearwater Paddling, Craighard Hotel, Highlands and Islands Airport, I. A. N. Plant, Kisimul Galley Gift Shop, MacInnes Brothers Ltd, Northbay Community Council, Sarah's Office Ltd, Southern Isles Veterinary Practice and judges Hector MacAulay, Veronica Beaton, Mary Greenacre - with special thanks to Jimmy Ferguson for stepping in last minute. Scottish Co-op, Castlebay got a special mention for providing the snacks for the children; Paul Donnelly, auctioneer and Abigail Treffry photographer; all the people who volunteered before, during and after the event - especially Francis and John who were on holiday from Ireland, and everyone who supported the event by entering, coming along and/or making donations.



Karen MacLean, winner of the best in show trophy for her box of produce, pictured left.



Barbara Carmichael, winner of the MacNeil and Mrs MacNeil of Barra Shield and all trophies in open section

You can send your local news to editor@obantimes.co.uk

RENAULT LAGUNA EXPRESSION



£2350

2002, 16V, 5 door hatch, 50,000 miles, Dark Green metallic, Tax February 2010, MOT September 2010, FSH, Very economical, Very nice condition

Tel: 01546 870336

WANTED

LANDROVER 90 OR 110, NEW OR OLD MODELS, ALSO DISCOVERY, RANGE ROVER AND ALL JAPANESE MODELS, TOYOTA ETC, HIGH MILES, DAMAGED, ANYTHING CONSIDERED.

Contact James 07866 590583 or 07966 293996

SWIFT CORNICHE 2 BERTH CARAVAN



carver heating and hot water system, laminate floor, ideal starter van loads of extras

Telephone: 07770 896266

£750 o.n.o.

HONDA CRV ES AUTOMATIC



Mot'd 1 year, Taxed till end of Oct 2009, AC, Electric windows, sunroof and Towbar (unused) Two careful lady owners Excellent condition.

Telephone: 01855 811649 AND MOBILE 07763552422

£3100 o.n.o.

M REG RENAULT CLIO

Mot'd till March 2010 Tax till end of October 09 38,127 miles

Telephone: 07725 839820 (Oban)

£350 o.n.o.

SUBARU LEGACY OUTBACK ESTATE



Year 2001 Automatic, Mot till Feb 2010 Good clean Car.

Telephone: 07500786612

£1500

FORD TRANSIT TOURNEO



03, 9 seater mini bus - removable seats, 62k miles. Regularly serviced, 10 months MOT. Taxed, CD Player, central locking. Good size boot Good condition

Telephone: 01770 700524 (Arran)

£5,500 o.v.n.o.

PEUGEOT 207 1.4



Urban 07 plate, 3 door, 21k miles, 5 mths tax, air con, elec windows, trip computer, cd player, 43 mpg, excellent condition.

Telephone: 01866 822117

£5,500 o.n.o.

1999 YAMAHA R6



23k miles, excellent condition, well looked after bike, lots of extras. 8 months Mot, 11 months tax.

Telephone: 01688 400264 Isle of Mull

£2200 o.n.o.

LWB MOVANO MOTORHOME 2.5D



145,000 miles, full mot, and 5 months tax, fitted to carry bikes, surfboards, sleeps 3, double gas burner, running water and leisure battery

Telephone: 07917 582808 01866 822444

£2200 ono for quick sale

RENAULT TRAFFIC VAN 1.9DCI SWB



2001 51 plate, yellow, tax and MOT, 6 speed gearbox, New tyres and brakes fitted, Wood lined, 45,000 genuine miles. Very powerful little van, CD system and electric poak. Bigger fan for extra sale

Telephone: 07788 930183 07775 576945 (after 4pm)

£2,250 o.v.n.o.

FIAT SEDICI 4X4 1.9 MULTIJET DIESEL DYNAMIC



2007 57 plate, fully serviced, very good condition. Manufacturers warranty. 21,000 miles. Superb, economic diesel with selectable 4x4

Tel: 01369 707753 07766 973667

£7,250 o.n.o.

WANTED

ANY 4X4 VEHICLE LANDROVER 90 OR 110 MITSUBISHI TOYOTA, HI LUX, NISSAN ETC. HIGH MILEAGE MAY SUIT. WILL TRAVEL.

Tel: 07864035750

KOBELCO SK70SR EXCAVATOR



sample photo

£24500 Plus V.A.T.

2007 1500 hrs, 8 tonne zero tail swing, 4 buckets, C/M Hydraulic Hitch, Hammer and Auxiliary lines both unused, 600 pads, Excellent condition

Tel: 01852 200209 07775 725434

30FT 2 BEDROOM WILLERBY CARAVAN

In good condition, suitable temporary home, reasonable price.

Telephone: 01546 810 286

CITROEN SAXO 1.1



Petrol, 51 Reg, 90K miles, taxed to Feb 2010, MOT next due Sept 2010. New tyres. Good clean car.

Telephone: 01586 554329

£1350 o.n.o.

BOAT TRAILER

Two wheels and spare 1045 max. gross weight suit boat up to 21 feet

£1000

Also Speed Boat and Rib available now

The Boat Store, Lower Dunollie Road, Oban PA34 5PJ Telephone 01631 565005/07766110747.

WANTED

ALL 4X4'S 1990 TO 2009 ANY MAKE, MODEL, MILEAGE, CONDITION CONSIDERED

INSTANT CASH PAYMENT. DISTANCE NO OBJECT, WILL TRAVEL.

Tel: Stephen 07751026953

FORBES PILOT CUTTER



£25,000

1959 former Aberdeen Harbour Pilot, professionally converted 1986. Hardwood planking and deck on oak frames. Sleeps 5 in comfort, GPS, radar, autohelm, log, depth, DSC VHF, fitted galley and heads. Original Gardner 105HP 5LW engine. Unique, safe and stable boat. Lying Rhu Marina for inspection. PX Considered

Broker: 01436 821606

Informal Inquiries to Owner: 01467 670265

Buyers should note where standardised silhouettes are used they do not accurately represent the vehicle being sold

FORD TRANSIT VAN



03 plate, Semi hi-top, Diesel, 69,000 miles, 1 year MOT, roof ladder, Tow bar, Roof Rack, Good condition

Telephone: 01546 606518 07789 228311

£2,750 o.v.n.o.

CARAVAN MUSTANG 18FT

Telephone: 01586 830201

£500 o.n.o.

ARRAN YACHT CLUB BOAT SALE

Sailing Dinghies Fishing Boats Yachts from 18ft

Phone Gavin Fulton 01770 600705 or Gus McLeod on 01770 700353

SEE WEBSITE FOR DETAILS www.arranyachtclub.co.uk

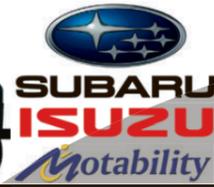
Miramir Lamash KA27 8JU

SUBARUS JUST ARRIVED

09 09 Legacy 2.0dre Sport Tourer	£19,995
06 56 Impreza 2.5 WRX Type UK 4 door SL....	£13,495
05 55 Forrester X A.W.P.....	£8,495
09 09 Justy Twin Cam 5dr	£POA
08 58 Forrester 2.5 XT, 7000 miles	£13,995

S&S Services Subaru
www.sandsservices.co.uk

CAR OF THE WEEK
Landrover 90 Defender
2.5 TDS Hardtop
£11,995 + VAT



Tel: 01292 880080/880440
Old Bridge Road, Heathfield, Ayr, KA8 9SX



new car index

 TOYOTA Helensburgh 5 John Street, Helensburgh Tel. 01436 672779 www.helensburgh.toyota.co.uk	 RENAULT W.D Semple Inveraray & Lochgilphead Tel. 01499 302150
 ISUZU S & S Services Old Bridge Road, Heathfield, Ayr Tel. 01292 880080 / 880440	 SUBARU S & S Services Old Bridge Road, Heathfield, Ayr Tel. 01292 880080/880440
 VOLKSWAGEN Hawco Caol, Fort William Tel. 01397 700900 www.hawco.volkswagen.co.uk	TO PROMOTE YOUR NEW CAR DEALERSHIP PLEASE CALL: 01631 568000

LixToll Killin Perthshire FK21 8RB

06 (56) DEFENDER 90 Td5 HARD TOP in Cairns blue, towing, 30,000 miles..... £11,895 + VAT
 05 (05) DEFENDER 130 Td5 Chassis cab in Rutland Red, heavy duty chassis & suspension..... £9,750 + VAT
 05 (05) DEFENDER 90 Td5 Truck cab pick up in Belize green, IVW canopy & towing..... £9,350 + VAT
 05 (05) DEFENDER 130 Td5 TIPPER in Alveston Red, heavy duty chassis & suspension..... £9,250 + VAT
 04 (04) DEFENDER 130 Td5 TIPPER Rutland Red, heavy duty chassis & suspension..... £14,995 + VAT
 (04) DEFENDER 110 Td5 HARD TOP in Rutland red, tow pack..... £7,250 + VAT
 03 (53) DEFENDER 90 Td5 HARD TOP in Caledonian blue, 3 seats, tow pack, low miles..... £9,250 + VAT
 02 (02) DEFENDER 110 Td5 HARD TOP in Caledonian blue, tow pack, 2 seats & cubby box..... £7,495 + VAT
 00 (X) DEFENDER 110 Td5 HI-CAP PICK UP in Rutland red, HD rims & towing..... £5,650 + VAT

CHOICE OF 8 EK-SSE (HYDRO BOARD)
DEFENDER 110s IN SILVER NOW IN STOCK

Telephone 01567 820280
 E-mail: sales@lixtoll.com • Web: www.lixtoll.com

Reassurance given over community service delays

ARGYLL solicitors are concerned at the amount of time it takes for a client to start community service in Oban – but Argyll and Bute Council insists it ready to start offenders within seven days.

In recent court cases at Oban Sheriff Court defence agents have revealed that it is taking as long as six months for offenders to get onto a community service programme. And in spite of the programme being used as a direct alternative to prison, offenders are unable to do their hours within the set period and are being forced to come back to court to explain their reasons why.

One man who was sentenced four months ago has had his initial appointment with social workers but has since then not started on his placement.

He said: 'It is dreadful, I just want to get rid of these hours and prove that I have changed my behaviour, but I am told that there are not enough staff, or a timeslot to suit me. I am scared that I will be sent to prison if I can not complete the hours – but it is not my fault.'

The court service claim that lack of places is a national problem, with one sheriff in Aberdeen calling the head of social work into his court to explain the lack of staffing.

Oban sheriff Douglas Small was unable to comment on the situation but his office understood that another member of staff had been appointed to the social work department that deals with community service.

An Argyll and Bute Council said: 'Occasionally there are delays in starting a person on community service and there can be any number of reasons for this delay, which may or may not be within our control.'

Concern
 'It is obviously a concern should any person be delayed in starting their hours. This has been identified as a national problem, hence new government guidance which came into place from June 1 to ensure all community service clients are started on their unpaid work within seven days.'

'The criminal justice service has a responsibility to spend the public

purse wisely. Demand upon the service comes in peaks and troughs depending on sentencing and there are occasionally times when demand outstrips capacity. However it would be irresponsible to have a level of service that reflected occasional high levels of demand, as it would be under-used at times of low demand. Good governance indicates that we ensure adequate resources are available to respond to the average demand.

'The government has announced increased funding to facilitate speedier transition through an order. The service is now required to have people out on placement quicker and the timescales for completion must be shorter. In effect this will mean the provision of more work squads and the requirement to find more community work to undertake.'

'This will mean more supervisors and/or more hours offered to existing supervisors. There will be a focus on bigger and more visible community projects such as maintaining forest walks and supporting the countryside open access agenda.'

Ben Nevis Motors

New Ford KA Studio
 R.R.P £8,595
 Scrappage Allowance £2,000
 Ben Nevis Motors Price **£6,595**

Ford Fiesta 1.25 Zetec 5dr Moon dust Silver
 Bluetooth / CD Player
 Air/Con
 Alloy Wheels
 Remote Central Locking
£11,795 OTR
 36 x £196.72
 Deposit £1950
 7.9% APR

New Ford Focus 1.6 Style 5dr
 R.R.P £16,945
 Scrappage Allowance £2,000
 Discount £2,000
 Ben Nevis Motors Price **£12,945**

09 58 Seat Ibiza SC 1.6 sport 3 door in white, immaculate car only 7k miles	£10,495
08 58 Ford Mondeo 2.0 TDCi Zetec Moon dust Silver 1246 miles	£16,495
08 58 Ford Fiesta 1.6 Zetec S 3dr Panther Black 5200 miles	£12,995
07 57 Mini Cooper Convertible 3dr British Racing Green 5000 miles	£12,995
07 07 Ford Fiesta 1.25 Style 5dr Panther Black Remote Central Locking Elec Windows	£6,995
06 56 VW Touran 1.9 TDi SE Black Multimedia Pack 35000 miles	£9,995
06 56 Ford Transit Connect TDCi Blue only 17,000 miles	£5,995 + VAT
06 56 VW Polo 1.2 E 55 Blue Power Steering Central Locking Immaculate Car	£5,995
06 06 Ford Fiesta Zetec 5dr Black 1.6 Automatic only 14000 miles	£6,995
05 55 Ford Mondeo 2.0 TDCi Zetec Blue Alloy Wheels Climate Control	£4,595
05 05 VW Golf 1.9 TDi SE 5dr Black Alloy Wheels Air Conditioning	£8,495
04 04 Ford Focus Zetec 5dr Moon dust Silver Alloys CD Player	£4,895
03 53 Peugeot 307 S HDi 5dr Silver Remote central locking CD Player AC Excellent MPG	£3,495

Your local west highland Ford dealer for new and used sales, service, repair and parts

Ben Nevis Motors
 North Road
 Fort William
 Tel: 01397 700110

The £2,000 scrappage allowance is subject to qualification and may be withdrawn at any time

Open day highlights the plight of Argyll homeless

Quarriers Oban Rooftops held an open day at its premises on Campbell Street.

The event brought together young people supported by Quarriers with councillors to highlight the benefits offered by the service.

David Lyon, project manager, said: 'We are really keen to support more young people to stay in Argyll and the Quarriers model proves we can do this at a sustainable level that is value for money.'

'Affordable housing is nearly impossible to find but with Quarriers support young people retain their independence and can afford to stay in Oban to find employment or training.'

He added that it was an important service for the local community.

Quarriers Rooftops service supports 35 young people to sustain and maintain a tenancy.



Quarriers Rooftops open day brought together service users and professionals to highlight the good work the organisation does in keeping young people in the town. 07_03quarriers01

Residents urged to take Raera windfall

AN EMAIL circulating among Nether Lom residents affected by the proposed Raera wind farm is calling for a working group to get the most out of RWE Npower Renewables benefits package.

The alternative energy company held a number of information days to reveal plans for 16 turbines, each 400 feet high, eight miles south of Oban on the A816. A planning application is due to be made to Argyll and Bute Council towards the end of the year.

Despite some hostility to the development, it seems that other residents are being more pragmatic by asking for substantial benefits to the community from the developer.

The round-robin email states: 'It is absolutely vital that a competent group of local citizens, from all the areas around the site, should immediately come together, to negotiate a proper deal with the devel-

oper – there is no time to lose. An annual payment divided between Kilmelford, Kilniver, Clachan, Seil, would be something in the order of £200,000 each year.'

'The bargaining chip being, if no satisfactory agreement can be reached, then maximum opposition will be mounted, but if agreement is reached then the communities will provide maximum support.'

'After all it is our local world that is being disrupted for the profit of distant investors. Local communities have a right to demand substantial benefit.'

Robin Asbury, chairman of Kilmelford Community Council, who had not seen the email, commented: 'If planning permission is granted I am convinced that a benefits package is the way forward.'

'Argyll and Bute Council has a strategic plan for benefits packages which in the case of this wind farm

would mean somewhere in the region of £50,000 per year back into the local community and a significant amount to the wider Argyll community. If that money could be put into a trust fund for anyone from the area who wants to apply for it by way of grant, that would mean if someone wanted money for loft insulation, a cycle path or indeed volunteering abroad, then the fund could be approached to contribute to that need.'

A RWE spokeswoman said: 'We, where possible, will ensure that decisions about how funding from a community benefit package is allocated is made by local people for the benefit of their own community.'

'In some cases we have worked with community or parish councils to achieve this but more commonly now we establish a steering group of local people to make decisions about the allocation of funding.'

FORT WILLIAM TYRE SERVICE

Not enough time in the day?
 Kids screaming, work calling, shops awaiting!
HAVE YOUR TYRES FITTED BY OUR TOTALLY MOBILE FULLY FITTED VAN
 At your work, your home or where's the easiest.
 CARS, VANS, LORRIES, TRACTORS
24hrs Breakdown Service
 Tyres supplied and fitted, all brands. Balancing carried out.
 Accounts welcome
 All major credit cards accepted
 Call now for a great quote
 Contact: Alec or Naomi
 Mobile: 07702 433495 Tel: 01397 700277
 Email: fort-tyres@hotmail.co.uk

NEW OR USED CARS TO SELL?

The Oban Times
 & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Be seen by over 40,000 readers

Tel: 01631 568000
 www.obantimes.co.uk

53%
 of decision-makers source their vehicles locally

Regional press is the relevant choice for motors advertising.

Find all these jobs online at our new website

West Coast Jobs www.westcoastjobs.co.uk



Oban Times RECRUITMENT
Oban Times RECRUITMENT



Development Manager

Campbeltown and Argyll areas Temporary for 6 months
£16,564 - £19,110 + Performance Related Bonus

Even in today's economic climate, some businesses are still growing. At Provident Personal Credit, we're happy to be one of them. In fact, tough times mean that more and more people trust us to offer them financial products that put them in control.

Our responsible approach to lending means we continue to be both sound and profitable. That's great news if you're looking for a career that offers both stability and opportunity.

As a Development Manager, you'll monitor and provide structured support to a group of Self-employed Agents who lend and collect on our behalf, so good communication, analytical and motivational skills are essential. You'll also be visiting customers in their homes, responding to their individual needs, so naturally you'll need to be energetic, and have the ability to deal with a variety of different circumstances.

Don't worry if you don't have any previous experience in the financial services sector, we'll give you a comprehensive induction. You can also expect an on-going management development programme to equip you with all the skills and knowledge you need.

It's a role as varied as it is satisfying. But to succeed in it, you must hold a full driving licence and have access to a vehicle for work use.

Experience in a sales or customer service environment would be an advantage, as would previous managerial or finance experience.

In return, we'll offer you a competitive salary package with bonus, 25 days holiday, pension and generous mileage allowance.

To apply, visit www.pppcareers.co.uk or call 01274 725 029 (9am-5pm, Mon-Fri) quoting ref: 2138. Closing date for applications: 25 September 2009.

We are an Equal Opportunities Employer.

Strictly No Agencies.

JANITOR REQUIRED FOR OBAN JOINT CAMPUS
You will be required to work 40 hours per week, variable between 8am to 10pm.
Uniform will be supplied. Duties, Work Pattern and Rate of Pay will be discussed at interview.

4 CLEANERS REQUIRED FOR LOCHGILPHEAD JOINT CAMPUS
Cleaners: Hours are variable between 10 to 30hrs per week
General Cleaning duties, mopping, dusting, sweeping etc.....
Hours of work to be discussed at interview.
Rate of pay meets National Minimum Wage
Uniform Supplied

PERMANENT POSITIONS
Contact: Amy Hughes - 0141 643 4312

MACLEOD
MACLEOD CONSTRUCTION LTD

REQUIRE
Experienced Labourers for Oban area

Contact Bertie Blainey on
07831 613601 or
e-mail - jobs@mkmacleod.co.uk

OFFICE / ACCOUNTS ADMINISTRATOR required for Crear, Kilberry.

Varied work includes book-keeping, invoicing, retail sales and general administration.
Candidates should be experienced users of Microsoft Office and accounting software packages.
Competitive pay, depending on experience.
Apply in writing with a full CV detailing current salary to
Kate Lithgow,
Crear, Kilberry, by Tarbert, Argyll PA29 6YD.

LIGHTHOUSE CALEDONIA

Lighthouse Caledonia is a leading independent producer of high quality Scottish salmon. The company is engaged in all stages of the value chain of farming Atlantic salmon and are a principal player in the Scottish aquaculture industry. We are committed to high standards of animal welfare, sustainable operations and promoting a responsible environmental policy.

We are currently recruiting for Marine Operatives for our Isle of Mull sea-sites located within our North Production Region and our Gigha sea site located within our South Production Region.

MARINE OPERATIVE
Isle of Mull
(Ref: NRMULL/MO1/09)
Closing date for applications:
5pm Friday 25 September 2009

Candidates will be enthusiastic, self-motivated and be able to demonstrate prior experience in working within small, focused teams. Where previous aquaculture experience is desirable for this post it is essential as the company can offer further development opportunities through its in-house training scheme. Preference will also be given to those candidates who can offer transferable, related skills and qualifications.

MARINE OPERATIVE
Isle of Gigha
(Ref: SRGHA/MO2/09)
Closing date for applications:
5pm Friday 2 October 2009

In return, the Company offers a comprehensive pay and benefits package including entry into the Company pension scheme after the qualifying period. A full, clean driving licence is also essential.

For an application form and job description, please contact:
Veronica Anderson, HR Officer,
Lighthouse Caledonia Ltd, Ardkinglas Estate, Cairndow, Argyll, PA26 8BH. Tel. No. 01499 600 415
Email: veronica.anderson@lighthousecaledonia.com
Visit our website at www.lighthousecaledonia.com

Scottish Field

Editor, Scottish Field Magazine, Edinburgh
£Negotiable

Due to the retirement of the present editor, we are looking for a successor who possesses the flair and imagination to ensure Scottish Field maintains its role as "Scotland's number one lifestyle magazine". This post requires prior experience in the position of editor together with a genuine understanding of our readership and clients, plus the practical skills of a good writing style and editing and proofing.

A sound knowledge of Scotland is necessary alongside budgeting and freelance negotiation skills and a thorough knowledge of legal matters. You should be acutely commercially-aware and able to work closely with the advertising department. Duties will include the following:

- Generating ideas for features
- Commissioning articles from freelance and in-house writers
- Managing in-house staff and freelance writers
- Editing, writing and proofreading articles – both in-house and submitted
- Overseeing artwork, design and photography for the magazine
- Organising meetings with your team to stimulate ideas for artwork, layout and features
- Attending photo-shoots
- Assisting other staff to meet their deadlines
- Negotiating payments with freelance writers and sending out briefs to include word counts, deadline, fee and writing style
- Raising the profile of the magazine
- Networking to promote the magazine's visibility and identify editorial and commercial opportunities
- Acting as an ambassador for the publication at relevant events

£ Excellent + car + BUPA + Pension
Full Driving Licence is essential. Apply with CV and present salary to Ali Arden, Scottish Field, Craigmackay Castle, Craigmackay Road, EH4 3PE or email CV to ali@scottishfield.co.uk

Scottish Sea Farms

Marine Farming Career Opportunities

Oban Area

Scottish Sea Farms is the UK's leading producer of premium quality Scottish salmon. Our business is extensive; based in Argyll, across the West coast and throughout the Northern Isles. We are trusted to supply Britain's most demanding retailers and need exceptional staff to build our business.

We are able to offer enthusiastic, self-motivated individuals the following opportunities:

Marine Farmer
You'll have at least 3 years "Hands On" aquaculture experience and be able to bring proven skills in boat handling, stockmanship and equipment care. Above all you will set high standards, want to progress to a management position and willing to improve your career through taking initiative and applying training. This position is salaried with additional weekend payment, bonus scheme and free occupational health support.

Trainee Farmer
No previous experience required but you must set high standards, be hardworking, practical and willing to acquire new skills. Salary: £6.49p/h after satisfactory 6 month review. All applicants are required to have a clean drivers licence.

To obtain an application pack, please contact Angela Hand on 01786 445521 or email angela.hand@scottishseafarms.com, indicating your position of choice.
Closing Date: Friday 2nd October 2009.

Scottish Natural Heritage is the leading public body responsible for advising Ministers on matters relating to the natural heritage. The natural environment is a key asset that underpins Scotland's wealth, health and quality of life. Our job is to conserve this resource, to promote its sustainable management and to encourage people to access and enjoy it responsibly.

Site Management Officer, Argyll National Nature Reserves
£14,403 - £15,295 depending on experience and qualifications (Ref: 071-081) Lochgilphead

Here, you will carry out habitat management, ecological monitoring and visitor management of the National Nature Reserves in Argyll, primarily Tainish, Moine Mhor and Glasdrum Wood NNRs. Our Reserves take in a range of impressive habitats and species, most notably Atlantic oakwoods, one of the largest active raised bogs in Great Britain and nationally important butterfly populations.

With an aptitude for a range of practical estate management skills, including the use of vehicles and machinery, you will be enthusiastic about using your skills in the management of a range of habitats for nature conservation. A willingness to undertake training, learn new skills and adapt to new areas of work are also essential. You must also have basic IT skills, including Word and Excel, and a full valid driving licence.

An interest and knowledge of natural history, a current first aid certificate and experience of environmental education, interpretation and/or visitor management would be an advantage.

Administrative Support
£14,403 (Ref: 071-039) Lochgilphead

You will provide administrative, finance and vehicle fleet support for the Area Administrator, as well as general administrative support to our Lochgilphead and wider area teams.

You will have office experience and a driving licence. With excellent communication skills, both written and oral, you will be organised and have the ability to work on your own as well as part of a team. You will be computer literate, with a working knowledge of Word, Excel, databases, e-mail and the internet. Library experience would be an advantage.

We're as supportive, committed and proud of our people as we are of the natural world around us. Find out more, and apply, online. Alternatively, call 01463 725182.

Closing date - 22 September 2009.

get closer snhjobs.co.uk

Scottish Sea Farms

Processing Operatives

Scottish Seafarms Ltd have vacancies for processing operatives in their primary Filleting Department located at South Shian by Oban.

Full time workers are required.

Competitive hourly rates of pay are on offer with overtime where appropriate paid at time and a half.

Free transport is provided to and from Oban.

The working day normally runs from 8.30am - 5.00pm but because of the nature of the business a degree of flexibility is essential and overtime is sometimes required to be worked.

To arrange an interview please call 01631 57400 between 9am and 1pm Monday to Friday and ask for Margaret.

Scottish Ambulance Service

North West Division

Divisional Relief Ambulance Technician

Based at Strontian

Band 4: £17,732 - £21,318 pro rata, per annum, 35 hours per week

We are looking for motivated, enthusiastic and forward thinking individuals who are capable of working as team players within a caring, flexible, professional workforce.

A full UK driving licence, which includes categories C1 and D1 is desirable but consideration may be given to those who do not have these categories. You will preferably have gained three passes at higher grade or equivalent and hold a current First Aid certificate. All applicants must successfully complete all aspects of the entrance tests including a retention and recall test, fitness test, and driving assessment.

As a Relief, there may be a requirement to work at other stations within the Division, therefore you must be able to demonstrate a flexible approach and be able to make your own travel arrangements.

Further information can be obtained by contacting Alan Knox, Interim Area Service Manager, Divisional Headquarters on 01463 732 000.

A recruitment evening is to be held for anyone wishing to find out more information about a career with the Scottish Ambulance Service at Strontian on 22nd September at the Strontian hotel from 4.30pm to 7.30pm.

Application forms can be obtained from The Administration Department, Scottish Ambulance Service, North East Division, Ashgrove Road West, Aberdeen AB16 5EG, or by telephoning 01224 812200. Alternatively email scotamb.north-recruitment@nhs.net Please quote reference NW3338.

NHS SCOTLAND Closing date Friday, 2nd October 2009. **Stonewall**

YOUR LOCAL PAPER

Local newspapers and their websites are the number one choice for local jobs.

Source: Recruitment Choice, The Newspaper Society 2005

Regional Press
closer to home

Oban Times Oban Times RECRUITMENT RECRUITMENT

LOOKING FOR NEW STAFF?

The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Be seen by over 40,000 readers

Tel: 01631 568000
www.obantimes.co.uk

www.westcoastclassifieds.co.uk

NOW ONLINE

Advertise your unwanted items in either The Oban Times, Campbeltown Courier or Argyllshire Advertiser and your ad will also appear online at www.westcoastclassifieds.co.uk.

LOCAL services

ANTIQUES AND COLLECTABLES

AFRICAN LADY FIGURE solid wood carving, excellent condition, £35 Telephone 07766 966220.

BESWICK china Airedale terrier walking, excellent condition, £49 Telephone 01246 456350.

SEWING MACHINE very early Singer sewing machine, black and gold, still in box, £30 Telephone 07766 966220 Ardrishaig.

AUDIO EQUIPMENT

GOODMANS CD/RADIO player, portable, remote, excellent condition, £20 Telephone 07766 966220 Ardrishaig.

PORTABLE CD/RADIO player, excellent condition, £15 Telephone 07766 966220 Ardrishaig.

BABY EQUIPMENT

BABY HOLSTER to carry up to 2 years old on your back, buyer collects, £5 Telephone 01631 730071.

INFANT CARSEATS x 2 includes hood, flip down pocket at rear, cover and newborn liner, excellent condition, each cost £20, will sell separately or together Telephone 07776 491308 (Lochgilthead).

MAMAS AND PAPAS Aria travel system, pram/pushchair/car seat, suitable from birth, well used but plenty of life left in it, comes with rain cover/brolley/basket/headhugger, reversible seatliner, birth-4yrs, lightweight, excellent condition, £49 Telephone 01631 710307.

MAMAS AND PAPAS COT in very good condition, mattress available if required, can be delivered in the Oban area, £45 Telephone 01631 571288.

MCLAREN STROLLER pink/coffee pram with cosy toots/rain cover/brolley/basket/headhugger, reversible seatliner, birth-4yrs, lightweight, excellent condition, £49 Telephone 01631 5046 602161.

MOSES BASKET pink, includes hood cover, 2 mattresses and stand, excellent condition, £20 Telephone 07776 491308 (Lochgilthead).

BICYCLES

ADULT MOUNTAIN BIKE, £48 Telephone 07932 635849.

TRAILER BIKE used 3 times, £15 Telephone 01631 720601.

YOUTHS MOUNTAIN BIKE, £40 Telephone 07932 635849.

BRIC-A-BRAC

BRASS ORNAMENTS quantity of brass ornaments, ideal for car boot sale, £25 Telephone 01631 720369.

BUILDING / DIY

CHIPBOARD P5 T and G moisture proof chipboard, £3 Telephone 01866 822745.

DORMA DOORCLOSER perfect working condition, ideal for closing heavy doors automatically, buyer collects, £5 Telephone 01631 730071.

QUARRY TILES Welsh, 5 boxes, 36 tiles per box 15cm x 15cm, brown, £25 Telephone 01546 602764.

SCOTCH SLATES 1050 (24 sq metres) Good quality, buyer collects, 50p each, Telephone 01852 500306.

STEEL H BEAM /girder, approx 10' L x 5" H x 3" W (span), £49.99 Telephone 01631 564844.

CATERING EQUIPMENT

COUNTER CHILL suitable for cakes, made in Italy, tray 39" x 30", approx 6 years old, Cost £1200 new, selling for £250, Telephone 07932 635849.

CLOTHES, SHOES AND ACCESSORIES JACKET pin stripe jacket, size 40, £25 Telephone 07932 635849.

COMPUTERS AND GAMES

15" LCD MONITOR Acer, includes wireless keyboard plus mouse, £30 Telephone 01631 564555.

LARA CROFT GAME Tomb Raider Legend Platinum PSP game for sale please contact anthony.flower@hotmail.co.uk if you are interested, £15.

MONITOR (old style), keyboard, scanner, printer, ink cartridges, AMD time software, £20 Telephone 01631 564451.

GENERATORS

GENERATOR large capacity diesel generator, long running, manufactured to ISO 9001 CE standard, electric or manual start, virtually unused, £320 Telephone 01866 833042.

GREYHOUNDS

The Retired Greyhound Trust have beautiful dogs and bitches suitable for adoption. These dogs are fully vaccinated and spayed/neutered. If you feel you could offer one of these ex-racers a home please contact Northern Division on 01470 511705 or 01465 255696. The RGT is a registered charity No 269668. A donation is required. Look forward to hearing from you.

DOMESTIC APPLIANCES

DYSON 2007 excellent condition cylinder dyson, £49.50 Telephone 07881 674301.

NATURAL GAS COOKER new world natural gas cooker, 4 burners, grill, oven, in excellent working order, £49.99 Telephone 01631 564844.

UPRIGHT VACUUM Electrolux, good condition, instructions, £25 Telephone 01631 720344.

DOMESTIC PETS

JACK RUSSELL puppies, happy, healthy dogs and bitches, well fed, wormed and fully weaned, lovely markings, reared in family home, both parents owned, £150 each, Telephone 01546 603770.

EQUESTRIAN

16.3HH HANOVERIAN CROSS Irish Draught three year old mare, just broken this summer and going well. Will make great eventer. For sale, no fault of her own, POA, Telephone 07951 020465 (Carradale).

FANTASTIC 13.2HH ALL ROUNDER Welsh X bay roan gelding, forward going confidence-giver, sadly outgrown, loving experienced home wanted, no time-wasters, Telephone 01880 760358.

FURNITURE

BEDROOM CHAIR Berger case seat bedroom chair, gold colour, £10 Telephone during office hours 01631 564848 (Oban).

BEDSIDE CABINETS x 2 in white wood, £10 Telephone during office hours 01631 564848 (Oban).

CARD TABLE 1950's card table with silver top, needs new green baize, £40 Telephone during office hours 01631 564848 (Oban).

CHESTERFIELD SUITE couch and 2 chairs, £350 Telephone 07932 635849.

COFFEE TABLE inlaid, £15 Telephone during office hours 01631 564848 (Oban).

FOLD UP BED and mattress, bigger than a single but not as big as a double, £30 Telephone 07745 520106.

GATELEG TABLE dark wood, very good condition, £35 Telephone during office hours 01631 564848 (Oban).

LAURA ASHLEY tv and dvd unit, cream with rattan doors, £49.99 Telephone 01546 602764.

PARKER KNOLL 2 seater settee and single parker knoll chair, needs recovering, £30 Telephone during office hours 01631 564848 (Oban).

PINE DINING TABLE £20 Telephone during office hours 01631 564848 (Oban).

PLASMA TV STAND suitable for most plasmas up to 42", Argos catalogue 534 6721, £49.99 Telephone during office hours 01631 570557.

ROCKERCHAIR yewwood rocker chair with rocker footstool, £30 Telephone during office hours 01631 564848 (Oban).

ROCKING CHAIR good condition, £20 Telephone during office hours 01631 564848 (Oban).

SIDEBOARD and two bedside tables, very good condition, dark wood, £25 Telephone during office hours 01631 564848 (Oban).

TABLE melamine kitchen drop leaf table and 6 chairs, £25 Telephone during office hours 01631 564848 (Oban).

ORANGE JUICER never used, unwanted present, as new condition, buyer collects, £20 Telephone 01631 730071.

KITCHEN AND BATHROOM

BATHROOM WALL CABINET mirrored bathroom wall cabinet, lights, gloss white, unused, cost £160, sell £49.99, £49.99 Telephone 07799 332609.

ORANGE JUICER never used, unwanted present, as new condition, buyer collects, £20 Telephone 01631 730071.

LEISURE AND LIFESTYLE

BIVOUAC TENT vintage army style Bivouac tent with pegs and supports, £25 Telephone 01631 770310.

FAMILY TENT Eurohike 4 man tent, brand new, never used, £45 Telephone 01852 300286 07748 001545.

LIVESTOCK

DUCKS FOR SALE Aylesbury Campbell cross, from £12 delivered, Telephone 07788 965267.

PULLETS brown or black, feeders, drinkers, hen, duck and dog sheds Telephone 01470 572213.

LOST AND FOUND

MISSING FOR THREE MONTHS 18 month old Tabby male, neutered, Kilmelford area, may have wandered further, Telephone 01852 200377.

MAIL ORDER

SCOTTISH FIELD CALENDARS, featuring spectacular photography of some of our most scenic lochs, rivers, beaches and mountains. Always a popular gift for family and friends at home or abroad. Order on-line at www.scottishfield.co.uk/calendar 2010.

OBAN TIMES WEST HIGHLAND CALENDAR, fabulous views of the West Highlands portrayed in this handy and conveniently sized calendar. Ideal for home offices or as a gift. Order on-line at www.obantimes.co.uk/calendar 2010.

HEALTH AND FITNESS

V-FIT MAGNETIC BIKE bought from argos earlier this year, paid £100, lcd, pulse sensor, adjustable saddle, practically brand new, never got used, £40 Telephone 07745 520106.

GAS FIRE Valor flame portable gas fire, good working order but needs a sheet of glass in the front, £10 Telephone 07745 520106.

HOBBIES AND CRAFTS

BINOCULARS 10x50 with case, excellent condition, £25 Telephone 07766 966220 Ardrishaig.

CALLIGRAPHY DRAWING board with clamp and scale, parker calligraphy pens and ink, £20 Telephone 01546 602763.

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

VIOLIN in case, £35 Telephone 07932 635849.

OUTDOOR SPORTS EQUIPMENT BABY CARRIER for bike, ideal for carrying up to 3 years old on rear of bicycle, buyer collects, £10 Telephone 01631 730071.

CANOE/PADDLE Canadian style, brand new, wooden, 1.5 meters long, £26 Telephone 01631 770201.

FISHING GEAR

extensive range of fishing gear for sale, fly fishing etc, £275 ono Telephone 01852 300286 (evenings) 07748 001545.

PET ACCESSORIES

CHICKEN ARK free to take away or make small contribution to Animal Aid, Telephone 01631 720369.

DOG BED large, plastic, oval, £15 Telephone 07745 520106.

MEDIUM DOG CAGE brilliant condition, 62cm(H) x 76cm(W) x 54cm(D), weight 7kg, bought last year, was £46.99, sell for £25, Telephone 07745 520106.

POWER TOOLS

CORDLESS DRILL Bochman 24v cordless drill with 1 hour charger, £30 Telephone 07766 966220 Ardrishaig.

PRINTING AND STATIONERY

ENVELOPES wide range of sizes and colours, sold individually or boxed. Great value, if you need envelopes then we can save you money!

COPY PAPER A4/A3 size, sold in reams or by the box at economical prices, ideal for use in photocopiers, lasers and fax machines. Contact Krisp Printing and Stationery, Burnbank, Campbeltown, Telephone 01586 554975.

TICKETS FOR SALE

PETE DOCHERTY 2 tickets for concert at Barrowlands on Wednesday, September 23, 2009, sell at cost price £40 the pair, Telephone 07887 513286.

TOYS AND GAMES

BABY ANNABEL pram and baby Annabel doll, excellent condition, £20 ono, Telephone 01631 720601.

PERSONALS

Happy 30th Lisa and Iain Love from all the family.

Happy 40th Fiona Enjoy all your surprises. Love Siobhan, Iain, Mum and all the family X.

WANTED

BABY EQUIPMENT travel cot, cot bed, all terrain buggy, Telephone 01631 730437.

SCRAP METAL all types of scrap metal, we uplift cars, call Mr Cook, West Coast Scrap Metals, Telephone 01499 500638 07774 621917.

UNWANTED ITEM TO SELL?

The Oban Times A WEST HIGHLAND TIMES Be seen by over 40,000 readers Tel: 01631 568000 www.obantimes.co.uk

Donnie and Marjorie McQuarrie wish to thank everyone who sent cards, gifts and good wishes on the occasion of their Golden Wedding.

CONDITIONS OF ACCEPTANCE FOR ADVERTISEMENTS

YOUR attention is drawn to the following terms and conditions which relate to the placing of advertisements in all publications owned by Wyvex Media Limited.

Parties to this agreement are the Publisher, Wyvex Media Limited Limited on the one part and the Advertiser on the other part. The Publisher publishes newspapers, magazines, books and provides advertising space therein or provides for the delivery of advertising materials to the public within these publications.

1 Advertising copy shall be legal, decent, honest and truthful and comply with the British Code of Advertising Practice and all other codes.

2 The Publisher does not guarantee the insertion of any particular advertisement.

3 The Publisher reserves the right to cancel or alter the advertisement by giving reasonable notice.

4 An order for an advertisement shall be deemed to be made on acceptance of the advertiser's order by the Publisher whether by telephone, mail, fax or in person.

5 Cancellation of display advertising must be received by the Publisher before the publishing deadline, failing which, the publisher reserves the right to invoice the customer in full for the whole cost of the advertisement.

6 The parties submit to the jurisdiction of the Scottish Courts and Scots Law. In the event of any dispute or action by the Publisher to recover payment from an advertiser, it is agreed that matters will be settled in the Oban, Argyll Sheriff Court or such other Court as the Publisher may choose.

7 The Publisher shall not be liable for any loss or damage occasioned by any total or partial failure (however caused) of publication or distribution of any newspaper or edition in which any advertisement is scheduled to appear. In the event of any error, misprint or omission in the printing of an advertisement or part of an advertisement, the Publisher will either re-insert the advertisement or relevant part of the advertisement, as the case may be, or make reasonable refund or adjustment to the cost. No re-insertion, refund or adjustment will be made where the error, misprint or omission does not materially detract from the advertisement.

8 Errors must be notified to the Publisher in writing within fourteen days of publication. In no circumstances shall the total liability of the Publisher for any error, misprint or omission exceed the amount of a full refund of any price paid to the Publisher for the particular advertisement in connection with which liability arose or the cost of a further or corrective advertisement of a type and standard reasonably comparable to that in connection with which liability arose.

9 The Advertiser/Advertising Agency agrees to indemnify the Publisher in respect of all costs, damages or other charges falling upon the publication as the result of legal actions or threatened legal actions arising from the publication of the advertisement in any one or more of a series of advertisements published in accordance with copy instructions supplied to the publication in pursuance of the Advertiser/Advertising Agency order.

10 Adverts under the value of £75 must be paid on acceptance of order by the Publisher. All advertisements on a credit basis must be agreed with the Publisher in advance.

11 Payment of any invoice raised by the Publisher will be due 15 days from the date of invoice or as otherwise directed on the invoice. In the event of non-payment the Publisher may charge late payment interest at a rate of 2% and this is chargeable on a daily basis from the due date until the bill is paid. In addition the Publisher may charge a late payment levy of £10 as an administration fee. In the event of late payment the Publisher reserves the right to disallow any discounts given and to raise an additional invoice for the discount which will be treated as though it has been raised with the original invoice.

12 A request to insert an advertisement assumes acceptance of our conditions.

Published by Wyvex Media Limited, P.O. Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB, (01631) 568000 Fax (01631) 568001 — www.obantimes.co.uk and registered as a newspaper at the Post Office

CARAVANS

off site sales OFFSITE CARAVANS FOR SALE FROM £1,095 ONLY ON SITE CARAVANS FOR SALE FROM £8,950

CONTACT NEIL 01866 822666 OR 07717582540 Email: lochaweholidaypark@btconnect.com www.argyllholidays.com

CONTACT NEIL 01866 822666 OR 07717582540 Email: lochaweholidaypark@btconnect.com www.argyllholidays.com

COUNSELLING

Argyll and Bute WOMEN'S AID Offers information and support and refuge (if needed) to women and children (if any) who have been or are being abused by their partner/ex partner Telephone: 08702 413548 This is a confidential service

GLASS BALUSTRADING

Glass Balustrading FOR DECKS, PATIOS AND STAIRS Powdercoat aluminium with stainless steel fixings, ideal for coastal situations. Grille City Aluminium Unit 3, Inverlorn Trade Park, Perth, PH1 3TT www.grillecity.com 0800 1691604

REMOVALS & STORAGE

MACQUEEN BROS LTD Removals and Storage Full Packing Service Available Glengallan Road Oban, Argyll PA34 4HG Tel: (01631) 564848 Fax: (01631) 570627 e-mail: info@macqueenbros.com

PLUMBING & HEATING

We install and maintain plumbing systems We install and maintain all types of central heating We maintain all types of boilers We install underfloor heating systems J M Gillies Ltd Plumbing & Heating Contractors Unit 6 Tweedmill Soroba Road Oban Argyll Tel: 01631 565636 Fax 01631 564724 Email information @jm.gillies.co.uk

SOFT FURNISHINGS

BLINDS & CURTAINS CUSTOM-MADE & READY-MADE TRACKS & POLES COMPLETE FITTING SERVICE FREE ESTIMATES Stitch Nine Phone and Fax: 01631 710713 Email: info@stitchnine.co.uk Web: www.stitchnine.co.uk

WINDOW BLINDS

Chris Craft window blinds OBAN 01852 300174 FORT WILLIAM 01855 831480 FREE MEASURING / FREE ESTIMATES FREE FITTING / MADE IN SCOTLAND ALL BLINDS MADE TO MEASURE FREEPHONE 0800 371250 Check out our Customer Views at www.customers.chriscraft.co.uk

Need a joiner?

Go to the Index! Oban Index ON SALE NOW

A TOUCH OF SCOTLAND EVERY WEEK!

The Oban Times SUBSCRIPTION RATES (one year) U.K.....£58.00 Rest of World.....£100.00 The Oban Times Ltd P.O. Box 1 Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB Scotland, UK www.obantimes.co.uk

The Oban Times PREPAID ADVERTISING RATES

Private Classifieds Lineage Rates Minimum charge £13.05 + VAT (up to 25 words) thereafter £2.50 per line Box Number Fee £5.10 (+ VAT) Births, Engagements, Marriages, Deaths and Acknowledgments Minimum charge £12.00 (+ VAT) thereafter £2.50 per line (+ VAT) In Memoriam: Minimum charge £8.87 (+ VAT) thereafter £1.87 per line (+ VAT) Trade Classifieds: See Trade Classifieds Page for Rates Trade Display: £9.10 per single column centimetre Recruitment: £16 per single column centimetre Public Notices: £10.25 per single column centimetre Properties £9.90 per single column centimetre Private Accommodation to Let/Wanted £9.90 per single column centimetre (all rates exclusive of VAT) Personals: £7.00 per single column centimetre Payment: Pre-payment required for advertisements of less than £50 (excluding death notices) Please make cheques and postal orders payable to The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB www.obantimes.co.uk

SELL YOUR ITEMS WORTH £50 OR MORE FOR AS LITTLE AS £13.05 + VAT FOR UP TO 25 WORDS

ADDITIONAL LINES (4 WORDS) £2.50 + VAT Your ad will appear in the Oban Times, The Campbeltown Courier, The Argyllshire Advertiser AND online at www.westcoastclassifieds.co.uk

To place your advertisement simply fill in the form below and post it to any of our offices (details below) You can phone in your details to any one of our offices too. Or why not visit the website at www.westcoastclassifieds.co.uk and input your details there.

PLEASE NOTE: DEADLINE MONDAY 4.00pm

TO ADVERTISERS - No trade advertisers in private sales - All boats, cars & trailers must appear in Drive Times (see coupon on motors page for details) Pay by cash, cheque, Postal Order, or Credit Card payable to 'The Oban Times Ltd' Card No: _____ Expiry Date: _____ Signature: _____ Name: _____ Address: _____ Postcode: _____ Tel: _____

YOUR LOCAL WEST HIGHLAND OFFICES: OBAN - The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB FORT WILLIAM - The Oban Times, Manse House, The Parade, Fort William PH33 6BA CAMPBELTOWN - The Campbeltown Courier, Courier Centre, Main & Longrow South, Campbeltown, Argyll PA28 6AE LOCHGILHEAD - Argyllshire Advertiser, Argyll Street, Lochgilhead, Argyll PA31 8NB

THE OBAN TIMES
West Highland Times

THE REGIONAL NEWSPAPER FOR THE WEST HIGHLANDS, ISLANDS AND ARGYLL

The Oban Times is the best-selling weekly newspaper in the Highlands and is distributed via 1742 newsgirls every week.

Editorial Director: **Joan P. Bennett**
Group Managing Editor: **Stewart MacKenzie**
Deputy Editor: **Graham Crawford**
Chief Reporter: **Marian Miller**
Head Office: **Oban 568000**
Fax: **Oban 568001**
E-mail: editor@obantimes.co.uk

Branch Offices:
Fort William **(01397) 703003**
Lochgilhead **(01546) 602345**
Campbeltown **(01586) 554646**
Fax **(01586) 553006**

ACKNOWLEDGE-MENTS

CAMPBELL - Peter and Iona would like to thank relatives, friends and neighbours for kind expressions of sympathy, mass cards, cards and flowers following the sad loss of Carrie. Special thanks to medical ward Belford Hospital, Belhaven Ward, Fr D MacKinnon and Fr Roddy Johnston for funeral mass. Thanks also to Mike McFall and staff for caring and efficient funeral arrangements. The retiral collection raised the sum of £370 for Mosspark Residents Association.

CRAVEN - The family of the late Billy Craven would like to express gratitude and appreciation for the tremendous kindness and support shown during their recent bereavement. The compassion and warmth received from the beautiful cards, heartfelt messages, flowers and all who attended the service has touched our hearts, special thanks to the staff of the Cruachan Ward in Oban for their care in looking after Billy, staff at Gartnavel Hospital, district nurses, Marie Curie nurses, Macmillan nurses, ambulance crew and doctors in attendance. We would also like to thank Reverend George Cringles for his touching service, Mr Ralph Joss and organist, thanks to Catriona and staff of Hamish Hoey for their sensitive handling of the funeral and Oban Bay for their excellent catering. A sum of £645.32 was collected for Macmillan nurses and Oban Hospice.

KELLET - Olive Rowlinson would like to thank everyone for sympathy and kindness shown to her on the sad loss of her brother, Tom. Grateful thanks for all help given, special thanks to Catriona, Owen and staff at Hamish Hoey also to Rev Cat Knott for comforting service. Collection at church raised £132 for Cruachan Ward.

McLAUGHLIN - Vinny and Fiona would most sincerely like to thank all their family and friends who have supported them through their recent bereavement of their precious son, Ryan, for flowers, cards, donations and to all who attended Ryan's funeral in Bendersloch and Paisley. Thanks to Rev Jeff MacCormick for a touching service and to Angus MacColl for piping at St. Modans Church. Our gratitude and appreciation goes to Catriona, Owen, James and John Hoey of Hamish Hoey and Son for the sensitive and efficient handling of the funeral arrangements. Very special thanks to the wonderful doctors and nurses who cared for Ryan in the Neonatal Intensive Care Units at the RAH and Yorkhill, to whom donations raised of £1200.00 will be given. Our heartfelt thanks to all for the overwhelming love, support and prayers offered during Ryan's short life.

MCNIVEN - thank family, friends and neighbours for flowers, cards, letters and phone calls following the sad loss of Ila. They would also like to thank all the staff at Ardfenaig for the care and respect given to Ila during her last week and the kindness shown to the family, Dr Adrian Ward and District Nurses for their care and attention, Roddy MacDonald and his staff for the sensitive way in which they handled the funeral arrangements, Reverend Hilda Smith for the comforting service and Cairnbaan Hotel for efficient catering and to all those who attended the church and graveside. Donations at the church raised the sum of £230 for Ardfenaig.

MACMILLAN - Matthew, Mary, Andrew and Alan wish to thank family and friends for their visits, phone calls, cards and flowers following Danny's tragic death. Sincere thanks to Rev. Steve Fulcher for his support and conducting a moving service at the Round Church, Bowmore. Special thanks to organist Marjorie Gallimore and piper James Carmichael. Finally thank you to Jean and Craig MacAffer for efficient funeral arrangements and to Bridgend Hotel for providing a welcome purvey.

RICE - **GARWOOD** - Christine and Alison would like to thank all family, friends and neighbours for all their wonderful help following the very sad loss of beloved Ronald. For all the beautiful flowers, cards and telephone calls from near and far, to the ambulance men, to Dr Tregaskis and Mr Sedgwick and all staff on medical and surgical wards and A and E at the Belford Hospital, Fort William, to Fr Donald MacKinnon and Rev A Guinness for spiritual comfort, to Rev Kit Jarman and Fr John Paul MacKinnon who conducted the funeral service, to organist Kerr Jamieson, to Dr Roddy MacLeod for his heartfelt address, to Duncan Gunn and Alan MacKenzie (undertakers) for their professionalism, to David Craig, to Kate Campbell and

her team for catering - and to each person who attended the service at the church and at the graveside. To Dr Calder and Dr Willington, Meg and the staff at Ballachulish Medical Centre. To Rev Alison Burns and to Dr Gavin Brown who founded "Heart Smart" Lochaber.

IN MEMORIAM

CAMERON - Remembering with love our darling mother and granny, Isa, who passed away September 23, 2008. Time passes memories stay Quietly remembered and loved every day.
- Carolann, Veronica, Janette and the boys xxxxx.

MACCUISH - In loving memory of our darling son, Bobby, who left us on September 17, 2006. We miss you more with each passing day In our hearts you will always stay Much loved and thought of everyday. Till we meet again son - Mum and Dad.

MACCUISH - In loving memory of our dear brother, Bobby, who died on September 17, 2006. Not a day goes by That you are not in our thoughts We miss you so much Our world is a lonelier place without you.
- David, Tia, Claire and Daniel.

MACCUISH - Bobby, brother and uncle. Sadly missed. You'll never walk alone.
- Peter, Diane, Jenna, Andrew and Aiden.

MACDONALD - Remembering with love our beloved father and papa, Douglas MacDonal, who passed away on September 18, 1991, also remembering loved ones gone before and after. We keep in our hearts The love of the past For there it was planted Forever to last To deep in our hearts For death to divide Each day of our lives You walk by our side.
- Inserted by his ever loving daughters, Mary Flora, Sandra, May Margaret and families.

MACDOUGALL - In memory of Callum, a dearly loved husband, father and grampy, who died on September 19, 1997. Sadly missed along life's way Quietly remembered every day.
- Freena and family, lochdar, Bussan, Mull.

MACDOUGALL - In loving memory of our dad and grampy, Callum, who died on September 19, 1997. Forever in our hearts.
- Margaret and Hannah, lochdar, Bussan.

MAGEE - In loving memory of Ivy Magee, a much loved wife, mother and nana. Always remembered Never forgotten.

MARSHALL - Treasured memories of our loved ones who over the years have passed away at Kilpatrick, Bussan.
- Senga and family.

MORRISON - Cherished memories of Alexander, a dear husband, father, and grandpa, who passed away September 16, 2000. Always remembered Never forgotten.
- MaryAnn and family at home and away.

MOUNT - In ever loving memory of my dear partner, Colin, passed away September 15, 2006. I saw you getting tired A cure was not to be God put his arms around you And whispered come to me With tearful eyes I watched you And saw you slip away Although I loved you dearly The greatest love took you away Missing you so much.
- Maryx.

POLLOCK - In loving memory of my mum, Catherine, who died September 15, 1994 and my dad, Ian, who died December 5, 1981. Loved and remembered always.
- Pamela and John, Glencoe.

SPINK - Duncan. Fondlest memories of Duncan, a dearly loved husband, father and brother, who died September 20, 2007. In our thoughts each day.
- Jessie, Elspeth and Jean.

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH ANGLICAN COMMUNION

Saturday 20 September 2009
Trinity 15
St John's Cathedral, Oban
Holy Communion..... 08.00
Sung Eucharist..... 10.15
Sunday School and Creche
Loop System
Large Print Hymn Books
All Welcome
Norman MacCallum,
Provost
☎(01631) 562323
St James, Ardbrecknish, Cladich
Holy Eucharist..... 11.00
St Columba, Gruline, Mull
Holy Eucharist..... 11.00
St Columba, Bishop's House, Iona
Holy Eucharist..... 08.00
Evensong..... 20.00

LORN CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Sunday 20th September
Skipinnish Ceilidh
House
10am
All Welcome
Telephone
07876 735 794
www.lorncf.org.uk

Oban Hospice
CARING FOR THE FUTURE
Donations always gratefully accepted
Please contact
David Mudie (Treasurer)
Oban Hospice Ltd
The Croft
Kilmore

WE ARE MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT
Working towards a time when every person in Scotland has equal and ready access to the best information, treatment and care for cancer
West of Scotland Fundraising Office
1st Floor, Erskine House
North Avenue, Clydebank
Business Park, Clydebank G81 2DR
Tel 0808 100 6000
In memory of Dawn Joyce

CANCER RESEARCH UK Scotland
Fighting Cancer on all fronts...
CRC Scotland spends more on research than any other organisation
Commitment of over £15 million each year
Cancer Research UK Scotland
Suite 1/1, Unit 4 Blair Court
Clydebank Business Park
Clydebank, G81 2LA

FOR THE BLIND CHILDREN OF SCOTLAND'S ACADEMIC TUITION AT THE ROYAL SCHOOL IN EDINBURGH
Please give your financial support by donation, deed of covenant or legacy
Please send to Appeals Department, Highland Arts Effort, Royal Blind Asylum School, P.O. Box 500, Gillespie Crescent, Edinburgh, EH10 4HZ

New music workshops from Fiddle Folk

ARGYLL music charity Lochgoilhead Fiddle Workshop is moving some of its regular workshops to Strachur, to allow more people to attend.

The new season got under way last week with intermediate and advanced fiddling led by Skye-born tutor Sarah Naylor.

On Tuesdays, there will be a beginners' class as well as a new mixed instrument group work class and finishing up with an information session.

Since it was formed, the Fiddle Workshop has given more than 350 children and adults the chance to try the fiddle, mandolin, tin whistle and guitar with free 'come and try' classes and many went on to take up a new instrument.

Linda Morpurgo explained the charity welcomes people of all ages and abilities: 'There is no need to worry if you have never played an instrument before. There are no concerns if you do not read music - you do not even need to feel that you are musical. The workshop will even lend you a fiddle for the session.'

'Age is no barrier either,' she added. 'Our oldest member was over 70 when he first played a note - and he has been 70 and holding ever since, down to the good living style of fiddlers everywhere.'

Anyone interested in finding out more can contact Linda on 01301 703559.

Church NEWS

Please keep sending in the news about your church!
Church News, The Oban Times, PO Box 1
Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB or FAX: (01631) 568001



Geoffrey White, left, organiser of the bi-centenary celebrations at Holy Cross Church, Appin, shows exhibits including Appin Historical Society's Celtic stone head found in Glen Creran. The Appin Chalice and platen from St John's Ballachulish, used to serve communion to Jacobite troops on the eve of Culloden, and other chalices and platens were on display. The Rev Adrian Fal-lows, Rector of West Highland Episcopalian Region, holding the Bachuil Mor (Great Staff) of St Moluag, believed to be one of the oldest croisers, lent by Lismore.

Appin's Holy Cross Church celebrates bi-centenary

HOLY Cross, Appin, the oldest operating Episcopalian Church in Argyll, was filled recently for an evening of ecumenical hymns, music and historical readings for its bi-centenary celebrations.

Led by former rector, the Rev Peter Rice, the recently-acquired organ from Ardoch was consecrated and was played during the evening by Myra MacDougall, Kerr Jamieson and Geoffrey White.

Ardoch Episcopalian Church was deconsecrated earlier this year and the organ presented to Holy Cross two months ago.

Soloist Aimee MacDonald sang traditional Scottish songs *Dumbarton's Drums* and *Rose among the Heather*.

Trumpet soloist was Gary Thompson and soprano soloist Louise Childs.

Pat Wyeth-Webb read the poem *Appin* written by Reine Errington and Geoffrey White described the exhibits on display including Appin Historical Society's Celtic stone head.

He also spoke about Bishop Forbes, who baptised and confirmed 450 people during a visit to Appin in 1770 and how the Reformation affected Appin.

The event was organised by Geoffrey White and David Craig, assisted by Anne White, Nigel and Liz Bruce, May Oliver and Gwen MacTaggart.

Morning service on Sunday used the Appine Chalice, normally held at St John's, Ballachulish, for communion.

St Mary's blooming brilliantly



St Mary's Episcopal Church, Glencoe recently held a very successful flower festival. The vestry would like thank May, Jackie, Isobel, Jeanette and Linda, along with church members for the flower displays and help and all festival sponsors. The event was well attended over several days and more than £1,000 was raised for church funds.

BIRTHS

POTTER - Tommy and Chrysti are delighted to announce the birth of their daughter Millie Jennifer Downie on August 28, 2009 in Brisbane, Australia. A welcome wee sister for big brothers Conor and Cavan.

ENGAGEMENTS

MACINTYRE MACFADYEN - We are delighted to announce the engagement on August 26, 2009 of Kirsty MacIntyre and David MacFadyen, both formerly from Three and now living in Perth. Kirsty is the younger daughter of Lynda MacIntyre and the late Jim and David is the younger son of Lachie and Wilma MacFadyen.

MARRIAGES

MACLEOD - SIM - Both families are delighted to announce the marriage of Ian MacLeod and Nicola Jane Sim at Muckaim Parish Church, Taynult on September 5, 2009. A great day was had by all.

RUBY WEDDING

CAMPBELL MACGILLIVRAY - On September 19, 1969, at Salen Parish Church, Isle of Mull by the late Rev J F MacDonald, Iain to Nancy. Present address Balloch, Inverness.

DEATHS

CAMPBELL - Peacefully at the Western Infirmary on Sunday, September 6, 2009, after a short illness, Iain of Port Wemyss, Islay, aged 75 years, loving brother of Mary, brother-in-law of John Provan, and uncle of Seonaid, David and Margaret Anne. Funeral service in Portnahaven Church on September 14, 2009. Interred in Nerabus Cemetery.

ELLIS - On September 8, 2009, suddenly, but tragically, at Inverclyde Hospital, Greenock, Isla Elizabeth, aged 39 years, beloved daughter of Neil and Fiona of Inveraray, dear sister of Colin and adored mummy of Alexandra. Funeral Private.

DOHERTY MACDONALD - Passed away peacefully at home Monday, September 14, 2009. Ena, a wonderful mum to Peter, Kathleen, Eileen, Peter, John, Alex and Jacqueline, and a devoted nana and granny to the family. You are always close beside us In everything we do You were our greatest treasure God's gift to us was you Funeral mass at 12 noon, Friday, September 18, 2009, from St Mary's, Fort William, followed by interment in Glen Nevis Cemetery.

MACMASTER - Angus Macmaster (Butcher) much loved dad and granddad passed away peacefully on Tuesday, September 8, 2009. He was laid to rest on Monday, September 14 at 12 noon in St Mary's RC Church followed by burial, across the road, in the Craigs Cemetery, Fort William.

WILSON - On September 8, 2009, peacefully at home with his family, Robert (Bobby) Wilson in his 84th year, beloved husband of Cathie Wilson, (née McTaggart) and a much loved father, brother, grandfather and great-grandfather. Funeral service was held at Glenorchy Church on September 12, interment thereafter at Glenorchy Cemetery.

CHARITY DONATIONS

Oban Hospice
CARING FOR THE FUTURE
Donations always gratefully accepted
Please contact
David Mudie (Treasurer)
Oban Hospice Ltd
The Croft
Kilmore

WE ARE MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT
Working towards a time when every person in Scotland has equal and ready access to the best information, treatment and care for cancer
West of Scotland Fundraising Office
1st Floor, Erskine House
North Avenue, Clydebank
Business Park, Clydebank G81 2DR
Tel 0808 100 6000
In memory of Dawn Joyce

CANCER RESEARCH UK Scotland
Fighting Cancer on all fronts...
CRC Scotland spends more on research than any other organisation
Commitment of over £15 million each year
Cancer Research UK Scotland
Suite 1/1, Unit 4 Blair Court
Clydebank Business Park
Clydebank, G81 2LA

FOR THE BLIND CHILDREN OF SCOTLAND'S ACADEMIC TUITION AT THE ROYAL SCHOOL IN EDINBURGH
Please give your financial support by donation, deed of covenant or legacy
Please send to Appeals Department, Highland Arts Effort, Royal Blind Asylum School, P.O. Box 500, Gillespie Crescent, Edinburgh, EH10 4HZ



Jack and Jill move home

The Jack and Jill parent and toddler group has moved to a different hall on a different day but these youngsters didn't seem to mind as they enjoyed a teddy bears' picnic at the Glenclutten Church Centre undercroft on Monday. The group now meets at the centre every Monday from 10.30 - noon. 07_138jae01

Cowal artists throw open doors

ALMOST 40 artists based on Argyll's Cowal peninsula will be opening up their workshops and studios from September 25 to 28.

It will be just the second time that Cowal Open Studios has been held, luring local visitors and tourists to seek out some of the area's artistic hidden talents.

Textile artist Jean Donaldson is chairwoman of Cowal Open Studios. She said: 'So many of our artists take their inspiration from what they see around them, so the paintings and photographs we display help to promote the area in themselves.'

Robert Livingston, director of Hi Arts, said open studio events helped to make artists more visible within their communities.

He added: 'What better way is there of exploring this beautiful part of Scotland than by studio-hopping?'

The open studios event proved so popular last year that musicians also want to be involved. Lochgoilhead's Fiddle Folk will be holding an international concert to link in with the event, with Rallion, harpists Ailie Robertson and Tristan Le Govic.

Oban Art Society opens doors to public viewing

OBAN Art Society celebrated the opening of its annual exhibition on Friday September 11 with a party in the Army Cadet Hall, Oban, where the exhibition is taking place.

This year the competition was to design a poster advertising Oban as a holiday destination.

The outstanding winner of the competition was Sheila McGregor from Kerrera with a beautifully hand-painted poster showing many of the joys of coming to Oban.

Her poster was described as a real 'work of art' and well worth a visit to the exhibition just to see it.

Oban Art Society annually exhibits the work of more than 40 artists from the area, producing well over 200 works this year.

The exhibition is open until Saturday September 19, and entry is free.



Ann Sorley, chairwoman Oban Art Society, Riona MacInnes, Oban Tourist Information Centre, and Graham Fraser, Alba, with the winning entry.



Roni MacDonald, Kilmore with his green man.

Sponsors strengthen shinty link at youth level

Shinty

THE SPONSORS of the 2009 Camanachd Cup Final in Oban told The Oban Times that they see the links between traditional Scottish sport and the Scottish-based business sector as a natural link.

Douglas Flowers, Sponsorship Account Manager for Scottish Hydro, said: 'Scottish Hydro is delighted to be supporting the Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup for the fourth consecutive year.'

'We are proud of our Scottish heritage which has been built up since the companies' inception in 1947. Since then we have had a presence in communities throughout Scotland, so a partnership with our community-based national sport is a perfect fit. 'We see supporting the grass roots as every bit as important as supporting the elite end of the game.'

'That's why we have recently extended and broadened our support of the sport to include more areas of shinty development such as the U17 Development Squad and Academy.'

'The benefits of this approach were clearly demonstrated in July when the brightest young Shinty prospects came together at the Scottish Hydro National Player Development Camp. The players received coaching, from the very best in the business, on all aspects of their game including the technical, physical and tactical elements of the sport.'

'The week was a real learning experience and we hope to see some of these young players take part in Camanachd Cup Finals of the future.'

Mr Flowers added: 'By placing equal emphasis on shinty development and the senior game we hope to make a meaningful contribution to attracting and retaining young talent.'

'In the coming months we look forward to helping strengthen the game through kit schemes and the Scottish Hydro Youth Development Fund'



David Cheyne fires home Newtonmore's second goal from a tight angle on the left 17-08Newton01

Four goals keep 'More on target for league title

NEWTONMORE ticked off another two points on their Premier title wish-list with a 4-0 home win over Oban Camanachd at the Eilan - scoring in the first-half for the first time in four matches.

Evan Menzies eased early home nerves with a goal in the opening 10 minutes and would have added another moments later but for a great save from Oban keeper Gavin Stobbart - but the remainder of the first 45 minutes was goal-less and fairly evenly balanced as the home side

Shinty

Scottish Hydro Premier Division
Newtonmore 4 Oban Camanachd 0

pressed the ball in midfield and Oban Camanachd hit back quickly and well on the break.

Aiden MacIntyre pulled a shot over Ritchie's crossbar after 38 minutes, while, at the other end, full-centre Jamie Robinson almost ran through the entire Camanachd defence before allowing the ball to slip too far ahead, with Daniel

Cameron eventually clearing the danger.

The home side withdrew the injured Robinson 10 minutes into the second-half and substitute David Cheyne fired the ball into the Oban net with his first touch.

Stobbart then pulled another fine Cheyne shot from under the bar but could do nothing as Menzies added his second of the game to

seal the league points.

David Cheyne made the scoreline a little more flattering for the home side when he rifled Newtonmore's fourth in the 72nd minute.

Both sides have four games left to complete their league programme with Oban aiming to consolidate their safe mid-table position, while Newtonmore need to maintain their focus on taking two points from every tie if they are to create a little shinty history by bringing the Premier league title back to the Eilan for the first time.

Glen on wrong end of 13-goal thrashing

Ross runs riot against Glenorchy

Shinty's top scorer creates new record - 10 goals in one match

Shinty

Scottish Hydro Premier Division
Kingussie 13 Glenorchy 0
Bute 2 Lochaber 1

GLENORCHY found themselves at the wrong end of a Kingussie backlash last weekend when Ronald Ross ran riot, creating a new single match scoring record for league shinty by scoring 10 times in a 13-0 thrashing of the Dalmally men.

Ross opened the scoring after seven minutes and by the interval whistle he had netted another five times, once from the penalty spot.

If Glenorchy thought that a 6-0 interval lead would ease Kingussie pressure they were wrong - although there was a 14 minute spell at the start of the second period when the visitor's net remained unruffled - that was until youngster Ryan Borthwick got in on the act with his contribution to the goal-fest.

Ronald Ross waited 20 minutes to get back on the scoresheet but by the 88th minute he had scored another four, with Kevin Thain adding a double.

Glenorchy have only one match of their Premier season left, with their defence aiming to keep the league goals-against tally under 70.

Kingussie, with seven league ties to play, still have their eyes fixed firmly on the Premier title - and, with the table remaining tight, goal difference could decide the destination of this season's top league silverware.

Bute

Hector Whitelaw returned from injury to score twice for Bute and draw opponents Lochaber into the relegation dog-fight at the foot of the Premier table.

Whitelaw struck after eight minutes and the single goal separated the teams until Neil Ferguson equalised for Lochaber a minute off the interval whistle. Whitelaw earned Bute both league points when he struck the match winner with 12 minutes left to play.

Shinty leagues

Premier Division

Newtonmore	14	10	4	0	53	14	24
Kingussie	12	8	3	1	58	18	19
Glenurquhart	16	8	2	6	32	31	18
Fort William	15	7	2	6	28	26	16
Kyles Athletic	14	6	3	5	35	32	15
Oban Camanachd	14	7	1	6	24	28	15
Lochaber	14	4	3	7	20	37	11
Inveraray	12	4	1	7	25	29	9
Bute	12	3	3	6	17	23	9
Glenorchy	17	1	2	14	13	67	4

North Division 1

Skye	15	10	1	4	38	21	21
Kilmallie	14	10	0	4	53	29	20
Lovat	12	8	3	1	28	12	19
Caberfeidh	15	9	0	6	27	22	18
Beaully	14	6	1	7	27	29	13
Strathglass	12	5	1	6	34	24	11
Kinlochshiel	11	5	1	5	25	27	11
Inverness	13	2	1	10	8	48	5
Lochcarron	12	0	0	12	8	36	0

South Division 1

Lochside Rovers	11	9	1	1	42	19	19
GMA	10	7	1	2	38	16	15
Kilmory	9	6	0	3	23	17	12
Oban Celtic	11	4	2	5	33	33	10
Inveraray	10	3	1	6	24	36	7
Ballachulish	11	2	1	8	23	35	5
Tayforth	10	2	0	8	17	44	0

North Division 2

Glenurquhart	15	13	2	0	63	12	28
Kingussie	16	11	1	4	58	31	23
Fort William	12	9	1	2	47	13	19
Lovat	15	9	0	6	51	36	18
Glangarry	15	7	2	6	41	31	16
Newtonmore	14	6	1	7	31	42	13
Skye	15	5	2	8	32	46	12
Kilmallie	15	4	0	11	20	53	8
Caberfeidh	14	2	0	12	27	64	4
Kinlochshiel	13	1	1	11	16	58	3

South Division 2

Taynuilt	12	12	0	0	60	13	24
Aberdour	15	8	0	7	50	45	16
Strachur	13	7	1	5	31	27	15
Kyles	9	6	1	2	27	14	13
GlasgowMid Argyll	14	4	4	6	34	43	12
ColGlen	13	5	2	6	23	32	12
Bute	12	4	1	7	24	24	9
Glenorchy	11	3	2	6	18	23	8
Ballachulish	13	1	1	11	17	63	3

North Division 3

Lochbroom	18	14	1	3	75	21	29
Beaully	17	14	0	3	69	14	28
Aberdeen U	17	11	2	4	58	27	24
Lochaber	16	11	0	5	76	34	22
Strathglass	14	7	0	7	52	46	14
Baleskine	13	6	1	6	30	26	13
Inverness	15	4	1	10	25	53	9
Lochcarron	14	4	0	10	18	46	8
Ardnamurchan	15	3	0	12	18	73	6
Kinlochshiel	15	0	1	14	11	92	1

Results

Shinty

Strathdearn Cup Final Lovat 2 Fort William 3
Bulloch Cup Final Kyles P Lochside Rvrs P
Scottish Hydro Premier Division
Bute 2 Lochaber 1; Kingussie 13 Glenorchy 0; Newtonmore 4 Oban Camanachd 0; Marine Harvest North Division 1
Kilmallie 3 Kinlochshiel 1; Skye 4 Lochcarron 1; Strathglass 1 Lovat 2; Marine Harvest North Division 2
Caberfeidh 3 Newtonmore 4; Kingussie 13 Glenurquhart 7; Kinlochshiel 0 Kilmallie 3; Marine Harvest South Division 1
Ballachulish P Kilmory P; Oban Celtic 6 Inveraray 0
Marine Harvest South Division 2
Aberdour 7 Glenorchy 0; Col Glen P Taynuilt P; GMA 3 Bute 1
Marine Harvest North Division 3
Aberdeen U P Baleskine P; Ardnamurchan w/o Strathglass

Shinty fixtures

Shinty

September 19 2009
Ken MacMaster National Under 14 Final
Fort William v Skye A Robert Baxter Jnr 11.15am
Mossfield Park, Oban.
Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup Final
Fort William v Kyles - Ronnie Campbell 1.45pm
Mossfield Park, Oban.
Scottish Hydro Under 14 Development
Cup Final Milngavie & Bearsden v Skye B
Euan Pearson 4pm Mossfield Park, Oban

Oban Celtic produce their best performance of the season

UNDER Saturday's blue skies at Ganavan, Oban Celtic simply overwhelmed Inveraray with a first half display that was one of their best this season.

From the start, centre David Duffy bossed the mid-field and dominated that area throughout the game, giving the Oban squad the perfect springboard to launch wave after wave of attacks on the 'Aray goal.

The breakthrough came after only 12 minutes when a low driven corner found Alan Miller on the edge of the area ready to drill the ball beyond 'Aray keeper MacPherson.

Shinty

Marine Harvest
South Division One
Oban Celtic 6
Inveraray 0

Duffy's refusal to surrender possession in midfield led to Celtic's second after 21 minutes, riding a clutch of tackles to send the ball forward where Neil Carmichael was waiting to drive into the box and bundle the ball over the line.

Two minutes later, Oban Celtic were three up, after

MacPherson had made a good stop but was unfortunate to see the rebound pounced upon by David Hill.

At that point the visitors regrouped with the defensive unit of Munro, Slaughter, Griffen and MacDonald working flat out to quell the rampant Celtic frontline. Aided by some fine saves from MacPherson, Inveraray managed to survive until half-time without sustaining further damage.

After the break, the visitors fared far better playing towards the town end. Now it was

the Celtic defence that came under pressure from 'Aray forwards who had barely seen the ball during the first half. However, Cakebread's tackling and Davidson's covering play ensured that Celtic keeper MacNab was kept very quiet and when Alan Miller scored his second after 63 minutes, any sign of a comeback from Inveraray disappeared.

Oban Celtic started to dominate again and their linking passes, so evident in the first period, were on show again.

Ironically, a solo effort by

Kieran Gallagher on 80 minutes provided the goal of the game with a splendid 35 yard rocket from midfield that cruised in under MacPherson's crossbar.

Substitutes Alan Duffy and Kenny Witherspoon linked in the last minute of play to score Celtic's final goal, the former fighting to win the ball in the box, with the latter hitting the final drive at a tight angle beyond the beleaguered keeper.

An excellent performance by Oban Celtic against an Inveraray side that might have been expected to put up stiffer opposition.



Spot the SHINTY BALL Competition

WIN £1550

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE...

All you have to do

We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph opposite. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1.

If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.

The game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void. Prizes will be shared between those submitting correct entries.

If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

Easy to enter

Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to reach 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon on Tuesday.

You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

Competition Rules

No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery. The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.

In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company.

The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time.

Employees of The Oban Times Limited, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.

I enclose £1 (note) for 20 crosses (tick box) The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules.

How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1.

Name _____

Address _____

Tel No. _____

Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB

This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:
W Thom, Glenview, Dalmally and I Wilson Aonachan Gardens, Spean Bridge



Camanachd Cup Final

Fort William v Kyles Athletic

Saturday 19th September

1.45pm throw up. Mossfield Stadium, Oban

THIS SATURDAY' Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup Final is a huge day in the world of shinty – but for the ground staff at Oban's Mossfield Stadium it is a scheduled 90 minutes of fast action, passion and bravery that they have been working towards since the middle of July.

Head groundsman Iain Hay knows only too well what an important role the surface of his turf could play in the success of the event. The 43-year old, influential former Oban Celtic and Oban Camanachd player, has first-hand experience of what it means to walk out onto a good park on the day of a Camanachd Cup Final – he played in the red-and-black colours of Oban Camanachd in the Scottish cup final of 1999 at the Dell, Kingussie and again in 2001 at Old An-

niesland, Glasgow. 'I try to produce a surface that I would like to play on myself,' said the modest Hay who has tended Mossfield's wide and hallowed turf for the last 26 years. 'We started to work on the park for the 'Scottish' back in mid-July – the park normally closes then for a period of maintenance and that closure was extended for three weeks to allow a little extra work. Since then we have introduced a programme of draining, seeding and fertilising,

the surface has been cut three times week – and this work will go on right up to the start of the match,' said Iain. 'The Macaulay Cup Final and the Argyllshire Gathering produced a couple of wee problems for us – there was 2,500 people walking on areas of the park during the 'games' and the heavy events such as the caber, tug-o-war and hammer events all leave there mark – but it has been the wet weather of recent weeks that have caused us most concern,' admitted the groundsman.

Preparation

Iain's understanding of what a good shinty playing surface should be like has made Oban's Mossfield Stadium one of the top grounds in Scotland. Hay is in charge of seven parks in the local area – with an average of more than a dozen matches a week taking place on his



Iain Hay, head groundsman at Oban's Mossfield Stadium

turf. 'Football, rugby, and shinty all use our parks every week, plus there are kid's events, sports days, tournaments – lots of different things. 'People don't realise how difficult producing a good playing surface can be,'

said Iain. 'We get more than our fair share of wet weather on the west coast and it can be very frustrating to try to find a weather-window to get all the preparations done in time each week – every week. 'Summer shinty has made

a big difference to us – you still get some wet days – but the required recovery time is a lot less than if the park was damaged during the winter.' Hay can detail every gram of fertiliser and every kilo of grass seed that has passed through

his fingers in a bid to get his park in tip-top condition. 'We've been busy repairing fences, painting and tidying – getting the place ready.' He points to the far end of the ground – the 'golf course end' for those who know the vast area of Mossfield. 'On Monday the new portable stands will arrive,' said Iain. 'It will take nine men at least two days to assemble the seating area for an extra 250 people, then the television gantries go up to allow the cameras the best view possible. 'We'll be ready – weather permitting,' states Hay.

Quality

Asked if there are grounds, other than his own, that he considers of a comparable quality, he looks North. 'I always loved playing on the Eilan, Newtonmore – a good, flat surface and it's

had a lot of work done to it recently which has made a huge difference to it – but the Dell at Kingussie must be considered one of the best. A really good, tight surface – and well looked after. They get much less rain than we do in the west and that makes a big difference – and, of course, they are both in the care of shinty players – we know what we are looking for,' said Hay with a knowing smile. Who does he tip for the cup final? 'It will be very close but I think, if Kyles play the way they have played at Mossfield earlier in the season, Kyles might just edge it. Maybe 3-2, but it will be very close. It's got all the makings of a great final.' Obviously proud of his park, Iain Hay just hopes the players enjoy their visit to Mossfield, win or lose

THE SCOTTISH HYDRO CAMANACHD CUP FINAL

19th September 2009, Mossfield Park, Oban



We are proud to support the Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup competition for the fourth year in a row. We love the big game occasions but we also know that success at the elite level is built on a solid foundation. The Scottish Hydro U17 Development Squad and Academy turns our brightest young shinty prospects into the stars of tomorrow.

After an eagerly contested tournament, the final has produced two outstanding teams who deserve to compete for shinty's most coveted piece of silverware. Scottish Hydro would like to wish Fort William and Kyles Athletic all the very best for the final.

Scottish Hydro – the power behind community sport

For more information on the Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup please visit:



Road to the Final



- 09.05.2009 at Fort William
Fort William P - P Kilmallie
- 16.05.2009 at Fort William
Fort William 5 - 3 Kilmallie
- 06.06.2009 at Kirkton, Balmacara
Kinlochsheil 2 - 2 Fort William
Fort William win 3-2 after extra time
- 15.08.2009 at Jubilee Park, Ballachulish
2009 Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup Semi-final Fort William 4 - 1 Bute



Fort William

McNeil ready to make history

HE WON the trophy as a player and has won it twice since becoming Fort William manager two seasons ago, but this year Drew McNeil says he is ready to rewrite the record books for the club in this year's Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup final.

With faltering Premier league form and injuries to important players contributing to a difficult season, the Fort William boss believes his team will come good in time for the biggest match of

the season. 'Preparations for the game have been good,' said Drew McNeil, 'everyone's fit and training hard. 'We're having a difficult season but I've always said that we will come good towards the end when everyone's back playing and we are injury free - I have always believed that if we get the right team on the park we will beat anyone. 'A third final is a massive thing. This is my third year in charge. I won the Camanachd Cup as a player and as a captain in 1992, and to win it as manager in my first season was pretty special. Then to retain the trophy in the second year and now be going for three in a row is unbelievable. 'We are right up there with Newtonmore, Kingussie and Kyles themselves who have done that - you are talking



DREW McNEIL
Fort William Manager

about the real traditions of shinty when you are talking about those teams - and if we do win we are matching up with Oban Celtic who have won it five times. 'I do want to break barriers, break records and set new records, personally that's my goal.' Drew McNeil added that another big advantage Fort William have this season is that the players are used to the build up to big cup finals. 'This is their seventh final in a row and the significant thing is that they know how to prepare for it and what to expect,' he said.



Fort coming good at right time, says skipper

John MacDonald - Fort William

FORT William's cup final captain believes his team are coming good at just the right time to lift the Camanachd Cup for the third year in a row.

John MacDonald said morale at the club is good and the injuries and suspensions which have plagued the team all season look finally to be behind them. John said: 'The preparation has been the same as it always is, but of course we're training a wee bit harder as the final gets closer. 'The morale is fine, we've had a few problems with league results this season

but we are back on track now, everything has come good at the right time.' John said the turning point was the recent 4-4 draw with Kingussie at the Dell which brought Fort William back to life after a run of less than impressive results in the league. 'The 4-4 draw with Kingussie was a big result,' said John. 'It brought us back to life. It was just what we needed. We know the final will be a totally different game but that really tested us, including our temperament, but everyone stuck to their tasks pretty well. 'We had a lot of injuries and suspensions at the start of the season and that has kind of stayed with us throughout the whole season. But since the semi-finals we have

got everyone back fit and playing, so everything has come together at the right time.' John added that he thought that there was no out-and-out favourite for the cup tie which took a little bit of pressure off Fort William. 'Under normal circumstances there would be added pressure on us but I think this final will be the closest Camanachd Cup Final for a long time. 'The form of the two teams is pretty similar and the league positions are identical. We've played them twice this year, won one and lost one. 'I think there would be a lot more pressure if we were favourites but I don't think there is a favourite for this game.'

The Strand Hairdressers
92-94 High Street
Fort William
PH33 6AD
01397 705630
Wish Fort William Shinty Team all the best!

Royal Hotel AA
ARGYLL SQUARE OBAN
Open all year Tea, coffees
Bar Lunches (served from 12.00 - 2.30 Mon - Sat)
Tel 01631 563021 Fax 01631 562811
Email: salesroyaloban@strathmorehotels.com
www.strathmorehotels.com

AULAY'S BAR
A bar of character
Supporting shinty
8 AIRDS CRESCENT, OBAN
Tel: 01631 562596 Proprietor: Aulay Dunn

Mark the Park
Supporting shinty at all levels
MARK SUTHERLAND ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR
Telephone 01631 566642 or mobile 07745 286 012
E-mail: mark@sutherland74.wanadoo.co.uk

AN LOCHAN Tighnabruaich
Locally caught shellfish, fish and game. Moorings, 11 comfortable rooms
www.anlochan.co.uk
01700 811239
Good luck Kyles

HEGARTY'S ACCIDENT REPAIR CENTRE
Approved Accident Repairs
Covering Lochaber & Argyll
01397 705566!
Good luck Fort William

Camanachd President expects



Duncan Cameron President Camanachd Association

The 2009 Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup Final at Mossfield Oban has the potential to be one of the most attractive in recent years. The venue and the competing teams, Fort William and Kyles Athletic add to the occasion, which is

likely to attract a large crowd. Both teams bring a interesting and contrasting historical perspective to the final. Kyles have a long record of cup final appearances going back to 1904, having played in 38 previous finals

winning on 19 occasions. By contrast Fort William's Camanachd Cup Final appearances are more recent starting in 1991. They are making their 10th appearance having won on 4 occasions. Fort William are playing in their successive final and

GOOD LUCK Fort William
From Charles Moore At
ABRACH ACCOUNTS
01397 702535

McNEE BUILDING CONTRACTORS
(01369 702578)
Stewart McNeie (Dunoon) Ltd would like to wish Kyles Athletic the best of luck in Camanachd cup final.

Hire
Operated & self Drive Plant Hire, Small Tool Hire, Wood chipper Hire, Husqvarna Sales & service.
• Repairs to all Garden & Horticulture Equipment
• New parts & Accessories
• New Products in now and competitive prices.
Russell Plant Hire, Ben Nevis Ind. Est. Unit 21D1, Fort William PH33 6PR
Tel 01397 701677 Fax 01397 701561
Good luck Fort William

Coasters Your local pub
Combining a warm welcome with a friendly atmosphere
Great food served daily!
Esplanade, Oban
Tel: 01631 566881
Proud to support shinty

Good Luck to Kyles
from all at
Andrew's Garage
Tighnabruaich, PA21 2DS
01700 811386

Atlantis LEISURE
Delighted to support the Camanachd Cup Final
www.atlantisleisure.co.uk

A & R Financial Advisors
Dunollie Halls
Dunollie Rd, Oban, PA34 5PH
01631 562525
All the very best to both teams

HIS
Highland Industrial Supplies Ltd
Unit 2
Ben Nevis Industrial Estate
Claggan
Fort William
PH33 6PR
Tel 01397 705159 Fax 01397 700722

LETTERFINLAY LODGE HOTEL
Good luck to the first team & all the under 14's from all the gang at Letterfinlay Lodge Hotel
Come on the Fort!
Letterfinlay Lodge Hotel, Loch Lochy, By Spean Bridge
Tel: 01397 712522 | E: info@letterfinlaylodgehotel.co.uk
www.letterfinlaylodgehotel.co.uk

S. D. MacDOUGALL AUTOSERVICES
Supporting shinty
MOT's Car Repairs, Services and Car Sales
Unit 6, Lochavullin Ind. Est., Oban
Tel: 01631 566502/01631 566470

Fergusson Coal, delivering value for money straight to your door!
Fergusson Coal is one of the leading solid fuel suppliers in the UK, delivering quality products at competitive prices to domestic and industrial customers.
CALL OUR HOTLINE ON 01397 704856
FERGUSSON COAL
www.fergussoncoal.co.uk



Road to the Final



09.05.2009 at Tighnabruaich
Kyles Athletic A - A Newtonmore
 Match abandoned with Kyles leading 1-0

16.05.2009 at Tighnabruaich
Kyles Athletic 1 - 1 Newtonmore
 Kyles won 3 - 2 on penalties

06.06.2009 at Mossfield Stadium, Oban
Oban Camanachd P - P Kyles Athletic
 Postponed due to Swine Flu

20.06.2009 at Mossfield Stadium, Oban
Oban Camanachd O - 3 Kyles Athletic

15.08.2009 at Jubilee Park, Ballachulish
 2009 Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup Semi-final
Kingussie A - A Kyles Athletic
 Match abandoned after 65 mins
 with Kingussie leading 4-1

29.08.2009 at Spean Bridge
 2009 Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup Semi-final Replay
Kingussie 3 - 4 Kyles Athletic

Kyles Athletic

We do best as underdogs says Kyles' captain

Grant Irvine - Kyles Athletic

KYLES Athletic has 'the players and the passion' to win this season's Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup Final at Oban, according to team captain, 21-year-old Grant Irvine.

Part of a well known shinty playing family from Tighnabruaich, Grant highlights that most of today's Kyles team were still in the local primary school when the famous Kyles Athletic shinty team last appeared in a Scottish cup final. That was in 2000, and most can barely remember the last time the men from the shores of the Kyles of Bute lifted the sport's most prestigious trophy 15-years ago in 1994, - but the current Kyles team should not be underestimated.

'Look at our history, we always do best when we are the underdogs,' said Irvine.

'Fort William will be the favourite,

but then we beat them four weeks ago in the Premier Division - and twice last year.' Goalkeeper Kenny MacDonal is one of only two players in the current Kyles line-up who tasted victory in the Camanachd Cup Final of 15 years ago. It will be a father and son affair this year for Kenny and son, Roddy MacDonal, will both be at the heart of the Kyles defence this time.

Rather than view their relative inexperience as a negative, young Irvine believes that their inexperience could work in their favour.

'We are very young compared to Fort William,' said Grant. 'We are only going to get better in the future. There's no sense of nerves within the club yet, we're just really excited to get stuck in.'

The Kyles' captain is also banking on a huge turnout of sup-

porters travelling to Oban from Cowal and said that Tighnabruaich is buzzing in anticipation of the final.

The team in blue caused an upset when they defeated Kingussie in extra time when the semi-final tie was replayed at Spean Bridge last month. Both teams had suffered when the first semi-final tie at a rain-lashed Ballachulish was abandoned with Kyles' 4-1 down to a rampant Kingussie - with two Kyles' players suffering nasty injuries. But Kyles seized their second chance at a place in the 2009 Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup Final with a terrific team performance in the replay.

'I think we deserved it in the replay, but we were lucky to get there in the first place. Hopefully we haven't used all our luck in that game,' Irvine added.



Kyles delighted at final place after long journey

SWINE flu, poor weather and cup replays - Kyles Athletic's journey to this season's Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup Final at Oban has certainly been an eventful one.



NORMAN MacDONALD
 Kyles manager

'It's been quite a build-up to this season's final,' said Kyles' manager Norman MacDonal.

'Our first game was against Newtownmore at Tighnabruaich. We were winning and then the cup tie was abandoned. The replay was decided on penalties - and we knew at that point that perhaps the luck of the cup was on our side.

'Kyles then were drawn against Oban Camanachd in the quarter finals, and the game was postponed after one of our players contracted swine flu and the whole team, who had travelled and played with him the previous Saturday, was quarantined on tamiflu.'

An epic semi-final battle against Kingussie was eventually settled at Spean Bridge after an abandoned semi-final tie at Ballachulish, and the replay, scheduled for Ballachulish, switched to the ground of Lochaber Camanachd at Spean.

'Nothing has been straightforward,' added Norman. 'Hopefully everything will be fine in Oban and we will get good weather.'

Macdonald said Kyles' players were sticking to their usual training regime, keeping everything as normal as possible. But the excitement amongst the team and their supporters is undeniable.

'We are absolutely delighted,' he added. 'We have geared our whole season to this - that's the one we have really concentrated on because it is the top trophy in shinty.'

exciting finale

are the current cup holders. The prospects of a close and exciting final are high on a first class pitch. Will the young Kyles rise to the occasion and follow in the tradition of former Kyles team or will the more experienced Fort William team

retain the trophy for the third successive year? The tie has got many shinty followers talking in anticipation of a great game. Lets hope their expectations are met, the weather is kind to us and we witness a match worthy of the occasion.

CAMKEN CONTRACTORS Ltd
 Everyone at Camken Contractors would like to wish Fort William good luck for the Final

13B Annat Ind Estate Corpach
 Tel: 01397 772225

MACLEOD
 MACLEOD CONSTRUCTION LTD

Delighted to support Kyles Athletic in the Camanachd Cup

Tel: 01546 602989
 Email: sales@mkmacleod.co.uk
 www.mkmacleod.co.uk
 Kilmory Industrial Estate, Lochgilphead, PA31 8RR

RioTinto Alcan
 Fort William, Inverness-shire, PH33 6TH
 www.riotintoalcan.com

We have been producing aluminium in the Scottish Highlands since 1896

Providing high quality products and services to our customers, whilst giving equal importance to the highest possible standards of occupational health and safety to our employees and caring for the environment.

HIGHLAND FASTENERS
 HIGHLAND FASTENERS
 6 Mill Lane, Oban PA34 4HA
 Phone 01631-569-512
 Fax 01631-571-176
 Mobile 07824-804845
 Email:highlandfasteners@btconnect.com

KYLES ATHLETIC SHINTY CLUB
 BELIEVE
 KAMES HOZEL

ALL MAKES OF LIGHT COMMERCIALS BOUGHT & SOLD
Robertson Van Sales
 14 Crannog Lane, Oban PA34 4HB
 Mobile: 07990 548046
 Tel: 01631 563 812

Neil Blair & Sons Inc. Kyles Camans would like to wish Kyles Shinty team all the very best.

Contact Neil Blair and Sons
 01700 811569

Number 1 for shinty in the West Highlands

The Oban Times
 & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Wishing our shinty playing employees every success in the 2009 Cup Final

Proud to support the Camanachd Cup Final

Argyll Bute COUNCIL

TIGHNABRUAICH POST OFFICE
 Open 9am - 5.30pm Mon, Tue, Thur & Fri
 9am - 1pm Wed & Sat

Choose from a wide selection of Ironmongery, Stationery, Gifts and Toys. Postcards, and Cards for all occasions.

Wishing Kyles shinty team all the very best

BEN VIEW GUEST HOUSE
 Renaissance Ben View Guest House
 Wishing Fort William all the Best

Fort William
 Tel: 01397 702966

Duncan's VILLAGE STORE
 Kames, Tighnabruaich.
 Open 7 days Tel: 01700 811356

Good Luck and Best Wishes to Kyles Shinty Team

• Newsagents • Grocers • Off Licence

FW PATTERSON TV Ltd
 Unit 21C1, Ben Nevis Estate, Fort William, PH33 6RU
 Tel 01397 702612
 Fax 01397 701054

Sales, Service, Aerials & Satellite

Good luck Fort William

Nicola answers country's call

APPIN runner Nicola Meekin is hoping that her latest Scotland call up will result in her wearing the navy and white vest at the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow in 2014.

Nicola says the call to represent her country for only the second time in this Sunday's Commonwealth Fell Running Championships in Keswick, Cumbria, is her greatest sporting achievement to date.

The championship will be the first of its kind, with a view to fell running being included in the forthcoming Commonwealth Games in Scotland.

Nicola, a member of Lochaber Athletics Club, will compete in the Up and Downhill event, alongside the experienced Angela Mudge and three other Scots.

Scotland will also have teams in two other events, a 24-hour race and a 100K road race.

Nicola only recently found out about her selection as she did not attend the team trials

Athletics

but her debut performance in the International Snowdon Race, in which Scotland's ladies were placed second, was enough to justify her place in the team.

'I am so excited about running in the event because I have never raced against this calibre of athlete before.

'It's a brilliant opportunity because it is the inaugural championship and I will be up against the best in the world.

'I didn't go to the trials so I wasn't expecting to be selected. The call came as a bit of a surprise.

'I had been training for the Ben Nevis Race anyway but I had to pull out of that so that I was fit for the Commonwealth championships.'

Nicola, who runs Castle Stalker View Cafe with her sister Laura, only took up running six years ago but has been training hard for the past year. She runs up to 70 miles a week in preparation for competitions.



Appin's Nicola Meekin will wear the Scotland vest for the second time when she competes in Sunday's Commonwealth Fell Running Championships. 07_c8nic02



Dylan is due south

Football

ARGYLL and Bute football development officer Dylan Kerr has left his post to join South African premier league team Mpumalanga Black Aces as head coach.

Dylan said he was very sorry to leave his post as football development officer with Argyll and Bute after four years, but it was a job he just couldn't turn down. It gave him the chance to get back into professional football.

He said: 'I enjoyed working with the children and also the coaches and volunteers who put in a great deal of hard work.'

Oban Football Development Group chairman and Oban Saints secretary David Buchanan said Dylan had done a tremendous job.

Tides

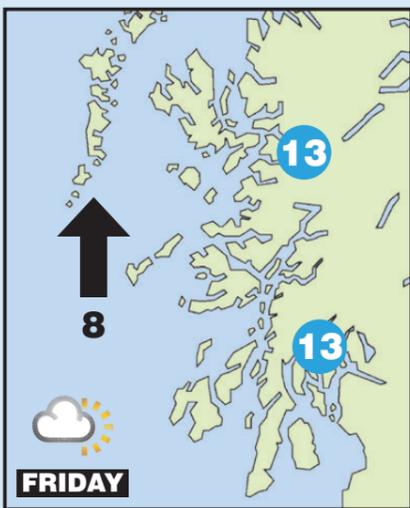
Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday, September 17, 2009 are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur	04.44 3.7 10.31 0.7 16.49 4.1 23.18 0.7	
Fri	05.19 3.9 11.16 0.4 17.25 4.3 23.56 0.6	
Sat	05.50 4.0 11.58 0.3 17.59 4.3 *** **	
Sun	00.32 0.5 06.22 4.1 12.38 0.3 18.32 4.3	
Mon	01.07 0.6 06.54 4.1 13.17 0.5 19.05 4.1	
Tues	01.42 0.8 07.26 3.9 13.54 0.7 19.35 3.9	
Wed	02.17 1.0 07.58 3.7 14.31 1.0 20.06 3.6	

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardraishaig	-5.35	Lochboisdale	+0.30
Campbeltown	-5.30	Mallaig	+0.25
Crinan	-0.47	Portree	+0.55
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Tobermory	+0.16
		Dover	+5.30

Sponsored by
NANCY BLACK
Ships' Chandler 01631-562550



the weather

Sponsored by
NANCY BLACK Ships' Chandler

Thursday
Sunny intervals with a light southerly wind and a clear sky at night.
Temperatures 7°C to 17°C

Friday
Will be similar to Thursday but expect a cloudy evening.
Temperatures 9°C to 16°C.

Weekend Outlook
Light rain and showers with a light south-easterly breeze.
Temperatures 12°C to 16°C.

Ferry Crossings/Sea States
Oban to Barra/South Uist - Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree - As above
Kennacraig to Islay - As above

Sponsored by **NANCY BLACK**
Ships' Chandler 01631-562550

Sinclair digs out best result

Rally

CONNEL'S Shaun Sinclair had his best Scottish Rally Championship result, taking fifth overall and second in class 10 in the Merrick Forest Stages Rally at Newton Stewart.

Co-driven by Chris Hamill, the pairing are now fifth overall in the Scottish Championship and second in the Hankook group 'n' championship.

Oban-based Kevin and Steven Lockhart also had their best result of the season finishing 18th overall in their group 'n' Mitsubishi evo6.

In 26th overall and first in class three were John MacCrone (Dervaig) and Peter MacCrone (Ulva Ferry), 41 seconds ahead of their nearest class rivals.

Tobermory co-driver Ian Fraser, partnered by driver Jim Carty in their Subaru Impreza WRC finished the event in 14th overall.

The final championship round is the Colin MacRae stages, Perth, on October 3.

Saints youth results

Football

SATURDAY'S results: EDFC Villa 1, Under 13s 10. Scoring for Saints were Jamie Easton (3), Ally MacLean (3), Allan Buchanan (2), Douglas Tyrell Bunge and Kieran Hendry. Under 15s 4, Torrance Thistle 0. Netting for Saints were Cammy MacLean, Ben Miller, Martin MacPherson and Neil MacFarlane. This weekend: (Sunday) - Under 13s v Helensburgh; (Saturday) - Under 15s v Argyll Athletic; Gourock v Under 19s.

President's Cup

Golf

ALASDAIR MacLeod won the President's Cup at Tobermory Golf Club on Sunday.

He finished five strokes ahead of runner-up John Wilshire.

The Tobermory Trophy was a closer affair with promising youngster Andrew MacDonald finishing in first place ahead of Donald Brown senior on countback.

Super Saints defeat league champions

Umbro Scottish Amateur League Premier Division OBAN SAINTS 2 ST JOSEPH'S 0

IT WAS the battle of the Saints in this premier division league encounter at Glencruitten when the Saints from Oban took on St Joseph's from Clydebank, last season's league champions.

The football was of the highest standard, the only thing missing from the game was goalmouth incidents. Neither keeper was called upon to make saves of any significance.

Primary league returns

Football

THE OBAN Express Primary Football League stormed back into action on Sunday in glorious weather at the high school park with nine junior teams and 10 sides in the senior league.

The junior league promises to be a tight affair and all points will be crucial in the final standings on Sunday's evidence.

The Lochgilphead juniors posted early intention with three straight victories over A.C. Argyll, Sharks and an important narrow win against Benderloch, who would have been hoping to challenge for the title themselves. Thistle stayed right on their heels recording three wins of their own.

The Saints under 8's opened with a win against Ben Lora but a goalless draw with Benderloch might prove costly for both teams.

In the seniors league the surprise team of the day were Oban Saints who failed to win

However, the deadlock was broken in the 41st minute when Keith Millar threaded a great pass forward to Asen Gaydardzhiev.

The Bulgarian striker raced goalwards, then cleverly cut back inside his marker Sean Brady before curling a great left foot shot past the outstretched arms of St Joe's keeper Paul Halpin.

A minute later the same two Saints players combined, but this time it was Asen who set up Keith, but his cross was just too far in front of his midfield col-

league. Half time arrived with Saints holding on to their slender 1-0 lead.

The second 45 minutes were the same as the first, with both teams playing some good football.

Willie Gemmell came close with a free kick and Allan MacKay almost got that vital second goal for Saints with a cheeky lob from 35 yards, which dropped just over the bar.

Manager Iain Jackson decided to freshen up his attack. He took off Asen and Keith Millar replacing them

with youngsters Mattie Rippon and Craig MacEwan.

But with only 10 minutes remaining Craig was shown a red card for a petulant kick at a St Joe's defender, leaving his team a man short for the remainder of the game.

The visitors made the extra man count and had Saints pinned back in their own half but the Oban lads, well marshalled by skipper Dante Lopez, were defending well.

St Joe's numerical advantage was cancelled out with five minutes remaining when Gary Docherty was

sent off after he was shown his second yellow card of the match.

And with the 90 minutes already up, and the referee playing four minutes of added-on time, any hopes of a St Joe's comeback was killed stone dead when Allan MacKay sent Mattie Rippon through the middle, the youngster outpaced Kevin Stanley before slotting the past keeper Paul Halpin. Final score 2-0.

Manager Iain Jackson was delighted at the result and the performance of his team.

He said: 'It was a great game.'

Scots/Spanish duo wins Oban doubles

STUART Fraser and Luis Molero won the Oban Tennis Club doubles championship at Atlantis Leisure on Sunday.

Despite a nervy start in the first match of the day where they narrowly beat youngsters Roheel Arshad and Gregor Brydon 6-4, the Scottish/Spanish team won the rest of their round-robin group matches to progress to the final.

Their opponents, 2009 West Highland Tennis Week local doubles champions Andrew Barrington and Kevin Keen, had also won all their previous matches and helped to serve up an exciting final, which finished

Tennis



Stuart and Luis with their trophy.

7-6 (7-3), 6-4. This Sunday is the junior club championship.

PROVE YOUR REPORTING SKILLS AT THE SCOTTISH HYDRO CAMANACHD CUP FINAL AND WIN A BRAND NEW LAPTOP!

Calling all 12-17 year olds! Have you ever fancied yourself as a budding sports reporter? Well, this could be YOUR chance to show off your journalistic skills!

The 2009 Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup Final takes place at Mossfield Park in Oban on Saturday 19th September and we want to hear YOUR thoughts on the game. The Oban Times has teamed up with sponsor, Scottish Hydro, to offer one lucky aspiring sports journalist the chance to have their very own match report printed alongside other top news stories in the West Highland's biggest selling newspaper. Not only that, the lucky winner will also win a brand new laptop to help hone those writing skills.

To enter, simply make sure you are at Mossfield Park for the final a week on Saturday and e-mail your own match report, in 500 words or less, to editor@obantimes.co.uk. Entries will be judged on attention to detail and writing style so feel free to be as creative as you like! The closing date for entries is **12 noon on Monday 21st September**. Normal T&Cs apply, editor's decision is final.

The Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup is the premier competition in the Shinty calendar and is the most coveted piece of silverware in the sport. Shinty, Scotland's national sport, plays a key role in Scottish culture and continues to add to Scotland's sporting heritage. A mixture of top class sporting action and a friendly, welcoming atmosphere makes it an occasion for all the family to enjoy.

Scottish Hydro has proudly supported Shinty for the last three years. A further three year deal was announced in June 09 and Scottish Hydro is now the Primary Sponsor of the Camanachd Association, sponsoring the Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup, the Scottish Hydro Premier League and the U17 Development Camp, Squad and Academy.

The Oban Times
& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES