



## MP fights for Isles storm road repairs

## Rangers v Hibs Scottish Cup tie tickets to be won

## Skye man's new mountain rescue kit

### New Argyll and Bute local plan heading for public inquiry before adoption in 2007

ARGYLL and Bute's new local plan is likely to go to a public inquiry at the end of the year.

The new Argyll and Bute Local Plan will replace the local plan which is more than 10 years old and is used by planning departments to determine planning

applications and how the region will grow and develop along with the Structure Plan.

A final draft of the new local plan went out to public consultation last summer and more than 4,100 representations, including 2,700 objections, were received. These have to be considered and if agreement

cannot be reached with objectors, these will go to a public inquiry, overseen by a reporter from the Scottish Executive.

At a meeting of Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Committee in Tobermory last week, Tony Proud, a member of Mull and Iona Community Council, asked when the local

plan would be finished. Mull has been suffering acute housing problems because of the lack of housing areas allocated in the old local plan and planning applications have been held up until the new local plan has been adopted. He was told that it was likely to go to a public inquiry at the end

of this year and that the main hiccup was in the Helensburgh and Lomond area where the majority of objections were. It was hoped to iron out the majority of these and publish the final plan in May. Although the plan won't be officially adopted until after any public inquiry, for those areas which

have not received any objections, the council is already using the plan as a basis for planning decisions where the former local plan is considered to be out of date. The first draft of the new plan was published in 2003 but the final plan is unlikely to be adopted until 2007.

## Road repair fears

IS OBAN going to miss out on £½million of road repairs because Scottish Water and BEAR Scotland can't get their act together?

Last year trunk roads maintenance contractors BEAR Scotland intended to resurface from Dunollie Road to Airds Place in October. This forced Argyll and Bute Council to move forward its own plans to resurface around Argyll Square. But BEAR then postponed its proposed work because Scottish Water said it was going to complete outstanding work, which would include digging up that same stretch of road. BEAR held back but Scottish Water never appeared.

As of April 1 BEAR no longer has the contract to maintain the area's trunk roads. Argyll and Bute Council is concerned that the proposed BEAR work will now be delayed even further, or worse still could fall off the programme.

'We ask Scottish Water and BEAR to liaise on this long outstanding repair to ensure that the work is completed in this financial year, and preferably in October 2006,' said Councillor Duncan MacIntyre, the council's spokesman on transport.

'We played fair with them and we want them to play fair with us,' he said.

A Scottish Water spokesman said: 'We are currently assessing the water mains improvement work required in Oban. We apologise for the delay in starting this work, however this process is necessary.'

'Scottish Water has already been working closely with BEAR and the local roads department in planning this project to ensure full co-ordination. We hope to have a clearer indication very soon about when this work will start.'



SIR volunteer Pam Gibson accepts the cheque from St Columba's Primary School pupils. 1033sir01

## St Columba's pupils present charity cheque

PUPILS from St Columba's Primary School, Oban, collected £132.78 during advent for the Dalmally-based Scottish International Relief (SIR).

SIR volunteer Pam

Gibson gave a talk to senior pupils at the school before accepting the cheque on behalf of the charity.

Pam said: 'The children were really responsive and I enjoyed doing the talk.'

Pam spoke about Mary's Meals, an SIR project which provides a school meal to some of the poorest children in the world.

Pam added: 'I told the children that it costs us two

pence a day to provide a school meal for one child.

'I used the example that if their headteacher treated 60 pupils to a McDonald's meal it would cost £510. 'That much money could

feed 96 children in Malawi for a year.'

Pam has been holding talks all over Lorn with women's guilds and branches of the Women's Rural Institute.

## Fears for mental health hospital jobs

UNCERTAINTY is hanging over NHS Argyll and Clyde staff employed at Lochgilphead's in-patient hospital for mental health patients in Argyll and Bute.

A letter to staff by Human Resources Manager David Logue has stated that there will be an 'over-all reduction' in staff and resources at Argyll and Bute Hospital and some employees will be moved to areas like Campbeltown, Oban and Dunoon.

One nurse who works at the hospital, but did not wish to be named, said: 'The letter should never

have been sent out; all it's done is get people's backs up and get them worried about their jobs.'

'The new health board takes over on April 1 and it will have a year to decide what to do with staff it inherits.'

'NHS Argyll and Clyde has been talking about closing the Argyll and Bute for years but that decision has never been made.'

The announcement is part of the out-going health board's redesign of mental health services in Argyll and Bute, with a shift to care in

the community rather than in-patient services.

A spokesman for NHS Argyll and Clyde said: 'This national trend has also been reflected in Argyll and Bute with a significant reduction in the number of in-patients and a subsequent shift of services to the community.'

He said some jobs would remain in Mid Argyll, with transfers available to staff and there would continue to be an in-patient service in the area which would be staffed by experienced employees from the current hospital.

'The interests of staff are always at the forefront of any review and staff representatives have been fully involved in the on-going process through membership of the 'organisation change' group.'

Support will be provided to staff whose job may change, which will include redeployment to other suitable posts, protection of earnings and, if required, assistance with relocation or increased travel costs.

'This support is provided in order to assist employees to remain within their cho-

sen career in the NHS and avoid any requirement for redundancy,' said the spokesman.

'We will be discussing these options with staff on an individual basis.'

Staff employed at the hospital have been invited to meetings this week to discuss the implications of the changes.

The Argyll and Bute area, with a budget of £115 million, is to be absorbed into NHS Highland from April 1 with the demise of debt-ridden NHS Argyll and Clyde.

## Ambulance crews need new station

A CHURCH of Scotland Minister has accused the Scottish Ambulance Service of expecting its Oban crews to work in premises he described as 'no more than a booby'.

The Rev Andy Campbell, who has been parish minister in Oban for 26 years, has regularly called in on the ambulance crews in their station on Miller Road in his capacity as their unofficial chaplain.

Last autumn he wrote to the chief executive of the Scottish Ambulance Service urging him to find better accommodation.

The Rev Campbell held his last service in Oban last week and said that there has not even been the promised meeting to discuss finding Scotland's busiest rural on-call ambulance station a new home.

'The crews offer a first-class service to the residents of Argyll but out of third-class facilities that I am not sure would meet health and safety regulations.'

'The crews try to maintain their fitness but their gym equipment has to be stored

out in the garage. Scottish Ambulance chiefs should be ashamed of themselves.'

The Oban station houses up to as many as nine ambulance crew at a time, who are expected to use one 16ft by 12ft room as their rest-room, report writing room, cooking and dining area.

The Rev Campbell added that the administrative office used by three officers was smaller and more cramped than one of the ambulances they operate.

**Written**

The Rev Campbell told *The Oban Times* that he first wrote to the chief executive of the Scottish Ambulance Service in October 2005. Since then he has written to Andy Kerr, Scottish health minister and First Minister Jack McConnell.

Ambulances based in Oban collect patients from as far away as Campbeltown and regularly take patients to hospital in Glasgow and Paisley, plus taking expectant mothers to maternity units in Glasgow.

'The crews also work closely with search and rescue teams and the Oban

lifeboat and attend accidents on roads around the area.

Oban Community Council has also added its voice to the Rev Campbell's call for a better ambulance station.

He believes that Oban people should value their ambulance crews more and help to campaign to find them more appropriate accommodation.

A spokesman for the Scottish Ambulance Service confirmed that the Rev Campbell had written to its chief executive in October and 'the correspondence was sent to the manager for that part of the country'.

He added: 'The meeting proposed hasn't happened yet because it has been the busiest time of year for us in terms of our operation and a meeting will take place soon in the New Year.'

'With regards to the station itself he said: 'In terms of the station accommodation we have more than 100 stations in Scotland and we review them on a regular basis.'

'We have had no complaints from our staff in the [Oban] station.'

## Man dies in Tarbert crash

A CAMPBELTOWN man died on Saturday following a two-vehicle road accident on the A83.

Kenneth Campbell, aged 21, of Crosshill Avenue, was travelling southbound near Stonefield Castle, Tarbert, when his Peugeot 309 was involved in a collision with a Subaru estate travelling north.

Mr Campbell died at the scene. A 20-year-old woman, who was a passenger in the Peugeot, and the 65-

year-old male driver of the Subaru were taken to Mid Argyll Hospital.

The woman was transferred to the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Paisley where, as *The Oban Times* went to press, her condition was stable.

Kenny was a pupil at Campbeltown Grammar School from August 1996 until 2000 when he became a mechanic with Burnbank Garage.

Inquiries into the accident are continuing and anyone

with any information is asked to contact Constable Barry Eastaugh at the road policing department in Lochgilphead on 01546 702200.

Two cars were involved in an accident on the A85 near Fearnoch, two miles west of Taynuilt, on Wednesday at 8.35am. It is understood four people were travelling in one car and two people in another and the road was still closed as The Oban Times went to press.

### GIVEAWAY PRICES



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## First civil partnership at Oban Registry Office

OBAN'S first civil partnership took place in Oban Registry Office on Wednesday January 11.

The Civil Partnership Act was brought into force on December 5 last year which allowed same-sex couples to make a formal commitment to each other.

Before the Act was passed same-sex couples had no way of gaining legal recognition of their relationship.

The first civil partnership in Argyll and Bute was on Islay between Port Ellen couple Professor Tony Macmillan Coxon and Mr Philip Hawkins.

The couple who took part in the Oban civil partnership have asked for their privacy to be respected.



Nursing Assistant Annie Howe, left, and Diabetic Nursing specialist Seonaid Morrison, both of Lorn and Islands District General Hospital.

## Training helps Annie help others

AFTER 18 months of help and support from Argyll Training Ltd, one Oban woman now has the skills to do some helping of her own.

Annie Howe recently gained her SVQ Level 3 in Modern Apprenticeship in Care and can now help patients at Oban's Lorn and Islands District General Hospital as a Level 3 Health Care Assistant.

Paediatric care, surgical care of the elderly, setting up clinical procedure diabetics, palliative care and generally looking after patients' welfare are just some of the tasks Annie will take on.

During her training, which was provided by Argyll Training Ltd, Oban, and funded by Argyll and Islands Enterprise, Annie was guided and supported by her assessor Seonaid Morrison, a diabetic nurse specialist.

'I'd like to thank Seonaid for all the help. She put in many hours of advising, training and supervision,' said Annie. 'I now have a more extended role within the wards.'

At the moment Annie is happy working in the hospital at Level 3 but would consider taking on further training for more qualifications.

## Water works frustrations to be voiced in Taynuilt

TAYNUILT residents will have the chance to meet Scottish Water representatives and voice their concerns and frustrations with the public water supply and sewerage systems.

The meeting, which was arranged by the newly elected Taynuilt Community Council, will focus on the issue of the 42-year-old Asbestos Cement (AC) mains pipe which runs below the main street of Taynuilt. The pipe has broken nine times in the past 12 months causing disruption to the village.

In addition, local residents have been concerned about obnoxious smells from a nearby sewage treatment plant. The sewerage effluent discharge which runs into the River Nant and Loch Etive, along with concerns about its adverse impact on fishing and shellfish, will also be an issue raised by residents.

The meeting will be held in Taynuilt Village Hall on Wednesday January 25.

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# LOOK AT OBAN



## Oban High stars on its own silver screens

OBAN High has become the first school Argyll and Bute to wave goodbye to the days of school notices being read out from paper, and say hello to a state-of-the-art communication system. Getting to know what's happening in and around the school is now easier and clearer than ever with the introduction of three Liquid Crystal Display (LCD) screens around the building, and a projector in the assembly hall. Last Thursday (January 12) some of Oban High School's staff received training in how to make the most of the new technology from Glasgow-based company Cameron Communications, the visual communications and multi-media specialists which installed the school's new system as well as the information screens in the recently opened CalMac terminal in Oban. One of the screens is located in the school reception area, while the other

two screens are located in the canteen. As the system is expandable, the school has the option of installing more screens. Through Powerpoint presentations, the LCD screens are able to display school notices, news, school rules, health advice and photographic slideshows, as well as live television and video footage. Each of the three screens can be split to show up to three different broadcasts simultaneously. Technology 'This technology provides Oban High pupils and staff with sophisticated displays and really helps to manage the output,' said Stuart Scott from Cameron Communications. Deputy head teacher John McPherson was responsible for the project, which he thinks will make a big difference to communication in the school. 'Before information was being missed by pupils,' he said. 'But put on a LCD

screen and mix with pictures - it's going to hit people more.' Pupils have been delighted to see professional pictures taken at their annual Christmas school dance displayed on the monitors and Mr McPherson says that this is only the start of it. 'Extra curricular activities can now be filmed and played back on the LCD screens and pupils can watch themselves in action on their break and lunchtimes. It can also be used by Atlantis Leisure and the school's active sports coordinator to let pupils know of the sports activities available to them - and they can know exactly what the activities look like with pictures.' The £7,000 project was funded through the school's budget and part-funded by the Scottish Executive's Hungry for Success campaign, which aims to prove the health of young people and children in Scotland.



Oban high staff are trained in how to use the new LCD screens to their full potential. From left, school ICT technician George Gage, classroom assistant Christine Cameron, catering manager Mairi Latimer, assistant librarian Ann Watt, deputy head John McPherson with Stuart Scott and David Lorimer from Cameron Communications.



## Working together for a safer path

THE ROUTE from Soroba via the railway footbridge between Drummore Road and Mull Terrace is now lighter, cleaner and safer. Network Rail contractors QTS have begun work on a £20,000 project cutting down trees and scrub on the trackside and alongside the footbridge leading from Drummore Road to Mull Terrace. Apart from the landscaping work a new 200 metre-long section of steel, high-security fencing will also be erected along the track at this point.

The work came about after residents raised their concerns about the area to community policeman Constable Jeremy Moore at a meeting of the Soroba Community Residents Association. Constable Moore then contacted Network Rail and the work was scheduled.

Nichola McParland, left, maintenance protection co-ordinator, and Evelyn Brown, community relations manager for Scotland, visited the work in progress with Constable Moore t02net01.

## Oban Sheriff Court Sixth cannabis conviction

A FORMER Oban woman has been fined £150 for being in possession of cannabis resin at Shuna Terrace, Oban, on July 1 last year.

Oban Sheriff Court heard last week that it was Susannah McCuish's sixth conviction for possessing the drug.

Defence agent Edward Thornton said McCuish, aged 28, who was now living at 15 Cumbræ Court, Coatbridge, had been having difficulties with depression and taking prescribed drugs and cannabis at the time of the offence.

Sheriff Douglas Small told McCuish that with five previous convictions she should be aware by now that cannabis was illegal.

## Teenager admonished for assault

AN EIGHTEEN-year-old girl has been admonished at Oban Sheriff Court for assaulting another teenage girl.

Melissa Laird, 24 Lorn Avenue, Dunollie, Oban, had appeared last January in court and had her sentence deferred for a year to prove she could behave herself after admitting assaulting Catherine Stephen of North Connel.

The court heard the incident took place in George Street, Oban, on July 10 2004 after some verbal name-calling between the pair, culminating in Laird pulling Miss Stephen by the hair to the ground and kicking her.

Sheriff Douglas Small admonished Laird after hearing she had not been in trouble for the last 12 months.

## Probation for Oban man

AN OBAN man has been given a year's probation and ordered to carry out 80 hours unpaid community work after breaching the peace in Oban's Tesco store.

James Paterson, aged 37, c/o Paterson, 4 Glencruitten Drive, Oban, admitted shouting and swearing at his partner in the store on September 14 after she asked him to give her his house key back because he was under the influence of drink.

Sheriff Douglas Small said at Oban Sheriff Court last week that the accused had a number of previous drink-related convictions and he was putting Paterson on probation to help him deal with his drink problem.

## More links for Oban and Irish twin planned

MEMBERS of Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Committee have agreed to prepare a programme for strengthening the twinning link between Oban and Gorey in County Wexford.

The committee also accepted an invitation from Gorey Town Council to attend the St Patrick's Day celebrations on March 17. During this visit there will also be the opportunity to discuss directly any proposals that will reinforce the links between the twinned communities.

Councillor Robin Banks, Argyll and Bute Council spokesman on development

and the environment said: 'The establishing of the links between towns can be very satisfying and rewarding in many ways for all concerned.'

'But to remain meaningful the existing twinning link between Oban and Gorey needs to be developed and strengthened.'

Since 1997 there have been several exchanges between the towns involving elected members, North Argyll Youth Forum, Oban Pipe Band and Oban Lorne Rugby Club, representing the civic, educational, cultural and sporting areas of the 1997 charter.

## Gaelic circle restarts in Oban

OBAN's Gaelic Conversation Circle begins again on Monday January 23.

It will be a continuation of the successful conversation circle held during the summer by Joy Dunlop An Comunn Gàidhealach Gaelic development officer for Argyll.

Joy has also helped to set up the website www.argyllgaelic.org which is a new website outlining the Gaelic events happening in the area. Joy would like people to contact her if they need any information on Gaelic. Her work involves Joy

with people of different ages and Gaelic-speaking ability, in a range of situations from education to the arts. At present Joy is also actively involved with the local committee and schools in Dunoon as they prepare to host the Royal National Mod in October.

For further information on Mod 2006 visit: www.the-mod.co.uk and you can contact Joy Dunlop at her office at Dunollie Halls, Breadalbane Street, Oban; telephone 01631 565475, and at her email address: joy@ancomunn.co.uk

# A good start to 2006 for RNLI fund raising plans

OBAN schools have received fundraising packs from the RNLI to encourage pupils and staff take part in a SOS appeal and help to answer the volunteer lifeboat crews' cry for help.

The charity is appealing to local schools, and businesses, to sign up for the second year of the 'Save Our Soles' fundraiser which is to be held on Friday January 27.

RNLI SOS day encourages people to wear trainers to their school or workplace and in doing so, donate a minimum of £1 each to the RNLI. Limited edition shoelaces are also available for people who

aren't allowed to wear trainers to school or work. Hundreds of pounds has already been raised from the west coast of Scotland through last year's SOS event, which was held in June.

Rachel Martin from the RNLI Scotland said: 'We have had great support from this area with our previous fundraisers and we hope it will continue with January's SOS appeal.'

The charity said that lifesaving training is more important than ever as fewer than 10 per cent of new volunteer lifeboat crew come from a professional maritime background and the RNLI crew needs the best

training available. As a charity the RNLI relies on public support to continue its lifesaving support to help cover training costs.

OBAN fund raising branch of the Royal National Lifeboat Institute is off to a good start in 2006.

The group has received an unexpected donation and its diary of events is already beginning to fill up.

A raffle was held at the Great Western Hotel for guests during Christmas and Hogmanay and part of the proceeds, a cheque for £110, has been given to the RNLI branch in Oban. On March 1 a representative from the popular Lakeland

Limited cookware company will be giving a talk and there will be a coffee morning at the Royal Hotel on April 1. Then in June Catherine Shaw is opening Kibrandon House and garden in aid of the RNLI.

## Overseas tourist boost predicted for Oban

A FURTHER rise in overseas visitors to Scotland last year, looks set to boost Oban and the surrounding areas' prosperity in the year ahead. Data released from the International Passenger Survey, showed that the number of visitors coming to Scotland continued to rise in the third quarter of last year.

Figures for the first three quarters of 2005 shows that the very strong increase seen in the first six months was sustained, with a rise of 35 per cent in the total number of visitors from overseas, compared to the

first nine months of 2004. Visit Scotland, Area Director for Stirling, Dunoon and Oban, James Fraser believes that Oban and the surrounding area has great appeal and something unique to offer within the market.

Appeal of Oban He said: 'The appeal of Oban and the surrounding area is its strategic position as the gateway to the isles. Tourists come to this part of the world to enjoy the magic of the islands and the dramatic scenery which surrounds it.'

'The benefits of the increase in visitors is really

self-evident. The tourist industry is worth £400 million a year and it definitely has scope for more growth.'

'There is a great deal of research taking place at the moment, in an attempt to capitalise further on the success. We must continue to evolve and develop in order to remain competitive in this market.'

'Locally that will effect a number of things, such as employment.'

'The more money that is generated by tourists, will lead to more sustainable employment in better jobs, for local people.'

## Oban Sheriff Court

### Scanner forfeited

AN OBAN nurse, who listened to the police radio frequency on a scanner at night after being at the bingo, has been admonished at Oban Sheriff Court after admitting by letter to the offence.

The court heard that police had noticed the radio in the home of Geraldine Cruikshanks, aged 59, 8 Millpark Place, Oban, on September 11 last year, while there on another matter and she had said she listened to it at night.

'She indicated that she didn't realise it was a serious offence,' said Procurator Fiscal Clifford Most. Sheriff Douglas Small accepted that she probably didn't know it was an offence, forfeited the scanner and admonished her.

### Favour ends in court

A TEENAGER who did his friend a favour by moving his car to stop it getting a parking fine found himself on the wrong side of the law.

David MacLennan, aged 18, 10 Keil Gardens, Ledaig, Oban, had come into Oban with his friend Russell Clark, 21, 11 Achinreir, Barcaldine. Neither had intended to drink but Clark ended up having a few drinks but realised that his car was parked in a car park that

would charge the following morning. He allowed MacLennan to move the car but as he was driving it with no lights on, the police stopped it and when the pair was asked to produced their documents it was discovered MacLennan was not insured for the car.

Clark pled guilty last week at Oban Sheriff Court to permitting MacLennan to drive the car in Dunollie Road on July 13 2005, while his co-accused admitted driving with no insurance.

Sheriff Douglas Small fined both accused £200 and imposed six penalty points on their licences.

### Teenager drove without insurance

A FORMER Oban teenager pled guilty at Oban Sheriff Court last week to driving with no insurance, without a licence and no MoT certificate on her car.

Merryl MacLean, aged 18, of 91 Kingsmill Road, Inverness, was stopped in McCaig Road, Oban, on August 10 last year. Defence agent Edward Thornton said she had just bought the car, was going to get it done up and was in the process of applying for a provisional licence.

She had rather foolishly asked her friend, a qualified driver, to accompany her for a spin.

'She didn't think clearly that it was not insured,' said Mr Thornton, adding that MacLean was a student training to be a professional cook. Sheriff Douglas Small fined her £350 and disqualified her from driving for nine months for driving with no insurance and admonished her on the other two charges.

### Van driver fined after rear shunt

A VAN driver who failed to stop in time at a set of temporary traffic lights near Achnaoich Bridge by Connel drove into the back of the car in front.

John MacLean, aged 27, of 49 Combie Street, Oban, pled guilty by letter at Oban Sheriff Court last week to driving without due care and attention on October 19 last year on the A85.

The driver of the car suffered whiplash injuries and both vehicles were damaged, the court heard.

MacLean was fined £350 and had five points added to his licence.

### Cannabis fine

DAVID Hannah, aged 20, of 33 Kerrera Terrace, Dunollie, Oban, has been fined £300 at Oban Sheriff Court for being in possession of seven grammes of cannabis on June 25 2005 in Ardconnel Terrace, Oban.

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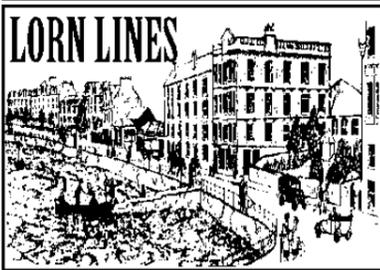
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If you wish to register your child for Gaelic Medium pre-school, enrol in Drummore Learning Centre during the week 6th - 10th February 2006. Look for details in the local press.

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If you wish to register your child for Gaelic Medium primary education, enrol in St Columba's Primary School during the week 23th - 27th January 2006. Look for details in the local press.

For more information, including details of other groups in the Oban area, go to [www.argyllgaelic.org](http://www.argyllgaelic.org)



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

DESPITE bucketing rain and strong winds, an almost full attendance of members of the Oban branch of the Scottish Co-operative Women's Guild brought a short festive-season break to an end in Lynn Court on January 12 when they celebrated Old New Year's Night with a lively ceilidh.

Providing the entertainment were local singer Ann Watt and accordionist, Donnie Files.

During the interval the ladies enjoyed tea, sandwiches and home baking and branch president Maimie Nicolson and her committee ensured that everyone was treated to a seasonal glass of sherry.

The evening was brought to a rousing close when members sang *Flower of Scotland*.

Votes of thanks were proposed by committee secretary Eleanor Gray.

The next meeting, to be held in the same venue on January 26, will take the form of 'A Matter of Opinion'.

**IRISH** coaster *Nord Star* was the source of much local interest as she lay at Oban's North Pier for several days last week.

The vessel discharged 577 tons of salt which will be used to treat the area's roads in the event of severe weather.

The operation was temporarily interrupted when the ship's crane broke down.

The salt was uplifted for storage by Enstone Thistle and MacPhee's Connel.

Though her cargo had been unloaded, stormy weather meant the *Nord Star* had to remain at the North Pier for several days.

FOLLOWING a short festive-season break, Oban Camera Club held its first meeting of 2006 in the Regent Hotel on Monday January 9 when a large turnout of members enjoyed a talk given by the celebrated landscape photographer Dennis Hardley, Ardchattan.

On display was Mr Hardley's sophisticated top-of-the-range digital equipment, the use of which was fully explained to his audience.

During the second half of the programme the guest screened a selection of his spectacular slides.

Mr Hardley has promised to return to the club where he will always be guaranteed a warm welcome.

The vote of thanks was proposed by vice president Jim Kirkpatrick, Oban.

FOR THE first time in decades passengers will this February be able to travel directly from Oban to London by night sleeper.

The service normally operates from Fort William, with passengers from Oban expected to join the train at Crianlarich.

The change has resulted from engineering work being carried out on the Fort William section of the line. While it is customary to store the coaches in Oban during this routine work, these are usually transported empty to Crianlarich with Oban passengers required to make their own way there before joining the service.

The availability of this service is being widely advertised by ScotRail and can be booked online

as well as directly at stations.

THIRTY-FIVE members of Oban's Argyll Youth Theatre group found themselves in the audience for a change when they travelled by bus to Edinburgh on Saturday where they enjoyed a performance of *My Fair Lady* in the Playhouse Theatre.

Key roles in the production were played by Christopher Casenove and Russ Abbott.

It was a fitting reward for members of a club which played to capacity crowds when it staged *Annie* in Oban's Corran Halls in June of last year.

The theatre has been busy rehearsing for its next production, a performance of Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest*, which the group will present in the Corran Halls on Thursday Friday and Saturday January 19, 20 and 21. Tickets, for which a big demand is expected, will be going on sale within the next few days.

The youth theatre was formed in 1999 by its director Gwyneth Neal, Dunbeg, with the support of her pianist husband Tony, who produces the music. It is divided into two groups, juniors, whose ages range from eight to 11, and seniors, ranging in age from 12 to 16.

THERE was no shortage of festive entertainment for residents of Eadar Glinn, the Argyll and Bute Council-owned and operated residential care centre for the elderly in Oban thanks to the enterprise of volunteer helper Christine Pearson.

Held in the main lounge on December 15, the annual Christmas party was a huge success. Providing toe-tapping music was a lively trio led by John Allan MacLean, Kilninver, on accordion, with Ann Barlow, Taynuilt, on fiddle and Willie Lowe, Connel, on second accordion.

Introduced by John Allan, other artists included piper Ashley MacInnes, Oban; Highland dancers Nicola MacFadyen and Laura Munro, both Oban; Craig MacFadyen, Oban, on accordion, and young singers Laura Barrington, Benderloch, and Francis Young, North Connel, both of whom are pupils of Janet Fergusson, Benderloch, the highly accomplished singer who tutors Park and Lochneil primary school choirs.

There were also several beautifully-sung solos from Riona MacInnes, Oban, and a delicious buffet supper was served by the home's staff.

Throughout the winter, regular ceilidhs have also been organised by Christine Pearson with the support of senior care worker Edna MacInnes. One of these featured soloist Peter Sinclair, Connel; Sarah Sinclair, Connel, who sang to her own guitar accompaniment; Scott Sinclair, Connel, who played the accordion, and Rosie Stevenson, Connel, who played fiddle as well as accompanying on the piano.

Yet another presentation found Derek Worth, Taynuilt, singing and playing guitar.

A regular welcome guest is accordionist Hamish Mair, Oban.

## Farmer refused planning for Kilmelford farm house

A FARMER who has been trying to get a planning application for a house at Melfort Home Farm, Kilmelford, since November 2003 has had his application refused.

But Oban, Lorn and the Isles councillors agreed that if the applicant wanted to build in the council's preferred location, then that would be acceptable as there was a proven locational and operational need for the house.

Mr J Adams had applied to build a house on a slight ridge to the east of Melfort village but planners said it

was against planning policy because it was in an area of prominent open countryside. The applicant's agent, Henry Paterson, argued that it was tucked into a corner of a hill, was on land of no agricultural value on a site which would be 'infill' or 'rounding off' of a development and the design of the house would make it blend in the area.

Mr Adams lives six miles from the farm, which made it more difficult to manage livestock on the farm. A site visit was made by Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Committee in

November 2004 but a decision was delayed to investigate if a more suitable site could be found and if there was a need for a house closer to the farm. The council's animal welfare officer concluded there was a need and planners found a site at the bottom of the hill that would be less prominent and suggested the applicant put in a revised application in June last year. But he decided to continue with the original and the committee felt last week that as a better site was available this should be refused.

## Teenager fined for assault

A TEENAGER has been fined at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday after admitting assaulting a man she mistook for someone else.

Elise MacCrone, aged 17, of 15 Lochneil Road, Dunbeg, pled guilty to assaulting George Crawford by grabbing him by the arm and slapping him on the face, while on bail. The assault occurred at the car marshalling area on the Caledonian MacBrayne Pier on June 22 last year.

MacCrone also pled guilty to a breach of the peace charge. Defence agent David Watt said: 'She has no memory of this incident as she had been drinking.'

Sheriff Douglas Small replied: 'So she has no explanation for assaulting this man.'

From the dock MacCrone explained she thought Mr Crawford had insulted her friend but it had been a case of mistaken identity.

Sheriff Small fined MacCrone £350.

## Drunken rant costs man £400

A DRUNKEN sectarian rant has cost a Dunbeg man £400 after he was fined at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday.

Kerrera Lodge resident Paul McLuckie, aged 29, pled guilty to disorderly conduct, shouting and swearing and a breach of the peace charge.

McLuckie was heard repeatedly shouting anti-catholic obscenities in Albany Street, Oban, on September 2 last year.

Defence agent Edward Thornton said: 'He has no recollection of the evening.'

'When he discovered how he had conducted himself he decided to stop travelling to support his football team and he is now more able to control his behaviour.'

'There was no-one else in the street. He was extremely embarrassed and this is the type of behaviour he is in favour of.'

## Breach of the peace costs £300

A MAN who moved to Oban to get away from trouble in his home town has found himself on the wrong side of the law.

Derek Darrah, aged 28, of 21B Combie Street, Oban, pled guilty to a breach of the peace charge at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday.

On July 26 last year Darrah was being dealt with by police on a separate matter, which he was not to blame for, when he began shouting and swearing at the police officers.

Defence agent David MacNeill said: 'Mr Darrah moved to Oban to get away from trouble in the south.'

'He had trouble with drugs but is now clear of them and this is the first time he has been in trouble since coming to Oban.'

Darrah was fined £300.

## Man drove scooter with no insurance

A FORMER Dunbeg man who borrowed his friend's scooter for the day has admitted driving it without insurance.

David Ogilvie, aged 20, whose address was given as 74 Dalziel Tower, Motherwell, pled guilty at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday to driving without insurance on Camus Road, Dunbeg, on May 7 last year.

Ogilvie was fined £350 and had six penalty points imposed on his licence.

# Dalmally playpark delight



SSPCA officer John McAvoy with two of the five rabbits which survived being abandoned. 1033ra01

## Lovely bunnies abandoned to die

SEVEN domestic rabbits were abandoned on either Friday night or Saturday morning near North Connel.

Unfortunately one died before it could be recovered and another has not been seen since they were reported to Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animal officer John McAvoy.

Mr McAvoy did, however, manage to catch five of the rabbits which had been abandoned on the dead end road leading to the old Royal Observer Corps post near the airfield.

The three white and two white and black rabbits are now being looked after by a kind volunteer until they have recovered enough to be taken to one of the SSPCA's animal welfare centres to be re-homed.

Mr McAvoy said: 'Usually when domestic rabbits are put outside, they stay in the same area for a long time. They don't know how to feed themselves and no food was left for these rabbits.'

He said that they had been left on the side

close to the nearby main road, which could have led to a dog being killed if it had chased them on to the main road.

He is keen to track down the person or people who abandoned the rabbits, which were somewhat bedraggled by the time he found them, and has asked anyone who noticed anything or was aware of someone who had seven or more rabbits but now had fewer or none to get in touch with him.

'This happens from time to time: I had guinea pigs abandoned on Jura and domestic rabbits on Gigha.'

'They are likely to die because they don't know what predators are and don't have muscle power or know-how to escape,' said Mr McAvoy.

It is an offence under the 1960 Abandonment of Animals Act to abandon domestic pets in a 'manner which is likely to cause suffering'.

Anyone who has any information concerning the rabbits should contact Mr McAvoy on 07733 007252.

DALMALLY will soon have a play park in place at Glenview after six years of fundraising.

Adventure Dalmally, the group responsible for raising the £100,000 needed for the play park have now asked for the work to begin.

The group has raised £97,000 of the £101,221.04 needed to build the park, enough to begin the work as three grants are still outstanding.

Local contractor Donnie MacDougall began removing the old play park equipment on Monday.

Adventure Dalmally is so keen to have the play park ready for the school Easter holidays, it wants the work finished by March 29.

At a meeting last Tuesday in Dalmally church hall Adventure Dalmally 2000

chairwoman Margaret Donald told representatives of Argyll and Bute Council and contractors all the funding was in place for the playpark.

There was, so far, not enough money to build a public garden beside the playpark.

### Grants

If the group is successful with the three outstanding grants, there will be enough to cover the costs of the garden.

If the grants are unsuccessful the garden plan will be scrapped.

Dalmally Primary School pupils will be involved heavily in the garden should it come to fruition and will be planting the flowers and shrubbery and maintaining the flower beds.

Dalmally Primary

School's pupil council said all the children were really looking forward to having a new play park because the younger ones have never had a place to play and the older children can barely remember the old play park.

The main costs of the playpark project have been down to the new equipment.

Equipment from The Play Practice totalled £49,068 and The Record Company bill came to £34,897.50.

### Donations

Among the many donations to the cause was a £22,818 grant from BBC Children in Need and £15,000 from Argyll and the Isles Enterprise.

Argyll and Bute Council has also contributed access and street lighting costs amounting to more than £7,000.

# Sheriff's warning to former fisherman

A FORMER Tiree fisherman has admitted exposing part of his buttocks to two young girls on the island.

William Walker, aged 23, whose address was given in court as 1435 Dumbarton Road, Scotstoun, Glasgow, pled guilty to a reduced charge of breach of the peace at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday.

The children concerned, aged 12 and 13, were playing at a playpark in Struthan Terrace, Cross-apol.

They saw Walker at his former home in Struthan Terrace, which is about 30 metres away from the play park, jumping up and down at the window.

Procurator Fiscal Clifford

Most said: 'As they looked he briefly exposed his bare buttocks and, while the girls initially found it amusing, a witness went to inform the mother of one of the children.'

Walker, now working as a builder in Glasgow, told police he hadn't dropped his trousers but showed them how he lowered them about two inches.

The court also heard he had been drinking that afternoon.

Defence agent Duncan Durbin said: 'In the past there has always been friendly banter between Mr

Walker and the girls. He had a few drinks and was in high spirits. It was a bit of tomfoolery that crossed the threshold into something quite indecent.'

'The intention was not to frighten or scare the girls.'

Sheriff Douglas Small said: 'This was extremely stupid behaviour.'

'But I don't consider it is behaviour for me to place you on the Sex Offenders Register.'

Walker was fined £450.

# Ex-pupil fined after racial remarks to high school teacher

A SIXTEEN-year-old girl who shouted racial abuse at a high school teacher found herself in court facing charges of acting in a racially aggravated manner and breaching the peace.

Oban Sheriff Court heard last week that senior deputy head teacher at Oban High School John MacPherson had been walking along George Street in Oban with his wife

and two children on October 30 last year.

They passed opposite a doorway in which stood a group of juveniles, including former high school pupil Pamela MacAllister, Glencairn, North Connel, and one of the three swore at Mr MacPherson several times.

He went over to the three and spoke to them and as he turned away to rejoin his family, heard a 'familiar' voice shout the racial abuse.

MacAllister, a hotel worker, was spoken to by police and she admitted swearing at the teacher, who was described in court as being well-spoken and Scottish, and calling him an 'English \*\*\*\*'.

Defending herself, MacAllister, who pled guilty to both charges, could give no explanation for her remarks.

Sheriff Douglas Small told her it was 'disrespectful' and now meant she had criminal convictions.

He suggested she write and apologise to Mr MacPherson for her conduct and fined her £300.

The council's development and environment spokesperson Councillor Robin Banks said: 'Benefits to local communities will also be significant in relation to health and quality of life.'

Elements of the project were funded by Highlands and Islands Special Transitional Programme, Argyll and Bute Council, Argyll and Islands Enterprise, Scottish Natural Heritage, the paths for all Partnership, Highlands and Islands Enterprise and Forest Enterprise.



Young Abdul Mikith and father Abdul Musilim with Light of India Staff and Ian MacKenzie, Henry Woodman, Margaret Melville and Shelia McKie of Alzheimer Scotland. 1031ch01

## Charity lunch boosts Oban funds

THE EXCELLENT total of £445.62 was raised for Alzheimer Scotland through a charity lunch at Oban's Light of India restaurant.

All the money is to go towards the Oban and Lorn branch of the Alzheimer Scotland.

Ian MacKenzie, chairman of the Oban and Lorn branch said: 'We are very grateful to Abdul and his staff for all their work. It was a lovely meal.'

The money from the lunch will be used to help their work in supporting patients and carers locally.

Day care, weekend care and art classes are part-funded by the local committee who also hope to replace their ageing minibus.

The minibus is used to take patients out to help keep them part of the community and at the same time giving their carers some much-needed respite.

# More road improvement talks on agenda

PRIORITIES for spending money on reconstructing areas of road in Oban, Lorn and the Isles are to be further discussed by councillors.

A list of priorities was presented to members at the Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Committee on Tobermory last week but there was debate over the

amount of money being spent on certain projects and the fact there were no time-scales for them in the programme.

Among the top priorities for spending a total of £560,000 of capital money as listed by roads and amenity services manager Neil Brown was the C48 Carsaig road on Mull, roads

on Kerrera, the A849 north of Craignure on Mull, the A819 Dalmally to Inveraray road and the B8073 Penmore to Ensay road on Mull.

Councillor Allan Macaskill was concerned that £100,000 had been pencilled in, further down the list, for the Achavaich road between Oban and

Connel which, despite being popular with walkers and cyclists, served only one house. 'It makes no sense to spend £100,000 for one dwelling,' he argued. 'We should be reducing it to £50,000 and giving £50,000 for another project.'

Tiree and Coll councillor Ian Gillies and North Lorn councillor Elaine Robertson

both felt the figure should be kept and the council should be using it as a lever with the Scottish Executive to show that more funding was needed for roads. Mr Brown said it was on the list to indicate there was a problem with the road but that it did not need to be a high priority.

Oban Central councillor Robin Banks felt it was necessary to make the road passable to traffic as it offered an alternative route to and from Oban, in the event of accidents and a development road being constructed. The committee agreed to discuss the programme further at a business meeting of Oban, Lorn and the Isles members.

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# Sheriff concerned at violence between Polish and Fort William communities

A SHERIFF has voiced concern at the amount of incidents involving violence between the Polish community and local people in Fort William.

Sheriff Douglas Small made the comments after a Polish man admitted assaulting another man by striking him on the head with a stick in Fort William town centre.

Sheriff Small told Fort William Sheriff Court last week: 'I am concerned about the number of matters that come before me that involve the Polish community and the Fort

William community. If relations do not improve someone is going to be very seriously injured.'

Hubert Juliusz Kasprzyk, aged 23, whose address was given in court as 14 Connachie Road, Fort William, admitted assaulting the man in High Street, Fort William, on November 13 last year.

Prosecutor Fiscal Alison Wyllie said: 'The victim and a friend were going towards the taxi rank on High Street. They noticed a disturbance.' Ms Wyllie said that the pair

were 'watching' the fight and saw two males running down Bank Street, one of which was the accused.

She continued: 'Kasprzyk ran towards the victim and the friend could see that he had a stick in his hand. He then struck the victim on the face. There were no words or provocation.'

Defence agent Hamish Melrose said that Kasprzyk had been working in Fort William for the past 20 months for a fish farming company. Mr Melrose said: 'He was making

his way home after being out that night. He was attacked and has little recollection of what happened thereafter. Triggered by what happened to him he picked up a stick and struck out at by-standers.'

Sheriff Small told Kasprzyk: 'It is with some hesitation that I am going to consider not imposing a custodial sentence.'

Sheriff Small fined Kasprzyk £400 for the assault and ordered him to pay £250 compensation to his victim.

## Council to decide on Lady Lovat

HIGHLAND Council is meeting today (Thursday) with proposals to scrap the Gaelic medium units at Arisaig and Lady Lovat primary schools high on the agenda.

The council's education, culture and sport committee is invited to follow the Lochaber Area Committee's recommendation and agree that all Gaelic Medium pupils should be transferred to Mallaig Primary School.

If the committee approves the recommendation then the final decision will rest with Education Minister Peter Peacock.

# Lochaber ward split 'disaster'

'A DISASTER' is how one Fort William councillor has described proposals to split Lochaber into two multi-member council wards, losing one elected representative in the process.

It is now looking increasingly likely that Lochaber will shed one councillor and be divided into two multi-member wards in the next Highland Council elections in 2007.

The Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland has for the last 12 months been canvassing opinion on how local authority areas should be divided.

From May 2007 Lochaber will be served by seven councillors in the two new wards of Fort William and Ardnamurchan and Mallaig and Kilmallie. Four

councillors will represent Fort William and Ardnamurchan while three will stand in the Mallaig and Kilmallie area.

But Caol councillor and Lochaber area convener Olwyn Macdonald believes the proposals are disastrous and will leave Lochaber people feeling alienated if they are implemented.

**Crazy**

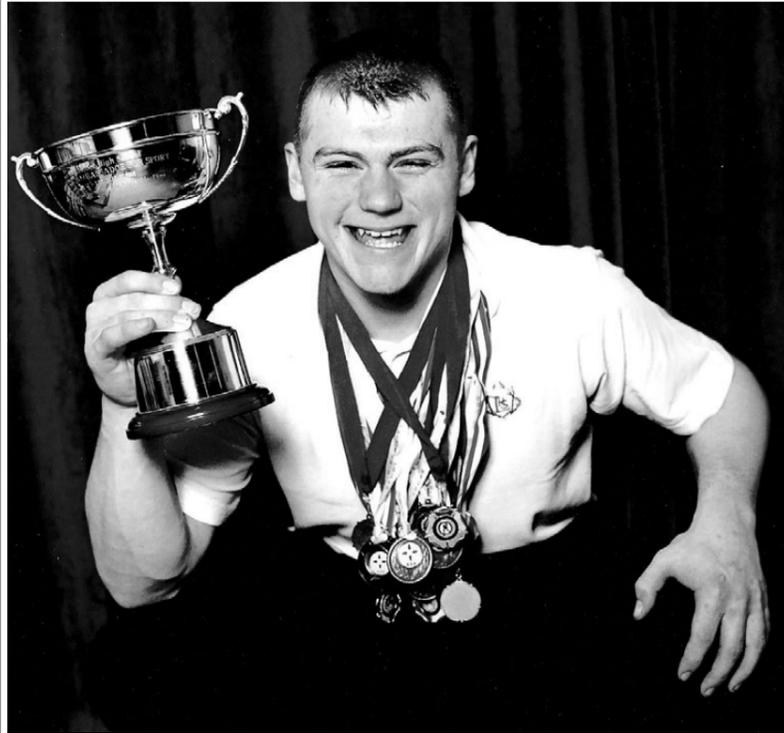
She said: 'I don't know how it is going to work. I think it is taking us away from the people and we are losing contact. I don't think the general public have a clue about it. It is absolutely crazy.'

Glencoe Councillor Drew McFarlane-Stack, whose constituents would be included within the 'south' ward, believes losing one councillor from the area is a taste of things to come. He

said: 'I'm quite content at the boundaries. They give members a responsibility for rural and urban Lochaber. There is certainly going to be confusion and there is still some confusion in the council about how it will work.'

Kilmallie and Invergarry councillor Bill Clark welcomed the proposals saying he had been confident that the commission would not ignore the rights of residents in Caol, Kilmallie, Glengarry, Roy Bridge and Spean Bridge. 'There will now be parity in the electorate,' he said. The north ward stretches from Mallaig and the Small Isles to Roy Bridge, Glengarry and Kilmallie. The south ward includes Claggan, Fort William, Ardnamurchan and Glencoe.'

# Olympic hero is school sportsman of the year



Lochaber High School Sportsman of the Year Neil John Cameron with the cup he received and his haul of medals.

A YOUNG Lochyside footballer has picked up some impressive silverware in the past year but his mantelpiece will be straining now after being judged Lochaber High School's sportsman of the year.

Neil John Cameron, who starred on the sports field for the Highlands in the Special Olympics last summer, received the award after a number of impressive performances saw him enjoy a memorable year which was capped off with the school cup. Neil, aged 16, was competing at the Olympics in Glasgow against a number of older and more experienced athletes. The Special Olympics Great Britain National Games saw 19 teams compete against each other in a range of sports and it was held in Scotland for the first time last year.

Neil was also among the medals when he was part of the Highland team which beat a number of teams from all over the UK in Inverness last September.

'He is a really talented sportsman,' said high school teacher Ann Dodds.

# Fish farm fined for loch pollution

A FISH farm on Loch Lochy increased its production to protect its market share against Norwegian imports potentially causing an increase in poisonous algal blooms on the loch.

Kames Fish Farming Limited, based in Kilmelford, which operates Loch Lochy Fish Farm at Gairloch, near Spean Bridge, was fined £8,000 at Fort William Sheriff Court last week after admitting breaching its discharge consent limits set by the Scottish

Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA). The company admitted permitting trout effluent containing uneaten fish feed and fish faeces to be discharged into the loch between January 1 2004 and December 31 2004.

The court heard that Kames had consent to keep a biomass of 200 tons in its fish cages but had gone substantially over that limit throughout the three-year period. In June 2001 it exceeded its consent by 53 tons, in April 2003 by 276 tons

and in October 2004 by 304 tons. The court heard that partially as a result of the fish farm's activities algal blooms were seen on the loch which is used by recreational fishermen and tourist boats and feeds into the River Lochy - a salmon river. Defence agent Drew Taylor said that Kames sold its fish to a supplier which sold it on to supermarkets.

Mr Taylor said the situation was so bad that the supplier was importing fish from Norway to preserve its customer base.

Mr Taylor said: 'It was the general view of Scottish fish farms that they had to increase production to meet the demand and if they did not they could not continue in business.'

He said that the trout were part-grown to 200 grammes at Loch Lochy. 'The intention was to transfer the part-grown fish at Loch Lochy to another fish farm. The company was in negotiations to acquire a site where this could be done,' he added.

'These negotiations fell

through and the result was excess fish at Loch Lochy.'

Mr Taylor added that the company had faced the dilemma of either destroying the fish or keeping them on a 'maintenance diet' which would slow their growth and make further efforts to obtain alternative sites.

'This arose more through inadvertence than design.'

Mr Taylor added that the company accepted it made an error in not contacting SEPA for help, which it now regretted.

# Portree pitches into trouble

PORTREE'S only public playing field will not be upgraded by the company building Skye's new high school, despite its pupils using the park while the construction takes place.

The King George V pitch is run by Highland Council on a guaranteed lease.

When work begins on the new school at the existing site, the physical education department will be using the pitch, which has been closed in the past because of surface problems.

But Duncan Brown, chairman of the King George V management committee, said it had believed the Public Private

Partnership (PPP) programme would pay for the pitch to undergo a major upgrade costing in the region of £200,000.

Mr Brown said the committee had heard unofficially that the money would not now be forthcoming and it would have to apply to sportsScotland for a grant to upgrade the pitch.

He said: 'Nobody has come and told us what is happening. We have just heard bits from the council. The improvements last year have made a really big difference but we need to protect the park and try to get it upgraded.'

A council spokeswoman said: 'The King George V park is not included in the PPP2 programme for Portree High School.'

'With regard to the proposed use of the King George V, the approach to the committee has come from staff of the council's education, culture and sport service and not the PPP consortium.'

The council says it 'recognises' work will need to be carried out on the park including an additional maintenance programme when the school is using it, and an upgrade once the new high school is built.

## More delays for Fort motorists

THERE will be temporary delays for motorists coming into Fort William for the next two to three weeks.

On top of the resurfacing which has been taking place in the town in the past couple of months, BEAR Scotland is carrying out drainage on the A82 approaching Fort William from the south.

A spokeswoman said: 'We will be monitoring any delays but the work will not be in the same place each day.'

## Witness appeal after spate of vandalism

POLICE are appealing for witnesses after a spate of vandalism in the Fort William area where a total of 12 windows were smashed over the weekend.

Five windows were smashed at the Community Centre and the Youth Centre in Caol, near Fort William.

Nearby Lochaber High School at Camaghael was also the target when seven windows were broken on Sunday night.

Chief Inspector Ian Bryce, Lochaber Area Commander, said: 'Vandalism has a substantial cost to the public and disruption to business and education. I appeal to law abiding citizens to come forward with any information they may have.'

Police are appealing to anyone with any information regarding these incidents to contact Fort William Police Office on 01397 702361.

## Four walkers rescued

FOUR hillwalkers were rescued from Anonach Eagach Ridge, Glencoe, by Glencoe Mountain Rescue Team on Saturday January 14.

# Land managers offered new payments to encourage sea-eagles on west coast

CROFTERS, farmers and estate owners on the West Coast, who work in areas where sea eagles have established territories, are being offered financial incentives to encourage the future success of the birds in the area.

The recently launched 'Sea Eagle Management Scheme' is part of Scottish Natural Heritage's (SNH) Natural Care programme which supports land managers on a range of important

wildlife sites across Scotland.

The scheme, which has a budget of £107,000, will offer support to land managers who sign up for a five year agreement in return for carrying out activities which will benefit both the sea eagles and the land owners.

Potential conflicts during the lambing season will be tackled by providing support for managing sheep alongside the sea eagles.

There is also provision within the scheme to undertake activities that are considered to be of particular benefit to specific sites.

**'Delighted'**

Amanda Bryan, chair of SNH's North Areas Board, said: 'We are delighted to have this opportunity to provide additional benefits for local land managers who already do much to help the sea eagles in their areas.'

'Sea eagles have already proved themselves to be a

benefit to the areas they inhabit, as they are a huge attraction, and many tourism businesses rely on the presence of these great birds. This scheme now gives an opportunity for land managers to get direct financial reward for carrying out activities which benefit the Sea Eagles.'

Sea eagles, also known as white-tailed eagles, were persecuted to extinction in Scotland in the 1800s, before initially being re-intro-

duced in the 1970s to the Island of Rum.

Since then, they have successfully expanded their range to cover much of the west coast, and are now an integral part of the area's natural heritage and biodiversity.

RSPB has been closely involved in the process of designing the scheme and will continue to play an important role in continuing to support its management.

# Executive cash to help close the rural 'opportunity gap'

THE SCOTTISH Executive has proposed that £700,000 will go towards improving services in disadvantaged rural areas in Argyll and Bute, the Highlands, and the Western Isles.

Adult learning, community transport and recycling projects in rural areas are among services which could be improved by the funding as part of the anti-poverty drive, 'Closing the Opportunity Gap.'

Over £2 million has been allocated to 22 rural service

priority areas across Scotland by way of Community Planning Partnerships (CPPs) for improvements that will help to tackle poverty.

Each CPP will identify the services that they want to improve in their areas and each designated rural service priority area will have £100,000 to develop new projects.

In Argyll and Bute, proposals have been made to provide funds for two priority areas, while three have

been identified in the Highlands, as well as five priority areas in the Western Isles.

Currently discussions are being held between the executive and CPPs to decide which priority services will be improved, with the targets to be agreed by the end of March 2006.

Rural Development Minister Ross Finnie said: 'The Executive is committed to tackling disadvantage and improving services in rural areas. Improving access to

services is vital in maintaining vibrant and viable rural communities.'

'Through working closely with CPPs we will deliver visible improvements to each priority area which will deliver real benefits for rural Scotland.'

The minister has also designated an additional two rural service priority areas to join the 20 priority areas announced last January (2005), one of which is Jura, Colonsay and Islay in Argyll and Bute.

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## More floods and storms in future

A LOCHABER councillor is to press for flood prevention measures for Caol near Fort William after hearing there will be more floods, storms and rainfall in the north of Scotland in the future.

Professor James Curran of the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) told a meeting of Highland Council's sustainable development select committee that the west coast of Scotland could see a 40 per cent increase in rainfall during the winter months before 2080.

Kilmallie and Invergarry councillor Bill Clark said: 'The report that is awaited on proposals for flood prevention measures in Caol must be acted upon immediately, irrespective of the costs.'

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### NEWSDESKS

**01631 568000**  
**01397 703003**

Lodge 43 Fort William Master Jim Green hands over a bumper cheque to Hector Maclean of Lochaber MS as Johnny Bell looks on. 103lms01

## New Year's Day shinty match helps Lochaber MS charity

PROCEEDS from a New Year's day shinty match and fund-raising throughout the year by Lochaber masons saw a local charity benefit this week.

Jim Green, master of Lodge 43 Fort William, presented Lochaber Multiple Sclerosis with a cheque for £623.

Jim said the money was raised through the efforts of Lodge 43 Fort William, Lodge Lochiel Banavie 1200 and the Masonic Sea Club.

'We set ourselves a target of £1,243 for

the year and actually raised more than that through the shinty match and donations at the club,' said Jim. Half of the total went to the breast cancer care unit at Raigmore Hospital. Hector Maclean, chairman of the Lochaber branch of the Multiple Sclerosis, said it was very grateful for the money.

Hector told *The Oban Times* that Scotland has the highest number of MS sufferers per head of population in the world and said every penny would be going towards helping sufferers in Lochaber.

## Transport costs delay consultation

COUNCILLORS in Lochaber have delayed the start of a public consultation into the future of two primary schools after contesting transport costs contained in the proposal.

A meeting of Lochaber Area Committee of Highland Council in Fort William this week heard that there are three options for the future of Spean Bridge and Roy Bridge primary schools.

The consultation will look at maintaining the status quo, merging the two schools or allowing the Roy Bridge community to build its own school.

Councillor Thomas MacLennan pointed out that merging the two schools would mean transporting pupils between the two communities but that these costs were only projected to rise by £50,000 by 2024.

Councillors agreed to defer any decision on the consultation until the next area committee meeting on February 6 this year for an amended report to be submitted.

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**Faraidhean saor air faire?**

THA RIAGHALTAS na h-Alba a' beachdachadh air sgeama ùr a bheir an cothrom do dh'èileanach sibhal air plèana aig prìs nas saoire.

Ma thèid gabhail ris, bidh e a' ciallachadh gum bi na daoine a tha a' sibhal bho na h-èileanan gu tìr mòr a' faighinn isleachadh air prìs nan ticeadan. Chan eil fhios aig an ìre-sa dè cho mòr 's a bhios an lùghdachadh no cuin a thèid a stèidheachadh. A rèir ball-pàrlamaid nan Eilean Siar, Alasdair Moireasdan, leanaidh seo gu barrachd 's barrachd dhaoine a bhith a' sibhal air plèana.

'Tha Riaghaltas na h-Alba ag obair air an-dràsta,' thuirt e. 'Chan e naidheachd mhòr sam bith a tha ann gu bheil mi air a bhith ag obair còmhla ri na ministearan còmhala. Nicol Stephen is Tavish Scott, gus feuchainn ri cosgais sibhal san adhair eadar na h-èileanan agus tìr-mòr a thoirt sìos.

'Tha fios 'am gu bheil Tavish Scott, mar eileanach a tha riochdachadh Sealtainn, ag aithneachadh an fheum airson sibhal san adhair a dhèanamh nas saoire agus tha an Riaghaltas ag obair air moladh inntinneach a bhios a' cruthachadh suidheachadh fàbharach dha eileanach, a' ciallachadh nuair a cheannaicheas thu ticead airson sibhal bho na h-èileanan gu tìr-mòr gum bi e nas saoire na ma thu a' tighinn bho tìr-mòr chun nan eilean.'

A NEW scheme which would reduce the cost of travel by plane for islanders is currently being considered by the Scottish Executive.

If given approval, it would mean that those travelling from the islands to the mainland would receive a reduction on the normal ticket price. It is unknown at this stage exactly what the level of concession would be or when it will be introduced.

According to Western Isles MSP Alasdair Morrison it will lead to more and more islanders being able to opt for travel by air.

'It's currently being worked on by the Scottish Executive,' he said. 'It's certainly no secret that I have been working with the two recent transport ministers, Nicol Stephen and Tavish Scott, on trying to reduce the price of air travel between the islands and the mainland.'

'I know that Tavish Scott, as a fellow islander who represents Shetland, is receptive to the need to make air travel more affordable and the executive is working on an exciting proposal which would discriminate in favour of islanders, so that when you buy a ticket to travel from the islands to the mainland it's cheaper than if you are coming from the mainland to the islands.'

**Sgeama PPP nan sgoiltean**

CHAIHIDH sgeama airgid poblach prìbheiteach luach £52 millean airson sgoiltean nan Eilean Siar a' leasachadh a chur gu Riaghaltas na h-Alba an t-seachdain a chaidh.

Tha Comhairle nan Eilean Siar an dòchas co-dhùnadh fàbharach fhaighinn an ath mhìos, le dùil gun tèid an obair togail a thòiseachadh ann an 2007. Tha grunn dhuilgheadasan air tighinn ma choinneimh na comhairle ann a bhith a' leasachadh na pròiseict - an fhear as motha 's e nach tàinig iudh sam bith bho roinn prìbheiteach air sgàth 's cho iosal is a tha luach an fhearainn agus toglaichean. An dèidh còmhraidhean a chumail leis an riaghaltas ghluais a' chomhairle gu companaidh sònraichte a stèidheachadh dhaibh fhèin, a bheir dhaibh an cothrom a chur air adhart mar ghrunn chùmhachd beaga seach aon mhòr.

Tha an cùmhachd a' gabhail a-staigh còig diofar phròiseactan gu lèir - bun-sgoiltean ùr ann am Baile a' Mhanach is taobh siar Leòdhais agus leasachaidhean aig Sgoil Eile Neacail ann an Steòrnabhagh, Sgoil Sir E Scott air an Tairbeart agus Sgoil Phabail san Rubha.

Thuirt stiùiriche an foghlaim aig a' chomhairle Murchadh MacLeòid: 'Tha e air a bhith duilich a thoirt chun ìre seo agus tha e air ùine mhòr a thoirt. A' gabhail ris gu faigh sinn freagairt fàbharach sa Ghearran ghluaiseadh sinn chun a' ìre ann a bhith dealbhadh a' chùmhachd. Nochdaidh na sanasan airson companaidhean an uairsin, tha mi creidsinn, sa Ghiblean.'

Dh'innis Mgr MacLeòid gun robh e duilich a ràdh le cinn cuin a thòiseachadh an obair togail, ach 's iongnatach mura eil thu coimhead ri 2007'. A £52 million public private partnership scheme for schools in the Western Isles was last week lodged with the Scottish Executive for approval.

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar hopes to receive a positive response next month, with construction work not expected to get underway until 2007. The council has run into a series of hurdles in developing the project - the biggest of which was the failure to attract potential investors due to low land and property values.

Following discussions with the executive, it has moved to establish a special company of their own - which will enable them to run it on the basis of a number of smaller contracts, rather than one big one.

The contract covers five different projects in all - a new school in Balivanich, a new primary on the west side of Lewis and comprehensive refurbishment at the Nicolson Institute in Stornoway, Sir E Scott School in Harris and Bayle School in Point. Education director Murdo MacLeod said: 'It's been a long and complex process to get us to this stage. Assuming we get a favourable ministerial response in February we would then move to the next stage of tender document preparation. The advert for companies to bid for work would probably then appear in April.'

Mr MacLeod said it was difficult to estimate when construction work would actually begin but 'realistically you're probably looking at 2007'.

**NEWSDESKS**  
01631 568000  
01397 703003

**Isles MP tackles Scottish Executive on storm roads**

WESTERN Isles MP Angus MacNeil has written to First Minister Jack McConnell asking why it is taking so long to repair the roads in South Uist that were damaged in last year's storm.

The Scottish Executive has promised to give £9 million to Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to enable it to repair roads and causeways which were substantially damaged last January, but as yet the people of the Uists

are patiently waiting to see the necessary improvements being made.

Mr MacNeil said: 'It is exactly a year today since three generations of the one family lost their lives trying to flee the horrendous storm which hit the Western Isles. 'We in the islands want to know from the First Minister why it is taking so long to repair the roads and causeways that were damaged. 'There are three issues

which need to be urgently addressed; the roads in the Lochdar area, the causeways and their role in exacerbating the effect of storms and the risks to Bornish and Stonybridge areas, and which department at the Scottish Executive is responsible for making sure these works go ahead.

'I can understand that to ensure that this kind of tragedy doesn't happen again and how best to

safeguard the causeways will take time as whatever works take place on them will have to withstand the weather conditions for many years to come.

'Having spoken to people in Lochdar we cannot understand how little progress is being made in repairing the roads.

'I share the frustration the people of Lochdar have 12 months on in seeing that nothing is being done to the roads and making them

safer should such a situation occur again.'

Mr Macneil added the council had submitted a report to the executive on the impact of causeways in Uist and Barra last summer.

He added: 'It seems that the comhairle's roads budget has been cut in real terms over the last few years, which had already put pressure on the council. 'Jack McConnell visited the islands and he saw for himself what had to be

done. I am asking him not to leave a proven fatal road like this for much longer, we have waited long enough.'

A Scottish Executive spokesman said that ministers would be considering a detailed submission from the Western Isles council and added that finance minister Tom McCabe hoped to travel to Western Isles for a meeting on the storm damage.

**'Pillar of the community' assaults fellow islander**

A TIREE man, who was otherwise described as a 'pillar of the community', has been ordered to serve 180 hours' community service after admitting assaulting another island man.

Appearing for sentencing at Oban Sheriff Court last week, Allan MacCallum, aged 34, 3 Upper Square, Hynish, had previously admitted assaulting Alistair MacDonald on June 10 last year near 6 Crossapol, Tiree.

His co-accused and brother Alexander MacCallum, 36, 7 Keil Gardens, Benderloch, had denied being involved in the assault and his not guilty plea was accepted by the Crown.

Conditions But he and his brother pled guilty to breaching bail conditions set on June 13 2005 in relation to this case by approaching the victim in the Scarinish Hotel, Tiree, on September 12 last year, without reasonable excuse.

Prosecutor Fiscal Clifford Most told the court Mr MacDonald had been changing a tyre on his car when he became aware of a car approaching.

Allan MacCallum had got out of the car and punched him once in the face and then kicked him in the body.

The court heard Mr MacDonald suffered a displaced tooth, couldn't close his jaw and had abrasions and bruises. He had to go to the Southern General Hospital in Glasgow for an operation to re-align the tooth but had since made a full recovery.

Defence agent Duncan

Durbin said there was a history of ill-feeling between the two men, who had known each other since childhood, which had culminated in the assault.

He claimed Mr MacDonald had gesticulated at his client, who had approached the complainant to put 'put an end to the goading between family members' but had felt Mr MacDonald was not going to back down and the assault had occurred.

With reference to the breach of bail, the brothers had gone into the hotel, only one of two on the island, and Mr MacDonald had been in the bar.

The pair accepted that they could have left without speaking to him but had not. Sheriff Douglas Small said it was thanks to his 'exemplary' social inquiry report that he was not considering sending Allan MacCallum to jail.

'It indicates that in most respects you are a pillar of the community - a member of the coastguard, a member of the local Baptist church,' said Sheriff Small.

Deferred Alexander MacCallum, who was also admitted breaching the peace at Colonsay Terrace, Oban, on November 9 2005 and assaulting two police officers, had his sentence deferred for nine months for him to be of good behaviour.

Sheriff Small commented that he also had received a favourable social inquiry report and that his offences seemed to be tied up with too much drink.



Chief Inspector Coirstan Shearer of Oban Police Station is wrapped up safe and warm in the Casbag and securely strapped in the stretcher ready to be lowered.

**New mountain rescue kit put to test**

OBAN Mountain rescue team took to the slopes of Ben Cruachan to test an amazing new piece of equipment.

The Casbag is the brainchild of Paul Rosher a fellow member of the mountain rescue movement. Paul is a member of the Skye team and lives at Dunvegan.

'An excellent bit of kit'

was the verdict of the Oban team.

The Casbag is just that, the bag a casualty is placed in prior to being put onto the stretcher and taken to safety.

Up until now it has been a one-size-fits-all approach as it would be too impractical and expensive for a team to have a number of bags.

Paul used his experience on the hills to design a bag

with state-of-the-art insulation that can be removed to enable the bag to be machine-washed and an internal system of straps which mean the bag can be used by casualties of any size in comfort.

The Casbag prototype is being loaned to teams across Scotland to be evaluated during training exercises; it has yet to go

into use in real-life rescues. Oban Mountain Rescue Team members gave the bag its toughest test yet lowering a volunteer 1,300 feet in very challenging, icy conditions.

The team's volunteer for the stretcher, Chief Inspector Coirstan Shearer, and the team members themselves were all very impressed with the Casbag.

**Teenager banned after drug incident**

A NINETEEN-year-old energy adviser with Scottish Power has been fined £300 at Oban Sheriff Court after admitting being in charge of a vehicle while unfit through drugs.

Ricci Russell, who was

living on Mull at the time but has since moved to 61/7 Prince Regent Street, Leith, was found asleep by police in the driver's seat of a car at Craignure at 1.30pm on February 12 2005.

A breath test proved to be

negative but a blood test found traces of diazepam and cannabis. Defence agent Duncan Durbin said Russell was not in the habit of taking non-prescribed drugs but had 'tried them' at a party the night before,

adding that it was 'an isolated incident'.

Sheriff Douglas Small said he did not consider it to be a minor offence and banned Russell from driving for three months and fined him £300.



Ailsa Hayes prepares another batch of her unique Islay whisky soaps.

**Islay's Ailsa toasts success of unique whisky soap**

AN ISLAY woman is using the island's abundant whisky supply to produce a unique batch of soaps.

Bowmore's Ailsa Hayes of The Spirited Soap Company uses spirit from the island's single malts to make clear soap. Her idea has attracted interest from six distilleries on the island so far, two of which have already sold hundreds of bars of the soap.

Vegetable oils are mixed in small batches using the traditional 'cold process' then cooked with sugar, vegetable glycerin and alcohol to produce transparent bars.

Ailsa, a qualified pharmaceutical research chemist, said: 'I moved here with my husband Graham in

2004 but we used to come here on holiday and, even though it is a fantastic place, there isn't much you can take home as a gift.

'I know the soap making process and because transparent soap needs alcohol, I can substitute some of that with the whisky.'

'They are scented with essential oils so they don't actually smell of whisky!'

The idea has gone down a soap is made of spirit doesn't make you smell like a brewery.

'I think Ailsa has a lot of talent and the soaps look really funky.'

Hessian and I think the soaps will fly off the shelves in the summer.

'They are a great gift and are a little more feminine than a lot of other gifts at the distillery shop.'

'I hope it is a great success for her.'

Bruichladdich Distillery managing director Mark Reynier said he uses the Bruichladdich soap at home.

He added: 'The fact the soap is made of spirit doesn't make you smell like a brewery.'

Ailsa is having premises in Islay House Square renovated for manufacturing her soaps.



2 pairs of: Single vision glasses from £75; Designer single vision glasses from £125; Bifocal glasses from £110 Standard or £120 Premium; Varifocal glasses from £134 Standard, £154 Premium or £184 Elite. Get the frame styles that suit you in the latest 2 for 1 offer from Specsavers. Both pairs must be chosen from the same £75, £85, £99, or designer £125 range. The price includes standard PENTAX single vision lenses at no extra cost. If you pay for PENTAX bifocal lenses (Standard/Premium) or PENTAX varifocal lenses (Standard/Premium/Elite) in your first pair, we'll give you the same lenses in your free pair at no extra cost. Extra lens options are not included in this offer but can be added for an additional charge - see our Clear Price leaflets.



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As you may have heard, the Scottish Executive has recently announced that everyone living in Scotland will soon be entitled to a free sight test under the NHS. But why wait when you can have a free full eye examination at Specsavers now? When you buy a complete pair of glasses we will refund you the cost of your Specsavers eye test. Free eye tests are available until 31st March 2006. (Offer does not apply to customers already entitled to a free NHS sight test.)

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**HIGHLAND THEATRE** 01631 562444  
GEORGE STREET - OBAN

7.30 DAILY from FRIDAY (Excluding Sunday)  
2.00 SATURDAY and SUNDAY MATINEES  
**Screen 1: ROMANTIC COMEDY-UK PREMIERE**  
**FUN WITH DICK AND JANE** 12A

7.45 DAILY from FRIDAY (Excluding Sunday)  
2.15 SATURDAY and SUNDAY MATINEES  
**Screen 2: ROMANTIC COMEDY - Last Great Week**  
**JUST FRIENDS** 12A  
Under-12s admitted to 12A movies when with an adult aged 18 or over

**STUDIO CINEMA** 01397 705095  
CAMERON SQUARE - FORT WILLIAM

7.45 DAILY from FRIDAY (Excluding Sunday)  
2.45 SATURDAY and SUNDAY MATINEES  
**Screen 2: RECORD-BREAKING MUSICAL SUCCESS**  
**THE PRODUCERS** 12A

7.30 DAILY from FRIDAY (Excluding Sunday)  
2.30 SATURDAY and SUNDAY MATINEES  
**Screen 1: DRAMA AND JOY ON AN EPIC JOURNEY**  
**MARCH OF THE PENGUINS** U

*At the Cinema*

Movie Listings from Friday 20th January 2006

**THE PRODUCERS**  
Screen 1 - 12A Certificate - 134 Minutes  
**FORT WILLIAM STUDIO CINEMA**  
7.45 Daily (Except Sunday) from Friday  
2.45 Saturday and Sunday Matinees  
Mel Brooks' record-breaking musical success THE PRODUCERS, stars Nathan Lane, Matthew Broderick, Uma Thurman and Will Ferrell. Revolving around a 'has-been' theatrical producer, and a scheming accountant, our mismatch couple plan a get-rich-quick scheme to embezzle a fortune - all by producing a Broadway musical flop!

To achieve their objective, they discovered the ultimate bad play, which has the shock title of "Springtime for Hitler", which looks likely to be the ultimate stage disaster of all time. Their scheming comes to naught however when the production is hailed by the critics as a great toast-of-the-town hit!

Uma Thurman stars as Ulla, a Swedish secretary and would-be showgirl whilst, in the role of Franz Liebkind (the neo-Nazi playwright), Will Ferrell proves his outstanding spot-on comedy talents. Directed by Susan Stroman (Tony Award winner of the original Broadway Production) this is a big screen musical comedy that must not be missed.

**MARCH OF THE PENGUINS**  
Screen 2 - U Certificate - 80 Minutes  
**FORT WILLIAM STUDIO CINEMA**  
7.30 Daily (except Sunday) from Friday  
2.30 Saturday and Sunday Matinees  
MARCH OF THE PENGUINS was the surprise screen success of 2005 in North America. Taking a massive \$80-million at the box office, it also helped make Antarctica the latest world tourist destination! In this outstanding story, directed by Luc Jacquet, we experience the adventures of thousands of emperor penguins, trekking hundreds of miles across an unforgiving ice cap, facing predators, starvation and exposure on the journey. MARCH OF THE PENGUINS is a story of triumph over adversity, outstandingly and beautifully filmed, with a soaring musical score and an excellent Morgan Freeman narration. There are also many memorable moments in this large screen celebration of ritual and romance, that will be recalled years after all the major movie blockbusters are forgotten.

**JUST FRIENDS**  
Screen 2 - 12A Certificate - 94 Minutes  
**OBAN HIGHLAND THEATRE**  
7.45 Daily (Except Sunday) from Friday - 2.15 Saturday and Sunday Matinees  
**JUST FRIENDS** stars RYAN REYNOLDS as a Los Angeles music executive, stranded in his New Jersey home town due to bad weather. He is also trying to sign up a singer on a contract. Co-star ANNA FARIS in fine form in this super romantic comedy, providing an outstanding and well over-the-top performance as the pampered, sex mad diva.

**FUN WITH DICK AND JANE**  
Screen 1 - UK PREMIERE 12A Certificate - 90 Minutes  
**OBAN HIGHLAND THEATRE**  
7.30 Daily (Except Sunday) from Friday - 2.00 Saturday and Sunday Matinees  
In Columbia Pictures larcenous romantic comedy, Dick (Jim Carrey) is in love with Jane (Tea Leoni) and living the lover's dream. Dick's years of hard work have also paid off with promotion as Vice President of Globodyne, a worldwide company in the consolidation of media properties. With a happy love life and his new Board appointment, what could possibly go wrong. After only one day in his VIP position however, everything does go pear shape, when Dick's Company becomes involved in an Enron-like scandal. Dick and Jane face having to beg, borrow and steal to get everything back until, using their newfound business skills, they exact an hilarious revenge and end up teaching big business a very big lesson.

Directed by Dean Parisot and co-starring Richard Jenkins, Walter Addison, Michelle Arthur and Deena Adar, this is a Rom-Com movie with a twist, that has been rewarded by riding high in the number three position, after three successful weeks in the North American TOP-THIRTY.



Left to right; Ishbel Banks, Maimie Morrison, Katie Boyd and Maimie Nicolson show off the remains of the baking stall at the Children 1st Coffee Morning in Oban's Regent Hotel. The charity was previously known as the Royal Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. Customers cleaned them out and the event raised over £840 with donations still coming in.

**Your Stars with Patrick Arundell**

**ARIES** (Mar 21 - Apr 20) 09111 767 272  
If you have been making a real push of late, especially as far as ambitions are concerned, remember that the quality of your relationships as much as talent that will help get you to your destination. How can you improve co-operation between you and key players? This is an excellent time to focus on your networking skills. Friendships can also become more important. For more, please call me.

**TAURUS** (Apr 21 - May 21) 09111 767 273  
Are you clear about what role you want in life? Whether this is as a full time carer, homemaker, voluntary worker or business person, yours is set to come under the celestial spotlight. This could soon see praise and acknowledgement heading your way, but if you feel others are taking you just a little too much for granted, a spikier more authoritative side of you can come to the fore. For more, please call me.

**GEMINI** (May 22 - June 21) 09111 767 274  
If you have yet to think about it, the concept of travel, either physically getting on the move, or by opening your world in terms of added stimulation, can become a great deal more appealing now. An intense phase of the year is being ushered out, now, broadening the width of your existence takes centre stage. Time to think about booking those summer holidays? For more, please call me.

**CANCER** (June 22 - July 22) 09111 767 275  
There's a lot of talk these days about making provisions for our financial futures and if you have yet to tackle this, the next few weeks would be an excellent time to do so. Property issues are also highlighted as are business affairs. Your ability to scratch the surface and get to grips with the real value of assets and deals can stand you in excellent stead in these regards. For more, please call me.

**LEO** (July 23 - Aug 23) 09111 767 276  
Things may have got a little tense or brittle on the relating front recently, however now, with a willingness to be clearer about your own needs as well as those of anyone you are closely involved with things can ease. The key lies in listening and learning and not taking it personally if someone wants different things to you. Being a little more detached can pay off. For more, please call me.

**VIRGO** (Aug 24 - Sep 23) 09111 767 277  
Your greatest gift is to focus on life's essentials. If you have been burning the candle at both ends, now you can concentrate on health, fitness and dietary issues. If you have given something up at New Year, this week's shift of emphasis can help to stiffen your resolve not to let temptation get in the way of a future where a robust body can be at the core of all you do. For more, please call me.

**LIBRA** (Sept 24 - Oct 23) 09111 767 278  
This is a week you can relish. The Sun moves deeper into the most positive part of your scope, soon to be followed by bright and breezy Mercury. If you have felt a little muted of late, now you can fire into life and your sense of humour come back into focus too. A time to demonstrate all your flair and charm. In love and socially you can sparkle and at work you can beguile. For more, please call me.

**SCORPIO** (Oct 24 - Nov 22) 09111 767 279  
If things have been going at a cracking pace, you may welcome the opportunity to throttle back and take a breather. There has been a lot to absorb of late, now you can figure out what it all means from a more emotional perspective. Yet don't bottle up your emotions. It's going to be important to let off steam too. Spending time with trusted family members or friends can help. For more, please call me.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov 23 - Dec 21) 09111 767 280  
You often have an immense appetite for new people and interests. Standing still is often not fun for the average Archer. But have your daily routines got into a bit of a rut? Even at this early stage of the year if you can shake things up, you will immediately feel the benefits. Drudgery should be replaced by tackling chores with zest. Get everyone in the house involved too. For more, please call me.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec 22 - Jan 20) 09111 767 281  
There's been a chance for you to shine recently and this can start to reward you in two distinct ways. Firstly, this can see your earnings leap and secondly, you can start to feel better about yourself. That doesn't mean you should be boastful but having a healthy sense of self-esteem is a good thing to have. Your resources can also be shrewdly shuffled from now. For more, please call me.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan 21 - Feb 19) 09111 767 282  
A sense of renewal can flow through all you do, with self-doubts and low energy making way for bold moves and new starts. You can be one of the most individualistic of the zodiac signs, now you have a chance to show exactly why. Listen to your hunches, let these guide you and a more daring side of you can start to flourish. It's your chance to show what a one-off you really are. For more, please call me.

**PISCES** (Feb 20 - Mar 20) 09111 767 283  
You better than most can get to grips with life's intangibles. The dreamy, mutable side of your nature can now come to the fore, but equally this is a time when you can demonstrate your most compassionate credentials. Anyone who is going through the mill could seek out your support, but then healing, mysticism and esoteric interests could become even more compelling to you too. For more, please call me.

For your detailed forecast call your number above.  
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## Temperatures rise at Oban Accordion and Fiddle Club

THE WALLS in McTavish's were teeming with perspiration even before the highly rated Graeme Mitchell Band took to the stage at the Oban Accordion and Fiddle club's dinner dance.

Thanks to a crowd of 170 people and the heat from the hotplates protecting the food, the temperature of the venue could only increase once the band began their four hour performance.

The band from Huntly had attracted people from Ayrshire, Edinburgh and Campbeltown for the annual dance. The accordion club is in good health with audiences of 90 people and more commonplace at their club nights on the first Thursday of the month.



The Graeme Mitchell Band before taking to the stage in McTavish's.

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

Thursday 19th January  
Sunart Centre, Comedian Lee Mack, Host of BBC1's 'They Think it's All Over'  
Tai Chi Evening Classes' 6 to 7.30pm Church of Scotland Centre, Glencruitten Road  
Susanne Lin Jensen 01852 500 547

Friday 20th January  
Tai Chi Daytime Classes' 1.00pm to 2.30pm, Church of Scotland Centre, Glencruitten Road  
Susanne Lin Jensen 01852 500 547

Oban FM Burns Supper in the Argyllshire Gathering Hall 7.00 for 7.30pm

Saturday 28th January  
Ladies night 'Flashdancers' Doors open 7:30 pm  
Tickets £10 at the Argyllshire Gathering Halls  
Rotary Club Grand Auction 10:30am, Oban Livestock Centre

Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th February  
Fortieth West Highlands and Islands Trade Show, Corran Halls, Oban

**TO BE INCLUDED IN The Oban Times WHAT'S ON GUIDE CONTACT - 01631 568000**

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**forthcoming events**

Friday 31st March at 8.00 pm. Helensburgh and District Highland Association DANCE. Band ~ Ian MacCallum  
Contact John Wilson Tel 01389841208

Friday 28th April at 8.00 pm. Helensburgh and District Highland Association CEILIDH/DANCE: Piper~ Bruce Shearlaw Singers ~ Mary C McNeil Sheona Rostant & Duncan McDonald Violin~ Cameron Bone Chair Person ~ to be advised Band ~ Hector McFadyen  
Contact John Wilson Tel 01389841208

Friday 26th May AGM at 7.00pm Helensburgh and District Highland Association Dance at 8.00pm. Band ~Willie Paterson. Contact John Wilson Tel 01389841208

Friday 30th June at 8.00pm Helensburgh and District Highland Association DANCE: Band ~ Donnie & Diane  
Contact John Wilson Tel 01389841208

Tuesday 7th February Oban Maternity User Group meeting, Day Centre in the Lorn and Islands Hospital

Tuesday 7th March Oban Maternity User Group meeting, Day Centre in the Lorn and Islands Hospital

Tuesday 4th April Oban Maternity User Group meeting, Day Centre in the Lorn and Islands Hospital

Tuesday 9th May Oban Maternity User Group meeting, Day Centre in the Lorn and Islands Hospital

Tuesday 6th June Oban Maternity User Group meeting, Day Centre in the Lorn and Islands Hospital

Tuesday 4th July Oban Maternity User Group meeting, Day Centre in the Lorn and Islands Hospital

Tuesday 8th August Oban Maternity User Group meeting, Day Centre in the Lorn and Islands Hospital

Tuesday 5th September Oban Maternity User Group meeting, Day Centre in the Lorn and Islands Hospital

Tuesday 10th October Oban Maternity User Group meeting, Day Centre in the Lorn and Islands Hospital

Tuesday 7th November Oban Maternity User Group meeting, Day Centre in the Lorn and Islands Hospital

Tuesday 5th December Oban Maternity User Group meeting, Day Centre in the Lorn and Islands Hospital

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Lancaster Hotel - Oban  
Bliadh na còfadh ann le bar faisg air làimh  
Tea and coffee provided with bar facility  
Cothrom airson Gàidhlig a bhruithinn ann an suidheachadh mì-thrèimheil  
An opportunity to speak Gàidhlig in an informal situation  
Fosgailte dhan a h-uile duine-Fileantaich agus Luchd-ionnsachaidh  
Open to everyone-native,fluent speakers and learners  
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TEA COFFEE AND HOME BAKING

**KILMARTIN HOUSE MUSEUM Thai Cookery Demonstration and Dinner**  
Friday 27 January 6.30 - 9pm  
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An Comunn Gàidhealach **CRUACHAN BRANCH CEILIDH**  
Saturday 21st January at 7.45pm  
Taynuilt Village Hall (Mairi MacArthur GM)  
Angus Smith (GM)  
Nicola Pearson (SP)  
With full supporting programme  
Fear an Tighe: Murdo Iain MacDonald Raffle  
Adm. £3 members & children £2

**"IT DOESN'T NEED TO BE SCOTTISH"**  
Charity Concert In aid of SORT - IT with Na n-àrùisgean Toni Russell Highland Dance School Sinclair School of Dance and many more local artists  
Friday 27th January Corran Halls - 8pm  
Tickets on sale from The Corran Halls  
Price: £6 Con. £4 Child £2

**North Argyll Cancer Support Group**  
6 - 7pm  
Wednesday 25th January  
Dunmar Court, Oban  
Guest Speaker: Lesley, Dietician  
All Welcome

**CEILIDH WEEKEND**  
Market Inn Hotel, Castle Douglas  
3/4/5th February  
Featuring Ian Cameron - Perth Jimmy MacDonald - Tighnabruich  
Richard Hughes - Isle of Mull Bobby Dorrant - Bon Accord  
And many more artists  
For details contact Katrina Tel: 01556 50 2105

**COMUNN GAIDHEALACH AN OBAIN Highland Wedding**  
Connell Village Hall  
Friday 3rd February, 2006  
7 for 7.30pm  
£12.50  
Tickets from the Secretary 01631 710314 or Treasurer 01631 564522

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## Highland choir to sing with Margaret Bennett at Celtic Connections

INTERNATIONALLY renowned musician Margaret Bennett has invited the Aberfeldy and District Gaelic Choir to join her on stage in a highly acclaimed production in this year's Celtic Connections folk music festival in Glasgow. 'The Cotters' Saturday Night' will be the fourth production of her imaginative musical portrayal of the life, character and genius of Robert Burns, in which she 'tries to dredge out things about Burns that people won't have heard before'.



Margaret Bennett with members of the Aberfeldy and District Gaelic Choir.

## Mhairi exhibits at An Tobar

THIS spring and summer is going to be a hectic but rewarding time for an Iona-based artist, Mhairi Killin. Her latest exhibition will open at An Tobar in Tobermory and then go on tour and the Columba Steading Project which Mhairi is currently directing is due to open at Easter.

broidered and woven textiles and she also holds a Master of Philosophy in Public Art and works to commission for both public and private spaces. Mhairi has exhibited throughout the UK and is featured in *An Leabhar Mor: The Great Book of Gaelic*. Her latest exhibition is called Long Night Moon: The Rhythm of Remembrance and features mixed media work and explores the process of time on healing grief and the ascension

of the spirit after death. Prehistoric, industrial and cultural Scottish archaeology all influence Mhairi's work as does personal memory and experience. As well as preparing to take her exhibition on tour Mhairi is currently directing the Columba Steadings Arts and Crafts Complex which is converting a steading on the island to create affordable, well-equipped modern workshops and shops on the island for Iona-based artists and crafts people to use.

## Highland Wedding

FOLLOWING a very successful Tattie 'n' Herring Supper and ceilidh, the Committee of Comunn Gàidhealach an Obain have another event in the pipeline as a fundraiser for the local Mod. The 'Highland Wedding' night will include a reception of guests, 'wedding' meal, speeches, and a ceilidh to follow. The fun evening will be held in Connel Village Hall on February 3. A four course meal will be provided along with a light supper, amusing speeches, excellent artists and a great band.

## Plockton supergroup

LOOK out for Plockton's very own supergroup on the BBC Alba programme *Dè-a-Nis?* tonight, Thursday. The award-winning group was formed by pupils at the National Centre of Excellence in Traditional Music at Plockton High School. The group has just recently won the BBC Radio Two Young Folk Award and has masses of offers to play at festival throughout the land this summer. Tia Files, aged 16 from Oban plays acoustic guitar and bass; June Naylor, 18, from Skye, clarsach and piano; Norrie MacIver, 18, from Lewis, vocals, accordion, guitar and djembe; Sandie Forbes, 18, from Kirkcaldy, fiddle and vocals, and Gillian Chalmers 17, Fraserburgh, pipes, fiddle and whistles. They met at Plockton and formed the band in 2004.

## Craignish Village Hall hold Open Day

Craignish Village Hall held an Open Day on Sunday January 15. The event saw large crowds at the hall throughout the day, with community groups providing information on the range of activities taking place in the hall. Mr Peter Richardson, hall committee chairman said: 'The open day has been very successful, it's been great to see so many people here. We've had visitors representing

other hall projects in Furnace, Barcaldine and Seil, looking at how our project took shape. We've also had a lot of interest in the computing courses being offered at the hall by Argyll College. It's been busy all day.' Right: Craignish Hall committee members Jan Brown (secretary), Paul Smyth (treasurer) and Peter Richardson (chairman) at the open day.



## Wined and dined

Two Oban FM listeners are being wined and dined after winning the radio station's 2005 quiz. The first prize of a jerooboam of red wine donated by The Kitchen Garden went to Gordon MacIntyre and second prize of a meal for two at Shanigans Tex-Mex was won by Maureen Evans.

## Kelly hopes to taste success in FutureChef regional finals

AN OBAN High School pupil is cooking with gas after qualifying for the regional final of a national cookery competition.

Fourth-year pupil Kelly Gascoigne, from Easdale, won her school heat and local heat of the FutureChef competition, and has secured her place in the regional final which took place yesterday (Wednesday January 18) in Inverness College.

The competition, which is organised by the Springboard Charitable Trust, involves Kelly producing a hot main course and hot or cold dessert for two people within a budget of £7.50 and a time limit of 90 minutes.

Kelly has chosen to make organic chicken stuffed with black pudding and served with a gateaux of Scottish vegetables and pan-fried potatoes, followed by milk chocolate jaffa pots.

The 15-year-old has developed and refined her recipes with the help of mentor chef Robert MacPherson from the Isle of Eriska Hotel, Spa and Island.

Kelly and Morag MacKinnon, head of food technology at Oban high travelled to Inverness earlier this week. Along with the other competitors they were put up in a hotel and received dinner, with the expenses paid by Springboard Charitable Trust.

If Kelly wins the regional finals, she will travel to Westminster Kingsway College in London in March to take part in the Grand Final, and will receive a set of knives, a Steelite commemorative plate, certificate and a FutureChef 2006 chef's jacket from Johnson's Stallbridge Linnen.

In the run up to the contest Kelly told *The Oban Times* she was very nervous but had found the advice from Robert MacPherson very useful.

'He's really helped me with ways to improve the presentation of the food,' she said. 'I thank him for his help and his time.'

Her parents run The Oyster Brewery on the Island of Seil, but despite her catering background and talent for cooking Kelly doesn't think she'll pursue a career as a chef.



Kelly Gascoigne

## Highland music and song from Skipinnish and Co

HAVING scooped the title of Scottish Young Entrepreneurs of 2005, it may be expected that Skipinnish partners Andrew Stevenson and Angus MacPhail would be giving music performance a back seat in their hectic schedule of various business activities.

However for their 2006 Celtic Connections concert they have put together a cracking line up of singers and musicians to perform a programme of Highland music and song.

Appearing with Andrew and Angus will be Runrig's Malcolm Jones, Allan Henderson of Blazin' Fiddles, Gaelic singer Rachel Walker, percussionist Andrew MacPherson, and former Tannahill Weavers' piper Duncan Nicholson.

The programme will include some of the recently composed theme music from the television documentary Para Shanndaigh Sar Mhairaiche (Para Handy, Master Mariner), which Skipinnish worked on with Malcolm Jones.

Also being featured will be wild piping, rip roaring fiddling, beautiful singing, magical guitar playing, raucous drumming, flying box playing, and plenty of good craic.

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**ATLANTIS LANE SWIMMING**

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Wednesday 8-9.30am, 12-2pm and 5-7.30pm  
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Friday 7-9am 12-2pm and 5-7.30pm  
Saturday 6pm-8pm  
Sunday 9am-10.30am and 6pm-8pm  
Casual price Adult swim £3 or join our discounted scheme or take out a monthly Bronze membership and swim as often as you like  
**ADULT SWIMMER MEMBERSHIP - £13.50 per month THAT'S JUST 45P A DAY**  
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Swimmer memberships include use of the Sauna. New Parent and Toddler Swimming Classes for the under 0-5's  
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Please call Kirsteen on EXT 566800 EXT 306 for more details.  
**www.atlantisleisure.co.uk.**  
This is updated continuously to keep you informed of any changes.  
Or phone Atlantis Leisure on **01631 566800**

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your message will appear in the Oban Times on Thursday 9th February

to Kirsty  
Happy Valentines Day  
Lots of Love David

To Ian  
Love you always from Susan

To Cathy  
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Love John

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**When?** - Every Monday  
**Time?** - 6pm to 7pm, followed by free circuits training 7pm to 8pm  
**Cost?** - £2.50  
For any more information on this please contact Neil at Atlantis Leisure on **01631 566800**, extension number 202 or email neil@atlantisleisure.co.uk

# give a pet a home



ARGYLL Animal Aid provides the safety net for the unloved, the unwanted and unlucky pets in this area. Some animals find their way into the charity's care after neglect, abuse, or abandonment but arrivals don't always have to be that dramatic. Often a change in family circumstances like an unexpected house move or job change or the death of a devoted elderly owner mean that treasured pets have to be re-homed. Argyll Animal Aid is always there for them - can you help by being there for Argyll Animal Aid?

The charity has grown steadily over the years to a point where it has a special place in the hearts of animal lovers in this area. It operates a strict no-kill policy; no animal, no matter how old is ever put down except on veterinary advice. The charity has to raise money to pay for feed and vets bills, but over the years, thanks to generous support it has managed to build and equip a block of four kennels, a separate isolation kennel, four large pens for cats, a hospital for sick cats and a unit which can take up to four mother cats and their kittens. Argyll Animal Aid supporters are always helping with food donation bins and collecting

tins and sales and events run by them are always well attended. During the summer season you will always see an Argyll Animal Aid stalls at games, shows and gatherings, so please remember to support them. The charity mainly helps dogs and cats at sanctuaries in Barcaldine and Balvaric respectively but in keeping with their policy of turning away none in need the charity has looked after ferrets, rabbits, deer, hedgehogs, birds, fish and even bats and turtles. However, some of these animals need specialist attention and Argyll Animal Aid acts as a first port of call in these cases and passes them on to the appropriate agencies which have the necessary skills and equipment to cope. Unlike some larger charities the committed volunteers at Argyll Animal Aid make sure that ALL money raised is spent on the animals. As well as veterinary bills for illnesses, the charity also neuters and spays all adult cats before re-homing them. The charity runs a cat sponsorship scheme where people can adopt one of the cats for a small amount of money each year and have regular updates about how their cat is getting on. For more about Argyll Animal Aid contact Pat on 01852 300362 or visit the website: [www.smallpaws.co.uk](http://www.smallpaws.co.uk)

*Argyll Animal Aid thanks all the businesses who have sponsored a cat or dog*



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Apprentice pleads guilty to careless driving

A DRIVER who narrowly avoided a head-on collision on one of Argyll's road accident blackspots...

The court heard that police had been called to Western Road, Tobermory, on October 25 last year after reports of an accident and found no car but instead the accused Patricia Duffy, aged 23, who said she had been driving a car without permission and had had an accident.

She showed them where the damaged car was and said she had been asked to look after the keys by co-accused Tara Dickson, 20, but had taken the car without asking her.

Defence agent Edward Thornton said Duffy, Torlochran Byre, Aros, Mull, did not want her friend to get into trouble.

They had both been out drinking in Tobermory and intended to leave the car in town but Duffy felt she was in a better state than her friend to drive and after the accident had wanted to take full responsibility.

'I don't think they fully appreciated the difficulties they were getting themselves into by going along this route,' said Mr Thornton.

Duffy pled guilty to attempting to pervert the course of justice by pretending she had taken the car, driving while more than twice the legal alcohol limit and driving with no insurance.

Dickson had been quite drunk that evening, said her defence agent Duncan Durbin, and had gone along with her friend's story but had in fact give permission for Duffy to drive the car.

Dickson pled guilty to trying to pervert the course of justice on October 26 at Tobermory Police Station and permitting Duffy to drive her car while not insured.

Sheriff Douglas Small fined Duffy £300 for drink-driving and disqualified her from driving for 18 months and fined her £300 for driving with no insurance.

He fined Dickson £350 for allowing her friend to drive with no insurance and added six points to her driving licence.

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Friend's cover-up fails as Mull women land in court on driving offences

A MULL woman who tried to protect her friend from criminal charges failed and both ended up in Oban Sheriff Court last week for driving offences.

The court heard that police had been called to Western Road, Tobermory, on October 25 last year after reports of an accident and found no car but instead the accused Patricia Duffy, aged 23, who said she had been driving a car without permission and had had an accident.

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Left to right: Linda Campbell, Gary Innes, Ewan Henderson, Andrew MacDonald, Megan Henderson and Olivia Bridge.

Computers for Africa kicks off in style

SATURDAY night saw Lochaber High School's Computers for Africa team kick off its fundraising for this year's trip to Africa with a ceilidh at the Alexandria Hotel to a full house, with music provided by Gary Innes, Ewan Henderson and friends.

From the moment the band started strutting their stuff the dance floor was jumping with the enthusiastic audience filling the dance floor all night, pausing only to listen to recitations of Gaelic songs from some pupils from the school and the raffle.

The evening raised more than £700 for this year's trip, the fourth by Lochaber High School. This will be the most ambitious yet with plans to take more than 200 computers to schools in

townships in South Africa and Swaziland. Project leader Ken Wilson said: 'For those that are unfamiliar with the project, the pupils refurbish second hand computers donated by local businesses and individuals and install them into schools in remote areas of southern Africa.'

'The pupils, who give up a large chunk of their summer holidays, go out into the townships and instruct both teachers and pupils in the basic skills of computing. These areas often have unemployment of 90 per cent, poverty most people only see on the television. HIV and AIDS are also a major problem.'

'Going into these schools gives pupils the chance to get on the first rung of the technology ladder and the chance of employment. Being

part of the project also gives the pupils from the Fort William area a sense of achievement and team-building skills as well as a chance of a life changing experience. So a big thanks goes out to everyone for their support, the band for making it such a good night, Brian at the hotel for letting us use his facilities, the pupils - who turned out to make it such a good night and were a credit to the school - the headmaster and teachers for their continued support and especially Andrea MacDonald whose idea it was and made it happen.'

Further information on the project can be found on the school website lochaber.highland.sch.uk or by contacting Ken Wilson at Lochaber High School. The next dance is planned for February.



Waiting patiently for their tatties and herring are performers Fiona MacKenzie, Katie MacKenzie, Alasdair MacDonald, Freddie MacKenzie and Donald MacKinnon.

Medallist on song in Oban

AFTER enjoying a plate of sgadan (sic) the current Royal National Mod gold medallist performed in Oban at the weekend for the first time since triumphing in the Western Isles.

Fiona MacKenzie from Dingwall sang at Connra Gaidhealach an Obain's Tatties 'n Herring ceilidh in McTavish's Kitchens.

She was joined by her daughter Katie, a student at the Royal Scottish Academy for Music and Drama.

Donald MacKinnon was fear an taigh while Oban piper Euan Dewar, Connell accordion player Alasdair MacDonald and Oban Hearrach Freddie MacKenzie were also on the bill.

Business 'fax back' scam warning

BUSINESSES throughout Argyll have become victims of a 'fax back' scam.

The scam involves the use of a telephone number which generates income for the company receiving the fax. It was brought to light by an Oban trader who received a fax with the heading 'THE FAX BACK DIRECTORY'.

The fax explains it is from an organisation which obtained the business number from Auction Adverts, NY.

It states the number will be stored on its database and the company will be sent all its adverts. However, it then goes on to say if the company does not wish to receive adverts it must complete a

declaration on the fax and return it to 'The Fax Back Directory' on the number 07005 100 500.

By returning the fax businesses are generating income for The Fax Back Directory.

Office of Communications (OFCOM), which regulates this type of number, said any business receiving this fax should report it on 0207 981 3040. A spokesperson for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'Not many businesses will know that a telephone number with the prefix 070 will generate income for the company receiving the fax and that the charges are above the national rate.'

Cuan Sound transport consultants appointed

TRANSPORT consultant Atkins has been appointed to carry out a Scottish Transport Appraisal Guide (STAG) study into transport links across Cuan Sound to the Isle of Luing.

Argyll and Bute Council was asked last year by the Scottish Executive to carry out the study after pressure and lobbying from islanders,

the majority of who would like to see a fixed link across the sound. Islanders have argued that plans for a new ferry and new piers at Cuan and on Luing to operate such a ferry, would cost more in the long run than a fixed link would. It was announced at the end of last month that Atkins, a major professional, technologically-based

consultancy, has been appointed to carry out the £48,000 study.

It will take until the end of July to complete the study, which is being tackled in three phases. The council has promised that the public will be consulted during the first two phases, the first of which will include an assessment of existing and future transport

problems; planning objectives linked to the problems and a range of options. Phase two will involve an appraisal of those options not filtered out in phase one and a presentation to the council of these options. Once complete the details will be presented in the form of a STAG report and in agreement with the council.

committee decides on all applications under powers delegated to them by the council.

Mr Webster's motion, which is countersigned by Mr Jas Bradley, Kim and Hunter's Quay, Dunoon, follows on several recent controversial planning decisions, including the Tesco's supermarket application in Oban and the Pulpit Hill housing development, also in Oban.

Before the meeting Mr Webster told The Oban Times: 'I am doing this in the interests of democracy.'

Mull parking questions remain unanswered

RESIDENTS of Tobermory have been left frustrated after councillors refused to discuss a number of questions raised about car parking charges proposed for the village.

Councillor Allan Macaskill, leader of Argyll and Bute Council, told members of the public at a meeting in Tobermory of Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Committee, that members could not take part in any discussion.

'If the matter is referred to a hearing then members will not be able to take part and then you would have councillors from another area making decisions on car parking charges in Tobermory,' he said.

Area Roads and Amenity Services Manager Neil Brown explained: 'We are getting feedback in advance of the design of the scheme. There will be further consultation and then the resulting scheme will be advertised. People will have the opportunity to object to

these proposals and if we can resolve these objections then the committee will be asked to make a decision.'

But if the objections cannot be resolved then it will go to a public inquiry.

'If councillors get involved at this stage, they may be barred from taking part in that hearing,' added Mr Brown.

Charges Richard West, chairman of the sub-group of Mull and Iona Community Council looking at the issue of introducing car parking charges in Tobermory, had asked the committee if they had considered the impact the on-street charges would have on the aged, infirm and disabled residents of Tobermory and those on low incomes.

Following the meeting, he told The Oban Times he had spoken to Mr Brown and although some members of the public were not happy that the issue had not been discussed, he understood the reasoning.

'I was heartened by the fact that it will probably go to an inquiry because we are keen to push it all the way,' he said, adding that he felt the council was determined to bring in a scheme, not based on transport management and safety but for revenue-raising reasons.

'We will continue to work with and negotiate with Neil Brown to get him to bring in a sensible system,' he said.

Former community council chairman Eddie O'Donnell also raised the implications of parking charges at the meeting as did Ian Stevens of the Tobermory Hotel, who asked what research had been done on the effect charges would have on businesses on the Main Street, Argyll and Bute Council decided last year to introduce parking charges in all its car parks but decided to include on-street parking charges in Tobermory as well in the car park.

Roadworks won't affect Lismore ferry debate

IMPROVEMENTS are currently being made to the Appin to Port Appin road but a council spokesperson insists it has nothing to do with a move to a vehicular ferry for Lismore.

Work on the road includes widening and creating more passing places and will cost Argyll and Bute Council £250,000.

Some believe the work is taking place to accommodate a vehicular ferry at Port Appin, where there is currently a passenger-only service.

Towards the end of last year Lismore islanders voted two to one in favour of a north end vehicular ferry service to Port Appin instead of to Oban.

But Dave Duffy, Argyll and Bute Council's Head of Transport and Infrastructure, said: 'We are not putting in these improvements to permit a vehicular

ferry service. There should not be an assumption that because we are doing the work, the ferry will move.

'Around six years ago we considered a scheme to improve general safety on that road. Locals believed drivers tended to speed so we developed a scheme to put in extra passing places.'

In 2002/03 the council applied to the Scottish Executive's Public Transport Fund for funding to improve three ferry routes, one of which was Port Appin to Lismore.

As part of the application the council set aside funds to improve the Port Appin road. Although the application to the Scottish Executive was unsuccessful the council decided to go ahead with the road improvements anyway.

Mr Duffy said the work should be finished by the end of March.

Advertisement for The Oban Times HOTLINE with contact numbers and website.

Crossword puzzle with clues and solutions for 'The Oban Times GENERAL KNOWLEDGE DOUBLE CROSSWORD No. 416'.

Advertisement for Wallace Optometrists featuring '20 Years Ago' and 'Those Were The Days' with contact information.

# The Oban Times

& West Highland Times

## Flying a kite

CHANCELLOR of the Exchequer Gordon Brown's notion of a country united under fluttering Union Jacks is so far off the mark that it beggars belief.

His 'patriotic' rallying call for a national holiday, a British Day, Union Jacks flying from every garden, emphasises the blinkered 'view from London' that so many nationalists, be they Scottish, Welsh or Irish, have sabre-rattled about for years. The unfortunate Mr Brown has played into their hands with an idea so out of pace with the mood of the majority that it casts serious doubts over his great expectations to fill Tony Blair's political boots.

Those who are proud to call themselves British are perfectly entitled to do so - but do they need a special day to highlight their beliefs? Today's Britain is a multi-national, multi-cultural society where tolerance and acceptance have built and sustained communities. The Union Jack is, for many, a symbol of the unacceptable face of intolerance, an old image of a Britain that we do not want to return to.

If Gordon Brown's national holiday scheme is misguided, his suggestion that this 'fun day' could be held on Remembrance Sunday simply adds insult to a generation that proved their patriotism by fighting for their country.



## Oban's St Columba's Scouts on visit to Dublin in 1945

This week's flashback photograph, submitted by Alasdair MacCuish, of Oban, is of Oban's St Columba's Scouts on a visit to Dublin in 1945. Back row, left to right, K MacLennan, Angus McCuish, Morgan Campbell, John McFadyen, Ian McIntosh and Alisdair MacCuish. Middle, Phil Cannon, Archie McIntosh, Angus McDonald, Father John Morrison, Gerrard Begbie and Duncan Johnston. Front, Angus McIntosh, A MacPherson, Ian Cambell, Calum Skarag and Billy Kerr. We would like readers to send in 'Flashback' photographs. Send prints to *The Oban Times*, 'Flashback' Photo, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. Prints must be accompanied by a caption, name, address, stamped addressed envelope and telephone number. Each month a photo will win £10.

## A VIEW FROM THE TOWER

By McCAIG



### Latter Day John Bull

RIP VAN Winkle, when he woke from his prolonged sleep, found everything so strange and incomprehensible that he wished he had remained dormant.

Subsequent to his creation, there have been numerous fictional characters going back or forward in time. Their antics don't interest me too much but when I read Chancellor of the Exchequer Gordon Brown's speech about 'British-ness' and the need to fly the Union Jack I had an instant vision of the aforesaid gentleman in top hat, white knee-breeches and the inevitable Union Jack waistcoat.

Where has this man been? Yes, I know he has been in No 11 Downing Street awaiting the news that Tony Blair has gone to Buckingham Palace to inform Her Majesty the Queen that he wishes to stand down as Prime Minister. As I remarked recently Gordon Brown may now be too old to fit into No 10. If he believes the speech he made at a Fabian Society conference will win him, or retain him, some of the four million votes the Labour Party has lost since it swept into power he has greatly miscalculated the mood of the electorate, especially in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland where the Union Flag has been devalued by its involvement in the sectarian divide.

Two facets of his proposal will be received with contempt: that Remembrance Sunday should be dragged into a squalid political exercise and in Scotland there should be a public holiday to celebrate 'British-ness' when it seems impossible that Jack McConnell will grant such to celebrate St Andrew's Day. His outpourings of 'patriotism' to Fabians must have gone down like a rapidly deflating balloon - polite applause and a smirking dismissal. As for this idea of a flag in every garden, doesn't he realise such is the symbol of the troubles in Northern Ireland.

Clearly £1 million for a Campbelltown to Ballycastle ferry was never going to be enough. Why did Caledonian MacBrayne, as a publicly owned company, not tender for the route? It already has a service running in Northern Ireland. Why is there no three-way route between Campbelltown, Ballycastle and Ayr? Why was a previously rejected figure of £1 million subsidy offered again? Why would the Scottish Executive leave an already economically depressed area to 'sink'? Why is so much public money spent on transport options in Edinburgh when little or no money is spent on roads in remote and rural areas, let alone trains and buses?

The Scottish Executive has let down the people of Kintyre, Argyll and Northern Ireland again, as well as wasted more public money on a doomed process. Deirdre Henderson, Southend.

While I can accept that overnight counts are out of the question because of the complexity of the system I cannot be the only one who believes that the electronic count for Argyll and Bute should be done in Lochgilphead, the Highland Council one in Fort William, Portree, Inverness and Wick or Thurso, and the Western Isles in Stornoway.

At least the electors in each local government area would be prepared to recognise that some thought had been given to their democratic process.

Experts ponder why European Parliament elections have such a low percentage of votes cast. The reason is perfectly obvious: the point of contact between MEPs and their constituents is so tenuous, the voting system so impersonal and the count done so far away from the voters that they feel they might have more influence on the elections if they bought a Euro Lottery ticket.

### Deserved fiasco

OVER the past fortnight the Liberal Democrat party has lost almost all its credibility and will take years to regain it.

It was refreshing to hear one of the candidates, Mark Oaten, hoping to succeed Charles Kennedy, admit they will be easily forgiven by ordinary party members who have a say as to whom they will elect as their next leader.

I have a suggestion for them: instead of voting for any of the four candidates, all of whom to a greater or lesser extent plotted to remove Charles Kennedy, as many as possible should spoil their ballot paper by writing the Fort William crofter's name across it. What would Ming Campbell and his fellow plotters do if the winner received just 10 per cent of the membership vote with the others gaining even less?

### Jolomo wows collectors

IT FELT like a beautiful spring day when I headed for a packed Torrance Gallery in Edinburgh for the private viewing of John Lowrie Morrison's latest exhibition entitled 'Cristan'. Mary Scanlon, a Tory MSP for the Highlands and Islands, opened it. She reminded potential purchasers that a percentage of their purchase prices will go to Princess Royal Trust for Carers and mentioned that I had persuaded her to say a few words about the trust and one of her favourite painters.

Within minutes of Mary leaving to support Inverness Caledonian Thistle, a charming lady accosted me and challenged me as to whether I remembered her late father, Dr Guy, who was Argyll's Medical Officer of Health when I was still in short trousers. As it happened I did which delighted her. She's a devoted collector of Jolomo's work as well as an avid reader of *The Oban Times* every week. As usual there were plenty red dots on the pictures emphasising that John's work grows ever more popular.

McCaig

### 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 5PY giving your day-time telephone number where possible. This statement of policy will appear on this page every week along with any corrections or clarifications.

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## GLASGOW LETTER

### Hopefully just a blip

THOSE of you who have been involved in organising functions will know what it is like.

Do we go ahead or do we cancel is often the question as the date approaches. Such was the dilemma facing organisers of Celtic Connections prior to the opening of this year's festival but their problem was not the usual poor sales of tickets. They had sold 1,400 tickets and then the principal artists withdrew.

Apparently a significant part of the problem was that the Spanish theatre group decided the stage was too small but there was no such problem for the event which took place in the Concert Hall the following evening. Blas - Kathleen Macinnes, Christine Primrose, Mary Smith and Fiona MacKenzie - started the evening off with a selection of Gaelic working songs but where was the audience? They could all have been seated on the stage instead of being spread out over the vast Concert Hall and yet those present were treated to an excellent evening of folk culture.

Seumas Begley and Jim Murray with their friends from Ireland provided a musical treat bringing out the similarities in culture between the two countries. They must have bigger kitchens in Ireland because that's where they danced while of course we had our own 'dams an rathad'. Now that I think of it I am not sure how you would manage a Highland Schottische in a 'tigh dubh'.

Surely then it would have to be third time lucky and so it turned out on the following evening. Irish group *Buille* started proceedings in the Strathclyde Suite and then it was the turn of the

young Scottish musicians. On this occasion a well-filled hall and Breabach took their chance.

Winners of last year's Danny Kyle's Open Stage, they showed why with pipes, whistles, fiddle and guitar and musical expertise of the highest order. It is not often one would say 'follow that' once a support act had finished but that was true of this occasion. But then it was Dochas to follow and they, of course, were up to the occasion. With Julie Fowles singing and playing at her best this young group of talented artists showed why they are in such demand. The journey home was one of optimism, a feeling to be strengthened the following day when the National Youth Pipe Band of Scotland took to the stage in front of a capacity audience. They promised to put on a show and that is what they did with about three hours of preparation together. For me it was wonderful to see so many youngsters who are willing to accept the hard work and discipline necessary to be able to perform at such a high level while conveying to the audience their own enjoyment.

### What's next?

IN THE interests of space I will only list some dates and artists.

**Thursday January 19:** Songs of Isle of Lewis, Universal Folk Club, 7.45pm. Solo Piping Concert, Strathclyde Suite, 8pm. Julie Fowles and Jenna Reid, Piping Centre, 8pm. Peatbog Faeries, Arches, 8pm.

**Friday January 20:** Cathie Ann MacPhee talking informally, Piping Centre, 6pm. Donnie Munro, Old Fruitmarket, 9.30pm. Island Tapes: Life on St Kilda, Skye, Orkney and Shetland in the 1920s and 30s, Arches, 8pm.

**Saturday January 21:** being held in Oran Mor, the impressive venue at the junction of Byers Road and Great Western Road. Patrons should note that dance tickets must be pre-purchased as none will be on sale at the venue on the evening of the event.

The programme will also feature the Association Pipers, led by Pipe Major Andrew McCowan Junior. Guest chairman is the London-based Professor Ian Campbell, who has strong Portnahaven and Skye connections, and the piano accompanist will be Norma MacDougall whose husband Alasdair, the association president, will be in overall charge of the proceedings.

**Comunn ceilidh**  
BOWMORE piper Lynsey MacArthur played the welcoming selections at the island branch of An Comunn Gaidhealach's Old New Year ceilidh in the St Columba

Session A9, Strathclyde Suite, 8pm. Cathy Ann MacPhee, Piping Centre, 8pm. Acoustic Affair, St Andrews in the Square, 8pm.

**Sunday January 22:** Ishbell MacAskill, Tron Theatre, 4pm. Donald Shaw's Harvest, Main Auditorium, 3pm. BBC Radio Scotland Young Traditional Music Final 2006, Strathclyde Suite, 8pm. Finlay MacDonald, Arches, 8pm.

**Monday January 23:** Songs of Isle of Uist, Universal Folk Club, 7.45 pm. **Wednesday January 25:** Songs of Isle of Skye, Universal Folk Club, 7.45pm. Capercaillie, Main Auditorium, 7.30pm. Fred Morrison, Stuart Cassells, Jillian Isbister and Eddie Reader, Piping Centre, 8pm.

### Local ceilidhs

MEANWHILE local associations have got the 2006 season underway.

First off was Stirling An Comunn which had a large audience entertained by young piper Gregor Ross, Gillebride MacMillan, Janet and Jennifer Campbell, Iain Carmichael, Theresa MacLeod and the Cluaran Dancers with Karen Campbell in the chair. A week later at Clydebank, Glasgow Islay Choir was well represented by Janet Campbell, Kirsteen Grant and Iain MacLean and the other artists were piper Philip Barlow, Scots singers Seonaidh Rostant and Kathleen Brough, 14-year-old accordionist Willie Scott and accompanist Anna Cameron.

**Diary dates**  
**Friday January 20:** Perth Gaelic Society Ceilidh, St Matthew's Church Hall, Tay Street, Perth, 7.30pm. Kilmarnock Highlander's Association Ceilidh, Holy

Trinity Church, Irvine Road, Kilmarnock at 7.30 pm. **Saturday January 21:** Glasgow Islay Association Burn's Supper, St Vincent Bowling Club, 7.30pm. Glasgow Tire Association Burn's Supper, Ralston Community Hall, 7.30pm. Tickets: 0141 776 3706 or 0141 812 5056. Clann Gaidhlig Bardic Supper, Greenock St Luke's Church, 7.30pm. Highlander's Club Dance, Partick Burgh Hall, 8 to 11.30pm with Lex Keith's Band. **Monday January 16:** Conversational Gaelic and a Strugap, Maryhill Community Centre, 2pm. **Thursday January 26:** Glasgow Sutherland Association Burn's Night, Balshagray Social Club, Clydeview Lane, off Broomhill Avenue. **Friday January 27:** Helensburgh Highlander's Association, Highland Ball/Dinner, 7.30pm. Glasgow Uist and Barra Association Ceilidh Dance, Whitefield Road Community Hall, Ibrox, 9pm. **Saturday January 28:** Glasgow Lewis and Harris Association, Buntata's Sgadan, Partick Burgh Hall, 8pm. Motherwell and Wishaw Highlander's Association, ceilidh dance, Dalziel Street Andrew's Church Hall, 7.30 pm. **Monday January 30:** St Columba Church Guild, Scots Night, 7.30pm.

**Pub scene**  
THIS coming weekend entertainment in the Park Bar will be provided by Deoch an Dorus on Friday and Gary Forrest on both Saturday and Sunday evenings while in the Islay Inn it will be Penny Dogs on Friday and Ryan McGlynn on Saturday. **Neil Murray, telephone 0141 954 8105, email neilmurray@yahoo.co.uk.**

Gaelic Centre on Saturday. Branch member Donald MacFadyen, Carn, was the affable fear an taighe and everyone enjoyed keyboard and piano selections from brothers Arthur and Maurice Kelly.

There was much energetic fiddle music from Emily Edwards along with Fraser Shaw on small pipes. Emily hails from Tain and currently heads the Seanchas Ile project at the Gaelic College. Fraser is a well known local performer who is among the finalists at the imminent traditional musician of the year competition which is being held as part of the current Glasgow Celtic Connections festival.

Further toe-tapping selections came from accordionist Murray Omand with James MacTaggart on keyboard. Christine MacGregor and Sophia Ferguson sang an amusing duet and everyone enjoyed the fiddle duet from local Gaelic teacher Neil Oliver and his daughter Eilidh who

went on to display her multi talents by singing a sprightly pìuit-a-beul.

Also raising their voices in song were Conisby singer Iain MacPherson and Bowmore Mod gold medalist Robert Forrest.

There was a massive array of raffle prizes and everyone did justice to the bannocks and cheese and acres of clootie dumpling.

Good wishes were also sent to presently indisposed branch member Cathie Woodrow and congratulations were heaped on the Gaelic Centre Manager Donnhall Aingaidh MacLennan following his recent engagement to a lass from his native Uist.

### Good wishes

WISHING a complete recovery to Mod gold medalist Donald M MacLeod, Portnahaven, who is recovering well at home following knee surgery. **Hugh Smith, 4 Flora Street, Bowmore, Islay, PA43 7JX.**

### Budgets and Oban airport

Sir, It was with a mixture of bemusement and anger that I read in *The Oban Times* of January 5 the comments of the leader of Argyll and Bute Council, Allan Macaskill, regarding council tax rises and his great efforts and efficiencies to contain them.

Over the last eight years Oban airport has been operated by this company, on contract, for Argyll and Bute Council. The operation was hugely successful and over time the services available were expanded with hard work, private investment and the landing fee revenue generated. The arrangement was entirely self-financing and was no burden to the council taxpayer while benefiting both the north Argyll economy and the widest west coast.

Under the new proposals for the upgrade of the airport, the council has taken the whole operation 'in house' and is staffing it totally with new council employees.

Even after the upgrade and by the council's own figures for the proposed scheduled services, more than 85 per cent of all the aircraft using the upgraded airport would be the same as those presently using the airport.

However, on the council's performance over the last six weeks, which has seen a massive 70 per cent drop in use over the three-year average for this time of year, retaining existing traffic is by no means certain.

So how can Councillor Macaskill justify the 'creation' of five plus additional council jobs to provide services at tax payers' expense that were already being competently and efficiently provided at no cost to the council?

Could I please have a logical explanation Councillor Macaskill? **L Paul Keegan, Managing Director, Total Logistics Concepts.**

### Marine park debate moves on

Sir, I refer to remarks made by Mark Carter of the Hebridean Marine National Parks Partnership (HMNPP) in *The Oban Times* of January 5.

I find it astonishing that Mr Carter claims 'the HMNPP has repeatedly tried to meet members of the fishermen's association for talks but without success'. After extensive enquiries, I have failed to identify the members or associations that Mr Carter claims he tried to talk with.

### Frustration over ferry

Sir, I am writing to highlight the frustration and distrust caused by the lack of tenders for the Campbelltown to Ballycastle ferry route.

Local people on both sides of the water have had their hopes dashed twice now as clearly the Scottish Executive has not evaluated what went wrong with the first tendering process before setting up another doomed one. It amazes me that again only £1 million a year is offered in subsidy by the Liberal/Labour Scottish Executive when NorthLink, which runs the Orkney route, received £71 million over three years because the service was unviable.

Clearly £1 million for a Campbelltown to Ballycastle ferry was never going to be enough. Why did Caledonian MacBrayne, as a publicly owned company, not tender for the route? It already has a service running in Northern Ireland. Why is there no three-way route between Campbelltown, Ballycastle and Ayr? Why was a previously rejected figure of £1 million subsidy offered again? Why would the Scottish Executive leave an already economically depressed area to 'sink'? Why is so much public money spent on transport options in Edinburgh when little or no money is spent on roads in remote and rural areas, let alone trains and buses?

### Slow driving

Sir, Councillor McIntyre stated in a letter to *The Oban Times* that Strathclyde Police had a policy to stop slow drivers as well as speeding drivers.

I can find no evidence that this is true and I defy him to produce statistics to support his argument. Every week there are queues of traffic stuck behind either slow moving HGVs, gawping tourists or elderly drivers doing 40mph on our trunk roads. This manic obsession with motorist speed is, I believe, based upon wrong assumptions. Most accidents occur at speeds below 40mph and within 10 miles of home. A totally disproportionate amount of effort is put into catching speeding motorists yet almost no effort is being put into catching bad mannered motorists, a group of people in my view far more guilty of causing road accidents and problems, usually not to themselves, but to others they leave behind.

All sections of the road traffic act have equal merit when passed by parliament, let's have equal weight given to their enforcement. **Name and address supplied.**

**Your letters**  
THE EDITOR welcomes letters of approximately 200 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 an e-mail, 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 5PY. Fax (01631) 568001. E-mail editor@obantimes.co.uk.

## ISLAY LETTER

### Gathering artistes

LOCAL Gaelic singer Iain MacPherson will be among the artistes providing the entertainment at Glasgow Islay Association's 144th annual gathering in Partick Burgh Hall on Friday March 3 at 7.30pm.

He will be joined on the city stage by Morag MacKay who was active in light opera circles in London prior to her recent move to Edinburgh. Also appearing is Helmsdale's Alison Rapson who won gold at the National Mod in Stirling in 1971 and Barra's Archie MacLean who enjoyed similar success at Mod nan Eileanan Siar at Stornoway in 2001. The organisers are also hoping for a concert appearance by Fergie MacDonald and his band.

Fergie, who last appeared at the 'Islay' 10 years ago, will definitely appear at the gathering dance which is

being held in Oran Mor, the impressive venue at the junction of Byers Road and Great Western Road. Patrons should note that dance tickets must be pre-purchased as none will be on sale at the venue on the evening of the event.

The programme will also feature the Association Pipers, led by Pipe Major Andrew McCowan Junior. Guest chairman is the London-based Professor Ian Campbell, who has strong Portnahaven and Skye connections, and the piano accompanist will be Norma MacDougall whose husband Alasdair, the association president, will be in overall charge of the proceedings.

**Comunn ceilidh**  
BOWMORE piper Lynsey MacArthur played the welcoming selections at the island branch of An Comunn Gaidhealach's Old New Year ceilidh in the St Columba

## DE THA DOL?

### Gòraiche na h-Aoise

AIG TOISEACH a' Gheamhradh, nuair a bha an latha a' fas goirid is an oidhche a' fas fada, smaoinich boireannaich a' bhaile seo gum bu chòir dhaibh clàs Keep-Fit a chur air chois airson sinn fhèin a chumail subailte.

Choinnich sinn ann an talla a' bhaile airson seachdainn no dhà, ach cleas an fheadhainn òga - but just like the youngsters. Bha sinn a' smaoineachadh gur e dòigh caran bòring a bha seo air sinn fhèin a chumail fallain agus dh' atharraich sinn an clàs gu cèilidh-dancing agus bha seo uamhasach soirbheachail eadhon is gun do nochd aon fhìreannach a bha airson na ceumannan ionnsachadh!

Ach the eagal orm a-nis gu bheil an aois a' teannadh ri buaidh fhaighinn air cuid againn agus gu bheil an t-subailteachd a' dol gu gearrain gu bheil na cnàmhan a' fulang. Thogadh an talla mar chumhneachan air na seòid a bhùineadh don bhaile a chailleadh anns a' chhad Chogadh Mhor. 'S e am ministeir a bh' ann aig an am, an t-Urr. Mac Leòid, a chuir a' chuid a bu mhòtha dhen airgid ris an togalach agus bha e dhen bhaich gur e bh' ann an dannsa ach obair an t-sàtain agus dh' òrdaich e gur e ùrlar saineant a bhiodh anns an talla airson stad a chur air a leithid. Agus tha a' bhùil air na cnàmhan againne.

The sinn a-nis air an clàs a dhèanamh nas giorra agus tha seo a' leigeil linn tadhal ann an taigh-òsda airson glainne fion agus sliseag piotsa air an rathad dhachaidh. Agus seach nach e daithhead a bha fa-near dhùinn tha sinn doigheil gu leòr. Ach chan eil fhiosam ann biodh an t-Urr. MacLeòid cho riaraichte leis a' bhuaidh a th' aig an ùrlar saineant air boireannaich na pàraiste ach òiginneach is

gu bheil sinn, tha sinn fhathast a' deanamh air dicheadh gus a dhòl dhan eaglais air an t-Sàbaid.

### Phrases

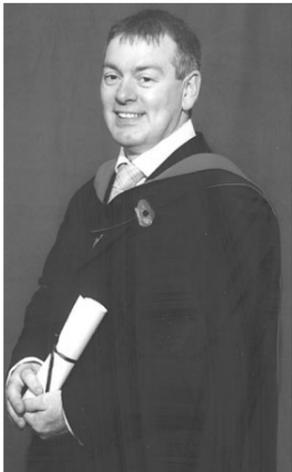
AIRSON sinn fhèin a chumail subailte - to keep ourselves fit. Ach cleas an fheadhainn òga - but just like the youngsters. Bha sinn a' smaoineachadh gur e dòigh caran bòring a bha seo - we thought this was rather a boring way. Eadhon is gun do nochd aon fhìreannach a - to the extent that one man appeared. A bha airson na ceumannan ionnsachadh - who wanted to learn the steps. Gu bheil an aois a' teannadh ri buaidh fhaighinn air cuid againn - that age is beginning to affect some of us. An t-subailteachd a' dol gu gearrain - the fitness is turning to complaints. Mar chumhneachadh air na seòid a bhùineadh don bhaile - in memory of the heroes who belonged to the village. A chuir a' chuid a bu mhòtha dhen airgid ris an togalach - who contributed the major part of the money for the building. Gur e bh' ann an dannsa ach obair an t-sàtain - that dancing was the work of the devil. Dh' òrdaich e gur e ùrlar saineant a bhiodh anns an talla - he ordered that the hall should have a cement floor. Airson stad a chur air a leithid - to put a stop to such a thing. Agus tha a' bhùil air na cnàmhan againn - and the effect is to be seen on our bones. Seach nach e daithhead a bha fa-near dhùinn - since dieting was not our intention. Cho riaraichte leis a' bhuaidh a th' aig an ùrlar saineant air boireannaich na pàraiste - as happy with the effect that the cement floor is having on the women of the parish. Ach òiginneach is gu bheil sinn - but suffering as we are.

Criosaidh Dick.

# Graduations



**Margaret Macdonald**  
GRADUATED from Moray College, Elgin, with an HNC in Social Care. Margaret is the daughter of the late Calum Johnston, Dunbeg, and Mary Allister Cameron, Lossiemouth. She is the niece of Mary Jane Macallister, Soroba, Oban.



**Allan MacKinnon**  
GRADUATED from Lochaber College with a Diploma in Management from the Institute of Management with Distinction. Allan is a former pupil of Kinlochleven High School.



**Marion Cullen**  
GRADUATED Masters with Distinction in E-Business from Glasgow Caledonian University. She also won the prize for best post graduate student. Marion is the daughter of John and Mary Anne, Nant Drive, Oban, and grand-daughter of the late Michael and Marion MacNeil, Ardmhor, Barra, and the late George and Margaret Cullen of Oban.



**Emily Keltie**  
GRADUATED with a Bachelor of Law. Emily is the daughter of Iain and Helen and grand-daughter of Agnes Clarke, Dunbeg, and Thomas Keltie, Glenmavis.



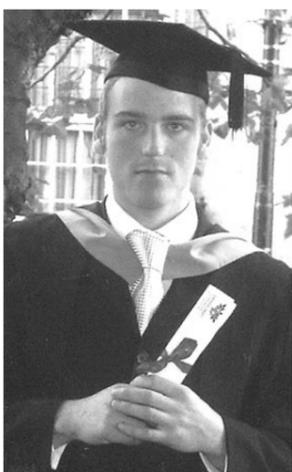
**Joanne Brown**  
GRADUATED in Marine Science with Honours from the University of the Highlands and Islands Millennium Institute SAMS. Joanne is a former pupil of Rockfield and Kilniver primary schools and Oban High School, and is the eldest daughter of Mike and Jayne Brown of Kilniver.



**Carol Logan**  
GRADUATED BA Honours in Business Studies from Glasgow Caledonian University. Carol is the daughter of Peggy and Duncan Logan, Edina Villa, Soroba Road, Oban.



**Jennifer Fletcher**  
GRADUATED from The University of Abertay, Dundee, with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing. Jennifer is the daughter of Cameron and Lesley Fletcher, Oban. She is currently working as a staff nurse within the operating theatre of Perth Royal Infirmary.



**Jamie Laurie**  
GRADUATED from The University of Central Lancashire with a Degree in Motorsports. Jamie is the son of James Laurie, Ardtornish, and Alison Brown, Tobermory. He is the grandson of Jimmy Laurie and the late Isobel Laurie, Acharn, Morvern, and the late Dr Neil Cameron and the late Marjorie Fraser. He is a former pupil of Lochaline primary and Tobermory high schools.

Send your graduation photographs to The Editor, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB.

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

## Raffle winners

THE ANNUAL raffle in the Plockton Hotel was held on Christmas Eve. Top prize of £300 was won by John MacKenzie, who is originally from the area but who now lives in Inverness where he is known as 'Plockton John'. John celebrated his 71st birthday on December 23.

## School concert

PLOCKTON Primary School held its annual concert in Plockton Hall on December 20 2005. A large crowd enjoyed the performance by the children. Several Plockton youngsters went carol singing round the village at Christmas and raised £115 for Macmillan Cancer Relief funds.

## Quiz funds

JANE MacDonald, The Shielling, Plockton, organised a bird quiz and raised £122 for the proposed chemotherapy unit at Broadford Hospital, Skye.

## Hogmanay fireworks

AT HOGMANAY, the bonfire and fireworks on the island opposite the village attracted a crowd of more than 200, mostly visitors. Rockets from the shore set off the bonfire. Afterwards, a dance in Plockton Hall raised more than £2,000 for the Computers for Africa project. The dance was organised by Pat and Terry Heaviside.

## Hotel golf competition

THE ANNUAL golf competition organised by the Plockton Hotel was held at Sconser Golf Course on December 28 when 24 men and two ladies took part on a lovely day. Winners were Jamie Coe and Calum MacKenzie who beat Mick Coe and Martin Bliss by one shot. A social evening followed in the Plockton Hotel.

## Plockton weather

IN DECEMBER, Plockton only had 23 1/2 inches of rain which followed three months of more than eight inches each. It was the driest month of 2005. The warmest day was 12°C and the coldest was minus 2°C. Rainfall for 2005 was approximately 68 inches, slightly drier than 2004 which had 73 inches.

## Jura

### Turkey shoot

THE ANNUAL turkey shoot took place on Sunday December 11 2005. There was a very good turnout with around 34 guns from both Islay and Jura, with everyone enjoying a challenging layout to try and bring home the festive bird. The overall winner on the day was Douglas Stewart from Bowmore with an excellent 34 out of 40 targets hit. The first lady was Lyn Wilson from Culton.

## Around the Rurals Lochawe

THE DECEMBER meeting of the Lochawe branch of the Scottish Women's Rural Institute took place on Wednesday December 14 2005. Gill Kelly, Lochawe, gave an interesting demonstration on making teddy bears. The bears she produces are beautiful. They are made from a variety of materials and fillings and each has different shaped eyes, noses and ears. Adult collectors of teddy bears would be enthralled with these teddies and be unable to decide which one to buy as they are all finished to perfection. Mrs T Orr, president, thanked Mrs Kelly for the excellent talk and demonstration. Competition - floral art, Christmas table arrangement, judged by Mrs Kelly: P McLeod, gold; J Wylie, silver; T Orr, red; M MacKenzie, red. An excellent tea was provided by Mrs Wylie and Mrs MacKenzie, hostesses for the evening.



Guests at the annual buffet dinner dance in Kilmore village hall. 1024/01

# Kilmore Games dance success

KILMORE residents recently enjoyed a buffet dinner dance as a reward for the community's hard work in organising one of the most popular Highland Games in Argyll. The Kilmore and Kilbride Games Committee has run the annual dinner dance for a few years and it is going from strength to strength as this year was the busiest so far. Such is the popularity of the family ceilidh night, it attracted people from every section of the community from primary school pupils to pensioners. Games committee treasurer Margaret Farmer said: 'Last year we shifted the dance from March to January and it was a tremendous success but this year has been even better. We had an even bigger turnout this year even though quite a few people had to call off at the last minute through illness. Everyone enjoyed themselves and it was great to see the youngsters there.'

Guests tucked into a buffet dinner made by games committee members before the entertainment began. Singer Peter Sinclair and accordion player Alistair MacDonald returned after their success last year and were joined on stage by keyboard player Rosie Stevenson, accordion player John Allan MacLean and drummer Kevin McGlynn. Other performers were Graham Campbell and Kenneth MacKinnon of Tiree. Kenneth is nephew of the chairman of the evening, Donald MacKinnon, and played both pipes and accordion. Games committee chairman Ian Gibson said: 'It is really a community get together but if we make any money from it then that's a bonus and will go towards the fund for the games. 'It is a thank you to the committee for all the work they have done.'

## Jura Historical Society

JURA Historical Society continues but is in need of support from past members and anyone interested to revive the society's vigour. A meeting at the Service Point is planned for early March.

## Bus service

FUNDING has once again been found by Argyll and Bute Council's Transport Department to operate the evening bus service from Craighouse to Bowmore on Thursdays. In previous years the service was well used with many people enjoying an evening at the Leisure Centre, a change of venue for an evening meal or just some late shopping at the Co-op.

## New health board

THE SCOTTISH Executive has announced that the entire Argyll and Bute Council area will become part of Highland Health Board following the dissolution of Argyll and Clyde Health Board.

While the announcement reflects the council's preferred option in response to the public consultation process, there remain a number of areas of concern over the proposed amalgamation.

## Appin

Your correspondent is David Craig

## Christmas celebrations

APPIN Lunch Club's annual Christmas celebrations in Port Appin were once again a great success. As always there was a packed hall to take part in this veritable feast, and everyone enjoyed the wonderful voice of The Very Rev Martin Shaw, Episcopal Bishop of Argyll and the Isles, who sang for his lunch to the acclaim of everyone.

## Family service

ON SUNDAY December 18, the Rev John Murdoch took the ecumenical family service in the Parish Church. Invited were the congregation from Holy Cross, the children from Faith & Fun with their Christingles and the primary school children who performed their Nativity Play.

The evening of Monday December 19 saw the Parish Church and friends, led by the Rev Murdoch, singing carols around Port Appin and Appin.

This ended at the village hall with refreshments prepared by Ellen MacCorquodale and Margaret Ross.

The ecumenical service of Nine Lessons and Carols was in Holy Cross on Thursday December 22 and was taken by the Rev Peter Rice assisted by the Rev John Murdoch.

In attendance were the primary school choir conducted by Earle Broadbent.

The candlelit Watchnight Service in the Parish Church was led by the Rev John Murdoch with members of the congregation singing solos and reading the lessons.

From money raised at this service and the carol singing a cheque for £240 has been sent to the Salvation Army.

The final celebration was in Holy Cross on Christmas morning.

Both congregations joined together for the service that ended with Holy Communion. The service was conducted by the Rev Peter Rice, priest in charge at Holy Cross, assisted by the Rev John Murdoch of Appin Parish Church.

On the weeks leading up to Christmas the Parish Church in Appin and Lismore filled 'Jars of Grace' with small change, which resulted in £323 being sent to UNICEF.

## Party time

APPIN branch of the Scottish Women's Rural Institute held its annual parties for local children on Saturday December 17. A total of 65 children enjoyed an afternoon and evening of games. There was also a visit from Santa with a sack of goodies for everyone.

Tea and a buffet were provided by members with music by Madge Riddet and Les Wilkowski.

## Killin

Your correspondent is Judy Forster 01567 820298

## Ancient trees found in Loch Tay

DURING archaeological studies of the bed of the loch, the Crannog team

identified timbers protruding from the loch bed at about one or two metres depth.

This was at first considered to be related to the crannogs that were under investigation. But surprisingly they followed along the shore for quite a distance. Following further investigation, Nick Dixon and Barrie Andrian found them to be oaks of between 4,000 and 5,000 years old and the material, which

therefore represents a key stage in the students' development toward essential skills, such as the ability to communicate effectively and to solve problems. It is the benchmark set by the Scottish Executive to measure academic progress at this age. Given that Tobermory has a very mixed intake - pupils attend school from a wide variety of backgrounds locally - headmistress Ms Jenny Des-Fountain is justifiably proud. 'Tobermory High School's S2 national assessment results are an indication of the hard work and commitment of pupils and staff, building on strong

included hazelnut and moss at their bases, is evidence of it being the floor of an ancient woodland. The softer bark and the outer layers of the trees that were exposed and standing up above the surface of the floor of the loch have worn down exposing the hard central core.

The surface of Loch Tay must have been at least three metres below the present level and it is likely that the change took place in a short time.

This has made people wonder what happened at the Kenmore end of the loch to dam back the waters. It is known that Killin is close to a tectonic fault. There was a report of a tsunami in the loch in 1784. Could some pre-historic cataclysmic event have been responsible for blocking off the end of Loch Tay and raising the water to its present level?

## Development fund

STIRLING Council's Local Development Community Fund (LCDF) has £300,000 of capital funding available for projects in the area.

The LCDF funds projects up to £15,000 or £20,000 for exceptional projects. Applicants must be able to demonstrate that the project will meet the local community needs or concerns. Any constituted community group or voluntary sector organisation working for the benefit of people in the Stirling Council area can apply. Applications usually take 10 weeks from deadline to decision. Application forms are available by telephoning 01786 443413 or by email, fundingunit@stirling.gov.uk

There is also a community grants scheme for amounts under £1,000 which makes decisions once a month. All projects that can demonstrate community benefit will be considered, but you need to apply six weeks in advance and there are no retrospective awards.

# Tobermory high top for 'Three Rs'

TOBERMORY High School has come out top in levels of reading, writing and mathematics, according to figures released by local authorities for 2004-5.

Of the pupils, 96 per cent, 85 per cent and 85 per cent gained at least Level E in reading, writing and mathematics respectively.

While one other school - Castlebay - had higher results for reading and writing, it was Tobermory which scored highest across all three of the basic requirements.

The figures, based on assessment taken by S2 pupils, are intended to give an idea of how are students have progressed in the 5-14 curriculum. Level E

therefore represents a key stage in the students' development toward essential skills, such as the ability to communicate effectively and to solve problems. It is the benchmark set by the Scottish Executive to measure academic progress at this age.

Given that Tobermory has a very mixed intake - pupils attend school from a wide variety of backgrounds locally - headmistress Ms Jenny Des-Fountain is justifiably proud. 'Tobermory High School's S2 national assessment results are an indication of the hard work and commitment of pupils and staff, building on strong

levels of achievement in our linked primary schools,' she said.

'Mixed ability groupings are the norm at Tobermory high and I think that these results highlight the strength of this approach.'

As to whether the school's success could be attributed to the relatively small school size, Ms Des-Fountain said: 'Small pupil numbers at our school mean that there will be fluctuations from year to year, but this does not always mean small classes. The 2005 results year group was taught in a class of 27 in English and in maths, for example. Teachers, pupils and parents can be proud of their success.'

## SCOTTISH FIELD

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### Cattle clipping accidents to be reported

FARMERS are being encouraged to report accidents which occur while clipping cattle.

The National Farmers Union Scotland is lobbying the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and the Food Standards Agency (FSA) with regard to cattle clipping requirements which are believed to be causing too many injuries among farmers and farm workers.

Reports are often received from NFUS members that they have received injuries whilst clipping cattle in preparation for going for slaughter.

Lisa Webb, NFUS livestock policy manager, said: 'If you are subject to any sort of accident whilst clipping cattle, it is important that you get in touch with NFUS Scotland to inform us. The only way we can successfully lobby against unnecessary clipping requirements is if we have evidence from farmers that the process is a dangerous one.'

'In order to gauge the actual level of injuries which occur across the country and continue to lobby against clipping requirements, which we believe are too stringent and lead to too many injuries, we have developed a pro forma accident report.'

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## Argyll and Bute MSP voices fears over Water Environment Charging Scheme

FOLLOWING a meeting with Argyll and the Isles National Farmers Union Scotland Argyll and Bute MSP George Lyon has written to Environmental and Rural Affairs Minister, Ross Finnie about the impact that SEPA's proposals for the Water Environment Charging Scheme 2006 on local farming businesses.

At the meeting many producers voiced their concerns

that the registration charges were too high, especially given the high rainfall the west coast endures.

Dairy producers were also concerned that they would have to pay higher charges because of the volumes of water they were using which would further undermine already slender margins in their businesses.

George Lyon said: 'Local farmers expressed deep concern about the registration charges which SEPA were proposing to levy on private water supplies.'

'They rightly pointed out that here on the West coast we endure extremely high rainfall and therefore it seems unfair that producers should have to pay significant charges just to use their own water.'

'Dairy producers pointed out that they might have to pay substantial charges because of the high volumes of water used by their businesses. They believed that SEPA's charging scheme as it currently stands would further undermine their already slender margins.'

'I have written to the Minister asking him to take account of the real concerns raised with me by producers in Argyll and Bute before he comes to any final decision.'

## Labour shortfalls big challenge in Lochaber

BUSINESSES from the forestry sector throughout the Highlands and Islands will have the opportunity to learn new ways of dealing with one of their biggest challenges - labour shortfalls - from their counterparts in Scandinavia.

The Highlands and Islands Forest Industries Cluster (HIFIC) is holding the event on Tuesday, January 24 2006 in the Lochaber Rural Complex, Fort William.

Dr Juho Rantala from the Finnish Forest Research Centre will outline some of the ways in which Finland is trying to address the issues of seasonality and the traditional peaks and troughs in labour demand and supply.

In addition, the group will hear from Marine Harvest, one of the region's leading fish processing companies, which has successfully employed migrant workers to

### Knocknaha Charolais leads Stirling sale

UNITED Auctions, Stirling sold 674 store cattle and young bulls, 58 breeding cattle, 78 cast cows and bulls at Stirling. Bulls sold to 138p per kilo for a Charolais from Knocknaha to average 114.4p while heifers sold to 116p for a Charolais from The Hill to average 108.7p. Bulls sold to 136p for a Limousin from Aithrey Kerse and a Simmental from Machrihanish to average 109.8p.

meet the shortfall in locally available labour.

This will include practical advice such as translation of Health and Safety policies and contracts of employment through to how to complete the necessary statutory home office requirements.

The Scottish School of Forestry will also give a presentation on the range of training and development opportunities currently available for people within forestry-related businesses.

A number of training providers will also attend with delegates having the chance to talk to these providers on a one-to-one basis after the event.

Steve Conolly, chairman of HIFIC said: 'This will be a very worthwhile event for all those involved in forestry businesses. We are delighted to have the opportunity to hear about the solutions other countries and other sectors are coming up with to tackle the issues of labour supply and staff development. We want to encourage more people into the industry and recognise that training is an important part of that process.'

HIFIC is a recently established group and intends to hold four events each year. The meetings are open to anyone involved in the forestry sector to attend. Anyone who wishes to attend should contact the HIFIC co-ordinator on 01463 741836.



Caledonian Marts Oban Livestock Centre held a sale on Tuesday. Although there were plenty quality sheep and cattle on display, a lack of buyers meant sale prices were poor. (03/Jan/06)

## Training funding boost for Argyll and Lochaber

THE TRAINING funding Scottish Agricultural College (SAC) has received from the European Social Fund (ESF) is now being used to offer a wide range of courses to farmers and crofters in Argyll and Lochaber.

In 2005 a successful bid to the ESF by SAC resulted in some £250,000 being made available to support training in the remote areas of Scotland. The funding will be used to introduce a wide

range of courses to many areas which would not normally benefit from them. The funding will be used to stage events using specialists in their fields.

The courses are targeted at not only at farmers and crofters but also employees. There is almost an unlimited range of courses which can be introduced provided there is sufficient demand.

A survey carried out by SAC Oban into training requirements enjoyed a re-

sponse from 116 producers -representing almost a 40 per cent return - identifying activities which have not been available for some time.

SAC Senior Consultant, Donald Harrison, based in Oban said: 'We were delighted to receive such an encouraging response. The range of suggested courses has allowed us to identify and offer the most popular ones.'

'Many of these are essen-

tial to the safe operation of an agricultural unit.'

The first of these will be a Sheep Dipping Course on Islay.

On January 24 on Tiree a course will consider the benefits of animal health and welfare programmes. Staff from SAC Veterinary Services will lead the discussion with local vet Pat Boyd contributing the local angle.

This will be followed by sheep dipping and spraying courses for Mull, North Lorne and Lochaber producers.

Chainsaw courses, another popular request, will be introduced in late February.

The ESF fund is designed to subsidise these courses resulting in considerable savings to participants.

All crofters and farmers in the area are eligible to participate and if anyone is interested then they should contact SAC in Oban. The training co-ordinator is Fiona Connor and she can be contacted at 01631 563093, by fax at 565074 or by e-mail at fiona.connor@sac.co.uk.

### Civil servants not listening say Crofters

ARGYLL crofters believe civil servants are sidelining them and not listening to their concerns about their way of life, a Scottish Crofting Foundation (SCF) meeting in Appin heard this week.

The mainland Argyll branch of the SCF met with chief executive Patrick Krause, area directors Donald Murdie, Hughie Donaldson and land use programme director Becky Shaw to discuss the reform which is looming with the Draft Crofting Reform (Scotland) bill expected to be debated in the Scottish Parliament this spring.

Ms Shaw told *The Oban Times* it is a very important stage of crofting history but there was a feeling at the meeting that civil servants were not grasping what crofting was actually about with regard to the role it played in communities and 'why crofters value crofting and what crofting is and should be'.

She said: 'We are trying to encourage consultation with crofters and on the Scottish Executive website there is comments from civil servants that crofters had not been providing feedback to their feelings on the bill so maybe it is a two-way thing.'

She said there was a desire among crofters up and down the west coast to find their own solutions to problems which are often specific to their area.

### First sale of the year attracts brisk trade

DINGWALL and Highland Marts sold 334 store cattle at its first store sale of the year when an excellent show of quality cattle met a strong enquiry.

Bullocks averaged 121.3p per kilo selling to a top of 156.5p for a 345kg Limousin from D W Fraser, Newton of Ferintosh, and to £780 per head for a Charolais cross from J H and S M Anderson, The Cloy.

Heifers averaged 114.1p per kilo selling to a top of 126.5p for a 340kg Limousin from W F Cruickshank and Sons, Clury, and to £610 per head for a Simmental cross from R & J Barclay, Boggiewell.

The company also sold 38 over thirty month cattle, selling to a top of 88.8p per kilo for a Limousin cow from A Maclaren, Cullaid to average 59.2p, and to £585 per head for a Simmental cow from M Thomson, Opisdale.

### Balintraid Texels lead Dingwall prime sale

DINGWALL and Highland Marts sold 65 cattle (27 bullocks and 38 heifers) at its weekly prime sale.

Bullocks sold to a top of 126p per kilo, £794 per head for a Simmental cross from J G Ross and Partners, Wester Cullicudden to Woodhead Brothers, Turriff.

Heifers sold to 125p per head for a Charolais cross from J and B McCallum, Mountrich to Ness Foods, Inverness, and to £695 per head for a Charolais cross from D and F Macdonald, Viewhill to John M Munro Ltd., Dingwall.

The company also sold 1177 prime sheep with lambs selling to a top of £48 per head for Texel crosses from Messrs Bannerman Co, Balintraid to Woodhead Brothers, and to 105.2p per kilo for Suffolk crosses from the same seller also to Woodhead Brothers.

Ewes sold to £40 for Continental crosses from Little Kildrummie.

European Social Fund TRAINING COURSES Courses will be held as follows

Dipping Courses	Chainsaw Courses
Appin - 31st January	Mull - Start 20th February
Mull - 2nd February	Mull - Start 6th March
Coll - 15th February	
Spraying Courses	Animal Health & Welfare Course
Mull - 24th-25th January	Tiree - 24th January
Mainland - 8th-9th February	

Booking in advance is essential

SAC, Glencruitten Road, Oban, Argyll PA34 4DW Telephone: 01631 563093 Fax: 01631 565074 email: aoban@sac.co.uk

### Market reports

#### DINGWALL - Dingwall and Highland Marts

Bullocks - 251 - 300kg - £350, 127.3p Elphin (Lim); £315, 120.2p Newton of Ferintosh (Lim). 301 - 350kg - £540, 137.3p Newton of Ferintosh (Lim); £475, 135.7p Brenachie (Smx). 351 - 400kg - £535, 135.4p Glebe (BAX); £530, 140.9p Lyne of Urchany (Lim); £490, 136.1p Newton of Ferintosh (Lim). 401 - 450kg - £580 Newton of Ferintosh (Lim), 131.8p Lyne of Urchany (Chx); £570 South Balkeith (AAX), 130.7p Newton

of Ferintosh (Lim); £560, 128.7p Glebe (Lim). 451 - 500kg - £600 The Cloy (Lim), 123.4p Lyne of Urchany (Chx); £580 Culmally (Smx) and Lyne of Urchany (Chx), 122.1p South Balkeith (AAX); £575 Culrain Mains (Lim), 120.3p Culmally (Smx). 501 - 550kg - £720, 141.2p The Cloy (Chx); £650, 126.2p Lower Whitebog (Lim); £640, 123.1p Boggiewell (Smx). 551 - 600kg - £720, 126.3p The Cloy (Chx); £630, 113.5p Culmally (Smx); £630, 107.7p 1 Balnaben (Smx). 601 - 650kg - £715, 127.9p The Cloy (Chx); £655, 105.7p The Laurels (Lim). 65kg and over - £705, 102.3p The Laurels (Smx).

Heifers Up to 250kg - £225, 102.3p Balloon (Smx). 251 - 300kg - £320, 108.5p Brenachie (Chx, SHO). 301 - 350kg - £440, 125.7p Clury (Lim); £420, 124.6p Lyne of Urchany (Chx); £400, 120.5p Glebe (BAX). 351 - 400kg - £465, 124p Newton of Ferintosh (Lim); £450, 125p Glebe (BAX); £450 Lyne of Urchany (Lim) and Corslet (Chx), 124.7p Corslet (Chx). 401 - 450kg - £505, 115.8p Clury (Lim); £495, 122.2p Glebe (BAX); £490 Corslet (Chx), 115.5p The Cloy (Chx). 451 - 500kg - £550, 112.9p Boggiewell (Chx); £520, 110.6p Clury (Lim); £500 Lyne of Urchany (Lim) and Easter Urray (Smx), 107.7p Lyne of Urchany (Chx). 551 - 600kg - £580 Colaboll (Chx), 108p Boggiewell (Smx); £500 Easter Urray (Smx), 100.9p Colaboll (Chx).

Over 30 months Cows - £555 Cullaid (Lim), 86.6p Easter Urray (Smx); £550 Easter Urray (Smx), 78.9p Conon Brae Farms (Lim); £535, 71.3p Lochduh (Cha). Heifers - £540, 87.1p Clury (Lim). Bulls - £505 Opisdale (AA).

#### STIRLING - United Auctions

Bullocks - Greensburn (Char) £680, Knocknaha (Sim) £650, Mid Rotterans (Lim) £640, Broadlees (AA) £620, Tower (BAX) £590. Bullocks per kilo - Knocknaha 138p, Clydeside (Sht) 131p, Dyke (Lim) 130p, Nether Dalkeith (BBX) 127p, Broadlees (AA) 120p. Heifers - Moss-side (Sim) £575, Dyke (Sht) £550, Netherhall (AA) £530, Beild (Char) £525, Tower (BDA) £515, Clydeside (BBX) £490. Heifers per kilo - The Hill (Char) 116p, Clydeside (Lim) 114p, Hallmyre Mains (Sim) 114p, Dyke (BAX) 113p, The Hill (BBX) 112p. Bulls per head - Airthrey Kerse (Lim) £655, Beild (Char) £500, Sauchie Home Farm (BBX) £460. Bulls per kilo - Airthrey Kerse

## Nature Times

WINTER is a good time of year to look at lichens.

These fascinating organisms are generally slow-growing and long-lived, and do not die back in winter; they also tend to look their best in wet weather! In the west of Scotland you do not have to look far to find a wide array of species - on the trunks and branches of trees, on peaty soils, and especially on bare rock surfaces, from the seashore to the highest summits.

Lichens are unique, symbiotic partnerships between specific types of fungi and microscopic algae, and they come in many different forms. 'Crustose' lichens are especially common on upland crags and boulders. As the name indicates, these lichens form a crust over rock surfaces, infiltrating tiny cracks and holes with numerous fungal threads on their underside. Some types are so well anchored that they will not dislodge them.

A crustose lichen is rather like a sandwich, with the fungal partner forming the bread and the alga as the filling. Beneath the protective fungal surface is a layer of algae producing sugars by photosynthesis. The algae in turn receive water from the network of fungal threads beneath.

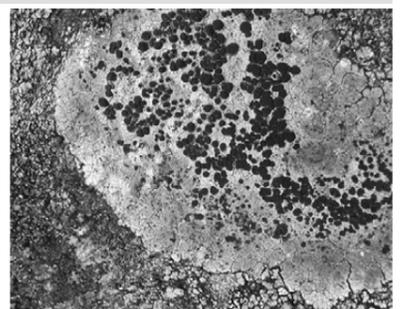
Their encrusting habitat enables crustose lichens to

colonise rock faces where most plants could not grow. Conditions on mountain crags are often very inhospitable, with extremes of temperature and wetness, and desiccating winds. These lichens are well adapted to the mountain environment, able to survive long periods of drought and to recover quickly when moisture appears.

There are many different species on rocks and crags, often forming a colourful patchwork which repays close examination. One striking species which is quite common on rocks in the Highlands is called the blood-spot lichen. Its greenish-grey crust has a warty surface, and in the centre is a cluster of small blood-red discs which give it its name.

These are the fruiting bodies which fire fungal spores into the air for dispersal. Another widespread species on rocks is known as the map lichen. This forms bright yellow-green patches, separated by fine black lines, which makes them look remarkably like countries on a map. Another, much rarer species grows in dark crevices on Ben Nevis and adjacent peaks, forming bright yellow patches which have earned it the delightful name of 'goblin lights'.

To find out more about the natural heritage importance of Ben Nevis and Glen Ne-



Winter is a good time to look at lichens, such as this encrusting species common on boulders

vis and the work of the Nevis Partnership, do come along to Lochaber Natural History Society's meeting this Friday 20th January at the Alexandra Hotel, Fort William when Martin Faulkner of SNH will give an illustrated talk, starting at 7.30pm.

Highland Darter

**AQUACULTURE TODAY 2006** EDINBURGH

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Aquaculture Today 2006 is being held at Edinburgh's five star Sheraton Hotel & Spa from March 28-30 and is set to be one of the most influential events of its kind held in the UK.

The 2006 conference builds on the achievement of last year's pioneering event with speakers from the UK, Europe and beyond already lined up to participate.

The conference addresses key issues facing the fish farming sector in a useful and varied programme comprising formal presentations, discussion sessions, networking, exhibits and a special awards dinner. Delegates will hear from leading industry figures on:

- Markets
- Fish Health
- Innovation
- Species Development.

The conference will be officially opened with a keynote speech from Lord Lindsay of Scottish Salmon Producers' Organisation (SSPO) on March 29.

**Fish Farmer** At the Aquaculture Today Gala Dinner, the first Fish Farmer 'Fit for the Future' award will be presented for outstanding achievement in the fish-farming sector. In addition, finalists in a new industry-backed awards scheme from the Crown Estate, which recognises innovation and best practice in salmon farming, will be announced.



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IT'S NOT often we are stuck for words but a visit to the official website of the Highland Year of Culture 2007 had us speechless for a few moments.

To enter the page on the Sporting Culture of the Highlands you click on a photograph of a sportsman. A shinty player or a games athlete? No a rugby player!

If that was not bad enough, see what you make of the entire entry of our sporting culture: 'The Highlands is a breathtaking outdoor venue for sporting enthusiasts - skiing in the Cairngorms; water sports on sea and inland; stalking and shooting in the wilderness, walking the forests and climbing the hills. Then there are national football and rugby teams, the traditional curiosities of shinty and curling and, of course, the universal appeal of golf.'

Curiosity be damned! The 3,000 hardy souls who stood in the pouring rain at last year's Camanachd Cup final and the thousands more who watched it on national television were more than curious as they witnessed Highland culture at its best.

As we say in the Highlands: 'Cor blimey mate. Stone the crows, they're having a laugh.'

Good news though about our national football and rugby teams. We always felt not enough Teachers were getting capped in the Scotland set-up. Outdoor Capital of the UK? Apparently not, or at least the message has not reached Inverness given that Nevis Range does not rate a mention.

However, not all is lost. Councillor Michael Foxley is one of two Highland councillors on the board of the Highland Year of Culture and we have every faith that the good doctor will prove a remedy to this inauspicious handling of OUR culture.



**READING** this week of a funeral wake in Glasgow reminded us of another occasion when two sons of Lochaber attended a family funeral in the same city.

A lady confided in her husband that she was concerned about becoming upset at the funeral service but happily the occasion proved to be a celebration of long life well-lived. There followed a lively wake, much enhanced by a free bar. Returning home late in the evening, the lady was met on the doorstep by her worried husband, asking: 'How was the service?' In slurred tones the woman replied: 'Terrible. It was three deep at the bar and only two folk were serving.'

Donald and a man we will refer to as 'The Gardener' would appreciate that story. The pair were down in Glasgow to attend a funeral of an elderly uncle. They met up with long-lost relatives and back at the family home the drams flowed and the craic and banter were first class.

Donald was abstaining owing to driving duties but 'The Gardener' was in full flight. As the pair bade their farewells, 'The Gardener' took hold of the widow's hand and pumped it furiously and left with the immortal words: 'I've never enjoyed myself so much. We'll need to do this again sometime!'



**THE UNCERTAIN** future for elderly residents in private care on the Isle of Cumbrae adds fuel to the debate on Highland Council's planned sell-off of Invernevis House.

Lifelong residents of Millport may have to be transferred to the mainland when the present owners sell Craig-en-Ros Residential Home. Should Invernevis House be handed over to the private sector there are no guarantees the same fate will not result in Lochaber folk being transferred to Inverness, Dingwall or Timbuktu.

Some councillors and MSPs maintain a deafening silence. The financial problem could be solved by cancelling the Highland Year of Culture, after all what sort of cultured society leaves the care of its elderly to the vagaries of market forces? Our representatives should remember that 2007 will not be one long year of canapes and wine as there are the matters of elections for Highland Council and Holyrood. In the meantime Invernevis Action Group deserves all of our support.



**Charlie's Challenge 2007: Charlie, the Mod Father, says the holidays are over and it's time to get back to work.**

Here is this week's handy phrase: 'How far is it to Aberfeldy?' - De an t-astar a th' ann gu Aberfeldy?' (Jayn tasd-ir uh hown gu Aberfeldy?)

The fund-raising ceilidh for Mod Lochaber 2007 is taking to the road and this coming Saturday, January 21, at 7.30pm in the Weem Hotel, Aberfeldy, the local Gaelic society is staging a cracker. Artists include Archie MacLean, Margaret MacLellan, Freddie MacKenzie, Morag Smith, Charlie MacColl, Calum MacColl and Lochaber Ceilidh Band. Fear-an-Tighe will be Calum Ross.

Jasmine Adams won £500 in the Mod Lotto with numbers 13-15-17. The jackpot reverts to £100 for this week's draw.



**THE PRESIDENT** of Lochaber Burns Club has been in touch to remind members and guests that there are just eight more sleeps until the annual supper in the Alexandra Hotel on Friday January 27, and he urges that tickets, priced £20, should be bought from the hotel as soon as possible to avoid disappointment and sleepless nights.

Lochaber Past Times - from the archives of The Oban Times  
100 years ago

**THE FORT** William correspondent was getting matters off his chest.

'While no one will gainsay the laudable endeavours of the town council to improve the amenities of Achintore by the construction of a promenade along the foreshore, the feuars in that locality have good grounds for complaint in the matter of the material being used for filling-up purposes. To dump the town refuse down in such a place as this constitutes a public nuisance. The obnoxious, unsightly mass has attracted large flocks of sea-birds, and the effluvia emitted from the deposit is nauseating in the extreme.'

Fancy that, a waterfront development attracting controversial comments. That wouldn't happen today would it?

There was a large attendance at Roy Bridge Drill Hall with many travelling by special train from Fort William to see A A Cameron beat Zandorfy Champion of Prussia in a wrestling bout for £25 a-side and a purse of sovereigns for the winner. Cameron then took on and easily beat a much lighter opponent in the Ethiopian Moursorich.

During the past week Mallaig station and pier employees have been working night and day despatching Stornoway herrings and kippers by special trains. About 10 special trains left during the week with a total of '120 waggons'.

Mr Munro's Cinematograph Company from Dingwall gave an interesting cinematograph entertainment in the Town Hall.

The animated pictures displayed on the screen were very distinct and the subjects treated both interesting and amusing.

40 years ago

**BUILDING** of an extension at Mallaig Ice Factory to allow for production of 25 tonnes per day has begun.

While on holiday in Austria during the Christmas break, Christopher Sutton, aged 13 years, Linne Caravan Park, Annat, who is a pupil at Lochaber High School, won a gold medal for ski-ing.

# Energy costs make council turn green

HIGHLAND Council is to 'go green' after it emerged that its energy costs rose by one fifth to over £5 million between 2003 and 2005.

It is expected that the council's energy bill will increase by a further £1.8m in the current financial year and a further £1.8m in 2006-2007.

To combat the rising costs a five-year plan to 'green' the energy use of the council has set challenging targets for all staff and an ambitious programme in the council's top 100 energy-consuming buildings.

### Emissions

Before 2010, the council is eager to reduce energy use by 15 per cent, avoid £3.8 million in energy costs, reduce carbon emissions by a minimum of 15 per cent and increase the installed

capacity of renewable energy equipment by a minimum of 4,000 kilowatts.

The council's energy management working group also recommends that nearly £6 million is spent on a range of energy saving improvements in the least energy efficient properties.

### Saving

Other recommendations include staff and building users being encouraged to take responsibility for saving energy.

The working group is also seeking to increase the council's use of renewable energy in the design of new buildings and in replacing existing energy systems where appropriate.

A spokesperson for Highland Council said: 'In devising the action plan, the working group recognised

the urgent need to limit pressure on council budgets from the ongoing escalation in energy costs together with the need to mitigate climate change, reduce dependency on imported electricity and fuel and support the renewable energy supply chain.

'The working group believe that monies invested in the most straight forward energy efficient improvement measures in council buildings could be repaid by savings within two to five years and that behavioural changes amongst the staff could achieve a reduction in the energy used of between five and 10 per cent every year.'

Later this year the council is to turn its attention to its use of transport and resources.

## Ben visitors to pay and conserve

**VOLUNTARY** parking charges are to be introduced for the first time at Britain's highest mountain.

Visitors to Ben Nevis will be asked to pay parking charges of £1 for two hours, or £2 for the full day, to help with the upkeep of the car parks and toilets.

The scheme involves voluntary parking charges similar to 'pay and conserve' schemes operated by

the National Trust for Scotland and by the Forestry Commission on Upper Deeside which have shown 80 to 90 per cent compliance rates. The council hopes to raise £12,000 in the first year of the scheme rising to £20,000 per year thereafter. At a meeting in Fort William on Monday councillors on the Lochaber Area Committee of Highland Council heard that it

cost over £140,000 to run Glen Nevis Visitor Centre for one year.

Councillor Olwyn Macdonald said: 'I don't have a problem with this but the money generated from this I would hope stays in the area and doesn't go to planning in Inverness and get swallowed up.' Planning officials assured Councillor Macdonald that the money would be used in Lochaber.



Left to right are Amy Eldrid, Jessie Blanchard, Martainn Skene, Claire and Ellen Chrystal with music teacher Nick Hadwen.

## Lochaber pupils chosen for national children's orchestra

IN A REMARKABLE achievement for Lochaber High School, five of its pupils have been chosen to play in the National Children's Orchestra.

In April the Lochaber quintet will be making their debut for the prestigious orchestra in Edinburgh after coming through the auditions which saw them pit their skills against youngsters from all over the UK.

Amy Eldrid, Jessie Blanchard, Martainn Skene, Claire and Ellen Chrystal who are all members of the Lochaber Music School were put forward for the auditions in In-

verness by their music teacher Nick Hadwen.

Mr Hadwen said his pupils faced stiff competition to get in as the orchestra had received the most applications in its 28-year history. 'It was probably more difficult than it ever has been before,' he said. The orchestra is open to youngsters up to the age of 14.

As *The Oban Times* went to press three senior Lochaber High School pupils were auditioning in Inverness yesterday (Wednesday) for the youth orchestra.

# Polar explorers head two-day Skye trek

A TWO-DAY trekking challenge on the Isle of Skye aims to raise money to plant one million trees in Britain.

The makers of Talisker whisky and the Woodland Trust are giving people the chance of a lifetime to take part in the first Talisker Trek with legendary explorer Sir Ranulph Fiennes and latest sensation in the world of adventuring, Tom Avery.

They will be joined by the former world rugby player of the year, Dean Richards, on the guided adventure which will be held on May 5-7 this year.

Janice Hix from the Woodland Trust said: 'The UK is currently one of the least wooded countries in Europe with only eight per cent of the land taken up by woods, com-

pared to the European average of 36 per cent. Raising sponsorship money by taking part in the Talisker Trek means we get the opportunity to help plant new trees and really give something back to our beautiful countryside.'

From a base camp at the foot of the Cullin hills Tom Avery will talk to trekkers about the essential survival and navigation skills needed to complete the weekend and how to tackle the challenges that the island holds.

Tom, the youngest explorer to have reached the North and South poles, said: 'I've been to the ends of the earth but Skye still takes my breath away.'

'The Talisker Trek is going to be a fantastic experience for everyone involved and gives us a chance to do some-

thing really worthwhile for our countryside. This is a great opportunity to experience the unique and rugged elements of Skye, and also provides the chance to sample Talisker in its place of origin, one of the best single malt whiskies.'

As it is a competitive event, teams will be awarded points from the start of the event on the Friday evening. The trek features activities such as a Highland Games and tyre-pulling - the way Sir Ranulph and Tom build up their muscles to pull sledges on their snowy expeditions.

The weekend culminates in an exclusive whisky tasting with Charlie Smith, Talisker's distillery manager and a celebration ceremony at the distillery.

### Fort William Sheriff Court

#### Probation after inept crime

A CLYDEBANK man handed himself into police after taking part in the theft of £6,000-worth of gardening equipment from Fort William Golf Club.

William McArthur, aged 26, of 15a Howcraigs Court, Clydebank, admitted stealing a set of car keys from a vehicle at Highland Council's compound at Carr's Corner, Fort William and breaking into two garages at the golf club and stealing various items of gardening equipment on September 1, 2005.

Defence agent Steven Wight told the court that McArthur had fallen out with his girlfriend and, along with Michael Aird, who was jailed for 10 months for his part in the thefts, went to Fort William and started drinking.

He said: 'They had run out of money and went in search of diesel - that's the reason they were in the compound.'

'The purpose of taking the key was to open the diesel tank. Having been disturbed they went to the golf club and got diesel.'

'With the effect of drink they started to load stuff into their vehicle.'

'This turned out to be an inept crime.'

Sheriff Douglas Small said: 'I am prepared to give you the opportunity of being placed on probation.'

McArthur was placed on probation for one year and ordered to perform 300 hours of community service.

#### Glen Etive thief caught by householders

A THIEF who broke into an isolated house in Glen Etive was caught after being chased by the householders who had passed him as he made his way out of the property.

John Hugh Rodger, aged

22, of 11 Annerley Place, Coatbridge, admitted breaking into a house at Glen Etive and stealing a pair of ice axes, a bottle of whisky, a canister of wasp killer and a pair of binoculars on July 25, 2004.

Prosecutor Fiscal Alison Wylie told Fort William Sheriff Court last week: 'The owners of the house arrived at around 2pm and saw a van parked in a nearby lay-by.'

'As they approached the house they passed a group of seven males walking away from the house carrying camp beds and fishing equipment.'

The couple tried to unlock the house but found it was bolted from the inside.

They also saw the remains of a camp fire and saw that the rear kitchen window was broken.'

Ms Wylie continued: 'They immediately suspected the group of people and got back into their car and saw the van taking off at speed.'

'They set off in pursuit and caught up with the van and were able to give police the vehicle registration.'

The van, with the stolen items inside, was traced by police and stopped near Dalmally.

Rodger's defence agent said that he had gained entry to the house through a window but other members of the group were inside before him.

Sheriff Douglas Small said: 'Very often sheriffs impose custodial sentences right away for breaking into people's houses but you have a positive social enquiry report.'

Rodger was ordered to perform 200 hours' community service.

#### Pensioner 'led on' to steal from Woollen Mill

A PENSIONER who stole various items from the Woollen Mill at Spean Bridge was fined £400 at Fort William Sheriff Court last week.

William Kerr Handley, aged 62, of 20 Cairney

Drive, Monaive by Dumfries, admitted stealing a quantity of woollen garments from Spean Bridge Woollen Mill between October 2002 and September 2003 and a decanter from Robertson's, Pitlochry on September 13, 2003.

Prosecutor fiscal Alison Wylie told the court that as a result of the thefts at the Woollen Mill security cameras were put in place and there was a suggestion that the items stolen were being sold at the Barra's Market in Glasgow.

The court heard that the video cameras were directly in front of Handley and his accomplice when he stole the items.

Defence agent Stephen Kennedy said: 'Mr Handley is easily led. It's his position that he was encouraged to commit these offences.'

#### Teenager gets eight months for bottle assault

A FORT William teenager has been sent to prison for eight months after admitting smashing a beer bottle over another man's head in an unprovoked assault.

Stevie Ian Alastair Pearson, aged 19, of 30 Glendessary Street, admitted assaulting a 30-year-old father of three on Dudley Road, Fort William, on April 17 last year.

Prosecutor Fiscal Alison Wylie told Fort William Sheriff Court last week that the victim, his brother and a friend were walking along Dudley Road at around 2am after a night out.

Words were exchanged between Pearson and the victim's brother.

Ms Wylie said: 'The accused was seen kneeling down at a car talking to the occupants.'

'He was seen running from the car towards the victim and struck him on the head with a beer bottle. The bottle smashed over his head and the victim fell to the ground.'

'Pearson told another man with him that the victim had

'hit the deck' and the pair ran off.'

The victim was treated for a five-centimetre laceration above his right eyebrow with 10 stitches and two internal stitches.

He also had a broken nose and 'numbness' over the right side of his face which was 'expected to get better'.

Defence agent Hamish Melrose said that the victim and Pearson were brought up as cousins.

Mr Melrose said that just before the incident Pearson was on one side of the car and the victim was on the other side talking to the driver.

'For no reason Pearson went round to the front of the vehicle and the bottle was either thrown at fairly short compass or the complainant was struck with the bottle.'

'He was clouded with alcohol and his recollection is not terribly clear.'

'He is full of remorse for doing this.'

Sheriff Douglas Small said: 'This is an extremely serious offence - an unprovoked assault with a bottle.'

'You are fortunate that the victim did not lose the sight of his right eye.'

'I consider that there is no alternative but to send you to prison for eight months. Were it not for the fact that you pled guilty when you did the sentence would have been 12 months.'

#### Kinlochleven man broke behaviour order

A KINLOCHLEVEN man has been sent to prison for four months after admitting breaching an anti-social behaviour order which banned him from entering a street in the town while he was under the influence of alcohol.

John Davidson, aged 51, of 15 Glendale Road, Kinlochleven, admitted breaching the order by entering Leven Road in the village on December 26 last year.

Prosecutor Fiscal Alison Wylie said that Davidson, a chronic alcoholic had

gone to visit a neighbour at 1pm to watch horseracing.

'He left at 4.15pm and had consumed alcohol, got home and fell asleep and woke up at 7.30pm.'

'He went to a local shop for cigarettes, fell down some steps and went back into the house, felt unwell and went to phone for assistance.'

'He decided to make a 999 call.'

'He was taken into custody and was seen by a doctor.'

Sheriff Douglas Small said: 'He doesn't seem to learn.'

'He was sentenced to 45 days in July, three months in prison in August, two months in prison in November and is now back here again.'

#### Glencoe bridge engineer banned from driving for three years

A CIVIL engineer working on the new bridge at Glencoe Gorge has been banned from driving for three years after admitting drink-driving.

Anthony George Osmond, aged 37, of 10 Cleveland Road, Islesworth, London admitted driving with 54mcg of alcohol in 100ml of breath on Clachaig Road, Glencoe on November 13 last year. The limit is 35mcg.

Defence agent Hamish Melrose said: 'He drove to the Clachaig Inn at about 10.30pm and left his car on the side of the road directly opposite the inn.'

'He decided to move the car into the car park at the inn and was seen by police.'

'He was foolish in what he did and will have to pay for the consequences.'

Sheriff Douglas Small said: 'I accept the explanation that you were moving the car into the car park.'

'I will restrict the period of disqualification to three years.'

Osmond was also fined £400.

#### £400 fine after roundabout crash

AN ACHAPHUBIL farm worker, who crashed at a Fort William roundabout, blamed a diesel spill for the accident but was found guilty of careless driving at Fort William Sheriff last week.

Shaun MacDonald, aged 18, mounted the West End roundabout with his Ford Fiesta and hit a sign on April 2, 2005 but denied driving without due care and attention. MacDonald, of 15 Achaphubil, claimed a diesel spillage on the road had caused his brakes to lock.

Prosecutor Fiscal Alison Wylie told Sheriff Douglas Small that the accident happened at 10.05pm. When PCs Joanne Barclay and Caroline MacKay arrived at the scene MacDonald confirmed he was the driver and gave a short statement.

A letter from BEAR Scotland, which maintains the A82 trunk road, said there had been a diesel spill on the road between the Corran Ferry junction and Roy Bridge on the same day but it had been cleaned up by 6pm. Ms Wylie asked PC MacKay if she remembered any accidents caused that day by diesel spills. 'No. If any accidents had occurred I believe I would have been aware of that. We noticed there were tyre marks on the bollard and they were in a straight line.'

PC Mackay told the fis-

### Police files

#### Parked lorry vandalised

SOMETIME between 2am and 8am on Wednesday, January 11 a white Scania lorry was vandalised where it was parked at the car park, Caol Shopping Centre, Caol.

#### Object thrown at windscreen

ABOUT 5.15pm on Wednesday, January 11 an object was thrown at the windscreen of a Highland County bus being driven on Kilmallie Road, Caol, causing it to smash. The incident happened near to the Old Nursery.

#### House windows smashed

ABOUT 1.45am on Sunday, January 15, a living room window of a house in Kennedy Road, Fort William was vandalised; while about 8.45pm on the same day a window of a house at Nevis Bank Cottages, Belford Road, Fort William, was smashed.

Any person 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 or offence or anything suspicious by telephoning Crimestoppers on 0800

#### Professor appointed to UHI post

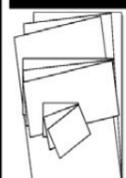
A PROFESSOR who worked for the late American president Ronald Reagan's government has been appointed to the UHI Millennium Institute's board of governors.

Professor Bill Bound from Poyntzfield on the Black Isle has more than 30 years experience in commercial business and national government.

His career includes President Reagan's Task Force on Fraud and a secondment as a Director of the London Stock Exchange.

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 Pàirc Nàiseanta Loch Lomoinn is nan Tròisichan

**NATIONAL PARK ACCESS FORUM**

Are you interested in the new access rights that apply to most land and water in Scotland? Perhaps you are a walker, horse-rider, cyclist or canoeist; or simply interested in access in the outdoors.

The National Park Authority is looking for one new member for the Local Access Forum. You should ideally be involved with communities in the northern area of the park (Breadalbane or north Trossachs). We are keen to receive applications from people with experience of outdoor access activities in particular for the less able including wheelchair users.

If you would like more information, please contact Barbara Robertson on 01389 722672 or email: barbara.robertson@lochlomond-trossachs.org or download from our website: www.lochlomond-trossachs.org

Applications should reach the Park Authority by Friday 3 February 2006

**George Lyon MSP**

**SURGERY**  
 3pm - 5pm  
 Monday 23 January 2006  
 St Moluag's Centre,  
 Croft Avenue,  
 Oban

For appointments please phone  
**01700-500222**

**COAST PROTECTION ACT 1949**  
**APPLICATION FOR PRIVATE BERTHING FACILITY AT SEIL SOUND**

Notice is hereby given that Hugh and Rose Martin have applied to the Scottish Ministers of the Scottish Executive, under Section 34 of the Coast Protection Act 1949, as amended by the Section 36 of The Merchant Shipping Act 1988, to carry out private berthing facility at the above location in the position:

Description	Latitude	Longitude
	56 18.32 N	05 35.37 W

Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at Sub Post Office, Balvicar.

Objections relating to safety of navigation, in respect of the application, should be made to Ports and Harbours Branch, The Scottish Executive, Transport Division 4, Area 2F (North), Mailpoint 2B, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ, within 28 days of the date of this notice, quoting reference ZSPC15/573.

Hugh and Rose Martin  
 The Old House  
 Clachan Seil  
 Oban, Argyll  
 PA34 4TL

**FERGUS EWING MSP**  
**ADVICE SURGERIES FOR CONSTITUENTS**

**Friday 20th January 2006**  
 12:30pm. Till 1:30pm.  
**Highland Council Service Point**  
 Lochaber House, High Street  
 Fort William  
 2:30pm Till 3:30pm.  
**CAOL Community Centre**  
 Glenkingie Street, Caol  
 No Appointment necessary

For Further Information Contact:  
 Constituency Office, Highland Railhouse  
 Station Square, Inverness IV1 1LE  
 Telephone: 01463 713004  
 Email: Fergus.ewing.msp@scottish.parliament.uk

**The Oban Times & West Highland Times**

**CROFTERS COMMISSION**  
 ICHDARRAS NAN CROFTARAN

Mr and Mrs M. King are applying to decroft part of the croft at Blarhasgaig, Lismore and Appin, Argyll, extending to 0.24 hectare, for the purpose of providing the site for a dwelling-house.

If you consider that this proposal will adversely affect your crofting interests or that of the local crofting community, please make written representations to the Crofters Commission, Castle Wynd, Inverness, IV2 3EQ, by February 6, 2006, quoting C/3129.

Representations will be accepted to the applicant. Comments on any earlier applications cannot be taken into account on this occasion.

Tel: 01631 568000  
 www.obantimes.co.uk

**The Highland Council**  
**Education, Culture and Sport Service - Lochaber area**

**Lochaber Gaelic Medium Enrolments August 2006**

The Highland Council Education, Culture and Sport Service operate the undernoted Gaelic Medium classes within the Lochaber Area.

Parents who have a child/children who will be five years old by the last day of February 2007 and who are interested in enrolling them in a Gaelic Medium class should do so by contacting the Head Teacher of the school concerned during the week beginning Monday, 30 January 2006. Parents are reminded that they should take their child's birth certificate with them.

Acharacle Primary School, Acharacle, Mrs J Byrne, Head Teacher, tel (01967) 431645.  
 Fort William RC Primary School, Fassifern Road, Fort William, Miss L MacDonald, Head Teacher, tel (01397) 702674.  
 Lady Lovat Primary School, Morar, Inverness-shire, Ms M Sutherland, Head Teacher, tel (01687) 462127.

**Seirbheis Foghlaim, Cultair Agus Spòrs - Sgìre Loch Abair**  
**Clàradh Airson Foghlam Tron Ghàidhlig Loch Abar Lùnastal 2006**

Tha Seirbheis Foghlaim, Cultair agus Spòrs na Gàidhealtachd a' tabhann chlasaichean Foghlam tron Ghàidhlig anns na sgoiltean a leanas ann an Sgìre Loch Abair.

Far a bheil pàrantan le doinn a bhios còig bliadhna ron latha mu dheireadh den Ghearran 2007 agus a tha airson a clàradh airson Foghlam tron Ghàidhlig, bu chòir dhaibh sin a dhèanamh le bruidhinn ri Ceannard na Sgoile san t-seachdadh a' toiseachadh Diluain, 30 Faoilleach 2006. Bu chòir do phàrantan teisteanas breith an leanabh a thoirt leotha.

Bunscoil Àth Tharracail, Àth Tharracail, Bh Uas J Byrne, Ceannard, fòn (01967) 431645.  
 Bunscoil Chaitligeach a' Ghearastain, Rathad Fassifern, An Gearastan, Mh L NicDhòmhnaill, Ceannard, fòn (01397) 702674.  
 Bunscoil Lady Lovat, Morar, Mh M Sutherland, Ceannard, fòn (01687) 462127.

**SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE**  
**ENTERPRISE, TRANSPORT & LIFELONG LEARNING DEPARTMENT**

**THE A86 TRUNK ROAD (SPEAN BRIDGE) (30MPH SPEED LIMIT) VARIATION AND SPEAN BRIDGE PRIMARY SCHOOL (PART-TIME 20MPH SPEED LIMIT) ORDER 2006**

THE SCOTTISH MINISTERS hereby give notice that on 11th January 2006 they made the above Order under section 84(1)(a) and (c) as read with section 124(1)(d) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

The effect of the Order is as described in Notice 1501/162 in the Edinburgh Gazette (Number 25792) dated 25th February 2005, in the Press and Journal and the Lochaber News dated 23rd February 2005 and in the Oban Times dated 24th February 2005.

The Order comes into force on 25th January 2006.

A copy of the Order as made, together with the relevant plan and a copy of the existing Order which is being varied, may be inspected free of charge until 22nd February 2006 during normal working hours at the offices of Transport Scotland, Trunk Roads Network Management Directorate, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh EH6 6QQ; Spean Bridge Post Office, Spean Bridge; and the offices of BEAR Scotland Ltd, Annat Point, Corpach, Fort William PH33 7NN.

**J G BARTON**  
 A member of the staff of the Scottish Ministers  
 Transport Scotland, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh EH6 6QQ.

**THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL**  
**EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORT SERVICE**  
**NOTICE TO PARENTS ON SCHOOL ENROLMENT**

All children who reach the age of five years on or before 15 August 2006 may begin to attend primary school in August 2006. Parents are asked to enrol their children at the local school at 3.00pm on any day during the week beginning 30 January 2006. Parents are reminded that they should take their child's birth certificate with them.

Children who will reach the age of five years after 15 August 2006 but on or before 28 February 2007 may also be enrolled and commence in August 2006. Parents of these children should be aware that they may choose not to enrol their child until August 2007.

If you wish to send your child to a school other than your local school, you can get information on how to do this from either the school or the Area Education Office.

Where Gaelic medium education is available in a school, parents should indicate their preference when enrolling their child.

All parents are given a copy of the school brochure at the time of enrolment.

Any queries with regard to this advertisement should be addressed to your Area Education Manager/Area Education Culture & Sport Manager.

Caithness Area	Graham Nichols (01955) 602362
Sutherland Area	Bill Coustou (01408) 623900
Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch & Strathspey Areas	Hector Robertson (01463) 663800
Lochaber Area	Rosemary Bridge (01397) 707350
Ross & Cromarty Area	John Ritchie (01349) 863441
Skye & Lochalsh Area	Laurence Young (01478) 613697

**THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL**  
**Notices Under the Town and Country Planning Acts**

The applications for Planning Permission listed below, and Environmental Statements where appropriate, together with the plans and other documents submitted with them may be examined at the AREA PLANNING OFFICE, FULTON HOUSE, GORDON SQUARE, FT WILLIAM, PH33 6XY, between the hours of 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday and at the location where listed below during normal office hours.

Written comments (whether supporting or opposing the applications) may be made to the AREA PLANNING AND BUILDING STANDARDS MANAGER at the address below within the period listed below from the date of publication of this notice.

Applicant Name & Development Address Reference Number	Proposal Description	Location where application may be inspected & reason for Advertisement
Mr & Mrs R Morgan Croft 20, 21 And 22 Druimarben Heron Bay, Fort William 05/00550/OUTLO	Erection of 3 Houses and Restoration of Derelict Cottage for Holiday and Residential Letting	Lochaber Area Planning Office Section 34 of the Act (14 Days)
Mr Christopher Barnes North Of Rhemor, Drimmin, Morvern 06/00008/FULLO	Erection of house and garage/workshop	Drimmin Post Office Development Contrary to Development Plan (Potential) (21 Days)
Caol Regeneration Company Limited Public Amenity Area Glenroy Street Shopping, Courtyard Caol, Fort William 05/00578/FULLO	Erection of 8 foot high stone cairn with lighting and water features	Caol Post Office Section 34 of the Act (14 Days)
H F Holidays Ltd Alltshellach Hotel, North Ballachulish, Onich 05/00575/FULLO	Proposed extension to hotel and erection of two dwelling houses on same site	Ballachulish Post Office Section 34 of the Act (14 Days)

Area Planning and Building Standards Manager, Lochaber Dafydd Jones, Highland Council, Fulton House, Gordon Square, Ft William, PH33 6XY. Tel: (01397) 707015, Fax: (01397) 707022. E-Mail planning.lochaber@highland.gov.uk

Tenders sought for  
**Environment / Arts / Heritage**  
 feasibility study

**ABREEF would like to investigate feasibility of a cross-discipline Primary school education project.**

Expression of interest to tender are sought from individuals and organisations. Study to be completed by mid 2006. Details of project will be sent on request.

Contact Matt Lewis, GRAB Trust, A&B Council, Kilmory, Lochgilphead PA31 8RT. 01546 600165

**Argyll District Salmon Fishery Board**  
**Meeting of Qualified Proprietors**

In accordance with Schedule 2 of the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries (Consolidation)(Scotland) Act 2003 and The Argyll District Salmon Fishery District Designation Order 2005, we hereby call a meeting of all proprietors of salmon fisheries or their mandataries, in the Awe, Creran, Loch Fyne, Ruel, and Arran Salmon Fishery Districts and within the Drummachloy (Bute), Ormsay and Carradale (Kintyre), Add and Feochan Euchar and Nell districts, and the area between Strone Point (North end of the Holy Loch) and the old pier at Arrochar, to be held at the **Argyll Hotel, Inveraray, Argyll, on 17th February at 2 p.m.**

The meeting is called to elect the committee and chairman for the Argyll District Salmon Fishery Board that will supersede the whole of the districts described above. The co-optation of representatives of salmon anglers, tenant netsmen and others, and the appointment of clerks and bailiffs, together with any other business will follow these elections.

Mandataries must provide written authorisation from the qualified proprietor they represent.

By order of:  
 Jane Wright - Clerk to the Awe and Loch Fyne District Salmon Fishery Boards  
 Patrick Bowlby - Clerk to the Ruel District Salmon Fishery Board

Please advise attendance to Mrs Jane Wright at Cherry Park, Inveraray, Argyll, PA32 8XE.  
 E-mail: njwright@compuserve.com or admin@argyllfisherstrust.co.uk

**DOCHART CRAFT CENTRE LIMITED**  
**IN CREDITORS VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION**

Registered Office: 8 Douglas Street, Hamilton, Lanarkshire

I, Irene Harbottle, of W. D. Robb & Co, Scott House, 12-16 South Frederick Street, Glasgow, HEREBY GIVE NOTICE, pursuant to Rule 4.19 of the Insolvency (Scotland) Rules 1986, that on 13/01/2006, I was appointed Liquidator of the above named company by Resolution of the First Meeting of Creditors. A liquidation committee was not established. Accordingly, I hereby give notice that I do not intend to summon a further meeting for the purpose of establishing a liquidation committee unless one tenth in value of the creditors require me to do so in terms of Section 142(3) of the Insolvency Act 1986. All creditors who have not already done so are required to lodge their claims with me by 13/04/2006.

W. D. Robb & Co  
 Scott House  
 12/16 South Frederick Street  
 Glasgow, G1 1JU  
 13 January 2006

Irene Harbottle  
 Liquidator

**POLLUTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL ACT 1999**  
**POLLUTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2000**

In accordance with paragraph 5 of Schedule 4 to the above Regulations, Notice is hereby given that application has been made to the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) for a Permit under regulation 7 of the Regulations by TSL Contractors Ltd in respect of activities being carried out namely batching of Ready Mixed Concrete and Coating of Roadstone with Bitumen in an installation at the Marine Resource Centre, Barcaldine.

The application contains a description of any foreseeable significant effects of emissions from the installation on the environment.

The application may be inspected, free of charge, at SEPA, Graesser House, Fodderty Way, Dingwall, IV15 9XB between 0930 and 1630 on working days or by prior arrangement at the SEPA Lochgilphead office, 2 Smithy Lane, Lochgilphead, PA31 8TA. Please quote Reference No PPC/B/1004468.

Written representation concerning this application may be made to the SEPA at the above address, or sent to E-mail address: registrydingwall@sepa.org.uk and if received within 28 days of this Notice will be taken into consideration in determining the application. Any such representations made by any person will be entered in a public register unless that person requests in writing that they should not be so entered. Where such a request is made there will be included in the register a statement indicating that representations have been made which has been the subject of such a request. This notice was published on Thursday January 19, 2006.

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us @ [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk)

**Argyll & Bute COUNCIL**

**PLANNING**  
 TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997, RELATED LEGISLATION PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Take notice that the applications in the following schedule may be inspected during normal office hours at the location given below. Anyone wishing to make representations should do so in writing to the undersigned within 14 or 21 days of the appearance of this notice, whichever is applicable as indicated below. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

**SCHEDULE - DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION OF PLANS**

● Ref No: 05/02444/NID  
 Applicant: Argyll & Bute Council  
 Proposal: Erection of Airfield Terminal Building (Amended Application for Change to Roof Finish)  
 Site Address: Coll Airport, Isle Of Coll  
 Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Isle of Coll  
 Notice of Intention To Develop - 21 Days

● Ref No: 06/00048/DET  
 Applicant: Mr D Beckett  
 Proposal: Alterations to Dwelling  
 Site Address: Ardchnonnell Old Schoolhouse, Dalmailly Argyll PA33 1BW  
 Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Dalmailly  
 Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days

● Ref No: 05/02583/OUT  
 Applicant: John Jennett  
 Proposal: Erection of dwelling house  
 Site Address: Plot 4 Land North West Of Tigh Na Drochaid Port Appin Argyll  
 Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Leidaig  
 Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days

● Ref No: 06/00025/DET  
 Applicant: Mr + Mrs A Wilson  
 Proposal: Erection of Dwelling House and Garage  
 Site Address: Plot 6 Otter Creek Ichnarachan Taynuilt Argyll  
 Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Taynuilt  
 Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days

● Ref No: 06/00036/DET  
 Applicant: Beaton And McMurphy Architects  
 Proposal: Erection of dwelling house  
 Site Address: Plot 7 Glenshellach Farm Glenshellach Road Oban Argyll  
 Location of Plans: Oban Area Office  
 Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days

● Ref No: 05/02443/NID  
 Applicant: Argyll & Bute Council  
 Proposal: Amendment to Control Tower Position  
 Site Address: Connel Airfield, Connel Oban Argyll PA37 1SW  
 Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Leidaig  
 Notice of Intention To Develop - 21 Days

**Area Team Leader Development Control, Planning Services, Lorn House, Albany Street, Oban**

● Ref No: 05/02493/DET  
 Applicant: Mr Fraser Lewis  
 Proposal: Erection of dwelling house  
 Site Address: Plot 1 Ballimory Portnahaven Isle Of Islay  
 Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Portnahaven  
 Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days

● Ref No: 05/02586/OUT  
 Applicant: Mr And Mrs Stuart Gains  
 Proposal: Outline application to erect a two bedroom bungalow and installation of a septic tank  
 Site Address: The Lotts Port Ellen Isle Of Islay PA42 7DD  
 Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Port Ellen  
 Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days

● Ref No: 05/02318/DET  
 Applicant: Mr And Mrs Pettit  
 Proposal: Demolition of barn, erection of new dwelling house and conversion of other barn to create extension to existing dwelling house including alterations to existing dwelling house  
 Site Address: Conisby Farm House And Barns Bruchladdich Isle Of Islay  
 Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Port Charlotte  
 Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days

● Ref No: 05/02521/DET  
 Applicant: Ms A Carrigan  
 Proposal: Erection of proposed dwelling house  
 Site Address: Land West Of Mullduh Isle Of Colonsay  
 Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Isle of Colonsay  
 Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days

● Ref No: 05/02449/NID  
 Applicant: Argyll And Bute Council  
 Proposal: Erection of airfield terminal building  
 Site Address: Colonsay Airfield, Scalsraig Isle Of Colonsay  
 Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Isle of Colonsay  
 Notice of Intention To Develop - 21 Days

● Ref No: 06/00034/DET  
 Applicant: Mr L Epps  
 Proposal: Erection of dwelling house  
 Site Address: Land To The Rear Of The Mini Market Bruchladdich Isle Of Islay PA49 7UN  
 Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Port Charlotte  
 Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days

**Area Team Leader Development Control, Planning Services, 67 Chalmers Street, Ardrishaig PA30 8DX**

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT CONTRARY TO DEVELOPMENT PLAN) (SCOTLAND) DIRECTION 1996**

The following planning applications have been lodged for determination with Argyll & Bute Council and are available for inspection during normal working hours at the local area office/Post Office identified below. The proposals contained in the application are considered to be a potential departure from the Development Plan for the area concerned.

Anyone wishing to make representations about any of the applications identified below should do so in writing within 21 days from the date of publication of this notice to the Area Team Leader Development Control at the address below.

Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

**SCHEDULE - DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION OF PLANS**

● Ref No: 06/00045/DET  
 Applicant: Mr Ewan Dougal  
 Proposal: Erection of Dwelling House  
 Site Address: Lochdar, Ardrum Bunnass Isle Of Mull Argyll  
 Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Bunnass Isle of Mull  
 A18 Local Plan Potential Depart Adv (21)  
 Potential Departure from Policies RUR 1 and RUR2 of Mull Coll and Tiree Local Plan

**Area Team Leader Development Control, Planning Services, Lorn House, Albany Street, Oban PA34 4AR**

**COMMUNITY SERVICES: EDUCATION**  
**REGISTRATION OF INFANT BEGINNERS IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS SESSION 2006/2007**

Children who attain the age of five years between 1 March 2006 and 28 February 2007 should be registered for education during the week commencing 23 January 2006.

Parents concerned should take their children to the appropriate local primary school on one of the school days during the above week between the hours of 10.00am and 3.00pm.

Parents are reminded that Gaelic Medium Education is available in the following schools:- Bowmore Primary School, Islay; Tiree Primary School, Tiree; Salen Primary School, Mull and St. Columba's Primary School, Oban; Strath of Appin Primary School, by Oban and Sandbank Primary School, Dunoon.

The child's birth certificate should be produced. A leaflet providing information for parents on enrolment of children in school and giving details of placing request procedures (including under age placing requests) may be obtained from any school or the Director of Community Services, Argyll House, Alexandra Parade, Dunoon, PA23 8AJ (Tel: 01369 708508).

Douglas Hendry, Director of Community Services

**REMEMBER DEADLINE FOR ADVERTS MONDAY 4PM**

**The Oban Times & West Highland Times**

Tel: 01631 568000

**Oban and Lorn Tourism Association (OLTA)**

**An inaugural meeting of the revamped organisation on Wednesday, January 25, 2006 at 7 p.m.**

**McTavish's, George Street, Oban**

All those who have an interest in the promotion of Oban and Lorn are welcome to attend

**Haggis and Neeps at conclusion!**

www.obantimes.co.uk

**GOT A NOTICE TO PUBLICISE?**

**The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES**

Be seen by over 50,000 readers

**Tel: 01631 568000**

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**THE CROWN ESTATE**  
 Creating value for us all

**Proposed new shellfish farm development at Eilean na Cloiche, Lynn of Lorn.**

NOTICE is hereby given that -

1. application has been made to The Crown Estate by Subsea Shellfish Farm Ltd for permission to develop a shellfish farm at: -

Reference	Location	Map Reference
XX100/235B	Eilean na Cloiche Lynn of Lorn	NM 845 390 Lat: 56° 29.625'N Long: 05° 30.100'W

2. the application, plans and other documents submitted may be inspected at all reasonable hours at -  
 Planning Department, Argyll & Bute Council, Lorn House, Albany Street, Oban PA34 4AR  
 and  
 Benderloch Post Office  
 during the period of 28 days beginning with the date of this notice: and

3. any person who wishes to make representations about the application should make them in writing within that period to the Local Authority at the address above.

Dated: 19 January 2006

To book this property space contact  
**The Oban Times**  
 on  
**01631 568000**  
 or E-mail  
 property@obantimes.co.uk

# WEST HIGHLAND PROPERTY GUIDE

The largest weekly property pages, covering Argyll, West Highlands & Islands. Selling your property? Make sure your advertisement is here in *The Oban Times* - it works! (Seen by more than 40,000\* readers each week.) \*Source: JICREG Reader per copy average from ABC audit.

**MORHAM & BROTCHE**  
 Chartered Surveyors  
 Providing Domestic and Commercial Property Valuation throughout the West Highlands and Islands  
 5 Stafford Street, Oban, Argyll, PA34 5NJ  
 Telephone 01631 563721 Fax 01631 566566  
 E-mail: admin@morhambro.co.uk



## Semi-detached property to rear of Connel village



No. 2 Achaleven . . . rooms with character

PART of a small housing estate situated to the rear of Connel village, No 2 Achaleven is a well-designed semi-detached property containing lounge, kitchen, three bedrooms and bathroom.

From its quiet location it commands restful views over open fields to the front.

### Distinctive

Mainly spread along the Loch Etive shoreline, Connel is an attractive village whose distinctive landmarks include the Falls of Lora Hotel, built in 1894, and St Oran's Church, erected in 1888 and noted for its attractive interior and collection of stained glass windows.

The village is well served by a primary school, doctors' surgery, village shop and two hotels.

At No 2 Achaleven, a small hall with facilities for hanging coats is entered through a neat porch.

A comfortable lounge, which takes in views to the front, hosts a brick fireplace.

Off the lounge a compact kitchen houses a shelved pantry cupboard and is fitted with floor and wall units.

Three comfortable and attractively decorated bedrooms are located on the upper floor accessed by a stairway with shelved cupboard on the upper landing.

All three bedrooms derive character from coombed ceilings with the largest boasting a brick fireplace.

Half-tiling over the bath and sink and rich pine panelling make for an appealing bathroom containing a three-piece suite in white.

Outdoors, a well-maintained front garden is mainly laid to grass which forms a setting for established shrubs.

Areas to the side and rear are also under grass.

### Drying Area

A slabbed pathway leads to the front door and there is a grassed drying area as well as a robust garden shed.

The property is being marketed through Oban solicitors and estate agents MacArthur Stewart, who are inviting offers over £120,000.

A closing date of 12 noon, Monday 23 January, 2006, has been fixed for the receipt of offers.

Chartered Surveyors, Land & Estate Agents



**CULZEAN, ROCKFIELD ROAD, OBAN**  
 Offers over £325,000  
 Prominent detached villa with views over the town to Oban Bay, the islands of Kerrera and Mull and the hills of Morvern. Good family accommodation comprising: Vestibule, reception hall, through living room, dining room (or fourth bedroom), dinette (or study), farmhouse-style kitchen, utility room, three bedrooms (master with full en-suite shower-room) and bathroom. Attractive terraced gardens with greenhouse and substantial summerhouse. Double glazed. Gas central heating.

**PLOT B, LOCHNELL ARMS, NORTH CONNELL, ARGYLL**  
 Offers over £165,000  
 Newly completed, architect supervised, four bedroom detached house in an established residential area. The accommodation on two floors comprises: Ground floor: Entrance hallway, spacious living room, kitchen with dining area, utility room, two bedrooms and bathroom. First floor: Two bedrooms and shower room. Good storage throughout. New fitted carpets and floor coverings throughout. Large tarmac parking area to the front and easily maintained side and rear gardens under grass.

**HINDLE HOUSE, 1 OLD SCHOOL BANK, TAYNUILT, ARGYLL**  
 Offers over £275,000  
 Exceptional, newly completed detached property finished to a very high specification and occupying a prime village location set back from the A85 and enjoying views to Glen Lonan. Modern and stylish, the accommodation comprises: hall, lounge with French doors to raised timber decking area, kitchen with a superb Rangemaster gas cooker, cloakroom with WC, dining room, four bedrooms (two with en-suite shower rooms) and family bathroom. Good quality fitted carpets and floor coverings throughout. Block paved driveway, gardens and timber shed.

**FLAT 1, DUNARD TERRACE, OBAN, ARGYLL**  
 Offers Over £68,000  
 This bright and attractive ground floor flat is situated within an appealing south facing, granite faced tenement and is within walking distance of the town centre. The nicely presented accommodation comprises: Entrance hall, bedroom, living room with modern feature fireplace, spacious kitchen diner and bathroom. Shared drying green and storage shed. Double glazed. Night storage heating.

2 Gibraltar Street, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4AY  
 Telephone: +44 (0) 1631 566 122 Fax: +44 (0) 1631 564 764  
 E-mail: enquiries@dmkestates.co.uk www.dmkestates.co.uk

**PROPERTY TO LET**

**TO LET CLACHAN SEIL**  
 by Oban  
**TWO-BEDROOMED HOUSE**  
 Immediate entry available  
 Telephone (evenings)  
**01852 300 432**

**HOLIDAY APARTMENT TO LET**  
**SOUTH CRETE**  
 2 WEEKS - £230  
 4 WEEKS - £400  
 (Except July & August)  
 For more information  
 Tel: 01631 720225  
 or phone owner direct  
 00306977080687

**ROOM TO LET**  
**Fort William Area CORPACH**  
 Fully furnished bedroom in spacious house, sharing lounge, dining-room, kitchen and spare room.  
**£240 p.c.m.** (including Council Tax)  
 Non-smoker  
 Please telephone  
 01397 772861 (daytime)  
 01397 772468 (after 6 p.m.)

**Flat to Let TAYNUILT**  
 1<sup>st</sup> Floor,  
 One Bedroom  
 Fully Furnished  
 Stunning Location  
 Available on a Short Assured Tenancy  
 Telephone:  
**01866 822 309**

**FLAT TO LET OBAN TOWN CENTRE**  
 Two Bedroom  
 Fully Furnished  
**£450 p.c.m.** (+bills)  
 Deposit required  
 Sorry, no DSS or pets  
 Immediate entry available  
 Telephone after 5pm  
**07876 193 564**

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**Alexander DAWSON**  
 CONNELL, BY OBAN

A TRULY EXCEPTIONAL MODERN FAMILY HOME OF AN IMAGINATIVE AND MOST APPEALING DESIGN WITH FINE SEASCAPE VIEWS  
 Double-Glazing : Oil Fired Central Heating and Multi-Fuel Stove  
 Vestibule : Hall : Spacious Upstairs Lounge : Superb Kitchen/ Family Dining Room : Utility Room : Study/4th Bedroom  
 3 En-Suite Bedrooms : Bathroom  
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## RENAULT OFF TO FLYING START WITH LAUNCH OF NEW RENAULTSPORT 'F1 TEAM' SPECIAL EDITION AND NEW MEGANE 2006 PRICES

On sale from 1 February 2006  
Prices and insurance group ratings same as previous version, ranging from £11,450 to £22,310 and 3E to 17E  
Two new special editions: Mégane Renaultsport 225 'Renault F1 Team' and 'Maxim'  
New entry-level diesel, 1.5 dCi 106 6-speed for Mégane Coupé-Cabriolet  
New flagship diesel, 2.0 dCi 150 due in May 2006  
Renault has announced prices and specifications for the New Renault Mégane 2006 range and also raised the bar in the sports hatch stakes with the launch of a special edition Mégane Renaultsport 225 to celebrate its Formula 1 Constructors' Championship title from last season. The Renault Mégane continues to be Europe's best-selling car, so the arrival of two new special editions and the lack of price rises over the current version looks certain to keep the distinctive range at the top of the sales charts. And that's not forgetting the fact that prices still start from just £11,450 on the road. There are no changes yet to the Scénic MPV

range which is built on the Mégane platform.  
New Mégane Renaultsport 225 'Renault F1 Team' special edition  
Giving the New Mégane 2006 even more impact is the launch of a new special edition, Mégane Renaultsport 225 Renault F1 Team, to celebrate Renault's 2005 Constructors' and Fernando Alonso's Drivers' Formula 1 World Championship titles. Based on the Mégane Renaultsport 225 Cup - and therefore three-door Sport Hatch - the eye-catching newcomer offers a powerful combination of track-proven technology and £1,450 worth of equipment for only £900 more than the Cup, at a price of £19,500. In addition to the standard specification of the 'Cup' version, the latest hot hatch from Renault's performance division gains: 60W CD/MP3 RDS radio, climate control, new 'black-gloss' 18" spoked lightweight alloys with matching door mirrors and blue/black Recaro front sports seats and blue detailing on the steering wheel and gearshift gaiter. Standard equipment on the 'Cup' includes: Cup

Chassis (includes Brembo front brakes, disconnectable ESP (Electronic Stability Programme), uprated dampers and springs and shock absorbers to reinforce the sensation of rigidity and augment cornering ability), plus cruise control with speed limiter, exclusive Dunlop SportMaxx tyres and trip computer. As you would expect when it comes to the glamorous world of Formula 1, the new special edition certainly isn't lacking in image or exclusivity, boasting 'Ultra Blue' paintwork, a numbered plaque at the base of the centre console, plus unique Renault F1 Team decals and badging on the front wings and front and rear bumpers. The production level is not limited to a specific number.  
**New 'Maxim' special edition**  
Broadening the appeal of the New Mégane 2006 range even further, particularly in the retail sector, a new 'Maxim' special edition will also be available from launch to appeal to the more cost-conscious buyer. Available for the same price as the already sporty

Dynamique versions on which it's based, the new special edition is available in Hatch and Sport Hatch models with a choice of either the 1.5 dCi 86 or the petrol 1.6 VVT 111, the two biggest-selling engines which account for approximately 60% of Mégane hatchback sales. Reflecting the New Mégane 2006 range's unique French style and built-in value for money approach, Maxim versions boast £450 of free extra equipment such as 17" Steppe alloy wheels and 60W single CD/MP3 player, with prices of £13,250 and £13,550 for the Sport Hatch versions, £13,750 and £14,050 for the Hatch.  
**New Mégane 2006 - Timely arrival in highly competitive lower medium sector**  
The lower medium sector has seen the arrival of several new and revised contenders in recent months and the arrival of New Mégane 2006 could not be more timely. Designed to build upon the success of the previous range, the facelifted line-up offers a revised look, greater refinement and an ever wider choice of engines and options.



New Megane Sport Saloon and Sport Tourer 2006

(excluding Coupé-Cabriolet) and bumper unit. There are also several alterations to specific trim levels, such as body-coloured door mirrors and door handles on Authentique, 'Flint' bumper and side rubbing strips from Expression upwards, chrome effect roof bars on Sport Tourer versions from Dynamique and above, plus a wide range of new wheel trims and alloy wheel designs for each version. The improvements to New Mégane are even more apparent on the inside, where the revised interior reflects steps made in quality and materials, similar to those of New Clio and New Laguna which have been received so well. Each of the New Mégane 2006 models features new interior trim and cabin detailing, plus new look dials with white background lighting and soft-touch dashboard materials. To emphasise their sporting air, Dynamique models also have chrome surrounds to the vents, controls and handles. Renault continues to improve the quality of its products in all areas and

New Mégane 2006 benefits from the company's increasingly high standards. As such, the new versions have improved fit and finish, the interior being an even quieter environment than before thanks to enhanced soundproofing of the cabin, engine and drivetrain. The good news continues with the improvements to the electric steering column gleaned from the development of the Renaultsport Trophy, focusing mainly on a revised 'tube in tube' steering column to give superior feel and handling around the centrepoint. The ECU (Electronic Control Unit) has also been re-programmed to give more consistent steering responses. While some of the revisions to the latest Megane range are clearly quite comprehensive, Renault's usual attention to detail is also clearly evident even right down to the new flat blade wipers for example.  
**Mégane Renaultsport 225 - Same high performance, even greater purpose**  
The Renaultsport range remains the same with a three model line-up,

Mégane Renaultsport 225 in Hatch and Sport Hatch guise, with the focused 'Cup' version in Sport Hatch only. Prices again are unaffected, however, there are several notable revisions to the range in addition to the new Renault F1 Team special edition. This starts with greater differentiation between the standard 225 and the more hardcore 225 'Cup' version, as the latter receives gets a striking new blue/black 'Scotec' cloth interior, while the normal Mégane Renaultsport 225 now comes equipped with a full leather interior, climate control and 60W single CD/MP3 RDS radio as standard. These optional extras on the outgoing range would have cost over £1,000, yet the retail price remains the same. There are also two noteworthy option changes for the entire Renaultsport range. The first picks up where the Clio Renaultsport 182 Trophy hot hatch left off, as the Recaro seats are available as an £850 option on all Sport Hatch versions. And, due to the continued demand for the Cup Chassis option on the standard Mégane

Renaultsport 225, which accounts for around 40% of current range sales, the pack now includes anthracite-coloured door mirrors to give the cars even greater on-road presence. Two colour changes are also made with the launch of the new vibrant non-metallic blue, Ultra Blue, which replaces Capucium Red, plus the new metallic pearllescent blue, Albi Blue, which replaces Arctic Blue.  
**New Mégane, New Power**  
The Mégane range already featured some of the most highly-regarded engines in its sector and New Mégane 2006 will be no different. The line-up gains a new flagship 2.0 dCi 150 diesel engine and sees the welcome addition of an entry-level dCi 106 6-speed option to the Mégane Coupé-Cabriolet series, offering an impressive 56.5mpg on a combined cycle. With prices for the new entry-level diesel version starting at £19,110, this top-selling and now even more frugal, convertible looks certain to cause even more of a stir among its rivals, whatever the weather.

The class-leading 2.0 dCi 150 engine which was recently introduced on New Laguna is scheduled to appear across the Mégane range in May and will offer a strong combination of refined, lusty performance and low fuel consumption for long distance and inner city journeys. This new powerplant offers 340Nm of torque at just 2,000rpm, plus a 0-62mph time of 8.7 seconds in the Hatch, only marginally slower than the most powerful 2.0T 165 turbo petrol engine at 8.3 seconds. In keeping with New Mégane 2006 sense of style, there are also several colour changes to the range. Nordic Green is added to the Mégane Coupé-Cabriolet models, while elsewhere, Hessian is replaced by Quartz, Extreme Blue replaces Ottoman Blue (all except Sport Saloon) and Gunmetal replaces Hologram Grey. Orders for the New Mégane 2006 range can be placed from 1st February in time for the new registration plate change. Scénic and Grand Scénic are unaffected by the changes to the Mégane range.

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**New Megane 2006 - Range Structure**  
The Mégane range structure and equipment levels remain very similar to the original collection, with seven distinct body styles, namely the Hatch, Sport Hatch, Sport Saloon, Sport Tourer and Coupé-Cabriolet, offered with a total of five different trim levels (depending on model and excluding Renaultsport range): Extreme, Authentique, Expression, Dynamique, Privilège, Scénic and Grand Scénic do not change until 2007. From the outside, each of the Mégane range's five body styles receives a subtle exterior facelift. At the front, the new models have a revised 'V' shaped front grille and front bumper, a more prominent Renault diamond and new slim, tapered headlamps, whilst at the rear there are new rear light clusters

on-the-road, it is as much as £2,750 less expensive than its similarly sized, Japanese four-wheel drive competitors. Its intercooled and turbocharged engine - supplied by Renault - delivers 129 PS and a hefty 221 lb ft (300 Nm) of torque for reassuring performance in a variety of situations both on and off the beaten track. Using Suzuki's latest SUV to its full potential shouldn't be too painful at the pumps either, with a Combined cycle consumption of 36.7 mpg and CO2 emissions

of just 205 g/km. Top speed is 106 mph, while acceleration from 0 to 62 mph is completed in 13.2 seconds. The 1.9 DDiS enjoys the same clean, but muscular styling and generous equipment levels as its 5-door petrol counterpart. That means standard climate control air conditioning, front and rear electric windows, an integrated radio/CD player with steering wheel mounted audio controls, tinted glass, tilt adjustable steering, reclining rear seats, heated and folding door mirrors, immobiliser, alloys and front fogs. There's also the security of front, side and curtain airbags for front seat

occupants plus curtain airbags in the rear. The unique body construction means that while the Grand Vitara uses a lightweight monocoque design without a separate chassis, a stiff platform provided by a 'built-in ladder frame' ensures this SUV has the rigidity to match the most traditional of off roaders. That's complemented by an all-new, permanent four-wheel drive system with differential lock and low range to ensure outstanding off road capability. The system's four different modes are easily selected via a dash-mounted rotary switch. Longer and wider than its predecessor, the new Grand Vitara also has an extended wheelbase which means lots more room inside. The new 1.9 DDiS joins a line-up comprising the 1.6 litre VVT and VVT+ 3-door manual models and 2.0 litre 16v 5-door manual and automatic models, starting at £12,699 on-the-road.

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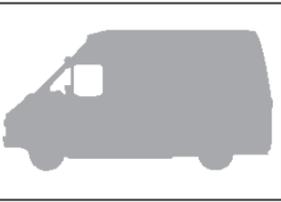


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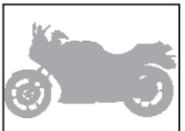
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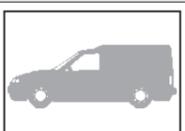


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**MANITOU TELEHANDLER 1030S FORKLIFT**



2004, Taxed for road use. 320 Hrs from new, One owner, Attachments available. For Details Telephone 07798 721878 (Oban)

Buyers should note where standardised silhouettes are used they do not accurately represent the vehicle being sold

**Boats**



**MARINE SOUNDER LOWRANCE X70A**

Good working order

**£230**

Telephone  
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M reg, 75k miles, MOT August 06, Good condition for age

Telephone  
07786 171619

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**FIAT COUPE 20V TURBO**



1998, Metallic Black, 83,000 Miles, Full Leather Interior, 220 bhp Engine, Tax Apr 2006, MOT Oct 2006, Full Service Nov 2005, plus new tyres

Telephone  
Alastair  
01546 606544

**£3400 o.n.o.**

**LANDROVER DISCOVERY 300 TDI**



1996, P Reg, loads of service history, very good driver, first time starter, long mot, no tax, alloys, nice condition

**£3750**

Telephone  
01586 552283 or 07789 034353

**FOLKBOAT**

worth a look offers over **£2000**

Telephone  
01937 835542 or 07775 991633

**SEAT IBIZA 1.4 S**



1999 T reg 3 door hatch, just been lowered and 17in alloys put on last week, one years MOT. Very good condition, only group 4 insurance. Any inspection welcome

**£1750**

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07787 793609

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CARAVANS AND CAMPER VANS

1988 ON - ANY MAKE ANY SIZE. Also damp or damaged considered

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07734 602449

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# RECRUITMENT




Acas training sessions are designed for those with management, supervisory or personnel responsibilities. They provide information you need to make sure your rules and procedures are up to date. Practical solutions to practical problems are discussed.

**Employing people** - This session is a 'must' for any organisation with employees. Straightforward guidance is provided on:

- The employment contract
- The legal requirement for a written statement of terms and conditions of employment
- Handling discipline
- Handling grievances
- Recent changes in the law

**Introduction to equality** - this session outlines how equality issues affect people at work. How to develop simple policy which will underpin the standards which your business and employees should adhere to, will be explained. The session covers:

- The law on equality and discrimination
- Defining discrimination
- Harassment and victimisation
- Employer's responsibilities
- Creating a policy for your workplace

Argyll and the Islands Enterprise are holding the following Getting It Right Sessions in the Argyll area. These are half day courses that will run from 10.30am to 15.30pm.

**Employing people**  
31st January 2006 Corran Halls, Oban  
7th February 2006 Queens Hall, Dunoon  
15th February 2006 Ardsheil Hotel, Campbeltown

**Introduction to equality**  
22nd February Argyll Hotel, Lochgilphead

To book your place please contact:  
Argyll and the Islands Enterprise 01546 602281  
Or email info@aie.co.uk

**JOINERS REQUIRED**  
to work in the  
**FORT WILLIAM AREA**  
Plus Rates and Bonus  
**Experienced SITE LABOURERS REQUIRED**  
Apply to  
**R. E. CAMPBELL (JOINERY) LIMITED**  
Telephone  
**01397 712 561**



**HUSBANDRY PERSONNEL**

We are seeking Husbandry Workers for our sea sites in the Loch Craignish and Loch Melfort areas. Experience would be an advantage but not essential, as training will be provided. We offer an attractive salary, including enhanced overtime, together with bonus and pension schemes for the successful applicants.

We also have vacancies for Weekend Workers.

Applications to:  
The Production Manager,  
Lakeland Marine Farm Limited  
Tigh MhicLeoid, 3 Lochnell Street  
Lochgilphead, PA31 8JL  
Tel: 01546 606270

**SCOTTISH FIELD MAGAZINE**  
**EDINBURGH**

**Property Advertising Sales Executive**

Dealing with all property and finance advertising elements within Scotland's premier magazine.

- Previous sales experience is essential, as is a full driving licence. We are looking for a candidate with a confident, positive attitude to work in our vibrant, friendly, open plan office.
- High basic and OTE.
- The position will be office-based.

Please send full cv showing current salary details to karen@scottishfield.co.uk or Karen Wallace, Office Manager, Special Publications, Craiccrook Castle, Craiccrook Road, Edinburgh, EH4 3PE.

**The Oban Times**  
& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES  
**REPORTER**

required for our Fort William office

We are looking for a qualified journalist, with a minimum of two years experience working on a weekly newspaper to join our editorial team. This is an excellent career opportunity. A driving licence is essential.

We offer in return an excellent salary and benefits package. Interested? - contact Christine MacBryde, Personnel Officer The Oban Times Ltd. P.O. Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB  
Tel: 01631 568000 Fax: 01631 568001  
Email: personnel@obantimes.co.uk

**CREW PERSON REQUIRED**  
**Island of Seil**

Driving licence essential  
Telephone  
**01852 300 432**

**Reliable and confident PLUMBERS**  
required for replacement bathrooms in ARGYLL AREA  
C.I.S. or P.A.Y.E.  
Contact  
**Des McNulty**  
**07767 395 377**

**Sgoil Araich Braigh Lochabair**

'Taigh na Sgoile' Roy Bridge  
Job Vacancy  
**NURSERY ASSISTANT (Gaelic Medium)**  
full time or part time

For further details contact: Catherine MacKinnon, catherine@bohuntin.freeserve.co.uk  
Tel: 01397 712364

Supported by Communities Scotland Seedcorn Fund, Bòrd na Gàidhlig and the European funded LEADER+ initiative.

**FERGUSON TRANSPORT (SPEAN BRIDGE) LTD.**  
TIGH ARAN, SPEAN BRIDGE, BY FORT WILLIAM PH34 4EP  
TEL. 01397 712 246 FAX. 01397 712 073

**FERGUSON TRANSPORT (SPEAN BRIDGE) LTD**  
HAVE A VACANCY FOR  
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TO WORK IN OUR VERY BUSY OFFICE IN SPEAN BRIDGE. GOOD TELEPHONE MANNER AND CUSTOMER RELATIONS FOCUSED. BASIC COMPUTER SKILLS AND SOME KNOWLEDGE OF EXCEL REQUIRED.

SALARY DEPENDENT ON EXPERIENCE  
CONTACT EITHER CAROL MACKINNON OR ELAINE BOOTMAN AT THE ABOVE TELEPHONE NO FOR AN APPLICATION FORM.

**J & A Mitchell & Co Ltd**  
require  
**A TRAINEE ASSISTANT MANAGER**

J & A Mitchell and Co Ltd, situated in Campbeltown, are the oldest family owned whisky company within the Scotch Whisky industry. It currently operates two distilleries in Campbeltown, Springbank and Glengyle and incorporates traditional floor maltings and a bottling hall.

Based in Campbeltown the post of Trainee Assistant Manager involves communicating the Distillery Manager's instructions to the General Distillery Operators and ensuring that they carry out these instructions both safely and efficiently. Reporting to the Distillery Manager you will be expected to adopt a "hands on" approach and work directly with the General Distillery operators in day to day distillery operations.

*The successful applicant should possess good organisational and motivational skills and be able to work in a labour intensive environment.*

If you are interested in the post, please apply in writing with details of your employment history and any qualifications to :-  
Mr Frank McHardy, General Manager, J & A Mitchell and Co Ltd, Springbank Distillery, Campbeltown, Argyll, PA28 6ET  
Closing date for all applications 17th February 2006

**Ossians Retirement Home**  
**North Connel, by Oban**  
has the following vacancies:

- Full/Part-Time Registered Nurse** (day and nightshift hours available)
- Full time Carer Assistants**
- Full time Domestic Assistant**
- Part time Cook, Part time Kitchen Assistant**
- Full time Chef** (01397) 704244
- Full/Part time Handyman**
- Full time Receptionist/Administrator** (Temporary Position)

For further information please contact  
**Andrea Shuttleworth 01631 710 322**  
Ossians is now under new ownership

**THE Virginia COSMETICS COMPANY**

**KIDS BACK TO SCHOOL, NOW ITS TIME TO PARTY!**

As a self-employed Virgin Vie Consultant, you decide when you work. We'll train you for free to sell products on a party plan basis. No previous experience necessary. Earn an excellent commission, be part of our exciting incentive programme and have lots of fun. Special joining offers available NOW! Interested? Please call Lynne on 01320 366277

**Ben Nevis HIGHLAND CENTRE**

**Catering Assistant/Relief Cook** (30 hours)  
**Temporary Catering Assistant** (March - October)

We are looking for people to help us maintain our exceptionally high standards in food service. Experience of working within a food service environment would be beneficial but is not essential as full training will be given. Interested? Please telephone Anne MacKenzie on (01397) 704244. We also have the following Vacancy: **Gardener/Handyperson**. For further details please contact Aileen Haggart on (01397) 704244 or call into our store at Belford Road, Fort William for an application form.

**INTEGRIN**  
Advanced Biosystems

The Marine Resource Centre  
Barcaldine, by Oban, PA37 1SE  
☎(01631) 720765

ONE POSITION AVAILABLE  
**PROJECT ADMINISTRATOR**  
(PRA 02)

For further information please go to our website:  
**www.integrin.co.uk**

Applications in writing, enclosing a full CV, can be made to Vittoria Barbara  
**vitt@integrin.co.uk**

**North Argyll House**  
**Bealach an Rìgh, Oban**  
☎(01631) 562168  
**Care Home for the Elderly**  
has new post (permanent position)  
**PART-TIME CARE ASSISTANT**  
Day/night rotation  
**£5.85 per hour to £6.21 per hour**  
plus Staff Pension Scheme  
For application forms please contact the manager  
**Morag A. Telfer**

**Melfort Riding & Livery Centre**  
Small yard specialising in dressage is looking for a **STABLE HAND** experienced in providing basic day-to-day stable management duties. You should be self motivated and able to work unsupervised. Monday to Friday, 15 hours per week. For more details, please call Caroline Champion, Proprietor Telephone 01852 200311 or 07768 962432

**Highland Cruises Management Ltd**  
seek  
**Able Seamen**

for service on vessels owned or operated by Hebridean Island Cruises Ltd.

Positions are initially for the 2006 cruising season, onboard MV Hebridean Princess, from February until mid-November 2006, working seven days a week based on a 'four week on, two week off' rota. We offer an excellent salary package, all meals and accommodation whilst on board, together with travel costs, and pay for leave periods.

The positions entail normal duties for certificated Able Seamen, including handling and maintaining small boats for landing passengers. A full Able Seaman's certificate is the minimum requirement for these positions.

Please forward your current CV in the first instance to:  
**Human Resources, Highland Cruises Management Ltd, C/O Kintail House, Carleton New Road, Skipton, North Yorkshire, BD23 2DE**  
Applications close: **Fri 27th January 2006**

**HELPFUL, FRIENDLY AND PRACTICAL?**

**SEASONAL WATERWAY OPERATIVES**  
**£230 per week minimum • Up to 20 weeks, May - September**  
**37 hours per week with overtime as required, variable hours**

This year's sailing season will be busier than ever, so we're planning ahead and starting our search for seasonal people to work along the Crinan Canal, one of Scotland's most beautiful tourist attractions.

Customer service is key so we're looking for cheerful, outgoing people who enjoy meeting and helping the public. As well as seeing craft through the locks, you will have responsibility for the maintenance of an area around your lock which will include painting and grass cutting. You will also advise visiting tourists and sailors about the locality.

We'll give you all the training you need to operate a lock or bridge safely and efficiently. Some DIY skills would be an advantage, as would knowledge of sailing. You must demonstrate initiative as well as the ability to work as part of a small, friendly team. You will be working on a variable rota between 8.30am to 8pm, 5 days out of 7 which includes weekends and public holidays. Your own transport is essential.

If you would like a temporary job with a difference, please contact Liz Campbell on 01546 603210 for an application form, or alternatively write to Liz Campbell, Crinan Canal, British Waterways, Pier Square, Ardrishaig PA30 8DZ or email your CV, quoting 'Crinan' to elizabeth.campbell@britishwaterways.co.uk  
Closing date: 10th February 2006.

British Waterways wants to reflect the diversity of the communities in which it operates. We welcome applications from all sections of the population.  
**www.britishwaterways.co.uk/scotland**



**Become a local hero.**

**Casual delivery postperson**  
**Iona Delivery Office**

As one of our post men or women, every time you deliver a letter you could be keeping friends in touch, helping a business run smoothly, or providing people with vital information.

**Your role**  
Working from our Iona Delivery Office, you'll sort mail and then travel by bicycle to your first delivery point and deliver your mail. Your mail is carried in mail pouches and you may deliver a number of pouches on your allocated route. All your mail needs to be delivered within a set time, whatever the weather. A full induction and all-weather uniform is provided. You'll be working 19 hours a week, 5 days a week, Monday to Saturday.

**Your talents**  
Aged 18 or over, you'll be fit and enthusiastic, and equally happy working with other people or on your own. You'll be delivering a vital service to our customers, so it's essential that you are punctual and reliable, and have a friendly and professional outlook at all times. Early starts won't be a problem for you, and you'll be able to ride a bike and carry up to 16kg.

**Your reward**  
We offer £257 to £311 per week pro rata.

**Your new future**  
The closing date is: 26th January 2006.

If you are interested in this role, you should apply online at **www.royalmail.com/jobs** or telephone 0870 609 0378 between 8.00am and 5.30pm, Monday to Friday, quoting reference number LNJ8171. Please have your National Insurance number available when you call. If you are selected for assessment you will be required to pass a short test and interview. References will be required.

If you don't hear back from us within 6 weeks of applying, please assume your application has been unsuccessful on this occasion. Due to high levels of response, we are not able to reply to everyone individually, and the application deadline may close earlier than advertised.

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& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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# RECRUITMENT

**Scottish Ambulance Service**  
SOUTH WEST DIVISION (ARGYLL & CLYDE SUB-DIVISION)  
**Relief Ambulance Paramedic/Technician**  
Islay Ambulance Station

In order to ensure our continued progression towards objectives aligned to the introduction of 'Priority Based Dispatch' and the underpinning ministerial directive of a Paramedic on each frontline Ambulance, we would particularly like to invite applications from the following groups: Paramedics who wish to transfer from other station locations, Technicians who have passed the Paramedic Pre-entry Examination, Technicians who have expressed an interest in seeking Paramedic qualification, Ambulance Care Assistants who have a desire to achieve Paramedic status, those wishing to transfer to a Technician role, with the view of progressing on to Paramedic status at the earliest opportunity.

Please note that this is a Station operating an On-Call working system, you must reside within 3 miles of the Ambulance Station and have secured accommodation prior to the commencement of the post.

Starting salary during 9 weeks' Technician training is £10,808 per annum (salary protection applies to current Ambulance Care Assistants wishing to progress to Ambulance Technician status.) This will rise to £16,502 per annum on completion of training and £22,271 per annum after one year on Accident and Emergency duties. The current Ambulance Paramedic salary is £23,662 per annum. Please note that the terms and conditions of this position are currently under review.

The successful candidate is subject to the receipt of a satisfactory current Enhanced Disclosure, Disqualified from Working with Children List (DWCL) check and a satisfactory OHS report.

You are required to complete a standard Scottish Ambulance Service 'Application for Employment Form', to which you may optionally attach a copy of your CV. Application forms are available from Jacqueline Smith, Divisional Headquarters, Maryfield House, Maryfield Road, Ayr, KA8 9DF. Completed application forms should be addressed to Colin Whiteford, Divisional Training Officer, at the above address. Please note that only candidates shortlisted will be contacted.

**NHS** Closing date 2 February 2006.

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us @ [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk)

**Argyll & Bute COUNCIL**  
We are an Equal Opportunities Employer. A 'no smoking' policy is operated.

**Refuse Collector (2 Posts)**  
£211.57 per week + performance related bonus Lochgilphead  
You will carry out a range of duties linked to Waste Management, which includes the removal and disposal of domestic, industrial and commercial refuse.  
It is desirable that you hold a driving licence and First Aid qualification. You must be capable of working as part of a team and the ability to communicate with members of the public along with manual handling and Health & Safety awareness training would be an advantage. Flexible working is essential. Ref: OSR00415.  
For a recruitment pack call 01546 604873.

**Cleaner Supervisor\***  
£5,718.1 per hour Lochgilphead Resource Centre  
15 hours per week (3.30pm - 6.30pm)  
You will provide a cleaning service using powered cleaning equipment where appropriate. Cleaning experience is essential with preferably supervisory experience. Ref: OSF20396.

**Cleaner\***  
£4,914.4 per hour term time paid over 52 weeks Lochgilphead Primary School  
12.5 hours per week (4pm - 6.30pm Monday - Friday)  
Cleaning experience is desirable. Ref: OSF20411.  
For a recruitment pack for the above two posts call 01369 708536.  
\*Applicants should note that this is an EXCEPTED POST, i.e. a post to which the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exceptions) Order 1975, as amended, applies. Successful applicants will be subject to Disclosure Scotland vetting. Closing date for all posts 3rd February 2006.  
The Council welcomes applications from New Deal Applicants.

**ARGYLL HOMECARE**  
Argyll HomeCare provide a professional, flexible, friendly and reliable service for those requiring care at home.  
The services we provide cover all aspects of personal and domestic care.  
**Campbeltown/Carradale:**  
1 x Carer - Full time  
1 x Carer - Part time  
**Mid Argyll:**  
1 x Carer - Part time

Care experience is desirable but not essential as a comprehensive induction programme will be provided.  
We also provide on-going training including SVQs.  
Full driving license and use of a vehicle is highly desirable  
All staff are subject to enhanced disclosure checks.  
For further information and an application form, please contact either  
Cameron or Tracy McGregor on (01546) 600333  
Closing date for completed applications:  
3rd February 2006

**ADAPTABLE, KIND PERSON TO HELP LADY ARTIST WITH MS.**  
Be able to work on her own, some housework, some cooking and some personal tasks.  
About 3 hours a day  
1-2 days per week.  
please phone  
07795 052 656

**Harvest Limited**  
Long term work available for experienced **Harvester and Forwarder Operators** in thinning and clearfell including work on new 810D. Please contact Kirsty on 07917276033 or Alan on 07767 464514

**MACHRIHANISH GOLF CLUB**  
**PART-TIME CLEANER REQUIRED**  
6 days per week from 7.00 am to 9.00 am  
Please apply in writing by 3rd February 2006 to:  
The Secretary, Machrihanish Golf Club, Machrihanish, Argyll, PA28 6PT

**D.A MacDonald (Contractors) Limited**  
Have the following vacancies:  
**Class 2 Driver** with top experience  
**Plant operator for 360° Excavator**  
Good rate of pay and working conditions  
Please contact Donald or Ian during office hours  
**Tel: 01546 603583**

**Part time Early Morning Cleaner**  
required for local retail outlet in Campbeltown  
2.5hrs per day  
Mon - Sat.  
Contact 0141 956 2400 or 07968 768736 for details.

**G McNaughton & Son**  
Lochgilphead  
**Experienced 360° Excavator Operator** required  
driving licence essential  
**Tel 01546 602389** during office hours or 01546 606538 after hours

**ATAM SERVICES LTD**  
HIRE SALES REPAIRS  
1 Mill Lane, Lochavullin Ind. Estate, Oban PA34 4HA

**Required Storeperson**  
Full time permanent position available. Duties include ordering, checking in deliveries, allocating goods and keeping all records up to date. Previous experience required. Full current driving licence preferred.  
Please write in strictest confidence giving details of previous experience, personal details, interests and hobbies to:-  
Mrs F Cruickshanks  
Atam Services Ltd  
1 Mill Lane  
Lochavullin Industrial Estate  
Oban PA34 4HA

**Mid Highland Community Health Partnership**  
**Glencoe Nurses Base, Lochaber**  
**Health Visitor - Grade G**  
Part-time, 22.5 hours per week  
\*£24,629 - £28,975 pro-rata Ref: ES4/06/01

You will be an RGN/RNH with a degree or diploma and have 2 years' experience as a Health Visitor. You should also have child protection experience and evidence of ongoing professional knowledge and training.  
Excellent communication and language skills, along with experience of group work and facilitating community development, are essential. Some knowledge of midwifery, sexual health and experience of working with young people, is desirable. A full, current UK driving licence and use of a car for work purposes are also essential requirements.  
Informal enquiries to Elaine Lang, Community Clinical Co-ordinator - Tel: 01397 707409.  
Application forms are available from Recruitment and Employment Services Section, Human Resource Department, Raigmore Hospital, Inverness IV2 3JJ - Tel: 01463 704592 or by emailing [recruitment@hpc.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:recruitment@hpc.scot.nhs.uk) quoting the above reference number.  
Closing date for completed applications: 12 noon Thursday 2 February 2006.  
\*Subject to "Agenda for Change" review.

Working with you to make Highland the healthy place to be. [www.show.scot.nhs.uk/nhshighland](http://www.show.scot.nhs.uk/nhshighland)  
[www.returnstoscotland.com](http://www.returnstoscotland.com)

**M & S Dental Care**  
require a **PART-TIME RECEPTIONIST**  
The successful candidate should be computer literate and be able to work effectively in a busy practice. Duties will include - dealing with patients at the front desk, using a computerised appointment system, financial transactions and general administration duties.  
Please send your C.V. to  
**Ms Jillian Bruce, Practice Manager**  
**M & S Dental Care Centre**  
50 High Street, Fort William  
PH33 6AH

**Oban Times RECRUITMENT**  
**SAY you SAW it in**  
The Oban Times  
Tel: 01631 568000  
[www.obantimes.co.uk](http://www.obantimes.co.uk)

**St Columba Hotel, Isle of Iona**  
Are you enthusiastic about working in our large garden based on organic principles?  
Have you got some gardening experience?  
We have a full time position as a **SECOND GARDENER** free, from April to end October.  
Please call 01681 700 304 or write to [info@stcolumba-hotel.co.uk](mailto:info@stcolumba-hotel.co.uk)

**Commercials**  
**HGV MECHANIC**  
required for commercial workshop  
Ability to work on own initiative  
Excellent rate of pay  
Apply to Andrew Cooper at:  
All Commercials, 7E Glengallan Road, Oban, PA34 4HG,  
Telephone 01631 565569

**SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE**  
**Caledonian MacBrayne Limited (CalMac)**  
**Appointment of Chair**  
Remuneration - Current annual remuneration is £25,937. Travel and subsistence costs associated with the work of the Board and reasonable dependent carer allowance will be reimbursed.  
This appointment is non-pensionable.  
Time Commitment - The appointment is part-time and the Chair is expected to give a minimum time commitment of 1½ days per week.  
Location of meetings - Board meetings are held within the company's HQ in Gourock and throughout the company's area of operations in the Clyde and Hebridean Islands.  
Scottish Ministers wish to appoint a Chair to the Board of Caledonian MacBrayne (CalMac). The appointment will be for a minimum single 3-year term and will commence from July 2006 with the possibility of reappointment for a second term subject to satisfactory performance assessment. The Board currently consists of a Chair, 6 other appointed non executive director posts and 4 executive directors and meets around 6-7 times a year.  
CalMac provides subsidised lifeline ferry services on the Clyde and to the Hebridean Islands and these services will shortly be tendered to bring the subsidy arrangements into line with European law. In preparation for this, CalMac is being restructured into an operations company and a vessel owning company. The post now being advertised is the Chair of the operations company.  
As Chair, you will be expected to lead and direct the CalMac Board at a strategic level and to provide independent and impartial advice as necessary. You will be expected to liaise closely with the Scottish Executive on the role and work of the company and to undertake annual performance appraisals of other non executive directors and provide feedback on their performance.  
The successful candidate will have:  
• A proven track record in the business or public sector fields at Board level as an executive or non executive member.  
• The ability to think strategically and to analyse complex business planning issues within a regulated environment.  
• Strong leadership skills linked to the ability to harness the competencies of the other Board Members and to motivate and direct them as necessary.  
• The ability to work effectively both independently and as a member of a team.  
• High quality interpersonal and management skills.  
• The confidence and ability to support executive management while retaining the right to challenge decisions as appropriate.  
• An understanding of the key issues affecting the company within the Clyde and Hebridean Islands area and knowledge of EU Cabotage regulations.  
• Knowledge of regulation and a good understanding of corporate governance issues.  
• A proven record gained in one of the following fields: transport, commerce, finance or the public sector.  
The Scottish Executive is committed to appointing a diverse range of public appointees reflecting the best of contemporary Scotland and to the principle of public appointments on merit with independent assessment and transparency of process. We guarantee an interview to anyone with a disability/health problem that affects the work they can do and whose application meets all the essential criteria for the post.  
For more information about Public Appointments and other vacancies visit the Scottish Executive's website at [www.scotland.gov.uk/government/publicjobs](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/government/publicjobs)  
For an information pack please contact Katy Gall at our retained recruitment advisers, Munro Consulting Limited, 53 Bothwell Street, Glasgow G2 6TS.  
Email: [katy.gall@munroconsulting.com](mailto:katy.gall@munroconsulting.com) Tel: 0141 227 7550 Fax: 0141 204 1411.  
Closing date for applications is 3 March 2006.

**Abbeyfield**  
Where older people find care in housing  
Abbeyfield Ballachulish Require the following Staff:  
**Cook** Full Time - Salary £14,500  
**Relief Cook** To cover day's off, holidays and sickness - £6.00 per hour.  
Based in Abbeyfield House Ballachulish, you will provide quality services to older people. Responsible for the daily running of the kitchen, you will be required to maintain a safe working environment within health and safety guidelines. You should be flexible, motivated with an ability to work well within our team. You must be committed to training and maintaining confidentiality.  
**Kitchen Assistants** x 2 posts - £5.05 per hour 10am - 6.30pm 4 days on/4 days off.  
Based in Abbeyfield House Ballachulish, you will provide a quality service to older people. Responsible for keeping the kitchen clean, preparation of vegetables, light cooking, setting up of the dining room. You will be required to follow kitchen policy and Health and Safety Standards.  
Informal Enquiries to  
Mary MacDonald Unit Manager,  
Tel (01855)812950

**TACT**  
Thames and Chikera Trust INVESTOR IN PEOPLE  
TACT is a national voluntary organisation promoting social inclusion for people with support needs. As part of our continuing development in Argyll and Bute we require to recruit to the following posts:  
**Support Workers**  
Full Time (37.5 hours per week) Part Time/Bank (hrs negotiable) Starting Salary £12,750  
The successful applicants will assist service-users, participate in activities and assist in them becoming included members of their local communities. We are looking to recruit staff who:  
• Are reliable, resilient and flexible  
• Have skills or are willing to develop skills in supporting individuals.  
• Have skills and interests they can share or are willing to learn new skills to share with the people they work alongside.  
• Having an understanding or an interest in learning about the issues of "inclusion" and "disability".  
TACT offer excellent training and development opportunities and guaranteed responsive skilled professional support to all employees.  
For further information and an application pack please contact: Area Manager, Argyll and Bute, TACT office, Dunollie Halls, Dunollie Road, Oban, PA34 5PH.  
Tel - 01631 571311 (office hours)  
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Happy 60<sup>th</sup> to Catherine Campbell with love from all the family. x x x"

**John & Ann MacLean**  
Wish to thank their family for a lovely evening meal also friends for cards and gifts sent on the occasion of their Ruby Wedding Thank you all. Morleen, Kilniver

**THANK YOU**  
Morag and Jimmy Smith would like to thank their family, friends and neighbours, for the beautiful cards, gifts and flowers, which they received on the occasion of their Golden Wedding. Special thanks to those who arranged the lovely evening at Inverloch Castle Hotel, 25 Drumfada Terrace, Corpach.

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**HAPPY 60<sup>th</sup> STEVIE**

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10. Advertisers under the value of £75 must be paid on acceptance of order by the Publisher. All advertising on a credit basis must be agreed with the Publisher in advance.
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# BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS

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**BIRTHS**

**BOYD** – Peter and Kirsten (née McCartney) are delighted to announce the safe arrival of their son Peter Anderson on Wednesday January 11, 2006 at the Royal Alexandra Hospital, Paisley. A little brother for John, Ross, Chloe and Jennifer. Sincere thanks to all in attendance.

**MACCALUM** – Tha Alasdair agus Jenny (née Hill), Glaschu, fur thoilichte breith an nigeann, Ciorstaidh Mairead, air 13 Faoilleach, ainmeachadh. Taing do luchd-obrach Ospadal Coitcheann a Chinn a Deas.



**MACMILLAN**

Adele Claire MacMillan is delighted to announce the birth of her little sister, Casey Taylor MacMillan, on January 3, 2006. Mum and Dad, Susan and David are both very happy, too.

**ENGAGEMENTS**



**BOURNE-NEWLANDS**

Amazed and delighted to announce the engagement of Lucy, daughter of Liza and of Richard Bourne, of Oban, to Ralph, son of Robbie and Hazel Newlands, of Forres.

**BUCHAN-LYONS**

Both families are delighted to announce the engagement of Sandra to Andrew on January 1, 2006.

**MACDONALD-MATHESON**

Both families are delighted to announce the engagement on January 2, 2006, of Catherine, second daughter of Robert and Heather, Uiginish Farm, Dunvegan, to Iain, eldest son of Campbell and Pat, Watermish, Skye.

**DEATHS**

**CAMERON** – Peacefully, at Highland Hospice, Inverness, on January 4, 2006, Catherine (Katie Ann), beloved wife of Dougie and mother of Christeen, Angus, Donald and Cathleen, and much loved granny.

**CARMICHAEL** – Peacefully, at Lynn of Lorne Care Home, Benderloch, on January 13, 2006, The Reverend Robert Craig Miller, aged 82 years. Funeral took place on Wednesday, January 18, 2006, at Craignish Church.

**CULL** – Peacefully after a short illness on Tuesday January 10, 2006, at Stirling Royal Infirmary, Helen Cull of Glen Falloch Road, Crianlarich. Beloved wife of George, Alan, Angela, Barbara and Sonia, and a loving granny to the family.

**CULLEY** – John Anthony who passed away peacefully on Sunday, January 15, 2006, at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary. Devoted husband to Anne, beloved father to Maureen and loving brother to Sandy. Fortified by rights of the Holy Catholic Church RIP. Reception into St Mary's RC Church, Fort William on Thursday, January 19, at 6pm. Requiem Mass at 10.15am on Friday, January 20. Family flowers only, donations if desired to the British Heart Foundation.

**HORNE** – Peacefully at the Belford Hospital on Thursday, January 12, 2006, George, beloved husband of Mary and dear father of Rosie, Angus and David. Also a much loved grandfather, great grandfather, father-in-law, brother, uncle and friend. Funeral took place on Wednesday, January 18, 2006, in Church of Scotland, Caol. He will be sadly missed by all.

**MACDONALD** – Peacefully after an illness bravely fought at Lorn & Islands District General Hospital, Oban, on January 12, 2006, in her 79th year, Jean (née Anderson) beloved wife of the late Hamish MacDonald, dear mother and mother-in-law of Kathleen, John and Caroline, a much loved granny and great granny and friend to many. Forever remembered. R.I.P.

**MACKINTOSH** – Peacefully, at the Belford Hospital, Fort William on Thursday, January 12, 2006, Sandy Mackintosh, aged 73, beloved husband of Christine, a dearly loved dad, grandad and much loved father-in-law. The funeral took place on January 18, at Kilmallie Church, Corpach.

**MACQUARRIE** – Suddenly, but very peacefully, at her home in Torosay Court, Oban, on Tuesday, January 10, 2006, Morag MacQuarrie, in her 94th year, dear wife of the late Archibald MacQuarrie, Cullipoole, Isle of Luing. Last surviving member of the family of Mr and Mrs John Campbell, 37 Cullipoole, Luing, much loved and fondly remembered aunt and grand-aunt of all her nieces and nephews. Funeral which was private at her own request took place on Luing on Monday, January 16, 2006.

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

**BOYD** – Iain, Morven and family of the late Cathie wish to thank relatives, friends and neighbours for their kindness and support shown to them following the sad loss of mum. Thank you for all the lovely cards and flowers, and to the Ossian for the care and love they gave to mum. Also to Dr Bennett, Dr Lyon and Dr Cameron for the care over the years. To Rev. James Beaton and Rev. George Cringles for the comforting service and visits, to I. MacInnes of D. & A. Mum for the funeral arrangements and to the Kings Knoll for the catering. Thanks to all who attended the funeral and donated the sum of £459.58 to Epilepsy Scotland and the Ossian.

**JACKSON** – John and Iain would like to thank everybody most sincerely for the tremendous love, support and kindness they received from all their family, friends, neighbours and colleagues following the recent very sad and sudden death of their dear wife, and mother, Liz. Many thanks also for all the beautiful and comforting cards, flowers, letters, phone calls and kind words received. Special thanks to Dr Buchanan and the ambulance staff – Dave, Claire and the two Andys, who fought valiantly for Liz on the journey to the Belford Hospital, Fort William. To all the attending hospital staff, especially Dr Tregaskis and Nurse Julie in the Medical Department, to Mike McFall and his staff for their very efficient funeral arrangements, to Rev. James Carmichael for his support and very comforting service, to all who came to pay their last respects at the Church and graveside, to Chris who played *Sunset over Sunart* beautifully on the pipes and to the Ben View Hotel, Strontian, for their excellent catering.

**MACQUARRIE** – The nieces and nephews of the late Morag MacQuarrie, Torosay Court, Oban, and of Cullipoole, Luing, wish to thank Mr Ian MacInnes of D. & A Munn and Rev Alistair MacLachlan, for their great

kindness and valuable help given in their sudden and sad loss. Special thanks to Mrs Wilma Paterson, dear and caring friend to Morag, who visited her regularly and helped her in so many kindly ways. Thanks also to Mrs Helen MacLean and her staff at Torosay Court, for their care and kindness, also to all her carers during the 2½ years she resided there. Remembering also, the Cuan ferrymen and staff at Tigh-an-Truish for all their help.

**WATSON** – All the family would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for their kind expressions of sympathy, by visits, letters, cards, telephone calls and beautiful floral tributes, following the sad loss of Kenny, (loving son, brother and dad). Also thanks to Rev Ramsay for his comforting service and Michael McFall for efficient handling of the arrangements. Also to all who travelled far and locally to pay their last respects to Kenny.

**IN MEMORIAM**

**BARRIE** – Dorothy (née MacBeth) In ever loving memory of our beloved mother who passed away January 19, 1961. R.I.P. Deep in our hearts Her memories are kept To cherish and never forget. – Wendy, Matthew and Clelland.

**BRIGHTMORE** – In loving memory of Mary, who died January 21, 2000. Forever in our hearts Always in our thoughts. – From Eric, Catherine, John, Clair and John.

**CAMERON** – In loving memory of my dear husband and our father, James, (Jimmy), who died January 21, 1999. This month comes with sad regret It begins a day we will never forget You fell asleep without goodbye But memories of you will never die. – Mary, Gordon and Hazel.

**CAMERON** – Remembering our dearly loved son and big brother John "J.C." taken from us on January 20, 2001, aged 20 years. Simply the best. – Mum, Dad, Mark, Lynn and Ruth xxx.

**CAMPBELL** – Loving memories of our dear mother and granny Marion who died January 17, 1997. The day is remembered and quietly kept No words are needed we shall never forget. – Lorne and Kathie and Alisdair and Christine. Loved always. – Kirsteen and Harry.

**CRAWFORD** – Treasured memories of my wife, Jessie, a loving mum and gran, died January 20, 1995. Always in our thoughts. – Eddie and family.

**FORGRIEVE** – In loving memory of our dear father, William, who died January 20, 1996. Also of our dear mother Janet Kerr Campbell who died August 13, 2004. In God we trust. – Inserted by Duncan, Colin, Basil and Ian.

**GALBRAITH** – In loving memory of, George, of Langamull and of Drumfingal a dear husband and father who died on January 20, 1995. We treasure many happy memories. – Brenda and family.

**HART** – Always remembered my dear wife Chrissie who passed away on January 21, 2004. Forever in our thoughts. Jock and family

**KENNEDY** – Cherished and loving memories of my dad, granpa and great granpa, Sandy Kennedy, who departed from this life on January 21, 1990. Your love is always with us Your place no one can fill In life we loved you dearly In death we love you still. They are not engraved in rarest gold Or hung for all to view They are engraved within our hearts Our memories of you. Forever loved and sadly missed. – Emily, Ken, Kathleen, Roddy, Ian, Louise, Bruce and Mairi.

**KENNEDY** – Alexander Kennedy who died January 21, 1990. No morning dawns No night returns Without a thought of you From all your beloved family. – Love and miss you, Ann.

**KIRKPATRICK** – In loving memory of a dear wife and loving mother, Rachel McInnes, who died on January 21, 1974. Also our two sons, Billy died September 11, 1990 and John, died on July 1, 1996. Treasured memories. – J. Kirkpatrick and family.

**MACDOUGALL** – Precious memories of my darling son and brother, David, died tragically in a road accident on January 24, 1996, aged 31 years. Also my darling husband Duncan, father, father-in-law and papa, who died on August 26, 1996. Behind a smile there's many a tear For ones we lost and loved so dear To a beautiful life came a sudden end He died as he lived everyone's friend. – Inserted by Mum, Ann and Charlie.

We love you Uncle David and Papa and always will. – Darren, Liam, Siobhon and Aidan.

**MACDOUGALL** – In memory of our friend, Davie MacDougall, taken from us on January 24, 1996. Missed but not forgotten. – John, Gary.

**MACKINNON** – In loving memory of a dear father and grandfather Hugh, (Handy) who passed away January 19, 2004, also remembering others gone before and after. A silent prayer keeps us in touch With ones we love and miss so much Inserted by Margaret, Campbell, Fiona and Grant.

**MACLEAN** – Treasured memories of Joanna (née MacSween) our much loved mother, gran and great granny died January 19, 1999, also remembered our loving father Duncan and loved ones gone before. You taught us many things in life Mum Like what to do and say But you never taught us how to cope With the pain of losing you. – Inserted by their loving daughters Margaret, Christine, Norma and families, Glasgow and America.

**MACRAE** – Treasured memories of Len who suddenly passed away on January 18, 2003. Three long years have passed Love and memories will always last. – Love Kate and families.

**McDONALD** – In loving memory of a dear mother, Mary, died January 19, 2002. A special mother in everyday Loved and remembered everyday – Mum, Dad, Mark, Lynn and Ruth xxx.

**McDONALD** – In loving memory of a dear sister, Mary, died January 19, 2002. Sadly missed along life's way Quietly remembered everyday. – Janet, Dalmuir.

**PEARSON** – Cherished memories of our loving son Jamie, aged 27, taken from us on January 24, 1996 as the result of a tragic accident. January comes with sad regret A day in our lives we will never forget They said there was a reason They said that time would heal But neither time nor reason Has changed the way we feel Loved and remembered always – Mum and Dad XXX

Jamie, a much loved brother, brother-in-law and uncle. In our thoughts every day. – Audrey and Gregor. Uncle Jamie, although it has been ten years now since you left us, we still remember you. The way you were and love you so much and miss you lots. Gemma and Ashleigh XX XX

**POTTER** – Fifth Anniversary of our dearest daughter and sister, Jennifer Jane, tragically killed on January 20, 2001. – Mum, Dad, Carol, Mark, Cooogie, Carla, Tommy, Chrys, Cavan, Coner. XXX

**POTTER** – In loving memory of my dear granddaughter, Jennifer Jane, who died tragically on January 20, 2001. Sadly missed. – By Nana, Taynuilt.

**POTTER** – Special memories of Jennifer who died tragically on January 20, 2001. – Stephen, Kirsty, Findlay and Susannah.

**POTTER** – Remembering Jennifer on Fifth Anniversary of her tragic death. A laughing, happy natured girl, so cruelly taken. – Auntie Irene and all her cousins in Glasgow.

**SHAW** – In loving memory of Angus who died January 17, 2005. Always in our thoughts. – Etta, Gordon, Elizabeth and Niven.

**TURNBULL** – Treasured memories of my darling husband, Ian (Dell), our dearest dad and grandpa, died January 20, 2003. Loved and remembered always. – Mary and family.

**YOUNG** – In loving memory of Flora (Ina) née MacLean, dear wife, mother and grandmother who died January 9, 2005. Treasured memories.

**ECCLIASTICAL NOTICES**

**SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH ANGLICAN COMMUNION**  
 Sunday 22 January 2006  
 Epiphany 3  
 St John's Cathedral, Oban  
 Holy Communion ..... 0800  
 Sung Eucharist ..... 1015  
 Sunday School and Creche  
 Loop System  
 Large Print Hymn Books  
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 Norman MacCallum, Provost  
 ☎(01631) 562323

**Christ Church, Lochgilphead**  
 Loop System  
 Holy Eucharist ..... 0900  
 Mattins and  
 Holy Eucharist ..... 1100  
 St Columba, Gruline, Mull  
 Holy Eucharist ..... 1100  
 St Columba, Bishop's House, Iona  
 Holy Eucharist ..... 1000

**ASSOCIATED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, OBAN**  
 Campbell Street Church  
 Sunday 22 January 2006  
 11 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.  
 Phone-In 'Worship Link' available  
 Wednesday 25 January 2006  
 7.30 p.m.  
 Prayer and Bible Ministry  
 Rev. Archie McPhail  
 MA, MTh  
 ☎(01631) 567076  
 All welcome

**DESTINY CHURCH OBAN**  
 Sunday 22 January  
 NEW VENUE  
 Drummore School  
 Lower Soroba  
 Oban  
 11 a.m.  
 Telephone:  
**01631 564283**  
 www.destiny-church.com

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## Church NEWS

### Muckairn Guild meeting

MUCKAIRN Guild met in the Church on Monday afternoon, January 9, beginning with the Hymn: *Forth in thy Name, Oh Lord, I Go*. There followed a meditation, Women at the Riverside, about some women who took great risks and showed determination and courage in their commitment to making sure that a child lived.

Those who took part were Marlene Stanners, as The Levite Mother of Moses; Margaret Millar, Moses' sister; Eilidh Longbottom, Pharaoh's Daughter; and Evelyn Campbell, as Slave Girl. The hymn, *Take My Life, Lord, Let it Be Consecrated, Glad and Free* was read by all as a prayer and then the hymn, *Oh Jesus I have Promised to Serve Thee to the End*, was sung.

Stella Huntingford led the worship and Evelyn Campbell played the organ. The next meeting is to be an open free afternoon tea in the Village Hall on February 9, to raise Guild awareness.

## Lotus Child work carries on in India

WORK begun by a woman living in Argyll to help poor and disadvantaged children in India is now being carried on by her son.

Liz Nunn received an MBE in 1999 for the work she did to help children. Liz, who lived at Dervaig on Mull for 10 years before moving to Lochgilphead started her work late in life. It was at the age of 62 that she began her travels to India, and discovered first-hand the extreme destitution in which some children live.

She opened a charity in 1983 and spent the next 18 years travelling back and forward to her beloved India, always ensuring that never a penny raised was used for her travels, but that all cash raised was and still is, sent directly to the two charities she continues to support.

During her 12 years in Argyll Liz received in valuable help from schools churches and across the community. In 2002, mainly for health reasons she moved to living in Nottingham with her daughter. Now aged 85, disabled and

partially-sighted Liz is still mentally active but unable to write, use a computer and is very restricted in her travel.

Her son Denis recently under took a trip to India on her behalf and while he feels he will never be able to match his mother's enthusiasm and effort he intends to try and carry on her work.

He will be working very much in conjunction with his mother. The Lotus Child Fund that Liz began supports to main causes, RTU, Reaching the Unreached, in children's villages in Tamil Nadu and Don Bosco Children's Houses in Cochin, Kerala.

You can see the work of these two charities on the internet at their web pages: www.rtu.org.uk

www.dioceseofcochin.org/men%20religious/salesians\_of\_don\_bosco.htm

Liz and Denis can also be contacted by E-mail at: lotuschildfund@yahoo.co.uk

## Tobermory High School thinks global and acts local

TOBERMORY High School has proved that 'prejudice rarely survives experience'.

On Friday, December 2, staff and pupils at Tobermory High School discovered together how important and enjoyable it can be for those of us living in modern day Scotland to learn to care for and respect one another – whatever our culture, race or lifestyle.

Welcomed 'Normal' teaching was suspended, as the school held its second Equal Futures Conference and welcomed people from across the nation, who travelled to Mull to hold specially designed workshops throughout the day.

The aims of the conference were that pupils and staff, learning together, will celebrate living in a multicultural Scotland, learning more about the range of cultures in Scotland, learning to respect and enjoy diversity; raise awareness of the experience of prejudice and discrimination and add to the school's range of strategies for challenging discrimination and prejudice.

**Fantastic** Echoing the general feeling, Joanne Kaar, a visiting workshop leader noticed that, 'There was a fantastic atmosphere in the whole school!'

Others, too, including pupils visiting from Drummond High School in Edinburgh 'felt very



Chief Suleman Chebe and pupils of Tobermory High School enjoying making music together

welcome' and were 'glad to be part of the experience'.

Pupils and students alike chose three courses in which to take part. The choice included drama on child labour; a dance workshop on the fact that the materials for a pair of jeans travel one and a half times around the world before they reach our shops; workshops on asylum seekers; a lesson in Taiwan Art; learning from Gypsy travellers about their experiences; African drumming; anti-racist songwriting.

There were even visitors from the Royal Navy and RAF and a session on learning the history of the Scots language. Quite a selection, and one which clearly stimulated hearts and brains alike.

**Interesting** A sixth year student thought that 'every workshop was great, full of interesting and thought-provoking information'.

A pupil from S2 learned a lot about Gypsy travellers: 'I learned that they can live in a house, but are still Gypsy travellers... just like Chinese people don't stop being Chinese.'

Another second year pupil found out some interesting things about his own heritage: 'I learned that lots of Scots words come from different groups of people.'

In general, the openness of the students at Tobermory to learning impressed the visiting workshop leaders. Petty Officer Andy Holliday, of the Royal Navy, said: 'The children from all age groups were great; well behaved and very curious about the MoD and armed forces.'

**Seekers** One workshop which seemed to especially affect the pupils was led by Lindsay Hill of the BBC, about young asylum seekers from Glasgow. One pupil, when asked for her comments, said: 'I learned about the life of an asylum seeker. I want to tell everyone how amazing and strong the girls were.'

And a P7 pupil commented that his workshop 'really made me think about how hard it must be for asylum seekers to get to a safe country'.

The day also sparked a sense of responsibility towards our peers in other countries, as with a pupil from S1: 'In drama, I learned the horrible things that child labour includes and what we can do to prevent it.' There was much fun had by all, proving that learning never needs to be dull. One P7 pupil said they enjoyed 'The African Drumming, because the man was very friendly, it was really fun, we got to make up our own tune on the drums.' All in all, she thought the day was 'really, really good'.

And so did the adults: Shelagh Carson of Glasgow City Council said: 'It's been a wonderful experience and lovely to work with such lovely children and staff.'

The conference certainly seems to have achieved its stated aims – as an additional benefit – brought pupils and staff at Tobermory High closer together in the learning experience.

One staff member's comments were typical: 'Pupils, staff and visitors are mixing and learning together. Sitting round a table with different people of all ages is so good.'

By hosting this conference, Tobermory High School is hoping to demonstrate that, where knowledge improves, prejudice can't survive long.

**Invaluable** A lesson that many pupils (and staff) will find invaluable long after they leave school, in a world where many are held hostage to unfounded fears and irrational suspicions about those who seem 'different'.

Lindsay Hill, of BBC Scotland, hoped that this approach would be imitated by others. 'I really wish more schools were as forward thinking and globally aware as this one!'

The children of Tobermory will be better educated citizens and contributors as a result. However, the last word should go to an S1 pupil, speaking from experience: 'I learned that gypsies are just the same people as us with different beliefs.'

SPORTS DESK ☎ 01631 568000 Fax 01631 568001 e-mail sport@obantimes.co.uk website www.obantimes.co.uk

## Fort William claim first point of season



Fort William midfielder Stuart Pearce clears his lines during the 2-2 Highland League draw with Lossiemouth at Claggan Park on Saturday.

THEY waited a long time, but Fort William finally got off the mark at the weekend with a well earned point at home to Lossiemouth in the Highland League.

After 18 disappointing league fixtures Fort finally silenced their critics and breathed renewed hope into their league campaign.

And confidence is rising at Claggan Park as manager Rab Mulheron was slightly annoyed not to have won the game.

He said: 'I'm a little bit disappointed that we didn't get all three points because I think our performance merited it.'

### Command

'We scored a good early goal and then seemed to suffer a little bit of stage fright, and let them gain command of the game.'

'We had a few choice words at half time, and they went out there and fought tremendously well like a Fort team should.'

Fort William stunned the visitors when they managed to get their noses in front in the 14th minute.

Ryan Haggerty escaped the attentions of his marker,

### Football

Highland League  
 Fort William 2  
 Lossiemouth 2

and raced down the left flank, he then cut the ball back for Norman Maclean to dispatch the ball past the Lossie goalkeeper from close range.

This seemed to sting the Lossie team, and they hit back in dramatic fashion with a quick fire double.

On the 23rd minute Lee Moir's free kick from long range found Martin McMullen, who slid in to divert the ball past Mark McRitchie, and into the Fort net.

Lossie didn't rest on their equaliser and took the lead only three minutes later, with McMullen doubling his goal tally for the afternoon with a tremendous lob over McRitchie from 18 yards.

### Battled

The two teams battled away at each other for the remainder of the half, but neither could add to the scoring and Lossie went in at the half a goal to the

good. It was a rejuvenated Fort side that came out for the second period, and they began playing there way back into the game.

With only 15 minutes remaining Scott Graham scored what could be the most important goal in Fort's season.

### Engineer

Haggerty was the engineer once again swinging over a great cross for Graham, who stole in at the back post to tie the game to the delight of the small band of home fans.

Lossie had the opportunities to deny Fort a point with some guilt edged chances toward the tail end of the game.

Doug Coull was the first as he raced clear of the Fort defence, only to find ex Lossiemouth keeper McRitchie in his sights, to block low down and deny the striker.

Fort failed to learn their lesson and it was Craig

Morrison who this time found himself clear of the Fort defence, this time McRitchie was rounded but Paul MacDonald was the hero as he cleared the ball from what looked a certain goal.

With just seconds left Fort had a fantastic chance to snatch all three points when Jonathan Hewitt's shot was well saved by the Lossie goalkeeper, denying Fort what would have been a superb win.

Mulheron praised his teams attitude and their second half performance.

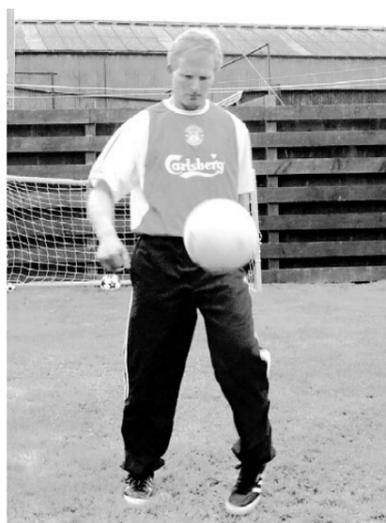
He said: 'Most teams would be happy with their first point of the season but their not, and that speaks volumes of the players attitude.'

### Tougher

'We travel to play the league champions Huntly next week, and it doesn't really come much tougher than that.'

'I would have liked a home game but it's not to be, and if I were Huntly I would be slightly concerned because if we play at our best we could cause a major shock there.'

## Ross County FC to set up Skye coaching course



Archie Millar practises his skills ahead of his trip to Easter Road. 072mi101

### Millars to take to their field of dreams

#### Football

THREE members of a Kintyre family are set to fulfil their dream of playing at Hibernian FC's Easter Road Stadium.

Brothers Archie and Alan Millar, along with their nephew Kenny, will be raising money for the Football Aid charity when they take to the hallowed turf in May this year.

Football Aid raises money for charity by allowing supporters of football clubs around the UK to 'live the dream' and follow in the footsteps of their heroes.

The money raised is distributed to charities at all levels, including Field of Dreams, a charity whose dream is to support research for a cure and improved management of type one (juvenile) diabetes.

As well as Archie, Alan and Kenny's lifelong support of Hibs, it was the opportunity to help raise money for diabetes research which convinced them to take part in the event. Archie's wife Tracy is diabetic and is the chairwoman of the south Kintyre branch of Diabetes UK.

Archie, of Ballyreggan Farm, Campbeltown, said that taking part in an event like this was something he had been considering for a while but had only been able to find out about recently from his brother Tommy, Kenny's dad.

The trio will enjoy the full big match experience, from getting changed in the Easter Road dressing rooms, pulling on the Hibs shirt and walking down the tunnel.

They will take part in a game between two sets of Hibs supporters, each of which will feature a famous name from the club's past.

The teams will also be managed by former players, whose names have still to be announced.

All participants are allowed to keep their shirts, which will carry their names on the back, and will receive a DVD of the day's action. Though a date for the game has still to be confirmed, dependent on Hibs' fixture list, Archie's fund-raising efforts are well underway and members of the public who want to make a donation can do so at the InterSport shop in Main Street, Campbeltown.

### Pupils match abandoned after disturbance

#### Football

CAMPBELTOWN Pupils' Scottish Amateur Football League Premier Division match against Gourock Athletic on Saturday was abandoned with the Pupils leading 4-3.

An on-field disturbance which occurred as the

FIRST Division football team Ross County are to boost the chances of young Skye footballers making it to the top with the launch of a coaching school in Portree.

The club has previously run coaching sessions during school holidays on Skye, and across the west Highlands, but is now giving its backing to a school for youngsters aged from six to 16 years.

Former Skye Camanachd player Willie Cowie, who is now a sports coach, and Duncan Brown of Portree and Portree Juniors football teams initially approached Ross County to see if they would be interested in the idea. The Dingwall-based

#### Football

club said yes and both parties are now gearing up for the coaching school's launch in the late spring/early summer.

Duncan told *The Oban Times* the school would be held in Portree High School's games hall, which is expected to re-open in April after a fire late last year badly damaged the building.

He said: 'We will provide the hall and the coaches. We needed 12 volunteers but actually have 16 in case anybody has to drop out or can't make it.'

'They will go through to Ross County's football academy and attend two

two-day courses on coaching.'

Coaching equipment and uniforms for the coaches will be provided by the Dingwall club.

Duncan said he appreciated the fact that young footballers from the south end of Skye may struggle to travel up to Portree but said it the school was a success it could be rolled out to cover areas such as Kyleakin and out to Plockton.

Not only will the school provide top football coaching but it will allow Ross County to have a look at any young Skye footballing talent who may have the abil-

ity to play at a higher level.

He said: 'They will get to know the kids and some of them might get invited through to their academy. It is going to raise the standard.'

'If somebody does have the potential then they will have a chance to progress but before there was virtually no chance.'

'A few players from here have played in the Highland League but apart from Grant Davidson there hasn't really been anybody else.'

Former Portree player Davidson was top scorer for Fort William in the Highland League before playing for Ross County under ex-Aberdeen striker Neale Cooper.

## Kennedy shows clean pair of heels in muddy riverbank splodge race



Winners Ken Runggay, Peter Kennedy and Neil Arnott at the finish line.

THE Riverbank Splodge lived up to its name last weekend, after a week of heavy rain made the going officially soft.

The 43 runners battled through mud and high water to complete the testing five mile course, from the Lower Falls to Claggan Park.

On his favourite ground, Peter Kennedy scored maximum points again, with Ken Runggay coming in second. Neil Arnott ran a great second half, taking several places on the river path to finish an excellent third.

Nicola Meekin of Oban AC was first lady, with Sara Byrne just pipping Lyndsey Shaw for second. Linda MacEwan put in another great race, continuing her unbeaten run as first veteran lady.

The next Winter League race is Leanachan on Sunday January 29, at 11am starting at the Nevis Range car park.

#### Athletics

There will also be a juniors race at Leanachan, and those wishing to take part should register with Dawn from 10.30am.

A special thanks went to Robert Cant, Biff Gow, John Dougan and the girls for organising and time keeping at the race.

Results: 1 Peter Kennedy, Lochaber Athletic Club 28:16; 2 Ken Runggay, LAC 30:42; 3 Neil Arnott, LAC 30:50; 4 Sam Wilson, Oban AC 31:46; 5 John Grant, Oban AC 31:57; 6 Niall MacBeath, LAC 32:01; 7 William Boa, 32:55; 8 Graham MacNab, LAC 33:11; 9 Stuart Gray, LAC 33:15; 10 Wei Adams, LAC 33:42; 11 Ronnie Turner, LAC 34:16; 12 Nicola Meekin, Oban AC 34:38; 13 Ken Whyte, LAC 35:07; 14 Peter Duggan, LAC 35:11; 15 Sara Byrne, LAC 35:13; 16 Lyndsey Shaw, LAC 35:29; 17 Roger Boswell 36:00; 18 Jim Stewart, LAC 36:05; 19 Ed Daynes, LAC 36:18; 20 John R. Maitland, LAC 36:27; 21 Davy Duncan, Ochil Hill Runners 36:42; 22 Linda MacEwan, LAC 36:46; 23 Chloe Patterson, LAC 37:33; 24 Nix Forster, LAC 38:17; 25 Johnny Banks, LAC 38:19

## Keiran's design is a winner

#### Football

A YOUNG football fan has won a set of football strips for his school after winning a design competition.

Lochside Primary School's Kieran Lopez, a 10-year-old Celtic fan, won the competition, run by

Tesco in Fort William, to design a football strip.

Kieran's design was in the school colours of black and purple.

He said, despite his suc-

cess, he would much rather be a footballer than a football strip designer when he is older. The competition ran throughout the country and ran in line with Tesco's Sports for Schools vouchers scheme.



Tesco's Steven Lee hands over the new strips to Kieran Lopez and his teammates as Lochside Primary School janitor Joe Wilson and headteacher Violet Smith look on. 033st02

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# TIMES Sport

## Oban miss out on chance to climb league

Oban Lorne travelled to Fintry to face league opponents Strathendrick, knowing that a win would allow them to leapfrog above their hosts in the table.

Injuries forced Oban to slightly reshuffle their team with Mark MacQueen moving to stand off to replace the injured Robert Wright, and Mark MacTighe moving to open side flanker, to replace the injured Andy MacDougal.

Further changes saw Duncan MacDougal and Alan Beaton returned to the wings, with Chris MacDonald moving to outside centre, and Robbie MacDonald covering at fullback.

The first half was a fairly tentative affair with both sides kicking for position, with not very much running rugby being played. Oban scored one try through Chris MacDonald, but conceded two scores to the home side, the second coming on the stroke of half time, which made the score 15-7.

Oban started the second half in determined fashion,

### Rugby

and had the home side pinned back in their own 22 from the outset.

After a period of pressure, a good line-out ball was turned back, and Chris MacDonald was able to barge his way over for an unconverted try making the score 15-12.

A further three scoring opportunities were then created in a great spell of play by Oban.

First Duncan MacDougal was given the ball in a great position 10 metres out, but could not round the one remaining defender.

Then Garry MacEwan looked certain to score beneath the posts, but lost the ball as he went for the line.

Finally following great scrum pressure, and some good rucks Corrie Louw was hauled down just short of the line.

This proved to be the turning point in the match following 20 minutes of Oban domination, Strathendrick managed to turn the ball over, and then broke 50

metres down field. From the resulting lineout the home side scored a converted try through their backs, for a 22-12 score line.

To their credit Oban came straight back following this disappointment, and good interplay between the forwards and the backs allowed Corrie Louw to power over beneath the posts for a try to peg the score back to 22-19.

Again Oban were able to keep pinning the home team back in their own half, but unfortunately Oban's lineout started to malfunction, and they were unable to take advantage of the good positions they were in.

Strathendrick then manufactured another long range break-out, and were only denied a score due to the final pass being forward.

With almost the last move of the game, the home team worked a driving maul from a lineout, which gave them a fourth try and a final score of 27-19.

This was a game Oban

will feel they should have won considering the territory, and the scoring chances they had.

However, even though they played some great rugby they also conceded too many turnovers, and could not capitalise on the many attacking line-outs they had.

The rucking was particularly poor with no impact being made to clear these out, and players from both sides trying to use their hands.

There were also too many of the forwards who did not play for 80 minutes, leaving a lot of the hard graft to Corrie Louw, and Mark MacTighe who both put in considerable effort.

This has been the story of the season, with lack of consistency leaving the team to rue what might have been.

It was also the 4th time this season, the team had scored 3 tries and not went on to win the match.

Another try in each of those games would have at least given another 4 points for scoring the bonus try.



Retiring Commodore of Oban Sailing Club Steven Forteith congratulates his replacement Twig Olsen on his appointment

## New commodore at Oban sailing club

TWIG Olsen of Taynuilt, is the new commodore of Oban Sailing Club.

At the recent AGM the helm was handed over from retiring commodore Steven Forteith, who has completed a two-year term.

Twig said he hoped to carry on the good work that has been laid in place by the current committee, and work especially hard on encouraging youngsters into sailing.

As a dinghy instructor

### Sailing

Steven said he now wanted to concentrate on helping some of the young sailors in the club, with sailing development and racing. He also joins the Round Mull Race organising committee.

At the AGM Joey Gough was voted in as vice-commodore, with Toby Sherwin elected as rear-commodore. Richard Shellcock remains as the Club secretary and Kieren McDevitt, treasurer.

### Sailing

New committee member Jenny Beaumont takes on responsibility for membership.

The handicap committee of Ian Wallace, Billy Forteith, Iain Campbell were re-elected en bloc.

The issue of sailing development in the club from youngsters who have completed dinghy courses was raised, with calls for more racing training.

It was suggested that encouraging even younger sailors into the club with Optimist dinghies, and the Topper Taz training dinghies could be helpful.

Retiring commodore Steven thanked all those who had contributed so much hard work during the season, particularly in the building of the new dinghy shed, the clubhouse improvements and the running

of the Scottish Laser Championships, that had again been a great success, and established Oban on the event map.

Although the date of the Oban Regatta remains unconfirmed, the annual Oban to Glencoe Passage Race is on June 9, and Glencoe Regatta on June 10.

Meanwhile the date for the Owen Sails Round Mull Race has been confirmed by organisers as the weekend of July 14-16.



Nick Charlton and Diana Shellcock who picked up first place in the mixed pair section at the 'Strathpuffer 24'

## North Argyll Club 'puffs' its way to victory

MEMBERS of North Argyll Cycle club excelled at this weekend's 24 hour mountain bike endurance race near Strathpeffer.

The 'Strathpuffer 24', the worlds first 24 hour mountain bike race held in winter conditions, tested the toughest of riders with 24 hours of off road riding on

### Cycling

forest and single track, with some demanding technical sections.

Despite freezing overnight conditions and sections of track feet deep in mud, Club members Alex Johnston, Tom Smith, Michael Bossard and team mate

Alex Glasgow romped to victory in the male squad section, notching up 36 laps of the 10k course.

Nick Charlton and Diana Shellcock took first place in the mixed pair section with an impressive 22 laps.

Fellow members Eilid and

John Ormiston, Gavin Queen and team mate Martin Haddington, came in 9th in the mixed quads, managing an admirable 20 laps of the circuit.

The event was filmed for BBC 1 Adventure Show to be broadcast on January 29.

Visit www.northargyllcycleclub.co.uk.

## Camanachd Association confirms cup arrangements

### Shinty

SHINTY'S governing body, the Camanachd Association, has confirmed that the majority of final arrangements for the historic 2006 season will be put in place at the start of next week.

The Association's newly appointed Chief Executive Officer, Richard Tulloch, confirmed that most of the cup draws for the new playing season, will be made next Monday, and sent to clubs along with the 24 fixtures schedule within 24 hours.

Mr Tulloch said: 'We are

currently finalising the detail of how the various cup draws will be made, and we will be using local radio stations to enable clubs to keep up to date with the draws as they happen.'

'The first of the draws will be made on Monday January 23. It's my intention then to issue the full list for fixtures, and cup final venues to clubs.'

Mr Tulloch also confirmed that some new entrants are expected in league competitions, both in the north and the south.



Primary League football team Sharks won the Junior League by seven clear points from Soroba Rovers. Throughout the league campaign they have played some fantastic indoor football and were crowned champions last Sunday. The Sharks are pictured with the league shield alongside their coaches Iain and Leanne Croarkin, and their sponsors D Watt and Son.

He said: 'We will also be issuing the final structures and formats of the leagues, which we are finalising this week.'

Mr Tulloch also confirmed that the Camanachd Association is still in discussion

with Argyll and Bute Council about the possibility of taking the Camanachd Cup Final to Dunoon this season, for the very first time.

An announcement on the 2006 final is expected within the next few weeks.

### Darts results

Darts	
S D McDougalls Oban and District Darts League	
	pld pts
1. Aulays A	6 12
2. Cellar A	6 10
3. Cellar B	6 8
4. Golf Club	6 6
5. Rangers Club	6 6
6. Lochavullin	6 4
7. Aulays B	6 0

### Atlantis Leisure works league

Football	
	pld pts
1. Atlantis	7 18
2. Forteiths	6 18
3. OHS	6 16
4. Foster Yeoman	6 13
5. AM Transport	7 13
6. The Chalets	6 6
7. Hydro Board	7 6
8. Oban Times	7 4
9. The Hotels	6 0
10. The Hospital	6 0

## WIN THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT

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**in The Oban Times**

## 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition

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. 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 postal order or cheque 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 5PY by 12noon on Tuesday

You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

**Competition Rules**  
No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery.  
The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.  
In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company.  
The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time.  
Employees of The Oban Times Limited, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.

This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are: Mrs Janet Veverka, 10 Stoneield Crescent, High Blantyre and Sheila MacEachan, 48 Lochnell Road, Dunbeg

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 5PY

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## Medal success for Argyll at district championships

ARGYLL'S young athletes enjoyed some medal success after a weekend of competition at the West District Indoor Championships held in the Kelvin Hall, Glasgow.

Ten athletes from most parts of Argyll entered various events in the under 13, under 15, under 17 and senior categories, and came away with a reasonable haul of seven medals, plus several top six places.

Top Argyll athlete was Matthew Turner from Kilmorie in Kintyre, who entered three events over the two days.

Matthew a 5th year pupil at Campbeltown Grammar, made an excellent debut into the senior ranks winning the 1500 metres, in a new personal best of 4 min-

utes 9.58 seconds. Matthew, who is a member of Mid Argyll Athletic Club was the Scottish Under 17's 800 metres champion in 2005, and contested this event at senior level on Sunday, winning the bronze with a time of 2:01.39.

Matthew had run 1:56.5 for the distance earlier in the day but because of an appeal from one of the runners who was obstructed by an official, the final had to be re-run within a few hours.

David Clunie from Kilmorie also won gold with an impressive clearance of 1.8 metres in the Under 17's high jump. David, a member of Oban Athletic Club, and now studying at the Glasgow School of Sport,

made a welcome return to competition after a six month lay off due to injury. David hopes to continue his recovery with a further indoor competition, at the same venue, in February.

Struan Carmichael from Tobermory, a member of the newly formed Mull Athletic Club, was a double medalist in the under 13 category. Struan started the day by easily qualifying for the 60 metres final, winning his heat in 8.38 seconds.

In the final Struan just lost the gold by 0.0001 of a second in a photo finish recording 8.37 seconds in second place. The young Mull boy also won a bronze medal in the long jump with 4.07 metres, but was disappointed with his performance as he recorded three foul jumps in the competition. The Mull boys won more medals with David Beckett finishing 3rd in the under 17's high jump clearing a new best of 1.66 metres, and in the under 15's high jump Steven Higson, also from Tobermory, cleared 1.50 metres to fin-

ish in second place in his first competition at this level. The Argyll athletes achieved several top six placings starting with Katrina MacLean from Mull in the under 15's shot putt.

Katriona threw 6.62 metres for 4th place. Holly Crawford from Lochgilhead gained 5th place in the under 15's high jump with a 1.40 metres clearance, and just missed a bronze medal on count back.

Mull boys gained more 5th places in the jumps, with David Beckett setting a new personal best of 10.38 metres in the under 17 triple jump, and then Ian

MacDowell cleared 1.45 metres in the under 15's high jump. Sam Jespersen from Oban was 4th in the under 17's high jump with 1.50 metres, and also ran 8.07 seconds in his 60 metres heat. Sam's club mate Jonathon Rothead contested the under 17's 60 metres and 200 metres recording times of 8.03 and 25.9 in the heats.

The Argyll athletes competing in Glasgow will now look forward to the West Regional Final of Sports Hall Athletics, which takes place at the Playdrome at Clydebank on Sunday January 29. A total of 38 young athletes will compete at Clydebank with the incentive to qualify for the Scottish final on February 25.



Cyclist Duncan Urquhart from Tiree who will take part in the Commonwealth Games in March.

## Tiree cyclist sets off for Australia

SUCCESSFUL Tiree cyclist Duncan Urquhart set off to Australia last week, in the hope of winning an Olympic Commonwealth games medal.

Shortly before flying out to Melbourne Duncan spoke to *The Oban Times* of his expectations going into the event.

He said: 'I have trained extremely hard for the games and fully expect to win a medal.

'If I come back empty handed I will be very disappointed.'

Duncan's preparation for the games began a couple of weeks ago when he went to train in Italy, where he also had a meeting with his team mates from his pro cycling team Agisko - Dart.

Duncan, who is a Corporal in the 1st Royal Tank Regiment in the Army, was recently awarded Army Sportsman of the Year for

his amazing success in cycling. His parents Neil and Toula, who live in Tiree, are delighted with his achievements.

His dad Neil, who first taught him how to ride a bike, said: 'We are very proud of Duncan and his commitment to cycling.

'He has worked tirelessly in his preparation for the games, and we hope he is rewarded for that.'

### Athletics

#### Oban Camanachd appoint Evans as new manager

OBAN Camanachd have appointed former player, Nigel Evans as their new manager.

The decision was made at a recent EGM to install Nigel as manager, with Andrew Pearson assisting

### Shinty

him as player coach. Nigel claimed that his main aim was very simple. He said: 'The main goal this season is to remain an established Premier League side. Any cup run outside of that will be a bonus.'

### Coaching courses at Atlantis

ARGYLL and Bute Football Development Officer Dylan Kerr, the former Leeds United and Kilmarnock defender will be holding coaching courses in Oban during February and March.

The first course is a six-hour Level 1 Youth Licence Development Activities Certificate for coaches working with 12-18 year olds. The course will take place at Atlantis

### Football

Leisure on Sunday 5th February. The cost of this course is £30.

The second course is a Level 2 Youth Licence Coaching Youth Footballers Certificate. This 12-hour course is designed to provide youth coaches with ideas on key issues in developing youth players.

This course will also take place at Atlantis Leisure

### Football

on Sundays 5th and 12th March. The cost of this course is £45.

Application forms for the courses can be obtained from David Buchanan, David Mitchell and Iain Alexander of the Football Development Group.

Cheques should be made payable to Argyll and Bute Council and posted to Dylan Kerr at Library HQ, Highland Avenue, Sandbank, Argyll PA23 8PB

## Stunning strike sets Saints up for nine-goal Scottish Cup victory

### Scottish Amateur Cup 4th round OBAN SAINTS 9 GILSTON PARK 0

A STUNNING strike in the tenth minute from defender Alex Grindlay from fully 35 yards paved the way for Saints to embark on a nine-goal thrashing of Falkirk side Gilston Park in this Soccer World Scottish Amateur Cup 4th round tie at Mossfield Stadium. This win puts Saints into the last 64 of the competition.



Alex Grindlay

Manager Iain Jackson stuck with the same squad that defeated Ancrum on penalties the previous Saturday and his faith in the players proved to be right as they turned in their best performance of the season by a long way.

The game was evenly balanced in the opening period with both teams committed to attack.

The home side took the lead with a spectacular goal in the tenth minute. The Gilston defence cleared the ball, but it fell to Alex Grindlay, 35 yards from goal, and he thumped a tremendous right foot drive high past the helpless Gilston keeper Steven Morton into the postage stamp corner of the net, which must rate as one of the best goals scored at Mossfield for a long time.

The home side increased their lead in the 16th minute when Willie Gemmill was

### Football

sent clear on the right and he curled over a perfect cross to the far post for Dean Walker to volley home the first of his four goals.

All credit to Gilston they kept battling away, but they never really caused the Saints back three of Mark MacCallum, Bertie Gemmill and Alex Grindlay too much trouble. They did manage to get in a couple of long range efforts, but these were dealt with comfortably by keeper Tim Woodcock.

Saints were playing some great stuff, knocking the ball about confidently in midfield where Willie Gemmill, Keith Millar, Joe Lopez, Ross Maitland and Scott Johnston were running the show.

However, it took the home side till the 34th minute to add the third goal which was scored by Willie Gemmill after Allan MacKay had a good effort saved by Steven Morton. The ball fell kindly for Willie who cleverly lobbed it back over the keeper's head and into the net to make the half time score 3-0.

It took Saints only three minutes after the restart to increase their lead when Allan MacKay cleverly head flicked the ball through to his strike partner Dean Walker who ran forward and despatched it past the keeper to make the score 4-0.

Gilston were awarded a penalty, a rather soft one it has to be said, when Mark MacCallum was adjudged to have handled the ball in the box. Neil Adams stepped up and drilled a low shot to Tim Woodcock's left hand side, but the Saints stopper made a brilliant save to deny the Falkirk team a goal.

The homesters took a five-goal lead in the 59th minute when Dean Walker shot for goals and Gilston full back Barry Aran was unlucky to see his attempted

### Football

clearance slice off his boot and the ball rocketed into the net for an own goal.

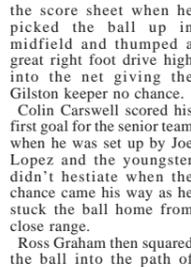
Saints were rampant now and the young Falkirk side were looking very dejected. With the game all over the home side made three changes to give the substitutes a good run-out. Willie Gemmill, Scott Johnston and Allan MacKay made way for Duncan Campbell, Colin Carswell and Ross Graham.

Ross Maitland was next on the score sheet when he picked the ball up in midfield and thumped a great right foot drive high into the net giving the Gilston keeper no chance.

Colin Carswell scored his first goal for the senior team when he was set up by Joe Lopez and the youngster didn't hesitate when the chance came his way as he stuck the ball home from close range.

Ross Graham then squared the ball into the path of Dean Walker to net his team's eighth goal, and his own hat-trick and with five minutes left Dean rounded off a great afternoon when he banged home his fourth goal of the game to make the final score 9-0.

Manager Iain Jackson was delighted with the performance. He said: 'We



Dean Walker has this goal attempt blocked by Gilston keeper Steven Morton

played some excellent football today. I know Gilston might not have been the most difficult of opponents and we will be drawn against much better teams, but they reached the fourth round on merit and at the end of the day all you can do is try and beat whatever team you are drawn against and we did that very convincingly today, scoring some great goals into the bargain.'

Saints are at home again, on Saturday where they face Cambria in the second round of the Marshall Trophy. The game will be played at Glencruitten with a 1.30 pm kick-off. Referee in charge is John Scott. Extra time and penalties, if required, will be used to decide the winner on the day.

Saints Under 19s lost 2-0 away to Celtic BC on Saturday.

Saturday's results involving Argyll teams: Scottish Cup - Oban Saints 9, Gilston Park 0. Premier Division - Campbeltown Pupils v Gourock Athletic (abandoned) Pollok 1, St Patrick's FP 1. Premier Division One - Kings Park Rangers 0, Dunoon 2. Premier Division Two - St Joseph's v Campbeltown Boys (postponed). Division One - Whitehill FP 8, Lochgilhead Red Star 4. Division Two - Hamilton FP 1, Tarbert 7.

### Tides

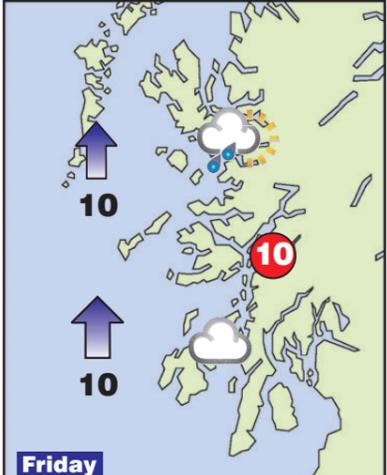
Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday, January 19, 2006 are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur	02.32 1.2 08.24 3.7 15.07 1.6 20.45 3.5	
Fri	03.03 1.4 08.55 3.6 15.35 1.8 21.16 3.4	
Sat	03.36 1.5 09.27 3.5 16.07 1.9 21.52 3.2	
Sun	04.14 1.7 10.05 3.3 16.53 2.0 22.36 3.1	
Mon	05.04 1.8 10.54 3.2 18.00 2.0 23.37 2.9	
Tues	06.09 1.9 12.07 3.1 19.17 2.0 **** **	
Wed	01.29 2.9 07.24 1.9 14.14 3.1 20.30 1.9	

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrishaig	-5.35	Lochboisdale	+0.30
Campbeltown	-5.30	Mallaig	+0.25
Crinan	-0.47	Portree	+0.55
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Tobermory	+0.16
		Dover	+5.30

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### the weather

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**Thursday, January 19**  
 Will be mainly dry with the chance of rain. Winds will be moderate northerly  
 Temperatures 2°C to 7°C.

**Friday, January 20**  
 A mainly dry day with bright or sunny spells with showers developing by evening.  
 Winds will be light to moderate south-westerly.  
 Temperatures 4°C to 8°C.

**Saturday and Sunday**  
 Saturday is expected to be a mainly dry but cloudy day. Sunday will be cloudy with spells of moderate to heavy rain.  
 Winds will be moderate south-westerly on Saturday becoming a fresh to strong south-westerly during Sunday.  
 Temperatures 4°C to 10°C.

**Ferry Crossings/Sea States**  
 Oban to Barra/South Uist - Moderate to rough  
 Oban to Coll/Tiree - As above  
 Kennacraig to Islay - As above

## RANGERS SCOTTISH CUP CLASH!

**4th Round - Rangers v Hibernian**

Rangers have progressed to the fourth round of the Tennent's Scottish Cup, following their 5-0 victory against Peterhead. Rangers are now set to face Hibernian in Round 4 and the vital clash takes place on Saturday 4 February at Ibrox, kick-off 12.15pm.

The Oban Times has teamed up with Rangers to offer readers a super chance to win one of three pairs of tickets to the fourth round Tennent's Cup Clash at Ibrox. For your chance to win a pair of tickets, just answer this question:

**Name the new Rangers signing who recently scored a hat trick at home against Peterhead**

Fill in your answer below and send to  
 The Oban Times P.O. Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB

Answer .....

Name .....

Address .....

Tel: .....

All entries to be in by 12noon 31st January 2006. Winners will be notified by phone. Normal Oban Times rules apply.

Don't worry if you don't win tickets this time, tickets are now on sale, priced from £22 for adults and £12 for concessions. Please note season tickets are not valid for this game.

**TICKETS ON SALE NOW FROM: Ticket hotline 0870 600 1993**  
 Rangers Ticket Centre www.rangers.co.uk (booking fees apply)

If you haven't already registered for online ticket sales, you can now sign up immediately online, just visit the ticket section of www.rangers.co.uk and click on the link to online tickets and follow the easy instructions.