

Islanders win price reduction on air fares

Good news on Ganavan Sands

Audit Scotland's report on Argyll & Bute Council

Oban needs third surgeon

RECRUITING a third surgeon for Oban's Lorn and Islands District General Hospital must not get lost in the change over between NHS Argyll and Clyde and NHS Highland.

The big move takes place in six weeks' time at the start of April and existing staff are still being fitted into new posts, members of the Oban, Lorn and Isles Locality Health Forum heard at their meeting on Monday night.

Dr Allan Henderson, consultant physician, who chaired the meeting, said that the need for a third surgeon at Oban had been agreed by Argyll and Clyde but the question of the post and recruiting was not taken forward in view of the impending change over.

'We are really in a Catch 22 situation,' said Dr Henderson after the meeting, hoping that the appointment did not fall between the two authorities.

He had the full support of the forum for the third post to be instigated.

Dr Henderson said: 'It is incredible that we have not got a permanent third surgeon here when they have four in Fort William.'

Belford Hospital in Fort William covers a smaller population compared to Lorn and the islands.

Likening the situation at Oban to a number of other rural hospitals, Oban was the only one working with two surgeons, Dr Henderson said.

With only two surgeons at Oban the hospital is spending so much money on providing locum cover it could spend the money on a third post.

A number of highly specialised nurses are being recruited at Oban, Dr Henderson said. Changes to the way the hospital is run at night, linked with modernising medical careers will mean that junior doctors will be supported with more highly-specialised nurses taking on duties such as drips and electro-cardiograms. Some of the appointments are new and others are from within the existing staff.

West coast gets ready for Neptune Warrior



'Action stations' in the operations room of HMS Edinburgh will take place off the west coast this month during NATO exercises.

MOCK bombing runs, similar to those which actually took place in Iraq and Kosovo, will 'hit' Tiree and Benbecula airports at the end of this month as a major military exercise takes place.

In a joint operation between UK armed forces and several UK allies, 50 aircraft, including 34 fast jets, three destroyers and five frigates, plus ground forces and support crews, will take part in training under the

operational code-name Neptune Warrior 061. Oban Airport and Plockton airfield will see increased helicopter activity while Stornoway Airport is to be the main base for support helicopters.

Submarines and surface vessels will operate in the Minch and the Sea of the Hebrides with liaison visits due at Ullapool and Stornoway to ensure fishermen are aware of the manoeuvres. A Royal Navy spokesman

said: 'As a result of liaison with local communities, land owners, fishing organisations, and agencies of the Scottish Executive, a range of measures have been designed to minimise environmental impact.'

Asda for Oban? Who next?

IT IS inevitable that shopping in Oban is going to change with more and more national chains wanting to open shops in the town.

If the town grows as planned it will attract more and more, transforming how the town shops.

The DIY business Homebase is on target to open its store at Lochavullin early this summer and German foodstore Aldi is gearing up to begin building a new store on Lynn Road and the town is rife with rumours of other businesses queuing up to come in.

ASDA is the latest supermarket chain tipped to come to Oban, with speculation focussing on the Scottish Co-op premises on Soroba Road and the petrol station opposite.

'Definitely not; I have had this conversation before,' said a Scottish Co-op press officer, adding: 'There is no change to our position. We are not leaving Oban.'

'Sounds like speculation to me,' said a spokeswoman for ASDA - who then admitted that the firm was always keen to develop new markets.

Shops recently left empty when leases expired on George Street are also sparking speculation

around the town. 'It's definitely not us,' said a spokeswoman for fashion retailer Next.

Oban councillor Duncan MacIntyre said that the town can expect more new stores opening and more expressing an interest in Oban and Argyll.

'They [national chains] are looking at opening up all the time.'

'Perhaps people are getting ASDA mixed up with Aldi as Aldi now has its application in for its off-sales licence, which will go to the March meeting of the licensing board.'

'I've heard the rumours and it is inevitable with the planned growth in Oban that more national shops are going to be interested in the town. These people have whole departments monitoring growth and local plans around the country and will know what's going on.'

'We've already seen Homebase, Lidl and Aldi come into Oban and they all seem to follow each other.'

Councillor MacIntyre said it was important that while encouraging new growth the uniqueness of the Oban town centre was not lost.

'Oban and North Argyll are general areas for

growth; it is on the agenda. 'Add to this the plans for a new road, significant new housing and these are all ripples Oban is sending out which is being picked up by these people,' he said.

As well as retail chains, Oban has also been attracting the interest of major hotel chains in recent months.

JD Wetherspoons, the national pub chain which is also moving into accommodation, is definitely looking to have a business in the town.

'Yes, we'd like to come to Oban.'

'We've looked at Oban, we've looked at a couple of sites already but they haven't been right and not come to fruition so we are still looking,' said the company's spokesman.

'It's all because the growth potential is here,' said Councillor MacIntyre. 'And this is all being picked up on by national businesses.'

An established Oban business changed hands this week when the Shell Garage on Soroba Road was sold by Angus Douglas to Colin MacNiven and Christine Roberts; the new owners take over on April 7.

MSP's farm cash causes conflict

A CONFLICT of interest between his farm, EU grants and his role as a Scottish Executive minister mean George Lyon, Argyll and Bute MSP, should resign from his post, political opponents have said this week.

But Liberal Democrat George Lyon said he has adhered to the strict rules laid down in the code of conduct for MSPs and ministers alike.

Single Farm Payments made by the European Union have been made public in Scotland for the first time

and a number of MSPs are seen to be in receipt of cash from Brussels for their farming interests.

While Mr Lyon received just over £69,000 in farm subsidies, his fellow Argyll-based Scottish Conservative MSP Jamie McGrigor received £28,000; and farming MSPs John Scott £40,000 and Alex Johnstone £22,000.

But what has prompted calls led by the SNP is that Mr Lyon also happens to be the deputy finance

minister who is responsible for the Scottish Executive's dealings with the European Union.

His ministerial post takes his Holyrood salary up to £72,000 and the last list of MSPs' expenses saw Mr Lyon enter the highest claim in the parliament of over £67,000; a figure which was high because it included a major one-off IT purchase.

But it is the Single Farm Payment which has caused the Holyrood furore, even though it is modest compared to the top Scottish claim of £220,000-plus.

SNP leader Alex Salmond MP is on record as saying that Mr Lyon had a straight choice: the farm and the Euro cash that goes with it or his ministerial career.

'It seems an obvious conflict of interest when a minister, whose responsibilities include relations with Europe is receiving such a massive sum from a European source,' said Mr Salmond.

Riding two horses

The call was also taken up by the deputy leader of the Scottish Tories, Murdo Fraser MSP. He said: 'It is

difficult to see how he can justify riding two horses at once.'

But Mr Lyon has been assured by Scottish Executive permanent secretary John Elvidge that he has not broken any of the rules laid down in the Ministerial Code of Conduct; the farm has always been registered on the list of private interests.

'All farming businesses right across Europe are eligible for farm subsidy,' he said, adding that his family farm had been run by a manager since 1997.

Computer blamed as 139 people experience council tax problems

ONE FAULTY computer terminal is being blamed for a major botch-up which saw 139 people pay their council tax - only for the money never to leave their bank accounts.

Between June and November last year 139 council tax payments were made in Argyll and Bute Council's offices in Oban and receipts were issued.

But the credit/debit payments never came off the council tax payers' ac-

counts and in December 2005 the council blamed a 'technical glitch' and staffing shortages for the problem.

There remains 27 residents who have still not paid the money and a council spokesman said attempts were now being made to retrieve the money.

The council spokesman said: 'This was a one-off problem due to one terminal not operating correctly.'

'To-date, 96 people have

paid in full and a further 15 have paid part of the amount. The cash receipting terminal in question has been updated with the relevant software and we carry out a daily check that all income expected has been processed.'

'The staffing shortages which caused this delay have now been resolved.'

The spokesman added that procedures to identify computer problems had now been updated.

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Man denies fake firearm charges

A MAN has pled not guilty at Dumbarton Sheriff Court to having an imitation firearm at Oban's Tesco superstore on Friday February 9.

William Robertson, aged 47, Flat 18F, 199 Wynford Road, Maryhill, Glasgow, also pled not guilty to breaching the peace by carrying the imitation firearm and putting people into a state of fear and alarm.

Robertson appeared on Friday and was remanded in custody until his next court appearance in Oban on February 20. His trial date has been set down for March 6.

POLICE have taken action after someone under the age of 18 was sold alcohol at Oban's Co-operative store on Soroba Road. Inspector Neil Wallace, Oban police, said: 'As a result of someone under age purchasing alcohol, charges are being preferred and a report has gone to the procurator fiscal.'

A spokeswoman for the Scottish Co-op said it would be inappropriate to comment at this time.



John Campbell, manager at Laphroaig Distillery.

Ileach in charge at Laphroaig Distillery

LAPHROAIG Distillery will be run by an Ileach for the first time in its 190-year history.

John Campbell, at 35-years-old, is also the youngest distillery manager on the island.

John, who lives with his wife and three children in Port Ellen, joined Laphroaig in 1994 and has also worked in Tormore, Milntonduff and Ardmore distilleries.

In 2001 he returned from Speyside to become Laphroaig's brewer.

John told *The Oban Times* it was a great feeling to become the first Ileach to manage Laphroaig.

He said: 'The role of managing this truly unique distillery was nothing but a dream 10 years ago and today it has become a reality. I feel humbled by the great names who have gone before me.'

'To be the first Ileach to run Laphroaig is a special honour and one that will serve to reinforce the unique collaboration that exists between two icons of malt whisky - Islay and Laphroaig.'

In his time at Laphroaig John has already played a major part in the distillery gaining an environmental award and has taken the lead in producing a number of successful limited edition bottlings to support the 'Feis Ile'.

John is the great-nephew of *The Oban Times* Islay Letter correspondent Hugh Smith.

Oban police back May knife amnesty

OBAN police are taking part in a knife amnesty in May despite having a low incidence of reported knife crime.

The Scotland-wide amnesty will give owners of knives the opportunity to hand in their weapon to the police station without facing a charge of possessing

a weapon. It will begin on May 24, lasting one month, and will kick-start a 12-month Safer Scotland Anti-Violence Campaign by the Scottish Executive.

Inspector Neil Wallace of Strathclyde Police Oban said: 'It is an initiative all Scotland's police forces

will be involved in but in general terms knife crime is not what I would perceive as a big problem in Oban.'

'Violent crime such as stabbings has a low frequency. However we will be increasing the amount of searches for weapons. I would advise people not to

carry not to carry a knife when they go out.

'I don't think people purposefully go out to stab folk but the danger is consuming too much alcohol and having a knife. If they are under the influence of alcohol there is a temptation to use a knife if they get in a fight.'

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Councils and executive blame each other for council tax rises

THERE is going to be a well-worn path to Tom McCabe's door in the coming months, as councils around Scotland line up to discuss their financial difficulties with the Minister for Finance and Public Service Reform.

As Mr McCabe and the Labour-Liberal Democrat Scottish Executive continue to shout about the 'massive increase of almost 50 per cent' in grant to local government since 1999, their voices are beginning to be drowned out by the ever-louder cries of 'foul' from local authorities like Argyll and Bute and Highland.

Highland Council has had to make £18 million of savings from its budget for 2006-2007 and as the largest proportion of any council's budget goes on education, that is where the cuts are going to be hardest felt.

Waiting list
Argyll and Bute Council is convinced that, despite saving more than £2.5 million from its free and residential care for the elderly and residential care for children budgets after an overspend of a similar amount last year, that it will be able to provide the services needed.

But there is now a considerable waiting list and a freeze on care packages

because, says Argyll and Bute, the free personal care scheme has not been properly funded by the executive.

Ring-fenced
The problem say the councils is that the extra money the Scottish Executive is giving them - like the £57 million announced recently - is not aimed at reducing the council tax burden but is ring-fenced for the executive's specific projects like additional classroom assistants, Changing Children's Services Fund or the ban on smoking in public places.

Nor has the executive recognised the extra costs of delivering services in the remote and rural areas - super-sparsity.

Councillor Alison Hay in Argyll and Bute is among those calling for reform in the way councils' funding is distributed.

'The thistle needs to be grasped and, in true parity of esteem and partnership, something we haven't seen so far, Mr McCabe needs to work with local government to put in place a fair and equitable scheme ensuring all authorities are treated according to their needs - not making statements about reducing the number of councils,' she said.

Argyll and Bute Leader Councillor Allan Macaskill said his administration would continue to lobby national politicians and the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA) for more funding.

Mr McCabe stated: 'Ultimately the setting of council tax levels is a matter for councils and councils alone and it is for them to justify any increases to local taxpayers.'

Investment
'Councils have enjoyed unprecedented rises since Devolution. That increased investment is underpinned by three-year budgets to allow councils the freedom and flexibility they need to plan ahead. Against that backdrop, we should not be bickering about funding - we should be getting on with the job people pay us to do,' he said.

He added that he was shortly going to launch a 'bottom-up dialogue' with the whole of the public service sector.

COSLA's finance spokesperson Councillor John Pentland said: 'Local government has done all it can to dampen down council tax rises - but because of general under-funding from the executive Scotland's council tax payers face a lose/lose situation.'

Council Tax for 2006-2007

Council Tax Bandings	COUNCIL TAX AND WATER RATES				SCOTTISH WATER		
	Argyll and Bute Council	Comhairle nan Eilean Siar	Stirling Council	Highland Council	water supply charge	waste water charge	total
Band A	£7771	£666	£NA	£757	£111.00	£125.40	£236.40
Band B	£899	£777	£NA	£883	£129.50	£146.30	£275.80
Band C	£1,028	£888	£NA	£1,009	£148.00	£167.20	£315.20
Band D	£1,156	£999	£NA	£1,135	£166.50	£188.10	£354.60
Band E	£1,413	£1,221	£NA	£1,387	£203.50	£229.90	£433.40
Band F	£1,670	£1,443	£NA	£1,639	£240.50	£271.70	£512.20
Band G	£1,927	£1,665	£NA	£1,892	£277.50	£313.50	£591.00
Band H	£2,312	£1,998	£NA	£2,270	£333.00	£376.20	£709.20

Council Tax figures rounded up to the nearest £

BUSINESS RATES 2006-2007
Provisional poundage rate - 44.9 pence in the £

Mobile library service reprieve

A PETITION of more than 400 signatures, letters and calls to The Oban Times and lobbying of councillors all had the desired effect.

Users of the mobile library service in Oban and Lorn and Helensburgh were agast when they learned that one of Argyll and Bute Council's savings proposals for the 2006-2007 was the removal of the service.

And it seems that their cries of dismay were heard by councillors as both the administration and opposition had reinstated the £59,016 that it costs to run the two services by making cuts elsewhere.

Jane Williams of Appin, who had written to The Oban Times upon hearing the proposals, was delighted with the news.

'Neil himself, the librarian in the mobile van, rang. It is wonderful news,' she said.

'I love being in Appin but not being able to go to the mobile library would have been the death of me,' said Jane, who is housebound following a car accident in 1985.

In Helensburgh, they had galvanised themselves into action by drawing up a petition in protest at the proposed removal of the service.

Councillor Douglas Currie presented the petition, with 407 signatures, at the budget meeting of Argyll and Bute Council.

Argyll and Bute needs to change

ARGYLL and Bute Council's opposition political members have accused the council's administration of having a lack of direction and leadership.

While castigating the Scottish Executive for failing to provide proper funding for local authorities and failing to reform local government finance, opposition leader Councillor Alison Hay in her budget speech said the council had to look to itself.

'We cannot as an organisation continue the way we have been going,' she said.

'It is a sad reflection that after the Amey report and retiring a number of staff this council has only benefited to the tune of £50,000. We still have to fundamentally change the way we do things which has remained more or less the same since I joined the district council in 1992.'

'To improve we need drive and leadership at the top, something which has not been very evident these last few years,' she added.

'We still have a council that is traditional in its methods, with a mentality that says, 'we feel comfortable, let's not rock the boat'.'

Council leader Councillor Allan Macaskill said the authority was continuing to take the lead in bringing about major changes to the area.

He pointed to the first Non-Profit Making Distribution Organisation in Scotland to bring about the public private investment programme which was building 10 new schools.

He mentioned investments in each of the four administrative areas; Argyll Air Services; a new school at Achahoish; Campbeltown New Quay; the Lottery submission to create the Dunoon Marine Gateway to the national park and waterfront plans for Helensburgh.

Robert Linton, development manager with Lochaber Enterprise, organised the event to heighten awareness within the Lochaber business community of the benefits of SHAW.

The event featured good practice case studies, coaching introduction on dealing with time management, the importance of physical activity, stress management and work life balance.

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Highland council tax up 4.5 per cent

HIGHLAND Council is to seek a meeting with Scottish Executive finance minister Tom McCabe to highlight the special challenges and high costs that the council faces in delivering services.

Highland Council approved a council tax rise of 4.5 per cent last week, meaning a rise of nearly £50 for Band D council

tax payers. Highland Council were under pressure from the Scottish Executive, along with Scotland's other 31 local authorities, to keep any council tax rises to within the rate of inflation, 2.5 per cent.

Councillors had to decide on the biggest cuts to services in the last 10 years, with £18 million-worth of

cuts proposed.

Nearly £7m was cut from the education budget with the biggest single cut of £1m taken from the budget for visiting teachers in primary schools.

In setting a budget of £488 million the council said it was seeking a meeting with Mr McCabe where it would highlight the special challenges of delivering services to a rural and sparsely populated area.

The range of pressures and shortage of funds facing the council was described by Highland Council chief executive Arthur McCourt.

He said a housing stock transfer would also see the transfer of 350 staff from the council, with more council staff going if the proposed privatisation of care homes throughout the Highlands goes through.

He added that property and architectural services staff were also likely to face cuts.

Council tax accounts for £96m of the council's £488m budget.

Argyll and Bute raises tax by 3.49 per cent - but will elderly suffer?

TAX payers are looking at an average £39 increase in Council Tax in Argyll and Bute in 2006-2007.

Councillors voted 20-10 last Thursday to approve the leader Councillor Allan Macaskill's proposed budget which will see an increase of 3.49 per cent in council tax by making £9,332 million in cuts across all services.

Councillor Macaskill said the Scottish Executive's wish to see councils keep their increases to 2.5 per cent would have been 'too tough for this council'.

His proposals included the reduction of £2.5 million in the amount available for home and residential care for the elderly and child residential care.

He said the cut would bring the department, which had an overspend of that amount in this year's budget, back in line with its current budget.

But he said he had understood the pressures the department was under and had decided to give the department an extra £400,000 in 2006-2007 and a review would be carried out to ensure the budget was properly managed.

Councillor Macaskill made the extraordinary announcement that as part of the bid to increase savings through not filling vacant posts that authorisation

would be needed from the chief executive, after consultation with the leader, deputy leader and relevant spokesperson before any vacancies were filled.

It is through these savings that he clawed back the £59,016 needed to keep the mobile library service going in the rural areas of

Oban and Lorn and Helensburgh.

The provision for pay awards for council staff for next year, excluding teachers, will be 2.5 per cent, instead of 3 per cent.

'The process of setting a budget becomes more difficult every year. This year is no different and because of inadequate funding from the Scottish Executive we have the difficult task of trying to strike a balance between maintaining the frontline services that the public want and setting a council tax that they can afford,' said Councillor Macaskill.

But the opposition political parties claimed it was a budget that attacked the elderly and vulnerable and accused the administration, the group of independent councillors, of failing to

make the council more efficient. Opposition leader Councillor Alison Hay's budget called for an increase in council tax of 4.92 per cent or £1,172 at band D but reduced the Community Services' £2.5 million savings in home care, elderly residential placements, free personal care and chil-

dren's residential placements by £1.5 million.

'As far as our budget is concerned we have recognised that the care of our elderly residents is our top priority,' she said.

Conservative Councillor Gary Mulvaney seconded her budget and said the extra £1.5 million was the equivalent of an average 30 pence a week on people's council tax.

'The budget cuts will affect many of the services that are so important to the elderly and young and families in our communities,' said Councillor Hay.

'We are talking about 30 pence a week. It is an increase, yes; it is 30 pence a week but for that we are trying to protect the most vulnerable and needy in our society by putting more money back into that budget.'

The executive will blame the local authorities but they cannot get away from their promise to provide free personal care.

'It is time for the blame game between the executive and local councils to end and for adequate funding to be provided so that commitments the executive makes can be met by local councils,' he said.

'The executive will blame the local authorities but they cannot get away from their promise to provide free personal care.'

'It must be incredibly frustrating for social workers to see their efforts blocked by the failure of the Scottish Executive to properly fund their promises.'

'There have also been refusals to nursing homes from the Oban hospital since Christmas and this problem has impinged on the hospital with bed block-

ing and delayed discharge causing fury and low morale amongst those hard-working people who are trying to do their jobs within the Argyll and Bute area.'

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Councillor Allan Macaskill



Councillor Alison Hay

MSP at sharp end of elderly care

HIGHLANDS and Islands MSP Jamie McGrigor has called for one budget for health and social care.

He has attacked the Scottish Executive's promises on free personal care as 'hollow' and an 'undelivered promise'.

Mr McGrigor, who lives near Dalnally, said: 'I have had both parents in four different hospitals recently

and was horrified to learn from speaking with doctors and nurses that, in Argyll and Bute, not one single home care package has been arranged since November.'

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Stirling Council fails to set tax

STIRLING Council failed to set its council tax for 2006-07 last Thursday after the Conservative group left the special budget meeting, leaving the council without a quorum and unable to continue.

A spokeswoman for the authority said that in the council's 10-year history such an incident had never happened before. 'It is unprecedented,' she added.

A date for the meeting to reconvene was announced as Thursday February 23 as The Oban Times went to press. Councillors have a legal duty to set the council tax.

Council house rents up by 3.5 per cent

COUNCIL tenants in Argyll and Bute face a rise in rent of 3.5 per cent in the coming year.

Although tenants have voted to transfer to the new Argyll Community Housing Association, the hand-over does not take place until July and it is the council's duty to set the rent increases for the coming year.

A lone voice at last week's budget meeting at Argyll and Bute Council protested at the rises and swiftness with which the decision was taken. Councillor

Islanders face average 47 pence rise

COMHAIRLE nan Eilean Siar (Western Isles Council) has also set a council tax rise of 4.5 per cent resulting in an average increase of 47p per week for council tax payers.

At a full meeting of the Comhairle on Thursday, February 9, chairman of the policy and resources committee, vice-convenor Angus Campbell, said: 'Delivering best value services remains the comhairle's number one priority and we will continue to seek efficiencies in delivering them.'

Robin Currie expressed disgust that the motion to increase the rents was passed without a murmur, while his fellow councillors had spent at least two hours discussing the council tax.

The rent will increase by between £1.46 and £1.96 per week, depending on the size of home.

Council leader Councillor Allan Macaskill said: 'It is always a difficult decision to increase housing rents but the level of rent increase agreed is necessary to help address investment needs.'

Highland health at work winners

EIGHT Highlands and islands businesses received Scotland's Health at Work (SHAW) awards at an event hosted by Lochaber Enterprise at the Alexandra Hotel, Fort William.

A number of Lochaber

businesses attended the event as well as businesses from Skye and Lochalsh, Inverness and Aviemore.

Awards were presented to Lochaber Enterprise, Lochalsh and Skye Housing Association, NHS Highland

(New Craigs), Hydrasun Limited (Aviemore), Lifescan Scotland, HM Inspectorate of Education, Northern Constabulary HQ and Careers Scotland.

Skye and Lochalsh Enterprise and Lochalsh Leisure

Centre were unable to attend, but were congratulated on the achievement of their awards. The event highlighted the benefits of the SHAW initiative to businesses of all sizes.

Lochaber Enterprise is working towards the third 'gold' level within the initiative.

Robert Linton, development manager with Lochaber Enterprise, organised the event to heighten awareness within the Lochaber business community of the benefits of SHAW.

The event featured good practice case studies, coaching introduction on dealing with time management, the importance of physical activity, stress management and work life balance.



The Lochaber winners of the SHAW awards held in Fort William recently.

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Argyll and Bute Council in partnership with Shanks Argyll & Bute Limited are continuing the collection service for hazardous household wastes.

Hazardous household wastes form a relatively small percentage of the household waste stream but can pose a considerable threat to the environment if not handled correctly. Such wastes include medicines, pesticides, insecticides, paints and other household chemicals. You may have this type of waste stored in your garage, garden shed or cupboards.

This service is being continued as part of Argyll and Bute Council's ongoing commitment to a cleaner environment, and as part of the implementation of the waste strategy for Argyll and Bute.

This service is being provided free of charge to householders throughout Argyll and Bute.

If you have any such wastes as described above and wish to have them uplifted, please obtain an application form from your local area office as listed below.

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Bute	01700 505339
Cowal	01369 708600
Helensburgh & Lomond	01436 658877
Islay & Jura	01496 301301
Kintyre	01586 552366
Mid Argyll	01546 604666
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LOOK AT OBAN



Good news for Ganavan

AN OBAN hoteliers' plans to return the beach at Ganavan Sands to its glory days are well on their way. MacGregor Hotels took over at Ganavan in December and since then has been in talks with Argyll and Bute Council...

Houses put beside golf course

A PLANNING application for two houses on the edge of Glencruitten Golf Club's course in Oban has been approved by councillors. The outline plan for the two houses by Mark and Robin MacQueen...



Five sets of twins born in the Oban and Lorn area last year met last week at a reunion in the Oban hospital.

Babies arrive at the double in Oban

ANYONE going through Lorn and Islands District General Hospital in Oban last Wednesday could be forgiven for thinking they were seeing double - several times over. Five sets of twins from the Oban and Lorn area, all born between May and December last year...

Youth fined after jaunt went awry

A SEVENTEEN-year-old Oban youth has been fined £200 after driving his father's car without insurance. Robert Nicholson, 4 John Street, appeared last week in Oban Sheriff Court...

Oban Sheriff Court

Woman should thank solicitor

AN OBAN woman was told it was thanks to her solicitor's plea that she had escaped a jail sentence. Tracey Goldie, who had admitted breaching a probation order...

Breach man apologises

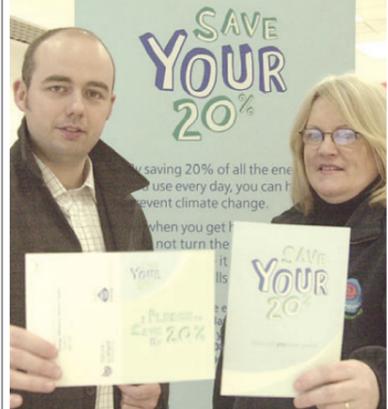
A MAN who shouted and swore at a member of staff at Oban's Job Centre has been fined £175. Keith Armstrong, aged 60, admitted breaching the peace...

Ordered to pay victim

A MAN who punched two men on the face in Oban's Combie Street has been put in probation for a year and ordered to pay one victim compensation. Darren MacIntyre, aged 30...

Woman admonished

A WOMAN who has been of good behaviour after admitting breach the peace at McCaig Road, Oban, in February last year has been admonished. Jean Jaffray or Davidson, aged 36...



Brian Canning and Evelina McAfferty spread the energy saving message at the Co-op in Oban last week.

Oban saves energy...

OBAN is an energy-saving town according to two energy efficiency advice officers who visited the town last week. Brian Canning and Evelina McAfferty of Strathclyde and Central Energy Efficiency Advice Centre...

... and Glenshellach shows Parliament how

ARGYLL's energy efficiency agency took its message to the very steps of the Scottish Parliament last week. ALEnergy staged its own exhibition in the Garden Lobby of the Holyrood building...

Advertisement for 'The Floorshop' featuring various carpet and flooring options with prices and contact information.

Advertisement for 'Tree Shop' featuring Rhododendrons, Azaleas, and Camellias with contact details for Ardkinglas Estate Nurseries Ltd.

Advertisement for 'FISHupdate' magazine, the 1st issue out on the 3rd March, covering fishing, catching, processing, and aquaculture.



The Ardnamurchan first year pupils with the patchwork quilt which will be winging its way to South Africa. 107map01

Ardnamurchan fosters South African links

PUPILS at a tight knit Highland secondary school have been hard at work fostering links with a South African school and community which was blighted by apartheid.

Judy Drever, who is Ardnamurchan High School's art and design teacher, visited the Western Cape town of Prince Albert two years ago where she watched the school pupils flood the streets at bell-time.

Last October she returned to South Africa and met the school's headteacher and English teacher Ailsa Tudhope.

After speaking with them Judy said it became apparent that Ardnamurchan High School and its community had 'a great deal in common' with Prince Albert. Judy said: 'Both are relatively isolated and both have a history of human rights' violations although apartheid affected many more people than the Highland Clearances.

'Under the 'Grand Apartheid' scheme of the 1960s Prince Albert's coloured population was forcibly removed from their homes in the heart of the town and rehoused in the North End area.

'The housing is very basic and life for most of these people is hard as wages for those who can find work are very low and many rely on handouts and meals from local churches. The primary school has more than 1,600 pupils and the teachers struggle with very limited resources. The school is not as well funded as the secondary school in the heart of the town and

Driver banned after Appin accident

A DRIVER whose car hit another car carrying two people at Appin, trapping them, has been disqualified from driving and fined £350 for careless driving.

Oban Sheriff Court heard last week that Ross Croy of Mo-Dhachaidh, Inverinate, had been driving south on the A828 on October 27 last year, when he failed to negotiate a tight left-hand bend and smashed into the other car.

The court heard that the 90-degree bend was at the end of a long straight, near Appin Lodge, and was not familiar to the accused who was on his way to a job interview in Lochgilphead.

The car had started to drift across the carriageway and the witnesses in the other car had seen the bonnet dip and smoke coming from the tyres before their car was hit head on.

Croy broke both his legs in the accident, while the man in the other car suffered seat belt injuries and had to be kept overnight in Belford Hospital, Fort William and his wife was flown to Raigmore Hospital, Inverness, with a broken leg.

Croy pled guilty to driving without due care and attention.

Procurator Fiscal Clifford Most said there were warning signs before the bend to slow down and chevron marker boards indicating a sharp left.

Sheriff Douglas Small told Croy, aged 24, that he was lucky not to have been killed or more seriously injured or the other parties too.

'I am going to disqualify you for four months because of the concern on my part and on the part of most people that live in this area over the number of road traffic accidents that happen on our roads and the number of people who are seriously injured because of poor driving,' he said.



George Lamb with the young enterprise team's 'pollibags' stall at the Highland Trade Show.

Young inventors go into design challenge knockout

THREE young Ardnamurchan High School inventors are heading into the 'knockout' stages of a major Highlands and islands design competition.

First year pupils Toby Barber, Daniel Hutchison and Joe Derham and their company Nanotech entered the ICT Hot House Youth Challenge with their 'PR' invention which is a personal reminder that can be worn on the ear. The design team made a presentation, using the school's video conference machine, to the judges, who were based at the ICT Challenge head office at the end of last month.

The next day adult helper Penny Derham received a telephone call informing her that Nanotech as through to the final 15 teams.

On March 21, the team travels to Alness for the next stage which is called 'the Forum'.

They will spend the whole day with ICT experts to develop their design before making a 20-minute presentation.

If they are successful it goes down to the wire as only six teams will be left.

They will go forward into the 'Hothouse' where they will be given the opportunity to develop their idea into reality.



Left to right; Daniel Hutchison, Toby Barber and Joe Derham of Nanotech 107geo01

Enterprise team 'polli' bag a winner

VALENTINE'S Day in Strontian saw romantics employ couriers to convey their love with chocolate and roses.

Ardnamurchan High School's Young Enterprise team of Katie Chapple, Annie Green, Barnaby Edwards and George Lamb were runners-up at the Highland Trade Show in December with their 'pollibags'.

The bags were adapted for Valentine's Day and saw George and Barnaby deliver them around the school. The bags were designed and made by the team from recycling used supermarket polythene bags. Each bag is unique and serves a variety of purposes.

It was an excellent achievement for the team considering it was the first time the school had ever ventured into enterprise.

No Argyll and Bute archivist is 'a rather short-sighted decision'

A LEADING genealogist has said he is horrified to learn that council cut backs will leave Argyll and Bute without an archivist.

Les Horn, the chairman of the Lochaber and North Argyll Family History Group told *The Oban Times* of his disbelief when he heard that Argyll and Bute Council did not intend to replace its well-respected and long-serving archivist Murdo MacDonald when he retires in March.

'It is with some horror that I have learned that,' said Mr Horn, who believes this could have a knock-on effect for people near and far trying to trace their family histories.

'I have found Murdo's services to be absolutely invaluable as I research for others.

'I only live 60 miles from Lochgilphead but imagine the problem for our cousins thousands of miles away in the former Colonies, many of whom are researching ancestors who emigrated from this part of the world.'

He has called on the council to reconsider what he believes is a 'rather short-sighted decision'.

Mr Horn put his concerns to James McLellan, the chief executive of Argyll and Bute Council.

Mr McLellan said: 'It is regrettable that the scale of the budgetary pressures has forced [the council] to consider cuts of this nature particularly when the service provided by Mr MacDonald has been highly regarded.'

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12.30 and 2.30 SUNDAY - 6.00 TUESDAY to THURSDAY

THE LITTLE POLAR BEAR: The Mysterious Island

12.30, 2.30, 6.15 and 8.15 FRIDAY, SATURDAY and MONDAY
12.30 and 2.30 SUNDAY - 6.15 and 8.15 TUESDAY to THURSDAY

ZATHURA - A Space Adventure

8.15 on FRIDAY and SATURDAY - 2.45 on SUNDAY
8.15 MONDAY to THURSDAY

CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2

STUDIO CINEMA 01397 705095
CAMERON SQUARE - FORT WILLIAM

7.15 on FRIDAY - 2.00 AND 7.15 on SATURDAY
2.00 on SUNDAY - 7.15 MONDAY to THURSDAY

BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN

7.30 on FRIDAY - 2.15 and 7.30 on SATURDAY
2.15 on SUNDAY - 7.30 MONDAY to THURSDAY

JARHEAD



At the Cinema

THE LITTLE POLAR BEAR 2: "The Mysterious Island"

Screen One U Certificate 81 Minutes
OBAN HIGHLAND THEATRE
1.00 and 6.00 FRIDAY and SATURDAY - 1.00 SUNDAY - 1.00 and 6.00 MONDAY - 6.00 TUESDAY to THURSDAY

In this second animated film, based on the Hans de Beer books, *The Little Polar Bear 'Lars'* is transported to the wild and remote Galapagos Islands, to save a prehistoric fish monster from explorers, and from the dangers of an erupting volcano. Starring 'Maximilian Artajo', the delightfully drawn and colourful images make this a movie to give pleasure to the younger generation.

CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2

Screen One - 12A Certificate - 90 Minutes
OBAN HIGHLAND THEATRE
8.15 FRIDAY and SATURDAY - 2.45 SUNDAY - 8.15 MONDAY to THURSDAY

The Bakers are back with a vengeance with **STEVE MARTIN** starring in the sequel to his 2003 movie success, this time under the direction of **ADAM SHANKMAN** (director of *The Pacifier*). On this occasion they are toe-to-toe against another clan in an ultimate inter-family battle. The entire **CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN** cast units, including **Bonnie Hunt, Hilary Duff, Tom Welling and Piper Perabo**, and they are joined by a new family, headed by **Eugene Levy**. Bigger scale with more laughs and action than before.

In **CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2**, Tom Baker (Steve Martin) and wife Kate bring their family together at their long-time holiday home, on the shores of Lake Winnetka. Their away-from-it-all retreat soon turn cutthroat however, when they enter into competition with the over-achieving members of the large family headed by Tom's deadly rival Jim Murtaugh (Eugene Levy).

BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN

Screen One 15 Certificate 134 Minutes
FORT WILLIAM STUDIO THEATRE
7.15 FRIDAY - 2.00 AND 7.15 SATURDAY - 2.00 MONDAY - 7.15 SUNDAY to THURSDAY

Awarded the 'Golden Lion' at the Venice Film Festival, and with more 'OSCAR' nominations than any other movie, this outstandingly acted and nostalgic romance is a moving film experience.

Directed by **Ang Lee** and (in alphabetical order) starring **Linda Cardellini, Jake Gyllenhaal, Anne Hathaway, Heath Ledger, Michelle Williams and Randy Quaid**, this is one film not to be missed in 2006.

The story begins with **Ranch hands Del Mar (Ledger)** and **Jack Twist (Gyllenhaal)** being hired to tend sheep in 1960's Wyoming, when they experience a 'gay relationship', before eventually going their own separate ways, marrying and having children. This masterly adaptation of the **Annie Proulx** book about forbidden love, is played out against scenery that is far more stunning than moviemakers **Howard Hawks** and **John Ford** ever mustered. **Ang Lee** is nominated for a 2006 'Oscar' for his direction of this superb Western, that has all the epic scale that a truly formidable story requires.

JARHEAD Screen Two 15 Certificate 123 Minutes
FORT WILLIAM STUDIO CINEMA
7.30 FRIDAY - 2.15 and 7.30 SATURDAY - 2.15 SUNDAY - 7.30 MONDAY to THURSDAY

Superbly produced and directed, strongly acted and crammed with indelible images, this is an all action movie that will leave a deep impression. Adapted from **Anthony Swofford's** honest memoir of his contribution to Desert Storm, **Jarhead** goes from the days of inaction to hard fighting, with oil wells burning under blood red skies. Directed by **Sam Mendes**, from the screenplay by **William Brayles**, the cast includes **Jake Gyllenhaal, Jamie Foxx, Peter Sarsgaard, Chris Cooper and Scott MacDonald**. But be warned, this is certainly not a movie for the faint-hearted.



Stephen Purdon, aka River City's 'wee Bob', with members of Oban High School XL Club at the Dare to be Different event in Oban's Argyllshire Gathering Halls. 10726001

River City star boosts Oban's Dare to be Different Day

SCOTTISH television soap star **Stephen Purdon** was in Oban last week to promote voluntary work and learning. Stephen, who plays 'wee Bob' in River City, attended the Dare to be Different day in the Argyllshire Gathering Halls last Wednesday. The event had a number of stalls for school children and adults to visit encouraging them to take up volunteer work or further learning. Stephen, who was swarmed by photograph hunters from Oban High School throughout the day, said he was at the event to encourage young people to get involved in volunteer work. The day was organised by

Argyll and Bute's volunteer sector forum. The forum is made up of: **Homestart Lorn; North Argyll Community Trust; Argyll and Bute Volunteer Centre and the Argyll Council of Voluntary Services.** Learn Direct and Careers Scotland also had stalls and helped to sponsor the event. Pat Logan, manager of Argyll and Bute Volunteer Centre, said: 'The ultimate reason for the event was to get individuals and groups more involved in their community. We also hoped to strengthen the volunteer sector forum so it can represent the community more effectively at community planning. Community planning is

the opening up of government to the people to determine what services they want in their area. 'We wanted it all to be fun which is why we had a i-Pod competition and a bungee run at the event. 'The feedback has been good and people want to see more of it so we are trying to get more organised for other areas of Argyll and Bute.' Argyll and Bute Volunteer Centre is still looking for young people aged 11-25 to sit on the area's youth panel which will make recommendations on the distribution of £211,000 Lottery money for youth projects. Contact 01688 302500 for an application pack.

Sileas to the rescue of Barcaldine ceilidh

A DANCE aimed at raising funds for a new hall at Barcaldine, North Lorn, had to be postponed last weekend after problems with the band. But thanks to **Sileas Sinclair, Connel** and her ceilidh band, organisers say the ceilidh will now go ahead on February 25 in the Victory Hall, Benderloch, instead. Chairman of Barcaldine Community Association **Peter Jameson** said they were very grateful to Sileas and her band for stepping into the breach. The family ceilidh will include refreshments, a bar and raffle.

Lynn Court ceilidh success

ANOTHER popular ceilidh organised by the Oban and District Old People's Welfare Association took place in Lynn Court on Wednesday February 8. Sustaining a first-rate programme were soloists **Mary Catherine MacNeill**, and **Freddie MacKenzie**. **Winnie Campbell** was the lively accordionist and there was brilliant fiddle playing from **Maurice Duncan**. **Jim Robb** recited comic Scottish verse and sang, as did the chairperson **Ann Watt**. There was a delicious interval tea and the evening ended with a rip-roaring singalong.

Camera club get people in focus

'PEOPLE' was the subject of the competition contested by members of Oban Camera Club at their meeting in the Regent Hotel on Monday January 30. Predictably, given the club's reputation, it produced a selection of highly imaginative entries with the subjects captured in natural light. Results Prints - 1 and 2 **John Douglas**, Oban; 3 equal **Jim Kirkpatrick** and **Nevin Blackwood**, both Oban. Slides - 1 **Pete Hardy**, **Kilmore**; 2 equal **Jim Kirkpatrick** and **Hazel Laird**, **Ganavan**; 4 **Joan Allan**, **North Connel**. Entries were judged by **David Brown**, Oban, a former president of the club.

Quarriers on the hunt for bridge jumping daredevils

QUARRIERS charity is on the hunt for some of the year's local daredevils to join in its sponsored abseil for the charity which has offices in Oban, from the Forth Rail Bridge. The charity offers practical help, support and care for children, adults and families.



Your Stars with Patrick Arundell

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20) 09111 767 272
You can certainly have a greater need to say how you feel. But caution is required. With three planets now lurking in the most secretive zone, utterances you make could surprise even you. This is a week when there can be an atmosphere of intrigue. You can't stop this completely, but you can limit the potential for hurt, by being very cautious about what you say and to whom. For more, please call me.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21) 09111 767 272
The last week may have seen you feeling a bit unsettled about your future hopes, some of these may have also suddenly altered. Now you can start to make sense of this. A co-operative approach can certainly help to open the door of opportunity. Yet a chance may be in the offing which will see you soul searching, trying to figure what is the best thing for you to do. Follow your heart. For more, please call me.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21) 09111 767 272
You can open out the clutch and show enormous desire to make your way up the ladder of success. Then again, at home and more personally if one person, or perhaps more than one, has been giving you the run around for long enough, you can start to demonstrate a much more assertive streak. In fact, the sparks could really fly. Feeling respected, is what will drive you from now on. For more, please call me.

CANCER (June 22 - July 21) 09111 767 272
Life needs to become more spontaneous but of course this is easier said than done, especially if you have lots of commitments and others relying on you too. Also something from your past can work its way back into your situation in the next couple of months. This can see your mood become a bit more up and down and it might be hard to figure why this should be at times. More soon... For more, please call me.

LEO (July 23 - Aug 23) 09111 767 272
Life can take a more psychological dimension but at a practical level you can become much more conscious of assets, credit charges and savings. Physically, this can be a time when you start to feel stronger. Team sports could appeal to some, and for the slightly less vigorous, things like getting together with a group of friends for a walk in the country could prove uplifting. For more, please call me.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23) 09111 767 272
You may have found yourself involved in some surprising conversations recently, or others have come into your world in unexpected ways. Making sense of this is important. And continuing to work on your listening skills can help. Yet this week, you may be much more inclined to want to reinforce your side of things, rather than hear out others. Or will someone be on the bossy side? For more, please call me.

LIBRA (Sept 24 - Oct 23) 09111 767 272
The move of Mars into the expansive sector of your chart and the Sun into the most dutiful one, can have both plusses and minuses. A greater sense of adventure is one thing, but this could make you uncharacteristically rebellious about attending to those everyday obligations. The net result could be tension. However, by the weeks end you should be able to get to grips with things. For more, please call me.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 22) 09111 767 272
The most passionate side of your nature can be aroused and this can make you a force to be reckoned with. But don't be tempted to push too hard. Charm and good grace will be the best ways to extract value from this week, not resorting to the darker arts. Romantically, the temperature can certainly rise. Perhaps you are about to be true to your sensual archetype - in a big way! For more, please call me.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23 - Dec 21) 09111 767 280
The trick this week will be in balancing your need for personal space, with the needs of those closest to you. They may see it as you wanting to have them on hand when it suits and not when it does not. Yet anyone who is not very good at recognising your boundaries could soon get short shrift. Any love of sport or vigorous exercise can become much more pronounced. For more, please call me.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22 - Jan 20) 09111 767 281
Your attention to detail can be excellent. However, if you try to spread yourself as thinly as the lowest of low cost spreads, your attention can wander and efficiency plummet. The astral prompt is carefully pick your targets and stick to them. A few early nights, gentle exercise and a reduction in caffeine can also be ways to keep yourself in tip top shape. For more, please call me.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19) 09111 767 282
The Sun wants to reward you for all the hard work you've recently invested and Mars is encouraging you to be more vital in approach to every facet of your situation. This combination can give you a hearty appetite for life's luxuries - yes even aesthetic you - and why not? However, your normally sane approach to materialism is best not sacrificed on the altar of gain. For more, please call me.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20) 09111 767 283
When Mercury moved into Pisces on February 9th, a change of emphasis began which now picks up momentum as the Sun makes its entrance too. As the royal astral courtiers bow at your feet, this is your chance to re-engage, to initiate to begin a fresh new phase. Yet initially does what you plan, or hope to achieve, go against your best interests? Will there be emotional turbulence? For more, please call me.

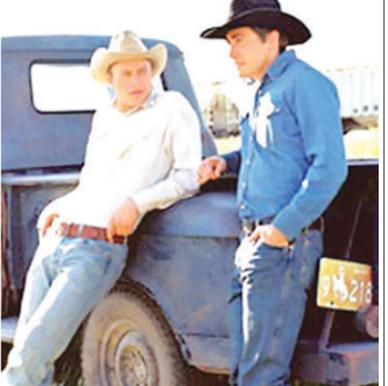
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ZATHURA - A SPACE ADVENTURE

Screen Two - PG Certificate - 101 Minutes
OBAN HIGHLAND THEATRE
12.30, 2.30, 6.15 and 8.15 FRIDAY and SATURDAY
12.30 and 2.30 SUNDAY
12.30, 2.30, 6.15 and 8.15 MONDAY

6.15 and 8.15 TUESDAY to THURSDAY

After their father (**Tim Robbins**) leaves for work, six-year-old **Danny (Jonah Bobo)** and ten-year-old **Walter (Josh Hutcherson)**, are left in the care of their older sister **Lisa (Kristen Stewart)**. Finding an old tattered metal board game called *Zathura*, **Danny** tries to get his brother to play the game with him, but without success. He therefore then decides to tackle the game on his own... **Danny** is in for a big surprise however when he discovers this is no ordinary board game. For a start, he finds out that his spaceship marker moves by itself and, when it finally lands on a space, a card is ejected carrying an urgent message: *"Meteor Shower, take evasive action"* and a gaping hole appears in the roof of their house. They discover, to their horror, that they have propelled into deepest and darkest outer space.



Brokeback Mountain showing at the Studio Cinema, Fort William

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

Sunday 19th February
Highland Wedding Show, Corran Halls, Oban, 11am till 5pm. Tickets from Corran Halls Box Office

Tuesday 7th March
Stories from poet and storyteller **John Sutch** Pickard, Corran Halls, Oban, 7.30 pm

Tuesday 28th March
Traditional Highland Folk Tales, Corran Halls, Oban, 7.30pm. Tickets £5/£3. Tel: Corran Halls 01631 567333

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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

Saturday 25th March Oban & Lorn Strathspey & Reel Society, 'Fiddlers Rally' Corran Halls, Oban

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

Thursday 27th April - Sunday 30th April Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival

Thursday 27th April - Bonhams - Valuers and Auctioneers, McTavish's Kitchens, Oban, at 7.30pm. Further details nearer the date

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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Community garden group hosts Valentine's Dance



The team behind the proposed community garden for Oban before the Valentine's Dance at the Corran Halls. 107val01

BIG HEARTS, no end of hard work and artistic flair were all on display in for a special Valentine's Dance which was the latest step towards a community garden for Oban.

The dance at the Corran Halls at the weekend was organised by Oban Community Sensory Garden.

A 'sensory garden' set out to appeal to the five senses of taste, touch, smell, sight and sound and is planned for the area in front of the Corran Esplanade Church.

It is expected to cost in the region of £50,000 and will have bushes, plants, flowers, a 'wild area' for birds and insects, sculptures, ornaments, benches and a water feature.

The idea came about as a means of promoting social inclusion for people with disabilities living in and around Oban but the Sensory Garden group chairwoman Catriona Campbell said it would be for everybody in the community no matter their age. 'Phenomenal' is how

Caroline Silkowski, Lorie Evans and Marion Power described the amount of support the group has received from local people and businesses so far with the next step to begin making formal applications for funding.

The Corran Halls were bedecked in decorations created by Rockfield Primary school pupils and the Lorn Resource Centre for the dance which included a 'ring raffle' and music from Heathen and Ramshackle Ceilidh.

Schubert Male Voice Quartet choose Oban in five-concert tour

THE SONOROUS sound of the Schubert Male Voice Quartet filled Oban's Studio Theatre at the Corran Halls on Monday evening at the regular meeting of Oban Music Society.

John Dallas, Falkirk and William Coleman, Somerset, both bass, met while working at Scottish Opera and decided to form a quartet after singing at the graveside of Schubert while

on a visit to Vienna with Scottish Opera.

They were encouraged by Moira Starks of Arran when she asked them to come and sing at Brodick Castle for the National Trust for Scotland.

The pair have now been joined by tenors Alex Laing, Edinburgh and Nicholas Drew originally from Sheffield, and Oban was one stop in their first

five-concert tour as this quartet.

William is a freelance singer, while John does some teaching and is soon to sing again with Scottish Opera, while Alex is a freelance musician who also plays violin and Nick, as well as being a fine singer, is a local government officer in Wolverhampton.

The four sang through 400 years of songs from

Madrigals, Glee's and Victorian part songs to barber shop.

They also sang a number of Scots songs arranged by head of music at Scottish opera Derek Clark and composer and arranger Claire Liddell as well as some spiritual numbers.

The quartet maintained busy schedule and sang in Campbeltown on Tuesday evening.



From left, Nicholas Drew, William Coleman, John Dallas and Alex Laing before the start of their concert in the Studio Theatre at the Corran Halls. 107qnt01



Bin bags and litter sticks at the ready, these youngsters from Park Primary School helped to tidy up the Dunollie Woods. 1071101

Dunollie's winter spring clean

WEST Highland Housing Association knows that even though it's the middle of winter, it's never too early to have a spring clean.

The association organised another of its litter picks at Dunollie, aiming to give the newly-refurbished properties a newly-smartened setting.

Landscaping work has included thinning and pruning back trees in the area and on Friday the litter squad moved in, comprising 30 youngsters from the primary seven class of Park Primary School and 15 adults.

They started off at Grahame Court car park and collected an impressive amount of litter.

The association has applied successfully for a biodiversity grant from the Argyll and Bute Bio-diversity Partnership to help make the area safer, cleaner more attractive and more accessible.

Using the biodiversity grant funds the association hopes to enhance the natural woodland around Dunollie to encourage more people to walk through the woodlands and appreciate their beauty. The association also wants to link the Dunollie woods to the work

being done through the Atlantic Woodlands Bio-diversity Action Plan across the area.

The whole exercise was planned to make people more aware of the importance of the environment and flora and fauna of the woodlands and bring together the local community

and the school children at Park school.

It was also designed to give work to the members of the local employability team.

After the event the children returned to school and were presented with a cheque for school funds by Bob Black of Dunollie Estates.

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Craignish bring back curry 'take along' nights

WHEN it comes to a good curry, Craignish doesn't have a takeaway, the village has more of a 'take along'.

Cooks throughout the village take along dishes of their favourite recipes to curry nights at the village hall that have become famous over the years.

These events were sorely missed while the new village hall was under construction.

However that was rectified last Saturday when a good crowd gathered to enjoy a wonderful selection of curries ranging from eye-watering vindaloos to milder kormas, accompanied by masses of naan bread, poppadums and dhal.

All the dishes were donated by members of the community and the committee would like to thank everyone for their support; all the money raised will go towards items which a still needed to finish fitting out the hall.

The next big event at the hall will be Prime Productions' performance of Zinnie Harris's award winning play *Further and the Furthest Thing*, on February 24.

Children and animals prove volunteers' favourites

A SURVEY of 45 volunteer centres across Scotland, including Tobermory and Dunoon volunteer centres, has found that the thought of working with children or animals are the main encouragements to volunteering.

The top two most 'asked about' volunteering opportunities in Scotland are working with animals or children but the top 10 also includes working outdoors, with the elderly, befriending and working with people affected by addictions or mental health problems.

Those areas least likely to interest people were committee work, fund raising and accountancy.

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Oidhche Donnchadh Bán Mac an t-Saoir
Duncan Ban MacIntyre Night
Weem Hotel, By Aberfeldy
Friday 24th March 2006
7.15 for dinner at 7.30pm
Tickets £12.95 per person
Information & Tickets from Richard Deveria
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Invernevis action group marches on Highland council care home meeting

A LOCHABER action group is marching on the Highland Council offices in Inverness today (Thursday) to protest against plans to transfer Invernevis House into private hands.

Invernevis Action Group is also delivering a 4,000 signature petition to the council's care homes sub-committee which is expected to approve the privatisation plans after looking into a report detailing the annual budget of Invernevis.

The total budget is £900,000, of which £124,858 is spent on providing day care and a lunch club.

The council wants to privatise services at Invernevis

and a number of other establishments in the Highlands because it claims it needs to modernise services to comply with Care Commission and Disability Discrimination Act standards.

On March 15 this year the sub-committee will present its recommendations to the council housing and social work committee. This is the date the council is expected to finalise details of the tender contract. Private companies will then be invited to tender bids.

Liz Campbell of Invernevis Action Group says the council plans have left the residents who understand the situation 'frightened'.

She said: 'Let's face it, a private home is out to make profits. They will either cut staff ratios or the food budgets. The service is not the same. I saw there was a survey which showed 60 per cent of people in private care homes down south were under-nourished.'

'The residents who understand are very upset about the whole thing.'

'They are happy with the way things are. They like the staff and I think this is frightening me.'

'I have to say that my mother was in an independent private care home before and it was very good. It is the big multi-national companies which worry me. I think

things would change dramatically.' Ms Campbell praised the day care services which Invernevis provides.

'There is an elderly woman who lives beside me who is picked up at 9am and taken home at around 4.30pm. She gets a hot meal and I don't think she would cope otherwise. Others get baths and help with laundry,' she said.

Two years ago £1million was earmarked by the council to refurbish Invernevis, however, it was advised that residents would have to be moved out during the work. The council didn't go ahead because it said there was no other residential care accommodation in the interim.

Lochaber outdoor capital bid launched

TODAY sees the launch of Lochaber's bid to become Outdoor Capital of the UK.

The event takes place at the largest indoor ice climbing wall in the world at The Ice Factor, Kinlochleven.

The UK's best all-round climber Dave Macleod will be at the launch as will Outdoor Capital of the UK chairman Finlay Finlayson and Outdoor Capital director and owner of the Ice Factor Jamie Smith.

The Outdoor Capital of the UK is a community focused initiative run by a limited company with a board of 15 unpaid directors.

Its objective is to promote the area of Fort William and Lochaber as the country's top spot for outdoor activities with a view to developing local jobs, wealth and encouraging sustainable economic growth.

A 30-tonne, 16-metre high outdoor ice wall will also be built and floodlit at The Nevis Centre, Fort William, at 6.15pm tonight (Thursday) with live demonstrations by the world's best all-round climbers as part of the Fort William Mountain Film Festival.

Last crossing for Fort ferry?

A FERRY service which has been running for more than a century could be making its last crossing as council budget cuts hit Lochaber.

Highland Council is to 'review' the Camusnagaul ferry service, also known locally as the 'Treslaig ferry', which currently costs the council £90,000 a year. Although passenger numbers are falling 2,500 people still make the crossing each year.

Options for the future of the ferry include continuing

the service with a new timetable and improved marketing; privatising the ferry or stopping the service altogether.

Keen

Ardnamurchan councillor Michael Foxley said: 'I am especially keen to see if we can ensure that the ferry operation continues. There has been a ferry at Camusnagaul and previously at Annat for well over a century. It was privately run until 30 years ago when the council took over the service.'

'It is important for the viability of the village hall in Treslaig. Many visitors to Fort William cross on the Camusnagaul ferry to use the popular tearoom located in the hall in the summer. Treslaig also offers one of the very best views of Ben Nevis for visitors.'

'The visitor attraction should be linked to the Outdoor Capital of the UK marketing as well as the imminent establishment of the Lochaber European Geology Park as much of the locally geology can be

viewed and interpreted from Treslaig including Ben Nevis, Aonach Mor and the Great Glen.'

The ferry is also at the north-end of the Oban to Fort William cycle route. Cyclists reaching Nether Lochaber cross the Corran Ferry and cycle northwards on the A861 to exit to Fort William via the Camusnagaul ferry.

It also gives pupils in Fort William access to Gaelic secondary education at Ardnamurchan High School.

Lochaber smoking survey

YOUNG people across Lochaber have joined in a Highland-wide survey asking them their ideas on the best ways to stop smoking.

The Stynx Peer Support Smoking Cessation Project is operating at 17 secondary schools across the Highlands and is being stepped up as a result of Highland Council's smoking ban enforced on January 1 this year. Now project leaders want to hear from teenagers across Lochaber via the Highland Youth Voice internet site.

Stynx co-ordinator Rosanna Proudlock said: 'Results have been gathered from teachers, youth and community workers, school nurses and senior pupil group leaders. We want to gather more teenagers' opinions about smoking through the website.'

Massive investment in Highland railway

AROUND 100 abseilers and technical experts will be working on the west Highland line this month carrying out nearly £3 million of work on the railway.

The specialist four-week project, which begins on Saturday February 18 will involve removing vegetation and cutting through thick rock at the side of the line to ensure its long-term stability.

Plans are also in place to start a three-month project to improve the sea defences in the Kyle of Lochalsh area with around 20,000 tonnes of rock armour.

Buses will replace trains between Kyle of Lochalsh and Strathcarron while the work takes place.

From Saturday February

18 until Sunday March 19 all services to and from Kyle of Lochalsh will start from and terminate at Strathcarron.

A replacement bus service will operate between Strathcarron and Kyle of Lochalsh, also calling at Attadale, Stromeferry, Duncraig, Plockton and Duirinish.

Specialist

Route director for Network Rail which is in charge of the operation, David Simpson, said: 'The work is very specialist and can only be done when no trains are running.'

'We wanted to make the most of the temporary line closure so we've planned a full programme of work and have a large, experienced team on hand.

The work we do now is part of our ongoing commitment to Scotland's railways and will reduce the need for further maintenance in the future.'

Assessments have already taken place to find out where work needs to be carried out along the rock-face.

Wire netting will be used to retain loose stone as the cutting takes place.

Work will also be carried out on sea defences at 10 locations between Duirinish and Kyle of Lochalsh subject to final approval from the Scottish Executive.

Natural rocks, each around 600mm in size, are placed to protect the embankment from erosion by the sea.



The Norwegian-Scottish orchestra at Fort William's Nevis Centre this week.

Silent movies return to Lochaber

YOUNG musicians from Lochaber Music School gave a festival audience in Fort William's Nevis Centre the chance to revisit the days of the silent movies.

Twelve musicians from the music school joined with a 20-strong Norwegian orchestra to play the original score to a long-lost Norwegian film, *Growth of the Soil*.

The performance was a major highlight of the Fort William Mountain Film Festival which runs until Saturday February 18.

The film is an adaption of the Nobel prize-winning novel *Markens Grode* by Knut Hamsun.

Written in 1917, the book draws inspiration from the mountain landscapes of Norway.

The score was written by Norwegian composer Lief Halvorsen.

Further performances of *Growth of the Soil* were given at the Sunart Centre, Strontian, and Sabhal Mor Ostaig, Skye, this week.

Dublin air link with Inverness announced

INVERNESS is to get a direct air link with Dublin.

Irish airline Aer Arann will operate four return flights a week between the Highlands and the Irish capital from April 10 this year.

The service is the first direct scheduled air link between the Highlands and the Republic of Ireland.

Wild camping in Glencoe

LANDOWNERS and outdoors enthusiasts are invited to a seminar on wild camping at Glencoe Visitor Centre on February 22.

The seminar aims to stimulate debate on wild and roadside camping and the land management issues arising from this in light of Land Reform (Scotland) legislation.

Cheaper island air fares welcomed as 'fantastic news'

CHEAP flights for island residents to major cities in Scotland have been welcomed as 'fantastic' this week.

The Scottish Executive announced that for the first time in the UK the islanders of Western Isles, Orkney, and Shetland and Orkney, along with residents from remote Caithness on the mainland will be eligible for an estimated 40 per cent discount on trips to Inverness, Glasgow, Edinburgh and Aberdeen. The Tise, Campbeltown and Barra routes are already

subsidised by virtue of their public service obligations and cannot receive further help.

Argyll and Bute Council's transport spokesman Councillor Duncan MacIntyre welcomed the move: 'It's fantastic news, Hi-Trans has been pushing for this for years; we're absolutely delighted.'

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar's chairman of transportation, Councillor Donald Manford, echoed his feelings.

He said: 'This is another major step forward in the

comhairle's long-running campaign to strengthen the economy of the islands by tackling the biggest economic inhibitor, the cost of travel.'

The Aid of Social Character scheme is being used in this UK first. This allows public sector support to reduce air fares in remote and peripheral regions on approval from the European Commission, improving access for remote communities.

An annual budget of £11.2 million has been allocated over the next two financial

years for the scheme, which is seen as helping to deliver the commitment made by the First Minister, Jack McConnell in 2002.

Highlands and Islands MSP Jamie MacGrigor also welcomed the news but one person failed to be impressed. The SNP's Jim Mather MSP said: 'I am left with the suspicion that there is more in this for the executive than there is for local residents as it gives the executive publicity, a relatively quiet life and a hidden subsidy for the health service.'

Motorcyclist's speedy recovery

A LUCKY Dunbeg motorcyclist has made an astonishingly quick recovery after a near-fatal motorcycle accident in July last year.

Scott Morrison suffered horrific injuries on July 8 on the A85 near Dunbeg when he was thrown off his bike after colliding with a car.

In a remarkable stroke of luck Scott landed on the roof of a passing van which saved him from being run over by other vehicles.

Scott said: 'I was extremely lucky I landed on the van - I would be dead otherwise.'

As the accident was unusual, ambulance serv-

ices now use police pictures of the accident scene to demonstrate how to remove a casualty with fractures from the roof of a vehicle.

As a result of the accident Scott suffered a long list of injuries including a fractured wrist, a sheared patella (knee) bone, a crushed left shin, a shattered left knee and a broken right knee in 18 places.

After being rushed to hospital in Oban there were fears he may lose his left leg.

However, the 30-year-old agreed to marry fiancée Rosemarie MacLean while he was on the operating table in Lorn and Islands Dis-

trict General Hospital and before being transferred to a Glasgow hospital.

Remarkably, he was discharged only five weeks after the crash, showing an unusually speedy recovery and he returned to work as manager of the Builder Center in Oban on September 5.

Scott said: 'Doctors reckoned I should have been in hospital for 16 weeks with my injuries and for the first four weeks I couldn't move.'

'But one week after I sat up I was discharged.'

He has now fully recovered and feels fitter as each day passes; the only evidence of his close-to-death

accident is that he has difficulty running.

Scott is no stranger to pain and has had a long history of injuries. He jokes there aren't many bones in his body he hasn't broken.

He added: 'One time I broke my wrist and didn't notice until two weeks later when it went black.'

'I thought it was just staved but when I went to the hospital they told me it was broken.'

Scott admitted the accident had not put him off riding motorbikes and he hopes to get a new bike this Christmas.

He and Rosemarie plan to marry in the summer.

Contractors burst Soroba main

AROUND 60 homes were affected on Wednesday and Thursday last week when contractors working on the new school campus at Soroba in Oban cut through a four-inch water main.

A spokesman for Barr Construction said the pipe was uncharted, while a spokesman for Scottish Water said a delay in the burst being reported led to additional problems for customers who suffered low pressure or were cut off altogether. 'Scottish Water has contacted the contractor to address the issue. We will be working closely with the contractor during the project to avoid any possible repeat,' he said.

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Airstrip concerns at Broadford

THERE are concerns about the air ambulance on Skye after problems with the landing lights at Broadford Airstrip took more than three months to be repaired.

Skye councillor Hamish Fraser has written to the chief executive of the Scottish Ambulance Service asking for assurances that problems with the landing lights have been addressed.

Councillor Fraser said: 'Although Air Wing was made aware of the problem at the beginning of November 2005, I understand the necessary repairs were not carried out until February 7 this year.'

'It is vital we have a reliable air ambulance service and that patients needing urgent medical attention can be evacuated from the island 24-hours-a-day, seven days a week. It is very important for us to have this air link, which is a lifeline for patients.'

NEWSDESK 01631 568000



Pictured during the service at the Glencoe Massacre Monument are Lieutenant Colonel Manning, centre, and the Rev Kenneth Wigston, right.

MacDonalds gather in Glencoe

MACDONALDS from around the globe gathered in Glencoe on Monday for an annual commemoration of the 1692 massacre.

The ceremony is organised every year by the Clan Donald Society of Edinburgh.

Despite inclement weather the ceremony was well attended by members of the society and the general public.

The service was conducted by the Rev Kenneth Wigston of Glencoe who also officiated at a service of Requiem Eucharist in St Mary's Church, Glencoe

village. This year the event was sponsored by Clan Donald USA and a commemorative wreath was laid by Lieutenant Colonel Albert E Manning, the high commissioner for Clan Donald USA.

The piper was John MacCallum from Kinlochleven who played the *Slow Air* and the *Lament for the Sons of Glencoe*.

Around 50 people who attended the ceremony assembled at the Bridge of Coe for a march to the Glencoe Massacre Monument Cross where readings were given and a service was held.

New A82 website launched

A NEW website has been launched by an organisation set up to pool together protests over the poor state of the A82 trunk road.

The A82 partnership, set up by Stuart MacLean who co-ordinated the T-bag campaign to save Belford Hospital, Fort William, has the backing of MSPs and councillors in Lochaber.

The website, which can be found at www.A82.org, invites comments and observations on the road.

Messages of support for the website have already been received by Highlands and Islands list MSP Jim Mather and Lochaber Enterprise.

Jim Mather said: 'The state of the A82 is a major economic inhibitor that is losing the west Highlands much-needed local investment and acting as a disincentive to visit the area. The fact is that roads make markets and while there is much else needing to be done the absence of an adequate road offering faster journey times is no basis for progress.'

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Mallaig

Your correspondent is Robert MacMillan: 01687 462154

Mallaig Community Council

JOHN MacMillan chaired the inaugural meeting of the new council, held recently in the community hall.

After welcoming new members, Mr MacMillan asked the treasurer to give a statement of account. Mrs Margaret MacNeil reported that the village enhancement fund stood at £5,230.54; the village bequest fund £745.05 and the council account £1,179.81.

A £50 donation to the local Stella Nova Choir was agreed.

It was agreed to invite the Mallaig police sergeant to the next meeting of the council when it was hoped that local Highland councillor Charlie King would also be able to attend.

Letters had been received from pupils of Mallaig school, highlighting the need for a youth café. The council agreed and it will contact the relevant authorities to identify possible sites.

Local residents had written to the community council regarding the lack of Mallaig representation on the Morar field and games committees. The council secretary is to establish criteria for membership of the committees and report back to the letter writers.

Other items discussed at the community council meeting included the following:

Marine national parks: Creel fisherman Ian MacKinnon is to be invited to the next meeting to provide the community council with information regarding marine national parks.

Tweety's Plenty speed limit: Implementation of



Members of Taynuilt and District Drama Society who performed Dick Whittington.

Taynuilt drama group's show success

TAYNUILT hall was the venue for the village's acting stars to wow the crowd with their performance of Dick Whittington.

The renamed Taynuilt and District Drama Society (TADDS) presented the rise, fall and rise again of Dick Whittington, and his feline buddy, Tommy. Directed this year by Angela Taylor, memorable as Dandini in last year's show, all the usual panto ingredients were there - music, comedy, men dressed up as dames, women dressed up as chaps, goodies, baddies and lots of 'Oh yes there is, oh no there isn't'.

20mph speed limit signs on approaches to the primary and high school has been welcomed.

Bus timetable: The bus timetable at the bus stop opposite the old police station has gone missing. Highland Council is to be contacted regarding a replacement.

Environmental improvements: The new council is to make themselves familiar with the next round of environmental improvements planned for the village and seek help with funding.

Christmas lights: Highland Council is to be asked to provide better Christmas lights. Collection boxes are to be placed in local shops for donations towards new lights.

Scalpay

Your correspondent is D Morrison: 01859 540217



Weather and creeling

BETWEEN strong to gale force winds, creelers venture to the most sheltered areas to creel for brief periods.

The markets have been busier after the New Year's Day holiday.

What was creeling during the festive period has been stored alive. The catch is stored in boxes in the sea until it is prepared for market.

School open

THE SCHOOL re-opened after the festive holidays on Tuesday January 10.

Moorland crossing

THE MOORLAND crossing on Scalpay can only be undertaken wearing wellies as the ground is soggy with the continuous rain.

It was suggested that a charge be made for putting waste in the skip but Stirling Council was against this.

If someone local could be appointed as skip operator they could ensure that only household waste was being dumped.

Colds

A SPATE of colds has prevailed on the island. It seems a common time of year for people to catch colds.

Gale

A STRONG gale blew from the early hours of the morning until 3pm on January 12.

Ferries to the Western isles were delayed.

Visitors

NOT SO many visitors from the mainland are prepared to cross the Minch in the rough weather.

Tweed weaving

NOT MANY people are currently employed in tweed weaving at the moment.

Killin

Your correspondent is: Judy Forster 01567 820298

Community council

AT THE last meeting of Killin Community Council James Marshall from Stirling Council cleansing department gave a brief talk about the skip.

There have been problems with unauthorised vehicles

using the site and complaints have been received from the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) about waste being thrown over the gates.

The trust would sit alongside the community council and community council members could be members of the trust fund.

Health matters

DR SYME helped to clarify some points raised at the last community council meeting.

The surgery is manned 8am to 6pm Monday to Friday. He had not yet established why the tourist from Tyndrum could not get a doctor as there were

doctors at the surgery at the time, but he was continuing to investigate.

When asked if local doctors would attend during the night he replied only in exceptional circumstances such as road closures.

Dr Syme feels the health service is providing a better service than before.

The change to NHS 24 had happened quickly in this area, but he was not aware of anyone whose medical condition had suffered since the system was put in place.

The system will improve as it gets more staff although in the next few years there will be fewer doctors. It is very difficult to get doctors to come to rural areas. There is still confusion as to who to telephone in an emergency. If it is life threatening, 999 or the surgery should be called.

He was asked if GP training could be split into two half days to ensure that there was always a doctor on call, but he felt this would not be practical.

Dr Syme said helicopters can only work in good weather. If it was needed a military helicopter could be used. Patients should not have to wait for more than 30 minutes for a paramedic to attend.

Could the surgery be open one evening or Saturday morning for people working outside the village? Dr Syme thought that this was a fair point and perhaps worth thinking about. Dr Syme said if anyone had any complaints they should address them to the appropriate services and he is available to answer concerns in the surgery.

Kyle of Lochalsh

Your correspondent is Charlie MacRae: 01599 544359



Badminton

THE FINAL match in the South West Ross Badminton League, which was held over from last season, has been played at last. It was held at Lochcarron

on January 24 and was between Lochcarron and Kyle.

Kyle started as favourites as they only needed a 4-4 draw and Lochcarron needed to win by 6-2.

In a very exciting match, which didn't finish until midnight, the mixed doubles ended 2-2 but Lochcarron won both mens and ladies doubles to win the match 6-2, so it was a delighted Lochcarron veteran captain Raymond Arnold who was presented with the Meldrum Trophy for the first time in its 43 year history and ended Plockton's 12-year dominance in the league.

Plockton has won the trophy 29 times, Kyle 10 and Kyleakin three.

League secretary Hugh Macquarrie presented the trophy and congratulated Lochcarron on its victory. The cup is now on display in Lochcarron Library.

The Lochcarron team was Mikki Thien, Raymond Arnold, Murray Stark, Jonathan Goulder, Carol Macmillan, Sally Ross, Laura MacKay and Karen Starr.

The Kyle team was Ian Ruari Finlayson, Scott Kennedy, Ray Coghill, Stuart Johnston, Kathleen Henderson, Sheena MacKerlich, Sandra Coghill and Lorraine Kennedy.

The new badminton league is under way and results so far are:

Plockton 2 v Kyle 16; Lochcarron 14 v Plockton 4; Achmore 7 v Plockton 11; Plockton 14 v Achmore 4.

Indoor bowling league

RECENT results in the indoor bowling league include: Kyleakin 49 v Kintail 7; Kyleakin 39 v Lochcarron 14; Sleat 26 v Plockton 17; Lochcarron 29 v Lochalsh 15; Kintail 18 v Lochalsh 35; Lochalsh 22 v Sleat 22; Plockton 29 v Kintail 21.

In the Plockton v Kintail match on January 25, playing his first match for Kintail was Jordan Fraser, aged 11.

Also in their team was Jocky O Kane, aged 86.

Craignish hall a hive of activity

WHEN Craignish Village Hall in Ardfern opened last November, everyone was so delighted that after seven years' hard work by many people they had such a magnificent building, little mention was made of all the venue's planned activities.

Since the opening, bookings have come in thick and fast and the hall is now used regularly by the parents and toddlers group, the primary school and the community council, with Tai Chi, yoga, circuit training, badminton, Scottish country dancing, whist, felting and Argyll College computing and digital photography courses all taking place.

In addition to the regular activities, the hall committee is planning a number of social events and a programme of performing arts which includes adult and children's drama and puppets, plus an exciting musical programme. Events run by the committee include the now famous annual boat jumble and car boot sale on March 5.

On February 24 at 7.30pm, Prime Productions is performing the award winning play *Further Than the Furthest Thing*, a political family saga based on true events in Tristan da Cunha.

This is followed on April 6 by the Garlic Theatre's puppet show *Three Billy Goats Gruff* and on April 8 by Heather MacLeod and her band The Healthy Measures.

A real coup for Craignish will be the appearance on April 21 of Harum Scarum and Bonnie 'Prince' Billy, Will Oldham. Such is the interest in this latter performance, with email ticket reservations arriving from as far afield as London and Ireland, that a number of tickets are being held back for local people who are encouraged to get them as soon as possible.

Details of all the activities and events can be found on www.craignishvillagehall.org.uk.

To buy tickets for any of the events or to reserve a space in the hall or car park for the boat jumble and car boot sale, telephone 01852 500689.

Connel Burns Supper fun

A BURNS supper and ceilidh at Lusragan Lodge, Connel, was a great night for residents, staff, friends and family.

Everyone enjoyed a traditional meal, prepared by Doreen MacLeod and Jimmy Jamieson, with the haggis kindly supplied by Oban FM. Brown MacLuekie addressed the haggis before everyone tucked in. The ceilidh then got into full swing with Alisdair MacDonald on accordion, bagpipes and vocals. He was accompanied by Brown MacLuekie, Ann Jamieson, Fiona Lawrie, Maureen Clarke, Stuart Brooks and Margaret MacKain who all entertained with a song.

Thanks went to everyone who helped make the evening a success.



Nursery children brighten residents' day

Smiling Smarties Nursery children brightened the day for residents of Oban's Eadar Glinn Residential Home when they sang nursery rhymes to them last Wednesday. The nursery received £11,000 in grants just before Christmas to help pay for trips. However, on this occasion, the Eadar Glinn minibus took the children to and from the nursery which added to the youngsters' exciting day out. 1073ma01

The Oban Times GENERAL KNOWLEDGE DOUBLE CROSSWORD No. 420. Includes crossword grid and lists of clues for Across and Down.

25 Years Ago Those Were The Days The Oban Times Thursday February 19, 1981. Light at end of tunnel for Colonsay. Cup and honourable mentions for Bob Murray. Skye local Mod is on. Rock-a-bye Rockfield.

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The Oban Times

& West Highland Times

Big is not always beautiful

THIS week's Accounts Commission report highlights a need for modernisation at Argyll and Bute Council if the people the council serve are to gain improved services.

The report also comes at a time when speculation links Argyll and Bute Council with Highland Council.

However, while they both share rural boundaries and complex rural issues, anyone with experience of the geographic and administrative monster that was Strathclyde Regional Council will shudder at the thought of another huge bureaucracy.

Argyll and Bute Council was described by the Accounts Commission as ambitious for its local area but that this ambition had not been translated into action that could be delivered. Perhaps this criticism can also be translated into everyday language as 'they talk a good fight but cannot back it up'.

In acknowledging that the council has made progress in some areas, namely education and housing, it takes a traditional approach to delivering local services and required 'continuous improvement' according to the audit report and that 'elected members, the chief executive and some senior officers need to provide clearer leadership to drive change and promote a culture of challenge'.

An amalgamation of Highland and Argyll and Bute Councils would provide many more chiefs, but would it benefit any indians?

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. *The Oban Times* adheres to the Press Complaints' Commission's Code of Conduct. The views expressed in *The Oban Times* are not necessarily those of this newspaper.

GLASGOW LETTER

Yet another accolade

IT IS all happening for Julie Fowlis and well deserved it is.

In the past few months she has been nominated as Gaelic Singer of the Year at the Scottish Traditional Music Awards and appeared on the BBC Hogmanay Show. Just this last week she took the honours at the glittering BBC Radio Horizon Award 2006 in London for best newcomer, the first Gaelic singer to be nominated.

Julie, a native of North Uist, who studied in Glasgow, was better known in her earlier career with her group *Dochas* as a multi-instrumentalist but in the past few years her beautiful singing voice has come to the fore.

Julie's success is a perfect illustration of how Gaelic music is being accepted by an increasingly wider audience.

Many of the songs she sings have been researched either in North Uist or in the School of Scottish Studies in Edinburgh and are new to most people.

Two CDs with *Dochas* have been released and at least year's Celtic Connections her own CD *Mar a Tha mo Cridhe* was launched.

All three are worthy of purchase.

I am sure Julie must be extremely proud of the success of her career to date, particularly since she gave up her post as development officer with Feisean nan Gaidheal so that she could concentrate on her performing career.

It is not only Julie who will benefit from this national and international recognition. The many talented youngsters now studying our traditional music will realise that all their hard work will allow them to aspire to similar levels.

We wish them all well and I am sure we would all wish to send our congratulations to Julie.

Diary problems

ON THE local ceilidh scene two facts are true.

The number attending functions has been declining for some years, while the age of those attending has been increasing.

Nothing new there you might say but if you look at the diary dates you will see that this weekend three functions will take place in different parts of the same building.

Need I say more? Which should I attend, especially as I am a life member of two of the organisations involved? What a dilemma! A week's holiday in Skye should solve the problem!

Clydebank dinner dance

SUPPORTERS of the Clydebank Highlanders Association are in for a

double treat this month. In addition to the monthly ceilidh, the annual dinner dance will take place on Saturday February 25 in the town hall, 4.30pm for 5pm.

Tickets, priced £20, are available by contacting 01389 879749 or 01389 841092. Music will be provided by Hector MacFadyen.

Stirling An Comunn

AT THE recent function of Stirling An Comunn, Stirling Gaelic Choir showed that it is well prepared for its visit to the Pan Celtic Festival in April.

With support from piper Sandy Campbell and the Cluaran Dancers the capacity crowd thoroughly enjoyed the items from the choir, conducted by Seumas Campbell, and individual contributions from Myra Ross, John Oswald, Catriona Laird, Alison Lamony, Don MacKenzie and Seumas Campbell.

Diary dates

Friday February 17: Kilmarnock Highlanders Association, ceilidh, Holy Trinity Church, Irvine Road. St Columba's Church, ceilidh, in conjunction with Oban friends, church hall, 7.30pm.

Saturday February 19: Glasgow Skye Association, Buntata's Sgadan, Partick Burgh Hall, 7.30pm. Glasgow Lewis and Harris Association, ceilidh, Partick Burgh Hall, 8pm. Highlanders Club Dance, Partick Burgh Hall, 8pm. Clann Gaidhlig, ceilidh/dance, Glen Halls, Main Street, Neilson, 7.30pm.

Thursday February 23: Jenna Reid and Kevin MacKenzie, St Andrews in the Square.

Friday February 24: Helensburgh Highlander's Association, cabaret dance, 8pm, Albany Dance Band. Glasgow Islay Gaelic Choir, annual concert, Kessington Hall, Bearsden, 7.30pm. Glasgow Uist and Barra Association, ceilidh dance, Community Hall, Whitefield Road, Ibrox, 9pm.

Saturday February 25: Clydebank and District Highlander's Association, dinner dance. Motherwell and District Highlander's Association, ceilidh dance, Dalziel Street Andrew's Church Hall, 7.30pm.

Pub scene entertainment

IN THE Park Bar this Friday and Saturday afternoon entertainment will be provided by Iain Angus MacLeod and on Saturday evening and Sunday Deoch 'n Dorus.

At the Islay Inn it's Keeper's Lilt on Friday, Martin Pottinger on Saturday and Don MacDonald on Sunday. Neil Murray, telephone 0141 954 8105. Email neilmurray@yahoo.co.uk.



Oban High School rugby team 1972/73

Doug Lamont of Eaglesham, Glasgow, sent us this week's flashback photograph which shows the Oban High School rugby team of 1972/73. Doug is pictured front row, third left. We would like readers to send in 'Flashback' photographs. Please send prints to *The Oban Times*, 'Flashback' Photo, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. Prints must be accompanied by a caption, name and address, stamped addressed envelope and telephone number. Each month a photo will win £10.

Letters to the Editor

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

www.obantimes.co.uk

Telephone: 01631 568000
Fax: 01631 568001

Invernevis House

Sir, I refer to last week's *Lochaber Lines* and the assertion that some Lochaber councillors had not carried out the will of Lochaber people in relation to the vote to include Invernevis in the second stage tender.

It is not a done deal to accept the private sector tender and I believe it will be almost impossible for the private sector to submit an acceptable tender.

To bring Invernevis up to an acceptable standard the independent sector would have to decant residents. If we claim we cannot do it locally how are they going to do it? My own view is that a new build is necessary. While it will mean re-jigging budgets, it also means only one move for the elderly.

The reason I voted to give the private sector the opportunity is as follows: councillors were led to believe that residents and their relations had been kept informed of the proposals also all interested parties had access to all the information available to councillors through the libraries and the internet.

Added to that, the fact that I did not receive one call from residents in ward 74 on this matter and with the budget working group recommending the proposal a vote in support was hardly going against the run of play or against the wishes of the people.

Since the vote I have been contacted by two people with an interest in this matter and I have told them I will take up their concerns. Also Kilmallie and Glegarry community councils have voiced their

support for Invernevis to remain within council control. I pursued the claim that residents and their relations had not been kept informed. I was advised that over a period of approximately a month that was indeed the case and that an apology had been issued for that oversight.

I also attended the meeting of interested parties in the Nevis Centre - the *Lochaber Lines* columnist did not attend - where I gave a verbal account of my position. I also suggested that objectors to the proposal should attend the next care home sub committee meeting in Inverness on February 16.

By doing so we would show the strength of feeling in Lochaber and there would be no requirement to rely on third parties for information. While I am not a member of the sub committee I intend leaving the audit and standards committee to attend. I look forward to meeting your columnist and all those who wish to show solidarity with the residents of Invernevis in the council chambers, Inverness.

Councillor Bill Clark, Fort William.
Lochaber High School
Sir, How sad it was to read about the downhill slide of Lochaber High School.

Surely this did not happen overnight but over some length of time? Where were the inspectors long ago who could have perhaps prevented many problems happening as this must be hugely embarrassing for teachers who try their best regardless of bad situations?

I'm not surprised teachers

or pupils would be depressed about working in an absolutely rotten building which has been neglected for as long as I can remember.

I'm not a former pupil but my family are and they got a pretty good education there not so long ago. Even then the building was deteriorating but all money, it seems, went to other schools when in fact it could have made a world of difference had it been directed to Lochaber High School.

Who made these decisions and why? People from council and education, I presume, who didn't care less about the state of possibly the largest school in the Highlands.

It is pretty awful to see other new schools looking great and this large wreck falling apart at the seams.
Name and address supplied.

Different ferry rules?

Sir, On Thursday February 3 you printed an article about the Royal Mail arriving late in Oban for the Mull ferry. The thing that interested me the most about this article is that it seems that on this particular route there is one set of rules for the Royal Mail and another for locals.

My reason for assuming this is that the Royal Mail is allowed to arrive on Oban pier at 7.45am for sailing at 8am whereas we are not allowed to arrive after 7.30am. If we do this in Oban we are not allowed on board the ferry.

Could someone from Caledonian MacBrayne or the Royal Mail explain why this is so?

Name and address supplied.

Argyll air services

Sir, We welcome the news that upgrading work will start at Oban Airport by the end of this month.

We also write to express our unqualified support for the Argyll Air Services Project. In 2005 Argyll Air Services Project was identified as the number one strategic priority for the Strategic Regional Transportation Partnership HITRANS. This and the close working relationship we have established with three successive transportation ministers helped to secure the on-going funding support of the Scottish Executive, which was confirmed in 2005.

Those supporting this project are: the Scottish Executive, Argyll and Islands Enterprise, HITRANS, Oban Common Good Fund and the European Regional Development Fund, whose funding of £2,985,500 was confirmed in October 2005 completing the project package worth £6.3million.

Any project of this size and scope will be subject to some risk and we have continually reviewed and monitored the planning stage to ensure we can deliver sustainable, flexible services whilst minimising any risk.

We have a high degree of confidence that the project will deliver on its aims and objectives. It will in the short term create a local air services 'hub', improving community access to services and vice versa; business and tourist links and growth of some of the Highlands' and islands' most fragile communities.

Most, Colonsay and Tiree currently are serviced by

three ferry journeys a week, during the winter schedule the project will provide a daily connection to Oban. Longer term it is hoped the 'hub' will link into the wider Highlands and islands air services network.

Councillor Allan Macaskill, Leader, Resources Spokesperson; Councillor Robin Banks, Depute Leader, Development Spokesperson; Councillor Duncan MacIntyre, Transportation Spokesperson; Councillor Ian Gillies, Island Spokesperson.

Connel Bridge

Sir, It was with empathy I read the correspondence in last week's *Oban Times* regarding the prolonged closure of Connel Bridge on Monday January 30.

I, too, was involved and had to drive home via Tyndrum. This incident highlighted the vulnerability of the communities of North Lorn and caused disruption to those going about their daily activities. The bridge has been damaged on a number of occasions over the past year, though none as serious as on January 30.

The clearance height is well signposted from all directions and drivers should be aware of the height restrictions. It is evident, however, this is not always the case.

I have written to BEAR Scotland, the police and Argyll and Bute Council officials requesting that this be considered as a matter of urgency. I have also suggested that an overhead barrier just before the bridge would alert drivers of high vehicles as to whether they can proceed safely. This would allow them to manoeuvre and complete their journey by an alternative route.

Councillor Elaine Robertson.

A VIEW FROM THE TOWER

By McCAIG



Brown fails lamentably

CHANCELLOR of the Exchequer Gordon Brown never looks a happy man. No matter which form of media captures his image it makes him appear as a sleepy-eyed bookmaker who has just lost a fortune on a rank outsider that had been backed too late for him to lay off some of his loss elsewhere.

And thus it was in the early hours of last Friday morning when the long shot Liberal Democrat Willie Rennie became the MP for Dumfermline and West Fife. Older readers will remember that the latter part of that constituency was once the fiefdom of the late Willie Hamilton, the ardent left winger and republican supreme.

The media pundits, almost all of them, lay the blame for another Liberal Democrat success in Scotland at the feet of Mr Brown. He tried, and singularly failed, to orchestrate the retention of what was one of Labour's safest seats in North Britain, as he would have us believe it to be. I wonder if he realises that his 'British patriotism' campaign last month could have been one of many factors that led to defeat of Labour's Catherine Stihler who is fortunate she still has the job she wanted to abandon.

Member of the European Parliament.

Indeed, I wonder if there was an anti-woman vote there as her predecessor, terminally ill when the General Election took place, was the cause of the by-election. It is said that 'it takes a long spoon to sup with a Fifer'. In this case, a female candidate could have been one of many factors that caused the Labour vote to crumble almost to dust.

But it would not be fair to the superbly-run Liberal Democrat campaign to concentrate on the ineptitude of Mr Brown and his cronies. When by-elections come about for whatever reason the Lib-Dems have a spectacular machine that moves into the constituency, works it ferociously and often successfully as it did in this case.

More local government reform?

THE PERSISTENT whisper that First Minister Jack McConnell wants to have his name attached to a major reform of local government has now become 'an inspired leak' that suggests he has it in mind to get his name into the social history books as the man who took the 'local' out of local government.

But he may find it tougher than he thinks it will be. Electors may not turn out in vast numbers to return their local councillors, even when the contests take place on the same day as

those for the Scottish Parliament but they still want a local councillor.

Gone are the days when councillors were elected and never troubled by those who put them into office.

There are so many problems, personal to each of us, that contact with our elected representative is now essential. If he/she is not being hassled regularly he/she is not doing the job of trying to solve constituents' worries properly and may well be dumped next time round. After all, that relationship between elector and the elected is the essence of local government.

The idea that a local council stretching from John O' Groats to the Mull of Kintyre and from Ardnarnurchan Point to the Black Isle would be effective is absurd. While at present Argyll and Bute all too often finds itself squeezed between the monolithic Highland Council and those of the old-Labour Central Belt it is still able to shout loudly - if not always loudly enough - and win more often than lose. In a bigger set-up this would certainly not be the case, peripheral areas always come off worse.

Inverarity Vaults offers only the very best

DID YOU know that in Britain drink more wine per capita than France and that last year we drank more wine than beer?

Hamish Martin, managing director of Inverarity Vaults, newly crowned Restaurant Wine Supplier of the Year against phenomenal competition from some companies that have been in existence for centuries, reeled off these facts and many more when I met him at the Isle of Eriska Hotel last week.

It's no secret I enjoy good wines and malt whiskies and am always happy to find out more about both when an opportunity arises. While most folk have heard of 'the 16 men of Tain' who distil Glenmorangie, the secrets of the 20 people who are Inverarity Vaults are kept for the quality restaurant trade which gets such a personal service it would be absurd not to be a customer.

And we mustn't forget Inverarity whiskies: three malts and a blend peculiar to this dynamic company. Hamish's father, a former director of the Distillers Company, as it then was, built up the whisky side as a retirement project and made sure that everything about these whiskies is unique. At the same time, he laid the foundations of the wine business, developed so successfully by his son and a very dedicated, professional staff.

McCaig

ISLAY LETTER

Burns supper

CLOSE on 90 supporters attended the Fèis Ile committee's seventh annual tribute to Robert Burns in Port Ellen's Masonic Hall.

Everyone was welcomed by Fèis president Angus Rice and the Selkirk Grace was offered by retired Episcopalian minister the Rev Ken Skipper. The haggis was carried aloft by Steve Rice, led by piper Nigel Morris, pipe major of the island's pipe band, and the robust address was confidently delivered by Simon Freeman. The toast to the Immortal Memory was honoured by local banker David Brodie whose expertise in the works of the bard was on par with his knowledge of Burns' Ayrshire haunts. CalMac ferry captain Norman

Martin praised the lassies and made more than a passing reference to some of their shortcomings. This brought a telling and highly humorous response from Margaret Shaw, manager of the IDEA'S Centre at Bowmore, who was deputising for an indisposed Mairead MacKechnie.

Dorothy Carmichael entertained with a convincing rendering, complete with grey mare's tail, of Tam O' Shanter and everyone enjoyed the pleasing harmony of duettists Tony Coxon and Phil Hawkins.

Equally pleasing was Patricia Brown's singing of a clutch of Burns favourites. Following generous homely fare, washed down with the sponsoring spirit of Johnny Walker Black Label, all danced their care and extra

calories away to the music of Islay Accordion and Fiddle Club whose members are greatly buoyed by the success of their latest CD *Westering Home*.

New director

LOCAL Gaelic enthusiast Duncan Stewart is the new director representing Islay, Jura and Colonsay Gaelic Partnership on the board of Ionad Chalum Chille Ille.

The Bowmore resident, presently on holiday in Australia, is a grandson of the noted Islay bard Duncan Johnston.

Roses all the way

ROSE Gibson, founder member of Islay, Jura and Colonsay Council on Alcohol, has retired after more than 20 years' devoted service to the cause.

At a retirement lunch in the Bridgend Hotel she was presented with a Caithness glass rose bowl and showered with roses.

Rose is a familiar figure and stalwart member of Bowmore's Round Church where she is a devoted member of the Kirk Session

and president of the Kilarrow Guild. Enjoy your retirement Rose and well done!

Local Mod

SYLLABUSES for the local Mod, to be held in the island's high school on Saturday June 10, are now available from secretary Fiona MacGregor on 01496 840 220.

All entries must be received by May 12.

'Skerryvore' entertains

BOWMORE'S Lochside Hotel reverberated to the sound of Skerryvore when the Three musicians provided a stomping evening of spirited music in the island hostelry.

The visiting musicians, who later appeared at other island gigs, also provided the backing for Islay MacTaggart, the popular Glasgow ceilidh scene entertainer, on one of his frequent singing trips to the island.

Be assured all will return ere long!
Hugh Smith, 4 Flora Street, Bowmore, Islay, PA43 7JX.

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 e-mails, 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.

DE THA DOL?

Na tig a-staigh!

THA FARPAIS Rugbaidh nan Sia Dùthaich againn a-rithist.

Air an t-seachdain seo chaidh, rinn Sgioba Alba an gnothach air na Frangaich - rud nach robh dùil ris tha e coltach. Agus a-nis tha cuid de bhalaich an taighe seo, am Bodach, John, am mac, Seonaidh agus an t-ogha John beag, ged a tha e nas àirde a-nis na athair no a sheanair, cinnteach gu bheil Alba a' dol a buannachd na Farpais.

'S e sin fhadas a dh'fhuiricheas mise a-mach às an rùm anns a bheil iad a' coimhead a' ghèam air an telebhisean. Cha robh fhios agam gun robh uimhir de chumhachd agam. Ach sin mar a tha. Chan fhaod mi suidhe còmhla riutha oir tha mi cho idrisgeach tha e coltach, is gu bheil mi a' toirt aire nan cluicheadairean far a' ghèam, eadhon tron telebhisean, agus tha iad a' dèanamh rudeigin cearr agus a' call phuingeagan agus is mise is coireach. Ma theid mi uca le cupa tì, 's ann dreach nuair a theid mi a-staigh an doras a sgòras an sgioba eile agus a-rithist is mise is coireach. An duigh tha Alba a' cluich an aghaidh Na Cuimrigh agus chan eil a chrioth agamsa a dhòl faisg air an rùm anns a bheil Iain 'ic Iain 'ic Iain 'ic Iain 'ic Iain 'ic Sheòrais a' Mhuilinn à Snaoiseabhal an Uibhist a Deas agus athair agus a sheanair a' coimhead an Telebhisean.

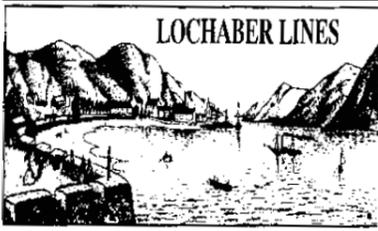
Uill, tha an gèam seachad, cha deach mise nan gaom, rinn sgioba na Cuimrigh

an gnothach air na h-Albanaich agus cha mhise bu choireach. Ach chan eil balaich an taighe seo, ged a tha iad tursach, air an dòchas a chall. Tha trì gèamannan fhathast ri dhòl anns an Fharpais. O mo chreach!

Phrases

Na tig a-staigh - no entry. Farpais Rugbaidh nan Sia Dùthaich - The Six Nations Rugby Tournament. Rinn Sgioba Alba an gnothach air na Frangaich - The Scottish team beat the French. Ged a tha e nas àirde a-nis na athair no a sheanair - though he is taller now than his father or his grandfather. 'S e sin fhadas a dh'fhuiricheas mise a-mach às an rùm - that is as long as I stay out of the room. Cha robh fhios agam gun robh uimhir de chumhachd agam - I did not know I had so much power. Oir tha mi cho idrisgeach tha e coltach - because I am so restless it seems. Is gu bheil mi a' toirt aire nan cluicheadairean far a' ghèam - that I take the players' mind off the game. Eadhon tron telebhisean - even through the television. Agus is mise is coireach - and it is my fault. Cha deach mise nan gaom - I did not go near them. Agus cha mhise bu choireach - and it wasn't me. Chan eil balaich an taighe seo air an dòchas a chall - the men of this house have not lost hope. Tha trì gèamannan fhathast ri dhòl anns an Fharpais - there are still three games to go in the tournament.

Criosaidh Dick.



email lochaberlines@obantimes.co.uk

MONDAY night's presentation of 'A Celebration of the Ben Race' in the Nevis Centre drew an audience of 350 enthusiastic locals who were impressed with the transformation of the hall into a theatre worthy of the occasion.

The hard work and organisation of the Mountain Film Festival and centre staff was much appreciated. The presentation from Graham Brooks and Jimmy Jardine was punctuated with great humour and their commentary accompanying the films and slides which depicted the race from its origins to the present day drew out the latent memories of the audience. You could almost smell the linament and hear announcer Bobo MacKay's Invernessian twang during the evening.

On occasions ex-driving examiner Jimmy Jardine, facing the audience and with his back to the screen, became confused with his directions for the audience to look left or right at the screen. We might not have been the only ones who felt there may be grounds for appeal against failing our first driving test!

If the rest of the festival matches Monday night's show, and reports suggest that this is the case, then this project can reach its goal to attract international recognition.

WOMEN now make up 10 per cent of the Ben Race field but despite the runs of Lucy Cameron and Elizabeth Tait, the Corrou postwoman, in 1902, Miss Wilson-Smith's one hour 51 minute ascent in 1909 and Kathleen Connachie's 1955 ascent and descent, the male-dominated Amateur Athletics Association refused to sanction female entrants believing the fair sex were not tough enough.

They obviously had not read this entry in an *Oban Times* of January 1893: 'Three young ladies from Fort William, Miss E Matheson, Miss E Whyte and Miss A MacPhee, carrying cake and whisky, left Fort William at 10am on January 2 to first foot the staff at the observatory on the summit of Ben Nevis. The day was bitterly cold. When they got to 3,000 feet they encountered thick fog which grew denser as they neared the summit and covered them from head to foot in a thick coating of snow and ice. But all fatigue was forgotten when about 3pm the summit was reached. After staying an hour the descent in darkness and snowy conditions proved more precarious than the ascent. Eventually the foot of the hill was reached and the victorious party, which included Messrs Jackson, R MacDougall and J Miller, drove into Fort William where they arrived at 7pm.'

THEY came from all corners of the kingdom to the West End Hotel last Friday for a reunion dinner and dance to mark the 20th anniversary of the closure of Fort William telephone exchange.

The telephonists and engineers who gave way to the automated exchange voted the evening a great success.

We bumped into their do whilst out late researching another matter and we were struck by how kind the intervening years had been to them. It was like time had stood still to see ex-Claggan boy Richie MacMaster, exiled Inverlochly girl Pat Laggan and Mull's Kenny MacIntyre et-al looking as fit as they were 40 years ago.

This might be the age of the internet and the mobile phone but we were well served by the exchange staff. Many a local in exile would phone the exchange for shinty results or to ascertain the winner of the Ben Race. When making a trunk call from a kiosk if you got the right operator and were good at pleading you could stay on the line for three times the regulation duration.

Today's mobile phone companies could not match that tariff. It was said, but not of Fort William exchange you understand, that on occasions operators would listen into calls. So, somewhere in the Highlands, a doctor was reporting the death of a patient. When it came to the age of the deceased he hesitated before saying: 'I think Mr MacDonald was 76.'

The operator eavesdropping on the line interjected with: 'No, doctor, he was only 75!'

LAST week we highlighted the case of four Lochaber councillors failing to support their colleague Councillor Brian Murphy's attempt to prevent Invernevis House being added to the list of care homes being put out to private tender.

We criticised them for taking such a stance at the November meeting without having the detailed costings which justified the sell-off of the home and this at the time when the general public was ignorant of the proposal. You will read Councillor Bill Clark's response elsewhere and we thank him for sportingly supplying us with a copy just before we went to press. We welcome the news that Bill, having voted for Invernevis House to be privatised, now intends to fight against the proposal and ardently hope his colleagues have a similar conversion on the road to Inverness.

The argument is not public good/private bad but the concern must be what would happen to care in Lochaber if, as has happened elsewhere, the private company closes down its operation. There are problems but to renege on their responsibilities by handing the problem over to someone else is to employ the tactics of an ostrich.

CHARLIE'S Challenge 2007: Last week's winning numbers in the Lotto were 1 - 11 - 14.

The jackpot of £400 was won by Jean MacGillivray so this week's prize reverts to £100.

The Mod Father tells us that the most frequently question he is asked is: 'Where can I buy a ticket?' - 'Caitè a ceannaich mi bileag' (Caa - juh uhn cyan mee bee-lag). The answer is Doss's mobile snack bar at Annat Crossing agus John the Bus, Acharacle, agus, any committee member and hopefully soon the Mod Shop. Charlie suggests another phrase for when you purchase a ticket: 'Keep the change.' - 'Cum an iomlaid.' (Coom uhn yum-lej).

Here's advance warning of a unique ceilidh in the West End Hotel on Saturday February 25 when gold medallists from previous National Mods in the Gearasdan will be performing. They are 1999 winners Raymond Bremner and Joyce Murray, from 1985 Dugald Gillespie and Anne MacDonald and 1981 winner Hugh MacQueen. Dance music will be provided by the popular Lochaber Ceilidh Band.

Lochaber Past Times - from the archives of *The Oban Times* 100 years ago

DURING the past few weeks, workmen have been busily engaged installing a handsome pipe organ in Duncansburgh Church, half of the cost of which is to be defrayed by Mr Andrew Carnegie.

The opening recital will be given on the 28th inst. by Mr Holland, the blind organist of St George's, Edinburgh. The severest snowstorm for many years hit the district and there was a general covering of one foot of snow.

A correspondent expressed his sadness as to the demise of the badger, claiming they were harmless compared to the weasel and other vermin. He alleged that 67 badgers had been killed in Glengarry between 1837 and 1840.

The first Lochaber branch of the Clan Cameron Association was established.

Uist tongue to teach Europe

A LANGUAGE expert is hoping the Uists will prove a valuable teaching and learning source for a special European-wide project.

Gordon Wells, who lives at Aird, Benbecula, wants to collect learning and teaching materials in English and Gaelic, particularly from a vocational standpoint.

Skye Gaelic college Sabhal Mor Ostaig has appointed Gordon to co-ordinate the project locally.

It is hoped the outcome of his work will be a series of videos in Gaelic and English. In order to produce these Gordon hopes he can glean project materials on both languages from individuals, community groups and local businesses.

He says he is keen to talk to anyone learning Gaelic or English or who works with anyone learning either language, or who is involved in any way in the learning or teaching of Gaelic or

English. Gordon's work will form part of a wider and larger project to develop language materials in several European languages. The videos will be subtitled and used online as a basis for language learning and teacher training.

Among the fields from which he hopes to collect material are catering, tourism, media and business studies as well as anyone involved in international trading. All project materials will be published on the language website www.languages.dk free of charge.

Speakers Gordon has already begun talking to local groups, including Cothrom in South Uist, which runs classes in Gaelic and English for speakers of other languages. Also, a number of DVD interviews are to be recorded in the Uists over the next few months as part of the project.

Gordon has experience of industrial language training in Birmingham and acts as a consultant for the BBC on language teaching.

The European language group behind the project Producing Open Online Learning (POOL) already has similar learning and teaching materials through www.languages.dk in other European languages including Danish, Dutch, Basque, Spanish, Romanian, Lithuanian and German.

Gordon asks anyone who can help him in his quest for materials to contact him on info@gordonwells.co.uk.

POOL said it chose Sabhal Mor Ostaig because it regards the college as a pioneer in the field of using web technology for language learning.

It was the first further education establishment in the UK to use the internet and email for language provision, starting in 1992.

Caol drink driver crashed through garden hedge

A YOUNG Caol mother who didn't have a full driving licence and was drink driving crashed through a garden hedge after losing control of her car.

Ria Pearson, aged 21, admitted taking her partner's car without consent and driving with a provisional licence.

Pearson, of 14 Glendessary Street, Caol, pled guilty to careless driving and drink driving with an alcohol reading of 79 microgrammes in 100 millilitres of breath on January 11 this year.

Fort William Sheriff Court

heard last week that Pearson was in her partner's house with a group of friends when she attempted to take his car. Pearson's partner refused but she took his spare keys and the group headed for the Lochaber Bar in Caol.

Prosecutor Fiscal Alison Wyllie said when Pearson left the bar she had crashed through a hedge trying to turn left into Glenpaine Street and had initially denied she was the driver when police arrived at the scene.

'When she was being processed she eventually admitted it and apologised

profusely,' said Ms Wyllie. Defence agent Stephen Kennedy said: 'There was discussion about driving to the Lochaber Bar but one of her friends drove to the bar. It was then suggested that she drive everybody back.'

Sheriff Douglas Small said Pearson had committed a 'very serious offence'. 'She is very lucky she didn't kill somebody in that condition,' said Sheriff Small.

Sentence was deferred until March 9 for a Social Inquiry Report. Pearson was disqualified from driving in the interim.

Onich nurse Mairi retires

STAFF and residents at a Fort William care home marked the retirement of its manager Mairi Kirsop.

Mairi, manager of Moss Park Care Home in Caol, retires this week after 10 years in the post.

Originally from Onich, Mairi started her nursing career in the Belford Hospital, Fort William, before spending most of her career at Stobhill Hospital, Glasgow, as a nurse and later a midwife.

Mairi has two daughters, both of whom are qualified nurses, and two sons.

A spokesperson for the



Mairi Kirsop. 107mar01

care home said Mairi's 'compassionate, professional and caring dedication would be greatly missed'.



The Rev James Carmichael and wife Elizabeth on the shores of Loch Linnhe. 107rev01

Ardgour minister retires from pulpit

A LOCHABER minister is digging out his gardening gloves after retiring from the pulpit 30 years after he moved to the area.

The Rev James Carmichael, who is originally from Keills in Islay, arrived in Ardgour in 1976 and at the end of last month held his last sermon in the church.

Rev Carmichael, the minister for the Ardgour and Kingairloch parish which is linked with Strontian, said he had seen a lot of physical changes in the area in the last 30 years including the arrival of fish farms on Loch Linnhe, the quarry, the Abermethy Trust Christian Outdoor Centre and the extension to Ardgour Church. Rev

Carmichael said he had thoroughly enjoyed his ministry in the area and would not be leaving Ardgour as he and his wife Elizabeth will be moving to a croft house in Clovullin where the minister is looking forward to some time in the garden.

Dr Ruth Lawson is the interim moderator until a new minister is appointed. The Rev Carmichael believes it will be around two to three months before the congregation makes a call for a new minister.

To mark his retirement there will be a special thanksgiving service in Ardgour Church this Sunday followed by a gathering in the Memorial Hall.

Pine marten survey to find out numbers

A SURVEY of pine martens on a Highland estate is being carried out by a Skye man.

Roger Cottis, who lives at Isle Ornsay, Sleat, is undertaking field survey work on Balmacara Estate, near Kyle of Lochalsh, following the results of a questionnaire sent to local people.

The idea is to try to establish how many of the shy creatures there are in the area and to gather information about their habitat, their interaction with people and whether or not they are regarded as a nuisance to people to any great extent.

The animal is beginning to thrive especially in northwest Scotland, says Roger, who has worked for various bodies on wildlife surveys, including the Northern Lighthouse Board.

'We are trying to obtain as much information relating to the habitat they are using, including population density,' he said. 'Since legislation has been in place to protect them the numbers have risen and they have got as far as the Aberdeen area

now where they were almost extinct. The clearances saw a lot of forest cut down to rid the land of wolves so sheep could be brought in.

'Large tracts of forests were cleared and since pine martens need to have their nest a few metres off the ground in order to breed their numbers dwindled. The north west of Scotland is their real stronghold.'

However, they can cause a nuisance to householders in that they can nest in rafters and this can be a bone of contention, said Roger.

This was also being looked at in the survey. Results from the questionnaire so far show that of the 187 who replied to it 72 per cent had pine martens visiting their gardens and 20 householders fed them.

Some householders were not aware of nocturnal visits by pine martens so the total percentage could be considerably higher, Roger said. However, 10 indicated problems ranging from pine martens eating food intended for birds to making dens in buildings and killing livestock such as poultry.

More data from the survey should be known in the autumn or early winter.

Roger added: 'Pine martens have become pretty well extinct in the east and south, but a project being run by the Vincent Wildlife Trust in southwest Scotland, where nestboxes are being tested in Forestry Commission areas, has been very successful in that they have got them to breed there.'

'This is something we will be looking at here.'

Driving ban after works night out

A MAN who left a Christmas works night out in Fort William was found to be more than twice the legal drink driving limit.

Nicholas Noble admitted drink driving on December 10 2005 at the Grand Hotel car park. Noble, aged 43, of 4 North Corran, Ardgour, drove his car with 87 microgrammes of alcohol in 100 millilitres of breath.

Fort William Sheriff Court heard that Noble, who had been employed as a cook at Acharacle Primary School, had bumped into another car in the car park at around 8.15pm. Hamish Melrose, defending, said his client had arrived at the hotel at around 5.30pm. Mr Melrose said: 'He felt tired and decided to leave. He lost his job because of this and has a good record up to now.'

Sheriff Douglas Small banned Noble from driving for 18 months and fined him £300.

Alleged firearms incident in Ballachulish

A BALLACHULISH man was remanded in custody after an alleged firearms incident in the Lochaber village last week.

Louis Macleod, aged 46, of 5 Albert Road, Ballachulish, made no statement,

plea or declaration when he appeared on petition in private before Sheriff Desmond Leslie at Fort William Sheriff Court last week.

It is alleged Macleod contacted the police on

February 8 this year and said he was in possession of a loaded firearm at 5 Albert Road.

It is alleged he caused alarm to police officers and caused a breach of the peace.

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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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Balevullin Limousins sell to 166p per kilo on Tیره

UNITED Auctions held their annual sale of all classes of cattle at Tیره Auction Mart when 514 head were sold.

All classes sold at levels comparing favourably to current mainland values.

Bullocks sold to £648 for Limousin crosses from Salum whilst heifers from 2 Kenovay sold to £478 also for Limousin crosses.

Leading prices per kilo for bullocks came from the consignment of Limousin crosses from 6 Balevullin, selling to 166 p per kilo whilst Ardmay led the call for heifers at 147p per kilo also for Limousin crosses.

Breeding cattle sold to £560 for in-calf heifers from 8 Balevullin.

Over Thirty Month cattle sold to 82pence per kilo from Heylipol Farm and £660 per head from Ardmay.

A feature of the sale included the annual consignment of rising one-year-old cattle from Heylipol Farm when 59 bullocks averaged £553 per head or 131p per kilo.

Overall, the 289 bullocks sold to average £454 per head or 127pence per kilo while the 180 heifers sold to average £337 per head or 118 pence per kilo.

North Argyll crofters meet at Appin

CROFTERS Commission chairman David Green and Highlands and Islands MSP Jamie McGrigor will be among the speakers at a meeting of the North Argyll branch of the Scottish Crofting Foundation (SCF).

SCF area representative Donald Linton said a range of issues would be discussed including the draft Crofting (Scotland) Reform bill, national parks and Arran's bid to become part of the crofting counties.

The meeting at Creagan Inn in Appin takes place on Monday February 20 starting at 7.30.

New Colonsay croft land

PLANS to create new crofts on the Isle of Colonsay moved a step nearer with the news that 90 acres of land have been purchased by the community.

The land acquisition is part of a project to offer islanders an opportunity to acquire crofts and to attract new families to the island.

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Luining cattle get trade boost as entries declared 'best ever seen'

BUYERS were spoiled for choice at the annual Luining Sale at Walle's Marts, Castle Douglas on Friday, with a 50 per cent increase on the year and more heifers to select from since the early 1970s.

Many breeders declared the offering to be the best they had ever seen and bidding was fast and furious for the top lots.

There was a total clearance of females with 178 bullock heifers averaging £858. This proved down £170 for the 112 sold last year and £10 less than the average for 138 sold in 2004.

Top price was 2,000 gns paid for each of a pen of three dark roan, April 2004-born Monzie Tartan Terror daughters from Bob Moffat, Woolplaw, Galashiels. Woolplaw Fern 4th, Fern 10th and Fern 17th were bid for by John Buglass who took 20 home to join Ian Wotherspoon's Glen Lyon herd near Aberfeldy. A further two Tartan Terror daughters were taken at 1900 gns by Neil Anderson for Professor Penny at Harehead, Duns.

The 17 Woolplaw heifers levelled at an average of £1,417.

Cadzow Brothers, Ardlarach, Isle of Luining received 1,600 gns for a Luining Bosun daughter and 1500 gns for a Monzie Malcolm X Maol daughter, both out of Luining Ardlarach cows, both going to Glen Lyon. Their entry of 31 averaged £902.

Alastair MacArthur's 18 heifers from Nunnerie peaked at 1,380 gns for two Harehead Zambeeze daughters sold to Bruce Gilchrist, Floors Farms, Kelso and averaged £978.

On only his second trip to Castle Douglas Steven Little, selling on behalf of the Hon RB Loder's Children's Settlement at Upper Chatto, Kelso, enjoyed a good trade close to the end of the sale selling 10 to a top of 1,300 gns for two to Glen Lyon and to average £976.

In-calf heifers from Robert McNeel Ltd sold to a top of 1550 gns each for a pair knocked down to Matthew Mauchlen for Ben Challum Farms at Crieff. The July 2003 born, Benhar Clover E466 by Benhar Bruno and Benhar Tulip E540 by Benhar Thunder are due to calve March/April to Merklund Compo. The 11 from Benhar levelled at £1,366.

Overall, 15 in-calf heifers averaged £1,236, which is down £16 on the year.

Eight bulls changed hands to average £3780 - up £693 on the year when 10 had been sold. Top price of 7,000gns went to Robert McNeel Ltd for Benhar Flint who went to Harehead Farms.

This yellow, March 2004 born son of Benhar Coalman had all the information to go with his good looks. He weighed in at 880 kgs, stood 58.5" at the shoulder and had a scrotal circumference of 43 cms. His dam, Benhar Misty 47th, born June 1993, had scored 5 for excellence for feet, hind legs, udder and teats under the classification scheme, had first calved aged 31 months and had had 10 calvings with a 368 day calving interval.

J J and R Cameron from Monzie, Blair Atholl sold their roan, polled bull Monzie Fiddler Maol to Cadzow Brothers for 5,000 gns. This was the first son of Woolplaw Captain Corelli bought in February 2003 for the then record price of 6,600 gns. The McNeels then went to 3,400 gns to get Luining Frontier, a son of Luining Charlie and out of a Luining Leccamore cow from Cadzow Brothers.

Buyers at Castle Douglas came from Ullapool to Yorkshire, Lancashire and Northern Ireland and all points between.

Prominent buyers included Glen Lyon Estate who took 20, Bruce Gilchrist from Floors Castle who bought 18 for Rawburn at Duns, Ted Fox who took 14 back to his College herd at Elsdonburn at Wooler.

New buyers Rory Bell from Kelso bought 15 while Mr Thomson, Aberdeen and Mr Vivers from Langholm took 12 each. Duncan McEwan from Kippen, Andrew Lyth from Lancashire, Mr Walton from Foulden, Mr Logan from Daily and Mr Renwick from Ullapool were first time buyers.

Averages
In-Calf Heifers
15 sold to average £1236 (down £16 on the year when 20 were sold)
Robert McNeel Ltd sold 11to average £1366
Bulling Heifers
178 sold to average £858 (down £170 on the year when 112 were sold)
R. Moffat sold 17 to average £1417
A MacArthur & Co sold 18 to average £978
The Hon RB Loder's Children's Settlement sold 10 to average £976
Cadzow Brothers Ltd sold 31 to average £902
Auctioneers: Walle's Marts, Castle Douglas



Champion Bull Iasgair of Mottistone shown by stockman Charlie MacLean. 107c0002

Highlanders come up short on the year

OUTSTANDING prices in 2005's Highland Cattle Society's spring sale had 'distorted' this year's prices making them look worse than they appeared, according to the society secretary.

The society's 115th sale and show took place in Oban Mart on Friday and Saturday but prices proved disappointing with complaints from buyers that there was a lack of real quality.

Society secretary Hamish Wilson told *The Oban Times* this week: 'It could not be described as a vintage sale. I really can't find a reason to give you. The individual quality of the stock was all right, buyers were there, there was a lot of interest in the beasts as such, why it didn't really translate into prices I don't really know.'

'People always ask me before the sale what my expectations are. I told them I was looking for the sale to match last year's prices. That it didn't is a bit perplexing.'

'Last year a senior bull went for 10,000 guineas but prices like that can slightly distort things. This year the top price was 5,200 guineas.'

'The great prices get the headlines but does make the overall picture less realistic.'

Mr Wilson said prices for young bulls were 'a bit disappointing' but aged bulls had sold very well. He said buyers seemed less willing to take a risk on yearlings and instead bought proven stock.

'I don't know why. I think they are undervalued,' added Mr Wilson.

Most seemed to be satisfied with both the turnout and the standard of cattle at the show on Friday.

This year's Champion Bull, Iasgair of Mottistone had travelled from the Isle of Wight and despite being shown for the first time, the three-year-old from Mottistone Farm has a pedigree most breeders would envy.

Lachlan of Fyvie, the father of this year's champion, also sired last year's

10,000 guinea champion. The dam, Lucy of Balure, was champion in this show in 2003.

Although owned by Michael Pollard, the bull was shown by ex-Argyll man Charlie MacLean who now resides in Southampton.

Charlie said: 'This is the bull's first-ever showing and it is quite a distance for us to come here but if you take good cattle up it is worth it.'

Female Champion was Primrose 2nd of Knoekendon out of Jemima of Fellbeck and sired by Challenger of Tain.

Reserve Champion bull was Andy 3rd of Innisard, a two year-old by Iain of Proiseil, out of Jemima 1st of Glengarry. He was shown by Pat Knox, Mains of Glentrium, Newtonmore but was not sold in the sale ring on the Saturday. He did not meet the seller's expectations and was withdrawn from the ring and sold privately for 1,500 gns to RJ Long, Durnest House, Edinburgh where he will join the Peathaugh,

Glenisla 20-cow fold. Stockman Matt Ralston told *The Oban Times* he was delighted to have bought Andy 3rd because it was not a 'show animal' and appeared to be a sturdy bull which would cope with being outdoors.

'We put our bulls out to work on the cows so we didn't want a soft beast. We didn't want something which had been fed up in a ring,' said Mr Ralston.

Reserve female was Una Ruadh 46th of Millerston.

Show judge John Redpath from Perthshire said the society's spring show and sale had gone 'okay.'

He added: 'Everything good sold okay.'

'There was a bottom end which was realised by the prices.'

'The sale was slower and you could tell that by hearing the crowd. Their concentration wasn't in the cattle.'

Indeed the auctioneer wasn't taking large bids and 'just couldn't get started' remarked one watching stockman.

Lochaber complex aims to become indoor capital for the outdoor capital of UK

LOCHABER Rural Complex is looking to become the indoor capital for the outdoor capital of the UK with its next education project.

The House Cow Project, which will pay tribute to an animal which sustained every crofting family in the Highlands and islands and beyond up until around 40 years ago, was given the go-ahead this week.

The House Cow made a major economic, social and biological contribution to the crofting family, the township and the environment.

The project, proposed by the Lochaber Rural Education Trust, involves raising funding to build a byre which will contain all the memorabilia attached to that era.

A wealth of Gaelic songs and poetry was also written during that time as well as the stories from the common grazing.

Hands-on activities and workshops for young and old will bring childhood memories to life and will also encourage young people to take up crofting in the future. It is proposed that a small croft will also be included in the project.

The new project will be built on Phase II at Lochaber Rural Complex which already boasts an outstanding photographic exhibition of local and international interest, a rural skills and activity centre and a Children's Farm which will open to the public on April 3 this year.

Educational visits and workshops for schools are being organised by Stewart Storrie, the education officer, who can be contacted on 01397 708642.

Lochaber Rural Complex also houses Ben Nevis Auction Mart, which not only

hosts regular livestock sales, but has been used for numerous activities including a film set for Harry Potter.

In the future it is possible the mart could provide excellent facilities for indoor sports for six months of the year.

The Granary function suite and Roosters Bar is rapidly becoming a popular, out of town venue for weddings, parties and conferences and has also been transformed into a gym by Scott Harrison, the World Featherweight Boxing Champion.

hosts regular livestock sales, but has been used for numerous activities including a film set for Harry Potter.

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Michael Stewart, head chef at The Oyster Inn, displays a plate of Pacific oysters, 'the food of love'.

Oysters on the menu

A CONNELL restaurant has been helping to get the message across about the plight of the native Scottish oyster.

As part of BBC Two's *Landward* programme, a film crew came to the appropriately named Oyster Inn and filmed head chef Michael Stewart opening oysters - but not oyster ones.

The Oyster Inn sources its oysters from Celtic Sea at Loch Melfort, where Pacific oysters, preferred by commercial growers because they are fast growing and larger, are produced.

Of course, with Valentine's day on Tuesday, this is the time of year when oysters are more prevalent on menus up and down the country as they are considered by some to be an aphrodisiac.

The BBC's *Landward* took the opportunity to do a piece on Sunday on the plight of the native oyster which has been highlighted by Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) as being a threatened species because of poaching.

The native Scottish oysters' numbers are so vastly reduced in its natural habitat that they have difficulty synchronising spawning times, which means few eggs are fertilised.

Dingwall prime sale

DINGWALL and Highland Marts sold 73 cattle (40 bullocks and 33 heifers) at its weekly prime sale when bullocks sold to a top of 129p per kilo for a 530kg Limousin from A Moore (Drummond) Ltd. to Woodhead Brothers,

Native oysters, which are round in shape compared to the teardrop-shaped Pacific oyster, are the property of the Crown Estate which has backed the campaign to raise awareness of the threat to the native species.

Jane Dod, marine adviser for SNH, said: 'Scotland's native oyster population is now extremely fragile because the species depends on a combination of factors to help it reproduce.'

'If the population is low or small, populations become isolated, which is the case in Scotland, the oysters may spawn at different times and very few eggs will be fertilised.'

A leaflet and poster campaign is raising awareness among the general public of the threat to the species and the need to report any collection of native oysters to the police. Superintendent Raymond Park, Argyll and Bute sub-division of Strathclyde Police, said: 'Our hope is that increased public awareness of the plight of the native oyster and of the very limited circumstances in which the oyster can lawfully be taken from its habitat will reduce losses of the species and increase reporting by members of the public.'

Turriff, and to £819 per head for a Limousin from MacIntyre Findon Farms also to Woodhead Brothers. Heifers sold to 126p per kilo for a 585kg Limousin from D Hannan, Duvourmie to Ness Fous, Inverness.

Raven become first Soil Association director

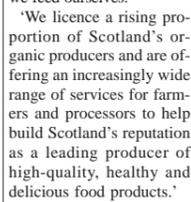
THE SOIL Association Scotland has appointed Hugh Raven, whose family has lived at Ardtornish in Argyll since the 1930's, as its first director.

'This is the latest stage of the Soil Association's expansion in Scotland, which has seen the organisation grow from a single part-time employee in 2003, to the current team of 12.'

Hugh Raven has worked with the Soil Association for many years in various capacities, including serving as a member of the association's governing council throughout most of the 1990s, and since then, as a development and policy adviser and as the Soil Association's director of aquaculture.

He said: 'The Soil Association is a charity that I have actively supported for more than 15 years. Few subjects are more important than how we feed ourselves.'

'We licence a rising proportion of Scotland's organic producers and are offering an increasingly wide range of services for farmers and processors to help build Scotland's reputation as a leading producer of high-quality, healthy and delicious food products.'



Hugh Raven

Market reports

TIREE - United Auctions

Bullocks
Aberdeen Angus X: £522, £462 and £412 Dunbeag
Blonde d'Aquitaine X:
£542 16 Balevullin £448, £442 and £388 6 Barrapoll
Charolais X: £640 and £638
Heylipol Farm £618 Salum £608, £600, £598 (5), £592 and £588 Heylipol Farm £582 Salum £578 (2), £562 (4)
Heylipol Farm £562 Salum £558 (6), £552 (3), £550 (9), £530 (6) Heylipol Farm £512 Salum £508 Heylipol Farm (5) and Salum £505 Heylipol Farm £502 Salum £492 Hillcrest (3) and Salum £468 Hillcrest (2) and Ardmay £462 Salum £450 Heylipol Farm £442 Salum £432 Hillcrest (4) and Ardmay £422 Parkhouse £418 Ardmay £408 and £392 (2) Hillcrest £388 Ardmay
Hereford X: £548 9 Barrapoll £478 (3) Middleton Farm £448 Parkhouse £442 (3), £418 (8) and £388 (3) Middleton Farm.
Limousin X: £648 and £628 Salum £628 Heylipol Farm £618 2 Kenovay £592 Heylipol Farm, Salum and 3 Kenovay £572 16 Balevullin £568 (4) 3 Kenovay £565 Salum £562 9 Barrapoll £558 Sunnyside and 3 Kenovay £550 (2) Heylipol Farm £538 Dunbeag (3) and 3 Kenovay (3) £532 9 Barrapoll £528 Heylipol Farm (4), 3 Kenovay and 6 Barrapoll £518 Heylipol Farm £512 6 Barrapoll £508 (2), 16 Balevullin £492 Lochphuil, 9 Barrapoll, Parkhouse (2) and 3 Kenovay (2) £488 Heylipol Farm (2) and 9 Barrapoll £482 16 Balevullin and 3 Kenovay (3) £478 Middleton Farm (4) and 3 Kenovay £472 Dunbeag £468 Middleton Farm (12), Hillcrest (2) and 16 Balevullin (3) £462 Lochphuil and Dunbeag £458 Parkhouse £452 (3) Hillcrest £448 Parkhouse, 7 Balnoe and 6 Barrapoll £442 Middleton Farm £438 £438 Lochphuil £432 13 Moss £422 Drumthraich, Parkhouse (4) £418 Middleton Farm (3) and 16 Balevullin (2) £412 7 Balnoe £408 Lochphuil and 1 Kilkenneth £402 Sunnyside £398 Lochphuil and Parkhouse £392 7 Balnoe (3) £388 (2) Middleton Farm.
Saler X: £468 16 Balevullin £418 6 Barrapoll.
Simmental X: £628, £598 and £582 3 Kenovay £528 5 Balevullin £442 (2) 15 Crossapoll £408 Lochphuil; £398 Parkhouse £388 13 Moss.
Welsh Black X: £498, 2/15 Balevullin £442 (3) 5 Balevullin £438 2/15 Balevullin (Jack Brown) £412 (4) 2/15 Balevullin £392 5 Balevullin.

(3), £448, £438, £432 (2) and £422 Salum £412, 402 and £398 Ardmay £392 Hillcrest and Parkhouse £388 (6) and £382 (3) Hillcrest £382 Ardmay £352 Salum £342 (3) and £332 (2) Hillcrest.
Hereford X: £348 (3) Middleton Farm.
Limousin X: £478 2 Kenovay £432 Parkhouse £418 Middleton Farm (3) and Parkhouse (3) £408 Sunnyside £402 (5) Parkhouse £398 Sunnyside and 1 Kenovay £392 6 Barrapoll (2) and 4 Cornaigbeg £388 (2) Drumthraich £382 Parkhouse and Ardmay £372 (2) Drumthraich £358 Middleton Farm (2) and 9 Barrapoll £352 Sunnyside £348 Middleton Farm and Lochphuil (6).
Saler X: £432 2 Kenovay
Simmental X: £372 (2) Hough House
Welsh Black X: £382 2/15 Balevullin.

Breeding cattle
In calf cows
£560 Hillcrest
In calf heifers £560 8 Balevullin £510 13 Moss £500 (2) 8 Balevullin

Prices per kilo
Bullocks
Blonde d'Aquitaine X: 149p and 157p (2) 6 Barrapoll.
Charolais X: 155p (2), 151p (4) Hillcrest 149p Ardmay 147p Heylipol Farm 146p Ardmay 143p (5) Heylipol Farm 142p Ardmay 140p Heylipol Farm (6) and Hillcrest (5) 138p Ardmay 135p (10) Heylipol Farm 134p Salum (2) and Parkhouse 133p (10) Heylipol Farm 132p and 131p Salum 130p (8) and 128p (2) Heylipol Farm 127p and 126p Salum 126p Hillcrest 125p (2), 124p and 123p Heylipol Farm 122p (2) and 119p Salum 118p Heylipol Farm.

Hereford X: 127p 9 Barrapoll 126p (3), 118p (6) Middleton Farm
Limousin X: 166p, 161p (2) and 152p 6 Balevullin 152p 1 Kilkenneth 150p (2) 11 Balephuil 148p (2) Carnan 147p Lochphuil, Parkhouse and Whitehouse 146p Ardmay 145p (2) 6 Barrapoll 144p (3) Balnoe, 3 Kenovay (4) and Lochphuil 141p (4) Parkhouse 140p Lochphuil 139p Salum, Whitehouse and Lochphuil 138p 4 Cornaigbeg 137p 7 Balnoe 136p 6 Crossapoll (4) and Hillcrest (2) 135p 7 Balnoe (3) and Drumthraich 134p 3 Kenovay (3) and 6 Crossapoll (4) 133p Parkhouse (2) and 6 Crossapoll (3) 132p Lochphuil (2), Dunbeag (4) and Sunnyside 131p 6 Barrapoll 130p 7 Parkhouse and Middleton Farm (12) 129p Heylipol Farm, Sunnyside and 3 Kenovay 128p Parkhouse 127p Heylipol Farm (2) 126p Middleton Farm (4), 3 Kenovay (4) and Heylipol Farm (2) 125p Parkhouse, 17 Balevullin and Sunnyside 124p

3 Kenovay and 2 Sandaig 123p Heylipol Farm (2), 16 Balevullin and 3 Kenovay 122p (2) Hillcrest 121p (3) 16 Balevullin 120p 9 Barrapoll, 16 Balevullin (2), Middleton Farm, Heylipol Farm, 2 Kenovay and Salum 119p 16 Balevullin, 3 Kenovay and 9 Barrapoll (2) 118p (5) Middleton Farm.
Saler X: 159p and 153p Garaphail 143p 6 Barrapoll.
Simmental X: 149p (2) 10 Balevullin 147p 17 Balevullin 141p 10 Balevullin 140p 15 Crossapoll 139p and 138p 17 Balevullin 136p (2) 15 Crossapoll 131p 17 Balevullin 130p Parkhouse and Lochphuil 127p 5 Balevullin and 15 Crossapoll 124p 15 Crossapoll.

Welsh Black X:
125p (5) 2/15 Balevullin 120p (3) 5 Balevullin.

Heifers
Blonde d'Aquitaine X: 139p (2), 128p, 123p (5) 6 Barrapoll
Charolais X: 131p (2) Ardmay 129p (3) Hillcrest 128p, 127p and 126p Ardmay 120p (6) and 118p (3) Hillcrest 118p Ardmay 117p Hillcrest and Salum (2) 116p Salum and Hillcrest (2) 114p Salum (2), Hillcrest and Parkhouse.
Hereford X:
114p and 111p Middleton Farm.
Limousin X: 147p Ardmay 141p (6) Lochphuil 136p Ardmay (2) and 1 Kenovay (5) 133p (2) 11 Balephuil 132p 6 Balevullin and Whitehouse (2) 131p Parkhouse (5) 130p and 129p 6 Balevullin 129p 4 Cornaigbeg 128p Sunnyside 125p 6 Barrapoll (2) and 4 Cornaigbeg 124p 6 Balevullin (2) and Parkhouse 123p Parkhouse (3) and 7 Balnoe (3) 122p (4) Hillcrest 121p Drumthraich (2) and 4 Cornaigbeg 120p 1 Kenovay and 6 Crossapoll (3) 119p Parkhouse (2), 11 Balephuil (2) 118p Sunnyside and Middleton Farm (3) 117p Drumthraich (2), Sunnyside (2) and Parkhouse 116p 1 Kenovay (3) and Parkhouse 114p Middleton Farm (6) and Sunnyside 113p Hillcrest (4) and 6 Balevullin 112p (3) and 11p (5) Middleton Farm 111p Sunnyside 110p Middleton Farm (6) and 1 Kenovay.
Saler X: 134p (3), 133p and 124p Garaphail 112p 2 Kenovay.
Simmental X: 124p 1 Kilkenneth 121p Hough House 116p 17 Balevullin 111p Hough House
Welsh Black X:
116p 2/15 Balevullin

Heifers
Up to 250kg - £190, 101.6p Refouble (Smx).
251 - 300kg - £355, 118.3p Brenachie (Chx); £280, 107.7p Inverbroom (Lim).
301 - 350kg - £420, 119.4p Sheep Park (Chx); £400, 114.3p Calrossie (Lim); £350, 107.7p Torriequoil (Lim).
351 - 400kg - £370 Sheep Park (Smx).
401 - 450kg - £510, 124.4p Corstlet (Chx); £495, 139.5p 199 Lednabrighen (Lim).
451 - 500kg - £570, 116.3p 8 Englishtonmuir (Lim); £565, 120.2p 91/92 Achviach (Lim); £515, 103p 199 Lednabrighen (BBX).
501 - 550kg - £645, 118.1p Kirkton (McBean) (Chx); £635, 117.6p 91/92 Achviach (Lim).
551 - 600kg - £700, 120.1p Kirkton (Chx); £670, 115.1p 8 Englishtonmuir (Lim); £655, 118p 91/92 Achviach (Lim).
651kg and over - 105.8p 91/92 Achviach (Lim).

Heifers
Up to 250kg - £190, 101.6p Refouble (Smx).
251 - 300kg - £355, 118.3p Brenachie (Chx); £280, 107.7p Inverbroom (Lim).
301 - 350kg - £420, 119.4p Sheep Park (Chx); £400, 114.3p Calrossie (Lim); £350, 107.7p Torriequoil (Lim).
35

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Detached villa occupies prime site in Kinlochleven

OCCUPYING a prime site in Kinlochleven, Tigh an Ruadh is a captivating blend of traditional elegance and contemporary sophistication. Situated on the periphery of the village in a magnificently scenic setting, this substantial detached villa borders the famous West Highland Way and is within half-an-hour's motoring of Fort William.



Tigh an Ruadh . . . surrounded by mature gardens

The present owners have upgraded, modernised and redecorated the property to an exceptional standard while retaining such traditional features as original sash windows, decorative corning, panelled indoor doors, moulded timber dado rails and an imposing timber staircase with open balustrade.

Complementing the building are mature gardens extending to approximately one-quarter of an acre.

Accommodation consists of an entrance porch, reception hall, lounge, sitting room, breakfast/dining room, kitchen, utility room, cloakroom, three bedrooms and a shower room.

In a stylish lounge, a stately bay window overlooks the front garden. Overlooking an impressive focal point is a solid wood fireplace with stone hearth and operating flue. With triple windows to the front and another to the rear, there is no shortage of natural light in the cosy sitting room. A built-in unit complete with base cupboards and solid beech worktop area with display cupboards above features in the breakfast/dining room. It hosts a ceramic floor and the walls are partly wood-lined.

Ceramic tiled flooring is also to be found in a kitchen in which whites and greens predominate. Directly accessing both the breakfast/dining room and the utility room, it houses a modern range of floor and wall units balanced by solid beech work surfaces. A formidable line-up of equipment includes a Diplomat double oven and four-burner ceramic hob with cooker hood above. Wall areas around the work surfaces have been tiled and the remaining wall areas partly wood lined. Shelf storage abounds in the utility room which also hosts a large walk-in larder-style storage cupboard. Directly adjoining is a cloakroom fitted with a wash-hand basin and W.C. Again ceramic tiling is to be found underfoot.

Comfortable well-appointed bedrooms to be found on the upper floor - accessed by a splendid staircase which sweeps up from the reception hall - reveal a commendably restrained decor. The upper landing, which contains a built-in shelved storage cupboard fronted by twin timber doors, gives access to all three bedrooms two of which are located to the

front of the house and the third to the side. Bedroom one contains a storage cupboard already plumbed for conversion to an en-suite shower room. Nor is there any shortage of built-in cupboard space in either of the other two bedrooms. A convenient shower room displays walls tiled to full height, a double shower cubicle with power shower, and a Victorian suite fitted with a wash-hand basin and w.c. Rich pine lines the walls to half height.

Outdoors, slate pillars and double timber vehicular gates give access to a stone-chipped driveway which leads to the front of the building. A verdant lawn, bordered by flower beds and interspersed with mature trees and shrubbery, embraces the house. Incorporated into the rear garden is a patio storage area enclosed by timber and wire fencing, a drying green, and sheltered stone-chipped seating area. A large garden shed offers many uses.

It is impossible to fully appreciate this property without actually viewing it and this can be arranged with the selling agents, MacArthur Stewart, Fort William.

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Mackinnon ESTATES

RASLIE, GLENSHELLACH ROAD, OBAN, ARGYLL
 Individually designed detached dwelling house occupying a semi rural location, with sunny south facing aspect. Well maintained and upgraded family accommodation with modern decor and finishes. The accommodation comprises: vestibule, spacious hall, living room, dining kitchen, three bedrooms, bathroom and downstairs shower room. Lean to extension provides useful utility area and store. Oil central heating. Double glazed throughout. Small easily maintained area of garden. Private parking.
Offers Over £170,000

39 MORVERN HILL, OBAN, ARGYLL
 Very attractive modern semi-detached property situated in popular private residential area on the outskirts of the town. Superb far-reaching views across the town to Oban Bay and the islands of Kerrera and Mull, and to the hills of Morvern beyond. The accommodation comprises bright hall, stylish kitchen and through living-room with patio doors, three good bedrooms and modern bathroom. Rear garden with patio area ideally positioned to enjoy the wonderful sunsets and the panoramic views.
Offers over £145,000

DUART COTTAGE, SOROBA HOUSE MEWS, OBAN
 Duart Cottage is one of a small cluster of modern semi-detached cottages situated in a quiet cul-de-sac in a delightful woodland setting on the outskirts of the town and to the rear of the Soroba House hotel. The accommodation is on one floor and comprises: living room with patio doors, kitchen, two bedrooms and bathroom. Double glazed windows and electric heating.
Offers over £110,000

CROFT 175, NEWTON OF ARDTOE, ACHARACLE, ARGYLL
 Two bedroom, detached former croft cottage needing refurbishment, situated in a rural location a short distance from the small community of Acharacle and within walking distance of a sandy beach. The accommodation comprises: Hall, living room, kitchen, one bedroom, one box room, two store rooms, garden shed and byre. The large front and rear garden offers possible potential for development subject to the necessary consents. Extending to approximately 0.34 acre (0.14ha).
Offers over £70,000

7 AIRDS PLACE, OBAN, ARGYLL
 This first floor flat is situated in a traditional stone building within the town centre, close to Argyll Square and situated above retail shops on the ground floor. The surprisingly spacious accommodation comprises: L-shaped hallway, living room, kitchen, large double bedroom, useful box room and bathroom. Electric heating. Some contents are included in the sale.
Offers over £72,500

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ance Series, following the Mazda6 MPS launched in the UK in January. The car will be called Mazdaspeed Axela in Japan, Mazdaspeed3 in North America and, in other key regions including Europe, Australia and New Zealand, Mazda3 MPS. Mazda looked to embody three

distinct attributes with the new vehicle: driving fun, ownership delight and everyday convenience. With its compact, lightweight body and substantial power generated by its 2.3-litre MZR DISI turbo petrol engine, Mazda3 MPS is one of the most powerful high-performance

sports compacts with front-wheel drive (FWD) on the road today. The car's styling pursues a look of strength and solidity in a design that conveys its unmatched dynamic performance at a glance. Mazda3 MPS reflects Mazda's intention to continue delivering Zoom-Zoom in all its products.



PEARSON SUZUKI

WEMYSS BAY www.pearsoncars.com
SUZUKI AWARD WINNERS 3 YEARS RUNNING
Put us to the test. You've nothing to lose.

NEW SUZUKI ALTO



Range features include:
Power-assisted steering. Front electric windows. Central door locking. Dual airbags. 1.1 litre fuel injection.
£4499 (inc road tax) ON THE ROAD - NO HIDDEN CHARGES

SUZUKI SWIFT



Range features include:
Power assisted steering. Front electric Windows. Central door locking. Dual airbags. Air con. Alloys. 3 DOOR: £7599 on the road 5 DOOR: from £7899 on the road

NEW SUZUKI GRAND VITARA 5DR



Range features include:
Front electric windows. PAS. Central locking. Air conditioning. Driver's airbag. Radio/CD player. Tinted glass. Roof bars. Alloys. ABS.
2.0i 5 door from £15649 on the road 1.9 DDI S 5 door from £16995 on the road

CAR OF THE WEEK

04 NISSAN NAVARA 2.5TD DOUBLE CAB pick-up Silver, grey trim, full electrics, alloys, air con, CD Radio, Demo + 1 owner, FSH, Stunning example
SALE PRICE £17,995 + VAT (Save £500)

PREMIER USED CARS

52 MERCEDES E240 ELEGANCE AUTO (New model) silver, black leather, alloys, 6 stack CD, FSH, too many extras to list, check our price
SALE PRICE £17,995 (Save £1,000)

52 AUDI TT COUPE (190) QUATTRO Avus silver, grey leather, 17" 5-spoke alloys, 1 owner, 35,000 miles, stunning, SALE PRICE £17,495 (Save £500)

54 VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.6 LIFE 7 SEATER Met blue, black cloth, air con, full electrics, 11,000 miles, great family car, check price SALE PRICE £2,795 (Save £1,000)

04 SUZUKI XL7 2.7 AUTO 5 SEATER Silver, grey cloth, alloys, air con, full electrics, 1 owner, great order, very scarce SALE PRICE £11,995 (Save £1,000)

04 PEUGEOT 307 2.0 HDI SW Silver, grey cloth, alloys, air con, CD radio, 1 owner, totally immaculate SALE PRICE £8,995 (Save £500)

53 SUZUKI JIMNY 1.3 MODE 3 DOOR Silver, leather trim, alloys, CD radio, full electrics, power steering, 18,000 miles SALE PRICE £5,795 (Save £400)

51 SUZUKI IGNIS 1.3GL 5 DOOR AUTO Met green, grey cloth, power steering, full electrics, only 14,000 1 owner, sold and serviced by ourselves SALE PRICE £3,995 (Save £500)

Y VW BEETLE 2.0 3 DOOR Met blue, 35,000 miles, FSH, air con, alloys, headlight 'eye lid' covers, elec windows SALE PRICE £6,995 (Save £500)

X AUDI A4 1.8SE 4 DOOR Jasper green, grey cloth, alloys, air con, only 40,000 miles, immaculate SALE PRICE £6,995 (Save £500)

04 CITROEN BERLINGO 1.9 LX DIESEL VAN White, power steering, side locking loading door, wood lined, 1 owner, 17,000 miles, as new, must be seen SOLD SOLD SOLD SOLD SOLD SOLD

Y FORD RANGER 2.5TD 4x4 pick up Met blue, power steering, alloys, full electrics, 17,000 miles, Truckman top, great order SALE PRICE £7,995 + VAT (Save £500)

* Cars shown for illustration purposes only. Subject to availability & part exchange

SECURE YOUR BRAND NEW 06 PLATE NOW!
OVER 70 PREMIER USED CARS ON DISPLAY NOW UNDERCOVER
Contact Kenneth Hyde SALES HOTLINE: 01475 528035

PEUGEOT

DON'T DREAM. DRIVE

LION USED CARS

- 2004/54 PEUGEOT 206 1.1, three-door £6,650
- 2005/54 PEUGEOT 206 SW, 2.0 HDI, five-door £9,250
- 2005/05 PEUGEOT 1007 Sport, 1.6 Auto, three-door £10,995
- 2002/02 PEUGEOT 406 LX HDI 110, four-door £6,995
- 2003/03 PEUGEOT 406 Rapier HDI 110 Estate £8,695
- 2005/54 PEUGEOT 407 S, HDI 110, four-door £13,495
- 2001/Y CITROEN XSARA Picasso SX, 1.6 MPV £4,995
- 2001/51 MERCEDES C240 Elegance Auto

MOTABILITY CARS

- 1007 1.4 DOLCE, three-door Nil Advance Payment
- 206 1.4 VERVE, three/five-door Nil Advance Payment
- 206 VERVE, SW Estate Nil Advance Payment
- 307 1.6 S, three/five-door Nil Advance Payment
- PARTNER COMBI TOTEM 1.9D Nil Advance Payment

ALL THIS AND MORE AT

CAMPBELTOWN MOTOR COMPANY
BURNSIDE STREET, CAMPBELTOWN Tel: 01586 551144

Drive Times

Caravans, Commercial vehicles and boats

IFOR WILLIAMS TRAILER
12FT x 6FT 6"
3 1/2 ton box, with sides and spare wheels. Very Good Condition. As new.
£2100
Telephone 07876 121119

WILLERBY GRANADA STATIC CARAVAN
UNFITTED, 1995, 35ft x 12ft, 6 berth, 2 bedrooms, heated throughout, excellent condition, clean, modern, comfortable, suit holiday home or self builder. In Fort William
Telephone 07718 900505
£6500 o.n.o.

WANTED
CARAVANS AND CAMPER VANS
1988 ON - ANY MAKE ANY SIZE. Also damp or damaged considered
Telephone 07734 602449

IVECO DROPSIDE TIPPER
35.10 R Reg, 9 months mot, 5 months tax, detachable cape extensions (cages)
£2350 o.n.o.
Telephone 07786 350089

50,000 POTENTIAL BUYERS

YANMAR B27 EXCAVATOR

2.7 ton supposedly 1994 but may be older. Still a very tidy machine 2 Buckets, New Tracks, great little workhorse. In Oban can be seen working.
No V.A.T £5280 O.V.N.O.
Phone Jim at Timbertech on 01631 566660 or 07831104027

BJR FOR SALE
24' hull, vgc. Spencer Carter Honda power pack, 12hp, hauler and line hauler. Mariner 200hp outboard, 4 years old
CAN BE SOLD SEPARATELY
£15,000 o.v.n.o.
Telephone: 01866 822569 after 6pm
or 07748225659

GK24 GAMEKEEPER

fully refitted (over £10,000 spent in last 18 months), comes with trailer (not road legal), practically everything is new
£9500 o.n.o.
Email for details paulandjillmills@btinternet.com or telephone 01855 811482

ROWING BOAT
15ft, G.R.P with 4HP engine, trailer and life jackets. Beamy, (new) never used
£1450 o.n.o.
Telephone 01546 603537

HONDA OUTBOARD
4 STROKE 2HP GOOD CONDITION
£250 o.n.o.
Telephone 01631 720369

YACHT ELFIN OF LORNE

Sister Ship
Built 1964 by McGruers of Clynder. Beautiful varnished mahogany, 29' hull 7 tons T.M. 3 berths. Yanmar diesel. Lying here
£20,000
Contact Crinan Boatyard 01546 830232



Drive Times

Cars and Commercial Vehicles

CITROEN XSARA 1.9 TDI



Red, 1997 mot'd until end Jun and taxed until end April
 Telephone **01631 562696** (after 6 p.m.)

£950 ono

VOLKSWAGEN GOLF 1.3



1990. 124k MILES. TAXED AND MOT'D TO MAY 2006. GOOD RUNNER. EXCELLENT FIRST CAR.
 Telephone **07767 380235**

£400 o.n.o.

92 BMW 320 SERIES AUTOMATIC



Low average mileage, immaculate condition, mechanically sound.
£1500 o.n.o.
 Telephone **01631 563138**

FORD MONDEO 1.8 TURBO DIESEL



1999 V Reg 5 door hatchback in radiant red with grey/black trim. Power steering, central locking, electric windows, heated front and rear screens, air con, CD radio. New tyres, new exhaust, tow bar. MOT Nov 2006. Tax July 2006. FSH, very reliable vehicle and cheap insurance.
£1650 o.n.o.
 Telephone **07917 014628**

VOLKSWAGEN GOLF GTI MK3



2.0 litre 8 valve, 1998 (R) Reg. Dark Blue, VW Alloys, electric sunroof, towbar etc. Two owners from new, 130K miles but in good condition both mechanical and bodywork. MOT July 06
 Telephone **01546 510267**
07770 675807

£1950 o.v.n.o.

RENAULT ESPACE



7 Seater, Diesel, Red, manual, 140k miles, tax & MOT, good condition, electric windows, alarm, cd player
 Telephone **07833 913953** (evening)
01397 708888 (daytime)

£2200 o.n.o.

PEUGEOT 406 1.8



Petrol, 1999 T reg, MOT 6 months, taxed, 75,000 miles, fsh, wine red, excellent condition inside and out, can deliver
 Telephone **07818 264999**

£950 no offers

AUDI 80 TDI



Metallic silver, L reg, Mo'd until Nov 06, Good Runner.
 Telephone **01631 710288**
07884 252166

Offers

LANDROVER DISCOVERY 2.5 TDI



K REG 92 6 Months tax/mot Good condition (lots of new components) £2600 ono willing to negotiate.
Day 01631 565630 or evening 01866 822745

ASTRA GSI 2.0 16V



K Reg, 119,000 miles, 12 months MOT, fully serviced including timing belt kit and belt, £500 spent, Cat1 alarm / immobiliser, Lots of extra's
 Telephone **07879 020557**

£2300 o.n.o.

VAUXHALL CAVALIER



V6 diplomat, automatic, 69,000 miles, very good condition, 1994
 Telephone **01880 820217**

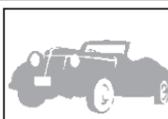
offers over £1000

JAGUAR XJ6 3.2 SPORTS SALOON



P Reg, Immaculate condition, inside and out, only 68000 miles since new. F.S.H. 2 previous owners, genuine reluctant reason for sale, good reg worth over £500, metallic burgundy, smooth auto gearbox, well worth viewing, luxury and comfort for only
£5350 o.v.n.o.
 Telephone **01631 564578**

1975 MGBGT



Lots of new parts fitted, requires some work to finish.
 Telephone **01546 810266**

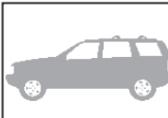
£1200 o.n.o.

LANDROVER FREELANDER XE1



1998 60,000 miles MOT Oct 2006 Very good condition service history Alloys CD player any inspection welcome
£3850
 Telephone **07789 034353**

VAUXHALL FRONTERA



S Reg, 1999, 3 door Sport, Transglobe, 64,000 miles, FSH, Taxed and Mo'd, V.G.C., Remote alarm/central locking, Electric windows & Mirrors.
 Telephone **01586 830383**

Offers

VOLKSWAGEN PASSAT 1.9 TDI



December '95, Taxed and Mot until December 2006
 Telephone **01586 553025** or **07761 238450**

£1250

RENAULT CLIO 1.2 16V DYNAMIQUE



Met black, 3dr, Oct 04 54 reg, 7,500mls, ABS, EBD, A/C, S/roof, R. C/L, alloys, immac cond
£5995 o.v.n.o.
 Telephone **01631 565516**

ROVER 1.4 5DR HATCHBACK



N Reg, 80,000 miles, Mot June 06, petrol, blue in colour. Towbar fitted. Good condition for year.
£666 o.n.o.
 Telephone **07767 795210** (Oban Area)

ISUZU TROOPER



1995 93,000 miles Mo'd October 06 Taxed end August 06 Excellent condition throughout.
 Telephone **01397 705424**
07887 843694

£2900 o.n.o.

MAZDA B2500 SPACE CAB PICK-UP



1997, 1 years Mot and 6 months road fund tax, good order.
£2600 + vat
 Telephone **01567 820532**

NISSAN PRIMERA 1.8I S



2000 W, red, 5 door hatch, alloys, radio cassette plus 6 CD auto changer, ABS, air con, climate control, airbags, fsh by Nissan, towbar with full electrics, MOT July, tax October, very clean condition inside and out, 96,000 miles
 Telephone **01631 730516**

£1195 o.n.o.

NISSAN PRIMERA 1.8 ACTIVE



51 reg, blue, taxed until April 06 mot'd until Sept 06, alloys, air con, 38500 miles, very good condition.
£3200
 Telephone **01397 700589**

FORD ORION GHIA 1.8



Red K Reg. Taxed and Mo'd May 06 Alloys, sun-roof, rear spoiler. Excellent condition for age. Recently fitted with 4 new tyres and battery
 Telephone **01855 821338**

£595 Secures

NISSAN TERRANO SPORT 2.7 TDI



May 2001 'Y' Reg. Metallic paint, Chrome sidesteps, alloys, half leather interior, air conditioning, six disc CD Changer, Alarm, Immobiliser, Tow bar, Privacy glass, roof bars and cross bars, 63 K Miles, FSH, 7 x Seats.
£7995 o.n.o.
 Telephone **07960 591839 or 07960 582072**

TOYOTA HYLUX PICK UP



4x4, 2.4 diesel, ffor Williams Canopy
 Telephone **01546 510211**

Offers

RENAULT CLIO 1.2



5 door red, electric front windows, new May 02, taxed April 06, Mot May 06, 17000 miles, immaculate condition
 Telephone **01499 302080** (Inverary)

£3800 ono

SAAB 9000 TURBO



G reg, vgc
 Telephone **01631 563473**

£600 o.n.o.

VAUXHALL CAVALIER



L REG, Diesel 118000 miles, mot, taxed, 60 M.P.G.
 Telephone **01631 570689**

£700 o.n.o.

RANGE ROVER



1984 Classic 140k miles, excellent project, 876 tyres (Zwariy new) stainless brake pistons, stainless sports exhaust, K & N filters, great engine, good chassis, body work needs tidying, gearbox main-shaft fault, Hence price
 Telephone **01972 500702**
01972 500201

£300

FIAT DUCATO 2.5D CAMPER CONVERSION



M reg, 97,000 miles MOT till June 2006. Full electrics, sleeps 4, 40 litre water tank, towbar
 Telephone **07733 337163**

£3000 o.n.o.

PEUGEOT 106 XND ZEST 2



1.5 DIESEL, 1999 T REG, 49000 MILES, 1 YEARS MOT AND 4 MONTHS TAX, RED, SUNROOF, CD PLAYER. GOOD CONDITION.
£1600 o.n.o.
 Telephone **01838 200659**

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.0 EXPRESSION



2000 W Reg. Mot July. Very reliable, good condition
 Telephone **01631 770294**

£1425 o.n.o.

VAUXHALL VECTRA 2.0L SRI 140



Saloon, T Reg (99), Black, 77,000 miles, CD player, EW,TCAC, computer display, 16" alloys, 6 months tax, 3 months MOT, cheap insurance, 40mpg, immaculate condition.
 May deliver
 Telephone **07880 540532**

£2995 o.n.o.

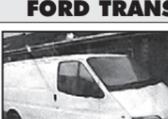
DAIHATSU SPORTRAK



1991, taxed and MOT till end July, 64,000 miles
 Telephone **01389 841051**

£450

FORD ESCORT 1.8 DIESEL



2002, 51 plate, long MOT, very clean, Ford fitted bulkhead, woodlined, very well maintained, very economical, great driver, genuine reason for sale
 Telephone **01397 713880**
0777 628842

£2150 o.n.o.

NISSAN PRIMERA SRI HATCHBACK



mot end September 06 Black Abs Central Locking Sun roof, very low mileage.
 Telephone **0799094904**

£600 o.n.o.

RENAULT SCENIC 1.8 DYNAMIQUE PLUS



(Petrol), 51, Platinum Silver, 47, 850 miles, Air-con with climate control, part leather upholstery, PAS, ABS, alloys, twin electric sunroofs, opening tailgate window, 6 CD multi-changer with fingertip controls, fog lamps, roof bars and tow bar
 Telephone **01397 700885**

£5350

ESCORT ESTATE



K reg, 1.6LX, good runner, good bodywork, towbar, MOT nearly due Feb 06, red
 Telephone **07767 795210** (Oban area)

£118 o.n.o.

WANTED

Landrover 90/110 Toyota Hilux or similar 4wd for farm work.
 Telephone **07904 228568**

ESCORT 55 VAN



V REG. Very good condition, regularly serviced. Fully lined, Mo'd until Sept 2006 and taxed until July 2006.
 Telephone **01631 566838** (after 6 p.m.)

BMW 530 V8 AUTO EXECUTIVE SALOON



1995 M reg, regularly serviced by BMW, only 79,000 miles. Second owner, metallic calypso red, light grey leather seats, MOT August 2006. 10 stack CD, Elec. sun roof, A/C, etc. A rare quality motor car offered at a reasonable price
ONLY £1995
 Telephone **01631 565570**

MERCEDES ML 270 CDI



2002, auto, 24,500 miles, mot June 06, andradite metallic green, half leather seats and privacy glass.
£18,000 o.n.o.
 Telephone **01631 562041**
07796 684033

MAZDA 323 SPORT



51 plate, Black, 2ltr engine, 5 door hatchback, very low mileage, good condition
 Telephone **01880 820735**
07785 345180

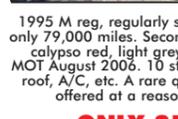
£5250 o.n.o.

WANTED 4 X4 VEHICLES

Landrover 90.110 Discovery, Rangerover and all Japanese models etc, high mileage, damaged, anything considered
 Contact James on **07866 590583** or **07966 293996**

Buyers should note where standardised silhouettes are used they do not accurately represent the vehicle being sold

FIAT BRAVA 1.6 SX



5 door, T reg, only 48,000 miles, excellent condition, regularly serviced and maintained since new, towbar fitted, MOT, licensed to December 06
 Telephone **(01852) 200224** Kilmelford

£1995

WANTED

Landrover 90.110 Toyota Hilux or similar 4wd for farm work.
 Telephone **07904 228568**

WANTED 4 X4 VEHICLES

Landrover 90.110 Discovery, Rangerover and all Japanese models etc, high mileage, damaged, anything considered
 Contact James on **07866 590583** or **07966 293996**

50,000 POTENTIAL BUYERS

RECRUITMENT

THE PIER HOUSE HOTEL & SEAFOOD RESTAURANT
 Port Appin

The new management at this well-renowned hotel require some additional staff.

Personal Assistant to the Proprietor
 Excellent office admin and IT skills with a proven track record are essential. To communicate well, attention to detail and a sense of humour are pre-requisites. Immediate start.

Maintenance Person / Kitchen Porter
 Multi-faceted DIY skills complimented by seasonal KP duties. Immediate start.

Experienced Waiting Staff and Bar Person
 Seasonal starting 1st March which may lead to permanent positions. Shift and weekend work essential. Accommodation available. Well presented with good communication skills, friendly, cheerful and willing to work as part of a small multi-national team in our family run hotel and seafood restaurant. Salaries on application will reflect experience.

Applications to: Nicholas Horne, The Pierhouse Hotel & Seafood Restaurant, Port Appin, Argyll, PA38 4DE.
 Email Pierhouse@btinternet.com. Tel:01631 730302

Caledonian MacBrayne
 Crewing (Guernsey) Limited

Caledonian MacBrayne Crewing (Guernsey) Limited has a requirement for

Crew vacancies

Applications are invited for the following seasonal vacancies (March to October 2006) to work on Caledonian MacBrayne Hebridean and Clyde Ferries:

2nd Engineer
 £35,106 - £35,506 (depending on qualifications) Ref 4-SG
 As a minimum you will be fully qualified to STCW 95 Second Engineer Class III/3 Motorships 3000kW Certificate of Competency, Marine Engineer at Management Level and a valid ENG1 medical certificate. Possession of Chief Engineer Class III/3 Motorships 3000kW, no limitations is desirable.

3rd Engineer
 £30,295 - £30,695 (depending on qualifications) Ref 5-SG
 As a minimum you will be fully qualified to STCW 95 III/2 (Class 2) unrestricted level Certificate of Competency and a valid ENG1 medical certificate. Possession of a III/2 (Class 1) Chief Engineers (unlimited) Certificate is desirable. Crowd and Crisis Management, Hull Integrity, Marine Evacuation System and Fast Rescue Craft certification are desirable.

3rd Officer
 £27,870 - £28,270 (depending on qualifications) Ref 6-SG
 Fully qualified to STCW 95 OOW II/1 Certificate of Competency and a valid ENG1 medical certificate. Crowd and Crisis Management, Hull Integrity, Marine Evacuation System and Fast Rescue Craft certification are desirable.

Mate
 £35,106 - £35,506 (depending on qualifications) Ref 7-SG
 As a minimum you will be fully qualified to STCW 95 Chief Mate II/2 (<3000gt near costal) Certificate of Competency and a valid ENG1 medical certificate. Possession of Boatmaster Class 1, Bridge Team Management training and Crowd and Crisis Management is desirable. Clyde Pilotage Exemption Certificate must be obtained within 1 month of employment if not already possessed.

Seaman 1A
 £22,856 Ref 8-SG
 Fully qualified with Navigational Watch Rating Certificate and in possession of a valid ENG 1 medical certificate. You must also possess Proficiency Survival Craft & Rescue Boats, AB certification and all relevant STCW 95 certificates. Possession of Marine Evacuations System and Fast Rescue Craft certification and Crowd and Crisis Management would be advantageous.

Senior Catering Rating
 £21,313 Ref 9-SG
 Fully qualified to STCW 95 certification for rank and in possession of a valid ENG1 medical certificate with Crowd and Crisis Management being advantageous.

Seman/Purser
 £22,581 - £23,613 (depending on qualifications) - Ref 10-SG
 Fishnish/Lochaline, Tarbert/Portavadie
 Possession of a valid ENG1 medical certificate. Possession of Boatmasters Grade 1 and Efficient Deck Hand Certification is desirable.

A shift pattern basis will apply for all positions and will normally consist of two weeks on two weeks off or week on week off. Other shift variations may apply.

If you are interested in any of these positions, please respond by sending your CV quoting the appropriate reference number no later than 24 February 2006 to:

Caledonian MacBrayne HR (UK) Limited
 Ferry Terminal, Gourock, PA19 1QP
 t: 01475 650100
 f: 01475 650268

Caledonian MacBrayne Limited is a modern, dynamic company providing lifeline ferry services to 22 islands and four peninsulas on the west coast of Scotland.

Caledonian MacBrayne has two wholly owned subsidiaries which manage staffing and crew resources. All seagoing staff are employed by Caledonian MacBrayne Crewing (Guernsey) Limited. The second subsidiary company, Caledonian MacBrayne HR (UK) Limited, which is based in Gourock, provides comprehensive HR services to Caledonian MacBrayne Limited.

Caledonian MacBrayne is an equal opportunities employer www.calmac.co.uk

ATAM SERVICES LTD
 HIRE SALES REPAIR

Require
Workshop Assistant

To clean and check hire tools and machines, to keep relevant records up to date. An interest in tools and machines an advantage but not essential as training will be given. Please write giving details of interests and previous employment to

Miss Leanne Philp
 Atam Services, 1 Mill Lane,
 Lochavullin Industrial Estate,
 Oban PA34 4HA

The JOHN MacLACHLAN Group
 ESTABLISHED 1919

Torrans Industrial Estate
 Oban, Argyll PA34 4PL
 Tel: 01631 566370 Fax: 01631 566758

CONTRACTS MANAGER / ENGINEER

We require an experienced and motivated individual to manage our Building / Civil Engineering operation in Oban. The successful applicant will have a proven track record of success in the Industry. Appropriate remuneration package including company vehicle. Applications in writing to the address below :-

HGV Drivers
 HGV class 1 or 2, mixer / tipper drivers required in Lochgilphead area. Applications to :-
 John MacLachlan, John MacLachlan Group, Torrangs Industrial Estate, Oban, Argyll PA34 4PL

West Highland Housing Association Ltd

Location: **OBAN**

Development Officer
 EVH Grade 7 £23,287 - £25,617 [salary under review]

West Highland Housing Association has been operating for more than 30 years and is a charitable housing association with over 640 houses in management in Oban, Lorn and the Isles. We have ambitions to continue to grow our stock; help with the regeneration of our many and diverse communities; and continue our innovative partnership working.

We would now like to appoint a Development Officer to help us take the Association forward in a sustainable and environmentally friendly approach to new developments and initiatives in our local communities. Reporting to the Senior Development Officer you will assist with implementation and control of our development programme, identification and acquisition of suitable sites, procurement of relevant grants and effective project management of all development schemes.

You must be educated to HNC, HND or degree level or equivalent and be able to demonstrate a clear understanding of the issues and solutions for sustainable rural and island development, excellent leadership, communication, negotiation and people skills, IT competency, preferably 5 years senior level experience in housing or the construction industry [including finance/budgetary experience]. Car ownership, possession of a current full driving licence, and the ability to work out with the office and office hours are essential.

To apply for this post please contact our recruitment advisers EVH at Tel: 0141 352 7445 Email: audrey@evh.org.uk or download an application pack from www.evh.org.uk [No CV's accepted].

Closing date for return of completed applications to EVH is noon 27 February 2006. Interviews will be conducted on 10 March 2006 in Oban.

Excellent terms and conditions of employment, generous holidays, car allowance and a final salary pension scheme are offered for this post. Relocation expenses will also be considered where necessary.

West Highland Housing Association are an Equal Opportunities Employer. We operate a no smoking policy.

THE COMMISSIONERS OF NORTHERN LIGHTHOUSES
 require

Electrical Engineers

To serve in the post of Electro Mechanical Engineer onboard their Lighthouse Tenders on a fixed morning rota - 28 days duty followed by 28 days leave.

In October this year NLB will bring into service a new, technologically advanced Multi-Function Tender (MFT). The most modern vessel of her type anywhere in the world, the post of Electro Mechanical Engineer represents an exciting opportunity to play a key role in her successful introduction into and operation in the General Lighthouse Authorities fleet. This will also include a period of standing by the new build and commissioning.

Minimum qualification is an HND or similar in Electrical Engineering. You will require a valid MCA Medical Certificate (ENG 1) and in addition be willing to work towards obtaining an EOOW qualification. Full training and support will be provided. Essential experience and skills required include diesel electric marine propulsion and planned maintenance, maintenance report and record keeping, computer literacy and a good understanding and awareness of Ship Safety Management Systems. Those who have experience of the following will be viewed favourably: A.C. Drives and Power Management Systems, DP(A) and Engine Planned Maintenance Systems, ISM Procedures and Auditing and Engine Room Watch Keeping. Flexibility and good interpersonal skills are essential, as is the ability to communicate at all levels and work within a small team environment.

Salary range is £32,952 per year rising to £35,964 per year, depending on qualifications and experience. Benefits package includes optional final salary pension scheme and choice of final salary or stakeholder's pension scheme.

For further details and an application pack (closing date 10th March 2006) please e-mail jobs@nlb.org.uk or write to: The HR Adviser, Northern Lighthouses Board, 84 George Street, EDINBURGH EH2 3DA.

The Northern Lighthouse Board is an equal opportunities employer and positively encourages applications from suitably qualified and eligible people regardless of sex, race and disability.

ESTATE WORKER

An estate near Lochgilphead requires a good all round estate worker. Work involves: field, path as well as internal and external property maintenance. Interested parties should contact Angela Burns by phoning 0141 810 5546 or writing to her at 29 Montrose Avenue, Hillington Park, Glasgow G52 4LA

Caledonian MacBrayne
 Hebridean & Clyde Ferries

Caledonian MacBrayne Limited has a requirement for

Port Assistants

(Seasonal Posts) Ref 11-SB

Location: Craignure, Tobermory and Fionnphort
 £13,863

Applications are invited for the position of Port Assistants based at Craignure, Tobermory and Fionnphort for seasonal duties from 31 March until October 2006.

Reporting to the Port Manager, you will need a flexible approach to your day-to-day responsibilities. You will deal with customer enquires and assist in sales of passenger/vehicle tickets; cash handling and control of passengers and vehicles embarking and disembarking from vessels.

You must be computer literate, with excellent verbal and written communication skills. You are expected to have a flexible approach to working as shift and weekend work will be involved. You must be customer focused, have a clear understanding of the customer interface and have a proactive approach to customer care.

If you are interested in this position, please respond by sending your CV quoting reference number 11-SB no later than 1 March 2006 to:

Caledonian MacBrayne HR (UK) Limited
 Ferry Terminal, Gourock, PA19 1QP
 t: 01475 650100 f: 01475 650268

Caledonian MacBrayne Limited is a modern, dynamic company providing lifeline ferry services to 22 islands and four peninsulas on the west coast of Scotland.
 Caledonian MacBrayne is an equal opportunities employer www.calmac.co.uk

Ossians Retirement Home
 North Connel, by Oban

Has the following vacancies

Full time Chef
 Catering for 27 residents £6.50 per hour

Activity Worker
 £5.60 per hour

Day Care Assistant
 £6 per hour

Domestic Staff
 £5.50 per hour

Laundry Worker
 £5.50 per hour

Full/Part time Kitchen Assistant
 £6 per hour

All positions are permanent

For further information please contact
Andrea Shuttleworth 01631 710 322
 Ossian's is now under new ownership

NATIONAL YOUTH CHOIR of SCOTLAND
 Argyll & Bute COUNCIL

Peripatetic Vocal Instructors
 (Youth Music Initiative)
 temporary until June 2006

The National Youth Choir of Scotland, in partnership with Argyll & Bute Council, is seeking to appoint a team of part time peripatetic vocal instructors to deliver a programme of vocal instruction to class groups in primary schools in Campbeltown, Helensburgh & Lomond and Oban & Lorne areas.

Enhanced Disclosure Scotland checks will apply.

A recruitment pack is available from:
 NYCoS, The Mitchell, North Street, Glasgow G3 7DN
 Telephone: 0141 287 2856 e-mail: admin@nycos.co.uk
 Closing date for applications is Friday 24 February 2006

w.e.a. SCOTLAND

WANTED
 Inspiring women to talk about personal development and work based skills at Argyll Women@Work network meetings.

The WEA's Women@Work network helps women to understand issues, develop skills and become more able to speak out about what matters to them.

To find out more, please phone Kate MacDonald on 07765 284129 or email Kate@mackandmags.co.uk

Forestry Commission Scotland

Apprentice Forest Management/ Survey Operative (2 Posts)

Starting salary £12,000 plus non-pay benefits

2 year fixed term appointment (Extension of the contract, conversion to permanency, at the appropriate grade or a transfer to another part of the Civil Service is possible although there is no guarantee)

West Argyll Forest District, Whitegates, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8RS.

Working within the Survey or Forest Management Teams you will have the opportunity to attain SVQs to achieve the Level 3 Modern Apprenticeship Qualification.

You will ideally have a minimum of two GCSEs/standard grades or equivalent (A-C, 1-3 passes) in Maths and English and a good working knowledge of Microsoft Office (Word and Excel). A full clean driving licence or access to private transport is essential within 6 months of commencing the position.

We offer a starting salary of £12,000, annual salary progression to a maximum of £13,924, plus there is a choice between final salary occupational pension or stakeholder pension schemes. A number of non-pay benefits apply including 25 days' annual leave and options for flexible working. A Performance Bonus is available to our Top Performers.

Full application packs are available from our website: www.forestry.gov.uk/vacancies Alternatively, you can request a pack by emailing: recruitment@forestry.gov.uk or write to Shireen West, HR Services, Forestry Commission, 231 Corsnorphine Road, Edinburgh, EH12 7AT stating your full name and address. **Quote reference HR56/193.**

The closing date for completed applications is 3 March 2006.

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- 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.
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Please send full cv showing current salary details to karen@scottishfield.co.uk or Karen Wallace, Office Manager, Special Publications, Craigmackay Castle, Craigmackay Road, Edinburgh, EH4 3PE.

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MacKINNON ESTATES

D M Mackinnon Estates require a mature, conscientious person to join their vibrant and happy office and who will take on full responsibility for the filing systems within the office.

The successful applicant will need to have a methodical approach to administration and possess excellent attention to detail and enthusiasm.

The post will require approximately 5 hours each week. Rate of pay will be discussed at interview.

Please apply in writing to Karen Delaney, D M MacKinnon Estates, 2 Gibraltar Street, Oban Argyll, PA34 4AY.

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RECRUITMENT

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us @ www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

Argyll & Bute COUNCIL

We are an Equal Opportunities Employer
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Roadworkers - 2 posts
Lochgilhead
£204.66 - £225.72 per week plus performance related bonus
You will be expected to undertake road maintenance duties and will be required to work outwith normal working hours to cover winter maintenance demands and emergencies.
A current driving licence and LGV licence along with plant training would be an advantage. You must have experience of Civil Engineering/ Building outdoor work with a knowledge of building, road, manual and machine work an advantage. You will be numerate, punctual, reliable and able to get on with others. The ability to work with a minimum of supervision and knowledge of machine operation and small power tools would be beneficial. Duties will involve strenuous work. Ref: OSR00469.
For a recruitment pack call 01546 604620.
Closing date 3rd March 2006.
The Council welcomes applications from New Deal Applicants.

Someone's first impression of Scotland could be you

Seasonal Customer Advisors Tourist Information Centres
Craignure, Tobermory, Inveraray, Oban, Tyndrum, Lochgilhead
£5.80 per hour

Customer Advisors in our Tourist Information Centres are often the first point of contact for visitors to Scotland. Tourism is our most important industry, so it is essential you make a good impression. It is not just about saying 'have a nice day'. It is about giving helpful, knowledgeable advice, sharing your passion and wanting the visitor to have the best possible experience. There is a commercial angle to the job too, with an eye to maximising revenue. We have seasonal opportunities throughout our tourist centres, from our cities to the highlands and islands. With your customer service experience and skills, do you have the qualities that will impress our visitors?

If so, please call our recruitment advisors, work on 0870 243 6021 (Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm) to request an application form. Lines close 23rd February 2006.
Closing date: 3rd March 2006.

Visit Scotland
Live it. Visit Scotland.

Social Work Outreach Support Worker (2 posts)
Lochaber area, £6.48 per hour, Guaranteed 20 hours each - as and when required

Joining our team dealing with adults experiencing a range of mental health needs, including substance misuse issues, you will help us extend community-based therapeutic and practical care, and treatment to individuals and groups across Lochaber. You will be flexible, a good communicator and work well with a range of professionals and service users/ carers. One post will support the service generally and one post will support our Occupational Therapy service for individuals and groups aimed at promoting independence and healthy living.

Informal enquiries to Debbie O'Hara, tel (01397) 707060. Ref: L/21/06

Re-Advertisement
Transport, Environmental & Community Roadworker - Driver/Labourer (3 posts)
Strontian, £218.81 per week, plus bonus (unqualified), £225.72 per week, plus bonus (qualified) (requires LGV licence), 37 hours per week.

You will carry out general road maintenance and construction of roads and drainage and associated works, including winter maintenance. Ideally, you will have an LGV licence (or at least category 'E' entitlement). You will participate in the winter maintenance rota and as such will work unsociable hours, for which an appropriate allowance is paid. You will also work in other parts of the service, providing support in all aspects of roads and community works service. Health and Safety training will be provided.

Informal enquiries to Alistair MacIntyre, tel (01967) 402027 or Mike Leary, tel (01397) 709000. Ref: L/22/06

Planning Clerical Assistant
Fort William, £9,630-£14,220

You should have a high level of typing skills, with a good working knowledge of Microsoft Word, and have a pleasant, polite and helpful manner for dealing with reception and telephone callers.

Informal enquiries to Liz Young, Admin Assistant, tel (01397) 707015. Ref: L/16/06

Application packs are available from our website or by telephoning, quoting relevant reference:
Ref: L/21/06 - tel (01397) 703397 (24 hours)
Ref: L/22/06 - tel (01397) 709000 or email: lochaber.tccsadmin@highland.gov.uk
Ref: L/16/06 - tel (01397) 707220 (24 hours)
Closing date: 3 March 2006
www.highland.gov.uk/jobs

The Highland Council
Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd
SERVING THE HIGHLAND COMMUNITY

"Thanks to The Oban Times recruitment, we have successfully filled the positions of 'Telesales Operator', 'Driver/storeperson' and 'Apprentice Engineer'. We were delighted with the response and received good quality applicants, which then led to appointing several new members of staff. The help received from the advertising and the design team was excellent and we look forward to using The Oban Times Group for any future vacancies."

John Forteith, Forteith Foodservice, Glegallan Road, Oban - 16/02/06

The Sound Of Kintyre Home Owners Association.
On behalf of the above Association, we invite suitably qualified gardening contractors to tender for the maintenance of the common ground areas within the Sound Of Kintyre, Machrihanish. Initial enquiries in writing to: The Chair, Mr Brown, 73 Sound Of Kintyre, Machrihanish, Argyll, PA28 6GA.

Oban Times RECRUITMENT
Oban Times RECRUITMENT

Caledonian MacBrayne
Hebridean & Clyde Ferries

Caledonian MacBrayne Limited has a requirement for
Port Assistant (Seasonal Posts)
Location: Oban Ref 7-5B
£13,863 (pro-rata)

Oban Ferry Terminal is one of the busiest in the CalMac network, with four major vessels, one small vessel, one cruise liner and a large number of local boats using it on a regular basis. The completion last year of the company's flagship terminal building, the continual development in infrastructure and facilities, together with the more than 800,000 passengers from home and overseas who pass through the port annually, make the port one of the most vibrant and interesting places to work in the summer.

We are now seeking to fill a number of positions for the forthcoming summer season, with a number of start and finish dates available from March to October, and from June to September.

Reporting to the Port Supervisor/Manager, you will need a flexible approach to your day-to-day responsibilities. You will deal with customer enquiries and assist in sales of passenger/vehicle tickets; cash handling and control of passengers and vehicles embarking and disembarking from vessels.

You must be computer literate, with excellent verbal and written communication skills. You are expected to have a flexible approach to working as shift and weekend work will be involved. You must be customer focused, have a clear understanding of customer interface and have a proactive approach to customer care.

If you are interested in this position, please respond by sending your CV quoting reference number 7-5B no later than 1 March 2006 to:

Caledonian MacBrayne HR (UK) Limited
Ferry Terminal, Gourock, PA19 1QP
t: 01475 650100 f: 01475 650268

Caledonian MacBrayne Limited is a modern, dynamic company providing lifeline ferry services to 22 islands and four peninsulas on the west coast of Scotland.
Caledonian MacBrayne is an equal opportunities employer
www.calmac.co.uk

Work you can believe in.

CrossReach is Scotland's largest voluntary social work organisation, offering care and counselling to over 4,000 people daily. At Auchinlee we provide the highest standard of care to older people.

Activities Co-ordinator
30 hours £11,867 - £13,182 pro rata • Campbeltown

We're looking for an enthusiastic, outgoing person to help us organise a varied daily programme of indoor activities and outings for our residents. One day you could be working with an individual on a one-to-one basis, the next you could be taking a group out in our minibus - always in response to ongoing assessment of our residents' needs. You must have a flexible attitude (weekend and evening working is required) and be keen to develop this role through training. A clean driving licence is essential.

Applicants for this post are required to have a Christian commitment and be able to uphold our Christian Ethos. This requirement is a Genuine Occupational Requirement in terms of the Employment Equality (Religion or Belief) Regulations 2003.

Domestic Assistant
25 hours £201.89 per week pro rata • Campbeltown

This is a chance to be part of a team making a real difference to people's lives. You'll provide our clients with a clean and tidy living environment, which will include doing the laundry, washing up and general catering duties.

As we do our work in Christ's name, you must be in sympathy with and supportive of our Christian Ethos.

Both posts are subject to enhanced disclosure.

Make a difference in life - call 01586 552568 or email auchinlee@crossreach.org.uk for an application form. Closing date: 3 March 2006. Church of Scotland Social Care Council

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Fort William

Sundolitt Ltd, part of the Sunde Group (est. 1917) is one of the UK leaders in the manufacture of expanded polystyrene for storage and packaging products, with 3 UK plants at Fort William, Montrose and Gateshead.

We seek a Production Manager, reporting to the Plant Manager, for our Fort William plant, which operates 3 shifts, 5 days a week at present.

The successful candidate will have production experience, allied to a strong engineering or technical background. Demonstrable leadership skills are essential.

A very competitive package is available for the right candidate.

If you are interested in joining a vibrant, growing company, then please submit your CV with covering letter to
philip.cheshire@sundolitt.com or by mail to Philip Cheshire
Sundolitt Ltd, Mirren Court (Three),
123 Renfrew Rd, Paisley, PA3 4EA

Fire Equipment TECHNICIAN

Required in Argyll Area
Training given, over 25,
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Apply to Box No 37
The Oban Times Ltd

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Preferably with MOT experience
Good conditions and rate of pay
Apply in writing to
**Burnbank Garage, Burnbank St,
Campbeltown, Argyll, PA28 6JD**

KITCHEN ASSISTANT/CLEANER

We have a vacancy for a
KITCHEN ASSISTANT/CLEANER

Duties include: Assisting with meal preparation and cleaning of kitchen and all areas.

This position involves working Monday - Friday
Salary £13,000 per annum including BUPA health cover, life insurance and contributory pension.

Please apply in writing with current CV to:
Miss Kim Topping/Mr John Moran
Foster Yeoman Ltd
Rugh Garbh Depot, Barcaldine, Oban
Argyll PA37 1SE
Email: ian.henry@foster-yeoman.co.uk
Closing date for applications is Thursday, 2 March 2006
Foster Yeoman Ltd is an equal opportunities company

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require
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Full training will be available
Written applications with CV to
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Kilmory Industrial Estate
Lochgilhead, PA31 8RR**
E-Mail: jobs@mkmacleod.co.uk

CRAIG NEVIS SURGERY RECEPTIONIST

Working as part of a busy and supportive administrative team based within Craig Nevis surgery, you will carry out general office duties such as filing, photocopying updating manual and computerised records, audio-typing and dealing with telephone calls.

You should have experience of working on own initiative and possess good IT, communication and interpersonal skills.
Job description, specification and application form are available on request.

35 hours per week
£13,031.20 per annum when trained
Closing date: Friday, 24th February 2006
Practice Manager, Craig Nevis Surgery
Belford Road, Fort William, PH33 6BU
Telephone 01397 702947

Caledonian MacBrayne
Hebridean & Clyde Ferries

Caledonian MacBrayne Limited has a requirement for
Port Assistant
Location: Craignure Ref 10-5B
£15,182

Applications are invited for the position of Port Assistant based at Craignure.

Reporting to the Port Manager, you will require to have a flexible approach to your day-to-day responsibilities. You will deal with customer enquiries and assist in sales of passenger/vehicle tickets; cash handling and control of passengers and vehicles embarking and disembarking from vessels.

You must be computer literate, with excellent verbal and written communication skills. You are expected to have a flexible approach to working as shift and weekend work will be involved.

You must be customer focused, have a clear understanding of customer interface and have a proactive approach to customer care.

If you are interested in this position, please respond by sending your CV quoting reference number 10-5B no later than 1 March 2006 to:

Caledonian MacBrayne HR (UK) Limited
Ferry Terminal, Gourock, PA19 1QP
t: 01475 650100 f: 01475 650268

Caledonian MacBrayne Limited is a modern, dynamic company providing lifeline ferry services to 22 islands and four peninsulas on the west coast of Scotland.
Caledonian MacBrayne is an equal opportunities employer
www.calmac.co.uk

BIDWELLS
SINGLE HANDED RIVER MANAGER/GHILLIE
Isle of Mull wanted

Experience should include river management and maintenance; hatchery and general estate work; stalking. Excavator experience desirable.

An excellent remuneration package is offered, together with a modern three bedroomed house.

Partner to work part time private Lodge.

Please write enclosing CV to:
Teresa Tait
Bidwells, Alder House, Cradlehall Business Park,
Inverness, IV2 5GH
Tel 01463 796050 Email: ttait@bidwells.co.uk

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- Age no barrier
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Phone 01499 600263
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Cairndow, Argyll, PA26 8BH
(Next to Loch Fyne Oysters)
www.scottishtrees.co.uk

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Due to a record year in 2005 and our 2006 expansion plans we require 10 fully qualified and experienced vehicle technicians.

We offer outstanding productivity related pay commensurate with experience and ability, and attractive relocation allowance for the right candidates.

We are also looking for exceptional 2nd, 3rd and 4th year apprentices.

Additional vacancies can be seen on our website.

INTERESTED?
Send full CV or telephone for an application form: Marion Monica, Secretary to John Clark
53 Abbotswell Road, West Tullos
Aberdeen AB12 3AD
Tel 01224 407407
E-mail: recruitment@john-clark.co.uk
www.john-clark.co.uk

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Alan Reid MP



Alan Reid's next surgery in OBAN will be held on Wednesday 22 February 2006 at The Corran Halls, Oban, between 4p.m. and 5p.m.

To make an appointment please phone Alan Reid's office on 01369 704840

To find out more about living and working in argyll & bute visit us @ www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

Argyll & Bute COUNCIL

COUNCIL TAX 2006/2007

As required by Section 96 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, notice is hereby given that the Council Tax has been set by Argyll and Bute Council in terms of Section 93 of that Act and the amounts payable in respect of chargeable dwellings in each valuation band are as follows:-

Valuation Band	Property Values	Council Tax (£)
A	Up to £27,000	770.67
B	£27,001 to £35,000	899.11
C	£35,001 to £45,000	1027.56
D	£45,001 to £58,000	1156.00
E	£58,001 to £80,000	1412.89
F	£80,001 to £106,000	1669.78
G	£106,001 to £212,000	1926.67
H	Over £212,000	2312.00

James A McElean, Chief Executive, Argyll and Bute Council, Kilmory, Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8RT
February 2006

FERGUS EWING MSP

ADVICE SURGERIES FOR CONSTITUENTS

Thursday 16th February 2006

11.30 a.m. until 12.30 p.m.

Kinlochleven Community Centre
Riverside Road
Kinlochleven

No appointment necessary



For Further Information Contact:
Constituency Office, Highland Railhouse
Station Square, Inverness, IV1 1LE
Telephone: 01463 713004
E-mail: fergus.ewing.msp@scottish.parliament.uk

To find out more about living and working in argyll & bute visit us @ www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

Argyll & Bute COUNCIL

OBAN LIBRARY RELOCATION

Oban Library will close in the Corran Halls at 7.00pm on Wednesday 22 February. It will re-open at its new location in the former Job Centre, 77 Albany Street, at 10.00am on Thursday 2 March.

Please ask the staff if you would like to borrow additional books before the closure, or telephone 01631 571444 for further information.

To find out more about living and working in argyll & bute visit us @ www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

Argyll & Bute COUNCIL

MEET THE FUNDERS IN

CORRAN HALLS, OBAN

Saturday 4 March 2006 11.00am - 3.00 PM

Call now to book an appointment with a funder

Does your project need funding or development support?
Do you have an idea for a project but don't know how to get started?
If the answer to either of these is YES then come along to the Meet the Funders Roadshow.

Funders attending on the day include: The Big Lottery Fund, Argyll and Bute Council, Argyll and the Islands Enterprise, Scottish Natural Heritage and many more.

What else?
Grant searches for you to take away • Advice on training and where to get it • Workshop on funding tips, budgets and plans • Information and advice on volunteering, constitutions and lots more.

Please call 01546 604454 or email funding.enquiries@argyll-bute.gov.uk



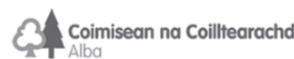
Forestry Civil Engineering

INVITATION TO TENDER FOR FOREST ROAD CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS IN LORNE, LOCHABER & WEST ARGYLL FOREST DISTRICTS

Any contractors who are interested in Tendering for forest road contracts in Lorne, Lochaber and West Argyll Forest Districts for Financial Year 06/07 are asked to apply in writing to: Gavin Queen, Forestry Civil Engineering, Millpark Road, OBAN, Argyll, PA34 4NH.

Works will consist of four Contracts comprising the construction of 6 to 10 Km of Cat A roads in geographical areas. The works in West Argyll are full construction and in Lorne & Lochaber a mixture of full construction and formation. Included in the Lorne Tender are sections of roads on Mull.

All contracts are carried out under ICE Conditions of Contract, Minor Works, 3rd Edition and are subject to CDM Regulations. All Contractors will need to Complete a Competent Contractors Questionnaire at Tender Stage.



COAST PROTECTION ACT 1949 APPLICATION FOR FORMATION OF SLIPWAY AT SILVERCRAIGS, BY LOCHGILPHEAD

Notice is hereby given that Mr Peace has 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 formation of slipway at the above location in the position:

Description	Latitude	Longitude
Works	56 00.16 N	05 23.26 W

Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at Argyll and Bute Council, Development Services, 67 Chalmers Street, Ardrishaig, PA30 8DX.

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: 2SPC115174.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR ALL PATIENTS

From March 2006 some of the information in your GP patient record will be made available to further support your care out-of-hours.

If you become ill when your doctor's surgery is closed, you or the person representing you may be asked by the out-of-hours nurse or doctor whether they can look up some of the information in your patient record.

This information will cover:

- Patient information i.e. name, address, telephone number & age
- Any known allergies
- Any repeat prescriptions
- Any other prescriptions over the last 30 days.

This will help the nurse or doctor treating you to provide the best care possible, even if you are too ill to remember this important information.

The out-of-hours patient record is an extract from your GP record and is called the Emergency Care Summary. Out-of-hours staff will not be able to see your full GP record.

If you do not want any of the out-of-hours nurses or doctors looking after you to see your Emergency Care Summary, please let your GP Practice know in writing. However access to this information could be important to your care!

For more information, please contact your GP Practice.



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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: 06/00247/OUT
Applicant: David + Lorna Moseley
Proposal: Site for Erection of Dwelling House
Site Address: Old Schoolhouse Kilmore Oban Argyll PA34 4DR
Location of Plans: Area Office Oban
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days
- Ref No: 06/00217/DET
Applicant: R S McCall, Esq
Proposal: Erection of new 7/8 apartment 1 & 1/2 storey house with integral garage
Site Address: Plot 5 East Of Lornrath Cottages Tynberrie Appin Argyll
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Ledaig
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days
- Ref No: 06/00184/DET
Applicant: Mr + Mrs E Kennedy
Proposal: Demolition of Existing Bungalow and Erection of New Dwelling House and Garage
Site Address: Kinloch Kilmelford Oban Argyll
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Kilmelford
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days
- Ref No: 06/00158/DET
Applicant: Mr D Lyle
Proposal: New dwelling house
Site Address: Land South Of Whin Bank Clachan Seil Oban Argyll
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Balvair
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days
- Ref No: 06/00249/DET
Applicant: Norman MacDonald - Builders
Proposal: Erection of Two Dwelling Houses
Site Address: Plots 4 And 5 (Formerly Plot 3) Glenforsa Aros Isle Of Mull
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Salen
Section 34 and Article 9 Advert 14 Days
- Ref No: 06/00109/DET
Applicant: Mr + Mrs Newiss
Proposal: Extension of Dwelling House
Site Address: Broombank North Connel Oban Argyll
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Ledaig
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days
- Ref No: 06/00181/NARCON
Applicant: Tracie Anne Lopez
Proposal: Variation of Condition 2 of Planning Permission 04/022007 COU to Change Name of Person to Premises Use
Site Address: 31 Lochside Street Oban Argyll
Location of Plans: Oban Area Office
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days
- Ref No: 06/00001/OUT
Applicant: Gregor MacCormick
Proposal: Site for Erection of Dwellinghouse
Site Address: Land East Of Kinlochlaich Appin Argyll PA38 4BB
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Ledaig
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days
- Ref No: 06/00219/OUT
Applicant: Mr S Barton
Proposal: Site for dwelling and septic tank
Site Address: Plot 2 Deerveil Land East Of Heather Cottage Ichrachan Tainuill
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Tainuill
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days
- Ref No: 06/00108/DET
Applicant: Yvonne Sloss
Proposal: Dwelling House
Site Address: Land South West Of Fearnoch Cottage Fearnoch Tainuill Argyll PA35 1JB
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Tainuill
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days
- Ref No: 06/00186/DET
Applicant: Mr + Mrs G McHardy
Proposal: Erection of dwelling house, septic tank (bio disc)
Site Address: Plot 2 Former Filling Station Lochawe Dalmailly Argyll
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Dalmailly
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days
- Ref No: 05/02102/DET
Applicant: John Duncan Morrison
Proposal: Erection of a Licensed Restaurant
Site Address: Land South Of Penmore Mill Dervaig Tobermory Isle Of Mull
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Dervaig
Section 34 and Article 9 Advert 14 Days

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: 06/00116/DET
Applicant: Angus MacKinnon
Proposal: Erection of dwelling house
Site Address: Land South East Of Bay Lodge The Oa Port Ellen Isle Of Islay
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Port Ellen
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 and 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 departure or potential departure from the Development Plan for the area concerned.

Anyone wishing to make representations about any of the applications identified below should do so in writing within 21 days from the date of publication of this notice to the Area Team Leader Development Control at the address below.

Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

SCHEDULE - DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION OF PLANS

- Ref No: 06/00263/DET
Applicant: Strathrym Trust
Proposal: Erection of Boat House
Site Address: Craig Pennynghael Isle Of Mull PA70 6HG
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Bunnass Isle Of Mull
Potential Departure from Policies RUR1 and RUR2 of Mull, Coll and Tiree Local Plan
A18 Local Plan Potential Depart Adv (21)
- Ref No: 06/00001/OUT
Applicant: Gregor MacCormick
Proposal: Site for Erection of Dwellinghouse
Site Address: Land East Of Kinlochlaich Appin Argyll PA38 4BB
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Ledaig
Potential Departure from Policies RUR1 and RUR2 of Lorn Local Plan
A18 Local Plan Potential Depart Adv (21)
- Ref No: 06/00126/DET
Applicant: Davie Meddes
Proposal: Change of Use Garden and Kitchen to Garden Cafe, Erection of Bunkhouse and Formation of Campsite
Site Address: Killeen Cottage Lismore Oban Argyll PA34 5UG
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Lismore
Potential Departure from Policies RUR1 and RUR2 of Lorn Local Plan
A18 Local Plan Potential Depart Adv (21)
- Ref No: 05/02102/DET
Applicant: John Duncan Morrison
Proposal: Erection of a Licensed Restaurant
Site Address: Land South Of Penmore Mill Dervaig Tobermory Isle Of Mull
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Dervaig
A18 Local Plan Potential Depart Adv (21)
Potential Departure from policies RUR1 and RUR2 of Mull, Coll and Tiree Local Plan

Area Team Leader Development Control, Planning Services, Lorn House, Albany Street, Oban PA34 4AR

Ring Argyll

ARGYLL & THE ISLANDS RURAL BUSINESS RING LTD

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

To be held at Templar's Hall, Tarbert, Argyll
On Friday 24th February 2006 at 2:00pm

All Ring members and other interested parties are welcome to attend.

Taic Comann Eachdraidh Lios Mor Limited
Company No. SC241701

A.G.M

Saturday March 4, 2006 11.30 am at Achnacrois (11.00 Ferry from Port Appin)

Comann Eachdraidh Lios Mor
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A.G.M

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COMPUTER DESK on wheels. Good Quality, £19.99. Telephone 01631 564848 office hours.

LASER JET COLOUR printer Hewlett Packard 4500DN with spare colour cartridges, £49.99. Telephone 01631 564848 office hours.

DOMESTIC APPLIANCES

CHEST FREEZER 4 1/2 foot long, good working order £10. Telephone 01631 563911. GAS COOKER, Parkinson Cowan, eye level grill £35. Telephone 01546 602461. LEC 2.9cuft refrigerator in good condition, £35. Telephone 01880 770232. STANLEY 120 000btu central heating solid fuel cooker, brown vgc £800. Telephone 01436 810351.

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FIREARMS

SAKO .243, good condition, scope mounts, threaded for T8, FAC required. Telephone 0775600996.

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FIREWOOD - For sale Firewood, hard wood split logs, delivered North, Mid Argyll and Oban area. Loads approx. 2 tons, £80 per load. Telephone 01838 200373.

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Stag(Minstral) Hi Fi Cabinet £150. Mahogany Repro Bookcase £50 Telephone 01631 710056 or 07974768148 THREE x TWO Parker Knoll Suite, vgc, £150. Telephone 01397 702317 TWO DOUBLE WARD-ROBES with hanging rails, 3 top cupboards, vanity section with three drawers, excellent condition, £49.99. Telephone 01631 563691. TWO SEAT SETTEE and matching chair, green velour. Immaculate, £49.99. Telephone 01631 564848 office hours. TWO SINGLE beds as new, £45 each. Telephone 01631 562041. 4 WHITE STICK back Habitat wooden dining chairs, well designed, not flat pack. V.G.C. £20. Telephone 01852 300 592.

GARDEN EQUIPMENT

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GOLF CLUBS

GOLF CLUBS and bag - 1, 3.5 woods, 3-9 irons, sand wedge, pitching wedge and putter. All good condition, £49.99. Telephone 01546 602087.

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KILT

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STAINLESS STEEL sink drainer mixer taps, £15. Telephone 01631 710487 after 5pm.

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LADIES BLACK velvet jacket(new) size 18, £30. Telephone 01631 570542.

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TROUSER PRESS, £20ono. Telephone 01631 563303.

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PERSONALS

I would like to say a big thank you to everyone who helped me celebrate my 60th birthday, and for all the lovely gifts I received. A big thanks to Malky and Beth, Oyster Inn, for all their help in arranging my party, to Sandra for my cake and to Donnie, Verona and Chris for my surprise holiday to Verona (Italy). Once again thank you all. Verona Watson

PERSONALS

Eddy & Mary McGrigor wish to send warmest thanks to all those well-wishers who have sent letters, cards, flowers and presents. Please be assured that they are both on the road to recovery and will respond personally as soon as they are able.

HAPPY 21ST BIRTHDAY VERONICA. LOTS OF LOVE AND HAPPINESS ALWAYS FROM GRANNY CUMMING X Sorry to miss your party

A VALENTINES MESSAGE TO MY LITTLE MONGIE From when I awake in the morning Till I close my eyes at night I think of you and all you do Because you fill my heart with delight Love you forever. Jx

PERSONALS PERSONALS

Happy Birthday



Papa Dochie is 65 and Sharon is 40

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CONDITIONS OF ACCEPTANCE FOR ADVERTISEMENTS

YOUR attention is drawn to the following terms and conditions which relate to the placing of advertisements in all publications owned by The Oban Times Limited. Parties to this agreement are the Publisher, The Oban Times Limited on the one part and the Advertiser on the other part. The Publisher publishes newspapers, magazines, books and provides advertising space therein or provides for the delivery of advertising materials to the public within these publications. 1. Advertising copy shall be legal, decent, honest and truthful and comply with the British Code of Advertising Practice and all other codes. 2. The Publisher does not guarantee the insertion of any particular advertisement. 3. The Publisher reserves the right to cancel or alter the advertisement by giving reasonable notice. 4. An order for an advertisement shall be deemed to be made on acceptance of the advertiser's order by the Publisher whether placed by telephone, mail, fax or in person. 5. Cancellation of display advertising must be received by the Publisher before the publishing deadline, failing which, the publisher reserves the right to invoice the customer in full for the whole cost of the advertisement. 6. The parties submit to the jurisdiction of the Scottish Courts and Scots Law. In the event of any dispute or action by the Publisher to recover payment from an advertiser, it is agreed that matters will be settled in the Oban, Argyll Sheriff Court or such other Court as the Publisher may choose. 7. The Publisher shall not be liable for any loss or damage occasioned by any total or partial failure (however caused) of publication or distribution of any newspaper or edition in which any advertisement is scheduled to appear. In the event of any error, misprint or omission in the printing of an advertisement or part of an advertisement, the Publisher will either re-insert the advertisement or relevant part of the advertisement, as the case may be, or make reasonable refund or adjustment to the cost. No re-insertion, refund or adjustment will be made where the error, misprint or omission does not materially detract from the advertisement. 8. Errors must be notified to the Publisher in writing within fourteen days of publication. In no circumstances shall the total liability of the Publisher for any error, misprint or omission exceed the amount of a full refund of any price paid to the Publisher for the particular advertisement in connection with which liability arose or the cost of a further or corrective advertisement of a type and standard reasonably comparable to that in connection with which liability arose. 9. The Advertiser/Advertising Agency agrees to indemnify the Publisher in respect of all costs, damages or other charges falling upon the publication as the result of legal actions or threatened legal actions arising from the publication of the advertisement in any one or more of a series of advertisements published in accordance with copy instructions supplied to the publication in pursuance of the Advertiser/Advertising Agency order. 10. Adverts under the value of £75 must be paid on acceptance of order by the Publisher. All advertising on a credit basis must be agreed with the Publisher in advance. 11. Payment of any invoice raised by the Publisher will be due 15 days from the date of invoice or as otherwise directed on the invoice. In the event of non-payment the Publisher may charge late payment interest at a rate of 2% and this is chargeable on a daily basis from the due date until the bill is paid. In addition the Publisher may charge a late payment levy of £10 as an administration fee. In the event of late payment the Publisher reserves the right to disallow any discounts given and to raise an additional invoice for the discount which will be treated as though it has been raised with the original invoice. 12. A request to insert an advertisement assumes acceptance of our conditions. Published by The Oban Times Limited, P.O. Box 1, Oban, PA34 5HB. (01631) 568000 Fax (01631) 568001 - www.obantimes.co.uk and registered as a newspaper at the Post Office



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BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS

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THE REGIONAL NEWSPAPER FOR THE WEST HIGHLANDS, ISLANDS AND ARGYLL



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Head Office:
Oban SE8001
Fax: Oban SE8001

E-mail: editor@obantimes.co.uk

Branch Offices:
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Fax (01546) 602661
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BIRTHS



BOWIE

William and Sharon (daughter of George and Moira Blyth) are thrilled to announce the safe arrival of their beautiful daughter
Rebecca Georgia on Monday, 6 February, 2006 at the Princess Royal Maternity Hospital Glasgow.
Both mother and daughter are doing well.

CRAIK - Caitlin would like to announce the safe arrival of her beautiful wee brother Zander David, on February 9, 2006 at The Queen Mothers, Glasgow.

DENNEY - Yukki and Ewen are delighted to announce the birth of their baby girl, Lur Sui Yun Fionnula Denney, on February 8, 2006, in Good Samaritan Hospital, San Jose, California. Mother and daughter both doing great. First grandchild for Rayma and Bill Denney, Sutherland Avenue, Fort William. The Yukki agus Eoghan aobhneach breath an nighlean Lur. Tha an mathair agus nighlean a' cumail gusda.



DEVINE

BERGEHNEGOUWEN - To Karen and Peter in New Zealand, a girl (Rhianna), a sister for Anika and another beautiful kiwi granddaughter for Kenneth and Maureen, Cieran Gardens, Oban

ENGAGEMENTS



MACKECHNIE - FRASER

Both families are delighted to announce the engagement of Brian, younger son of Ian and Catherine MacKechnie, 17 Orchy Gardens Oban, to Andrea, youngest daughter of Ian and Cathy Fraser, Fernlea, Ardconnell Hill, Oban.

ROSS - PRAHAR - Both families are delighted to announce the engagement of John, only son of Katie and the late Dan Ross, Newtonmeads and Tobermory and Gordana, eldest daughter of Rose and Anton Prahar, Zurich and Croatia.

DEATHS

BLACK - Dorothy Janette, beloved wife of Malcolm, devoted and much loved mother of David, Iain and Kirsty, after a most courageous struggle fought with great equanimity, at Ninewells Hospital, Dundee, on Tuesday, February 14, 2006. All friends are cordially invited to join a celebration of Dorothy's exemplary life at Perth Crematorium on Friday, February 17, at 2.30pm. No flowers by request, but donations will be gratefully

passed to SIR, Scottish International Relief.

CONNELLY - Suddenly but peacefully at the Lorn and Islands District General Hospital, Oban, on February 12, 2006. Gladys (née McKidden), in her 83rd year, dearly loved wife of Archie, 8 Macgregor Court, Oban. Funeral will take place from The Church of Scotland, Glencruitten Road, Oban, on Friday, February 17, 2006, at 10am. Thereafter to Pennyfuir Cemetery.

DUNCAN - Suddenly at Western Infirmary, Glasgow, on February 11, 2006. Margaret Duncan (nee Lorimer), aged 83 years, beloved wife of the late James Duncan, dear mother of James, June and Kathleen, devoted nana and great-grandmother - 4 Lochburn Grove, Maryhill, Glasgow, G20.

EDGAR - John Stoddart. Peacefully at home on Tuesday February 7, 2006 after a long illness borne with great courage and dignity. John aged 65 years beloved husband of Ella and dear father of Christine. A loving brother and uncle.

MACLEAN - Anne. Peacefully at Marie Curie Hospice, Glasgow, on February 10, 2006. Anne, loving daughter of the late Duncan and Morag, dear niece, cousin and friend. Private cremation. Thereafter Service of Thanksgiving at Wellington Church, 77 Southpark Avenue, Glasgow, on Thursday, February 16, at 3pm, to which all friends are respectfully invited. Very restricted parking at church. No flowers please, donations in lieu to Marie Curie Hospice, Hunters Hill, Glasgow.

MACQUEEN - Peacefully at Moss Park Nursing Home on February 12, 2006. Murdo, beloved husband of Mary and father of Jennifer, Donald and Calum and a loving granddad. Funeral will be held in the Church of Scotland, Caol, at 2pm on Friday, February 17, followed by interment at New Kilmallie Cemetery. Family flowers only, donations to Moss Park Nursing Home.

MCPHERSON - Duncan. Peacefully at Hairmyres Hospital, Duncan. McPherson, much loved husband of Mary, father of Stewart and Calum, brother of Violet and papa of Cavan, Carla and Ben. Funeral service at St Andrews Church, West Kilbride on Friday, February 17, at 1.30pm thereafter to Masonhill Crematorium, by Ayr at 3pm to which all friends are respectfully invited. Family flowers only please. Donations if desired to a charity of your own choice.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

KENNEDY - 'Larchgrove', Blarmacfoldach, Fort William. Grace, Derek, Colin and Peter, Kate, Leslie and Karen and all the extended family of the late Alexander (Sandy), would like to offer their sincere thanks to all relatives, friends and neighbours, for all the cards, flowers, visits and expressions of sympathy received at this sad, difficult time. Special thanks to all medical staff involved in Sandy's care and also to Fr D. MacKinnon and Fr Wynne for a comforting service. Thanks to all who attended the church and graveside services to pay their last respects. The generous sum of £1,440 was contributed on behalf of Lochaber Palliative Care.

MACDONALD - The family of the late Margaret MacDonald (Margie) would like to thank all the staff of the Cruachan Unit for their care and attention. Many thanks to Rev Margaret Miller for a lovely service and to Ho Hey and son for funeral arrangements. Also thanks to friends and neighbours who attended the service and graveside and those who sent much appreciated expressions of sympathy. Special thanks to all staff of Torosay Court and to Belle, Mairi and Morag who all showed such care and kindness to Margie.

MCCUISH - Ian and Christine wish to thank their families, friends and neighbours for the support shown to them during the loss of their father. Special thanks to Ward B staff, Catriona from Hamish Hoey & Son for their funeral arrangements, Father Donald for a comforting service, Roddy and everyone who paid their respects at the Cathedral and graveside.

McMURRAY - Jack, Chrissie and all the McMurray family would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for expressions of sympathy shown to them. Special thanks to Macmillan nurses, Dr Sharp at High Street Practice, Rev Mr MacQuarrie and Mike

McFall for professional and caring funeral arrangements and to all who attended the church and graveside and generously donated £193 in aid of Macmillan nurses.

POULTON - Hannah Poulton would like to thank most sincerely family and friends for all their support, flowers, letters and cards following the sudden and tragic loss of her dad.
-lochdar, Buessan, Isle of Mull

IN MEMORIAM

ANDERSON - Treasured memories of dear parents and grandparents, Jessie née MacCallum and Alisdair, who passed away in February 1998 and 1992 respectively.

- Inserted by Jan and family.

BARRIE - In ever loving memory of our dear father, Matthew, who passed away on February 14, 1984. A memorable time St Valentine's Day. Most fitting for our caring pop. Sadly missed.

- Wendy, Matthew and Clelland.

BRYCE - In loving memory of a dear husband and father, William (Billy) died February 18, 2004. Loved and remembered every day.

CAMPBELL - In loving memory of Angelina. This space is killing time. Hours go by declared by chimes. Years go by declared by days. And we miss you in a million ways.
- Duncan, Aeleen and Kenny, Jacqueline and Chloe, Lachlan, Leanne, Molly, Regan and Max.

CAMPBELL - Remembering our devoted dad, John, who passed away on February 20, 1986. Treasured memories oh how precious.

- Love Avril and John.

CURRIE - In loving memory of Donald Joseph Currie, who died February 21, 2005, beloved husband of Irene and loving son-in-law of Irene Brownie and brother-in-law of Ian, George, Stephen and Alan. Will always be in our thoughts and hearts.

- Irene Louise Currie and the Brownie/Nicholson family.

CURRIE - Cherished memories of Lily who died, February 15, 1989 and Archie, who died June 1, 1998.

Forever in our thoughts - Margaret, Donald and family. I think of you dearly. Deep within my heart - From Mike.

FAIRGRIEVE - Lillian. In memory of a dear friend. Sadly missed by Lilian and Willie.

The road to my friend's home was never long.
- Lillian.

FERGUSON - Treasured memories of our much loved parents, Murdo, died February 19, 1989 and Katie, died June 16, 2000, also remembering our dearly loved wee sister Chrissie, died June 7, 2005. Very sorely missed.

All the family at home and away.

FORBES - My darling mother, Rosina, died February 20, 1991, also my beloved father, Albert Francis, died October 25, 1991. Both loved and remembered every day.
- By their loving daughter Annette.

JOHNSTONE - In loving memory of our dear mum, Catherine, who is very sadly missed, passed away February 18, 2005, aged 51 years. Gone is the face we loved so dear. Gone is the voice we long to hear. No words or verse could ever say. How much you are sadly missed each day. Whatever else we forget to do. We'll never forget to remember you. You won't come back we know it's true. But one day mum, we will come to you. Forever in our hearts.

- Catriona, Claire, Maria, Gemma, Andrew and all our families x.
To granny. You are our Angel now. The brightest star in the sky. We love you and miss you lots.
- From all your grandchildren.

You live on within us all Mum x.
JOHNSTONE - Precious memories of our dear daughter, sister and aunt, Catherine, who passed away on February 18, 2005. You are always close to us in our thoughts. And in our hearts.
- Mum, Dad, Neil and Daniel. Loving you always. Forgetting you never. Rest in peace.
- Graham, Raema, Jamie and Paul.

LAVERY - Precious memories of a much loved and cherished dad, grandpa, brother, uncle and friend, Bobby, who was taken from us on February 15, 2005. Wish you had not left us so soon.

Wish we could see that smile one more time. Wish we could hear your voice one more time. Wish you peace, love and laughter in heaven.
- Love and hugs.

- Sheila, Spickle, Louise, Nick, Lolly, all in Oban and away xx.

LAVERY - In memory of our friend, Bobby, who died February 15, 2005. Always remembered.
- Robert and Gordon.

MACDONALD - In loving memory of Donald Archy, much loved husband, father and grandfather who passed away February 15, 1997.

Nine years have passed since that sad day. You closed your eyes and slipped away. You left us quietly without a fuss. And broke the hearts of all of us. Sadly missed.

- All the family.

MACDONALD - In loving memory of our dear parents and grandparents, Thomas Freeland, passed away February 12, 1986 and Jessie MacKenzie, passed away February 7, 1994.

Forever in our thoughts. Inserted by Donald, Neil, Isobel and family.

MACDOUGALL - In loving memory of our mum Mary who died February 18, 2005. My thoughts are always with you.

Your place no one can fill. In life I loved you dearly. In death I love you still. I know you walk beside me. And when my life is through. I pray that God will take my hand.

And lead me straight to you. Loved always.
- Fay, John, all the family and grandchildren.

Also our brothers Peter, Neil and dad Dougie. Gone but not forgotten.

MAGGILLIVRAY - Treasured memories of Flora, a loving mother, mother-in-law, gran and great-gran, died February 14, 1997. Also remembering Neil, a loving father, father-in-law, grampa and great-grampa died December 4, 1981.

Loved and remembered always.

- Mary, Donnie, John and Families Oban and Islay.

MACLEAN - Treasured memories of Duncan, our much loved father, granda and great-granda died February 18, 1975. Remembered also our dear mother Joanna and loved ones gone before.

Your love is always with us Dad. Your place no-one can fill. In life we loved you dearly. In death we love you still.

- Inserted by their loving daughters Margaret, Christine, Norma and families, Glasgow and America.

MACLEOD - In loving memory of my dad and step mum, Norman and Val, died February 20, 2005. You both will always be missed - Samantha.

McDONALD - In loving memory of our mother Kate, who died February 18, 1988 and father Jimmy who died May 12, 1973. Always in our thoughts. Willie, Kinlochleven and Kathleen, Farnborough.

McGILLIVRAY - Kirsty. In loving memory of a dear great aunt and aunt of the late Flora Kerr who died on February 16, 2005. Sadly missed.

McGREGOR - In loving memory of Major W.R. (Roddy), a sadly missed husband and much loved father and grandfather, who passed away February 16, 2005. Always in our thoughts.
- From Florence, Derick and Iain.

McKICHAN - In memory of Annie (Ma), who died on February 16, 2002. Much missed.
- Love Kath.

McKICHAN - In loving memory of a special granny and great-granny Annie, who died February 16, 2002. Miss you very much.
- Robert, Annie and kids xx.

McKICHAN - In loving memory of Don, who died suddenly on February 15, 1998. Always with me.
- Love, Kath.

A helping hand for others needs. Sincere and true in heart and mind. Beautiful memories left behind.

Today, tomorrow, my whole life through. I'll always be grateful my dad was you.

Fiona, Alistair and Martin xxx.

MAITLAND - To a dear dad, pappy and great-grampa. Every day we think of you. Treasured memories for ever true.

- Lynn, Nicole and Kristofer xxxx.

PATERSON - Precious memories of Craig, much loved son, brother and grandson, who died February 13, 2003. Deep in our hearts you will always stay. Loved and remembered everyday.

Sorely missed.
- Love mum, dad, Graeme, Steven, Karen and gran. xx.

POULTON - In loving memory of our precious son and brother, Danny, who died on February 15, 1992, aged 3 days. Loved and remembered always.

- Freena and family, lochdar, Buessan.

SCOTT - My thoughts are with family, friends and the community of Kilchoan at the sad loss of Mary-Jane Scott.

A wonderful person, mother, granny and mother-in-law. The memories she made for me I will cherish forever. You will always be in my heart.

- Love Johnny.

SLOSS - In loving memory of Davie Sloss, who died on February 15, 2003. Three years have now passed since we met face to face. And my world is such an emptier place. And now there is Brodie who you never met - that for me is such a regret.

Still as we go on from each day to day. I know you are there every step of the way. And as the sun rises on Oban each day.

I still have a smile when I think of you say - Fancy a wee pint, big fella? - Your loving son, Davie.

SUTHERLAND - Proud and precious memories of our dearly loved son, Innes, taken from us on February 14, 1999, aged 21 years. There is a place in our hearts that is yours alone. A part of our lives no one can own.

Deep in our memories you are with us yet. To love, cherish and never forget. Loved and remembered everyday.

- Mum and Dad xx. Innes, a much loved brother, brother-in-law and uncle. We miss your smile, your joking ways. We miss the things you used to say.

When old times we do recall. It's then we miss you most of all. Forever in our thoughts and hearts.

- Your big sisters, Kerri, Iona and Catherine xxx.

SUTHERLAND - Happy and precious memories of our dear nephew and cousin, Innie, tragically killed on February 14, 1999, aged 21. Some people come into our lives.

And quickly go. Some stay awhile. And leave footprints on our hearts. That stay forever. And we are never the same.

- With love Robert, Julie, Siobhan and Robbie.

SUTHERLAND - Treasured memories of our nephew, Innes, taken from us on February 14, 1999. Quietly today your memory we treasure. Loving you always. Forgetting you never.

- Love Norma and Gary.

TAYLOR - In loving memory of our parents, mum, Jessie who died February 15, 1991 and dad, Neil who died March 22, 1996. Sadly missed.
- The family.

Church NEWS

Thought for the week

Singing from the same hymn sheet

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH ANGLICAN COMMUNION
Sunday 19 February 2006
Sexagesima

St John's Cathedral, Oban
Holy Communion 0800
Choral Mattins 1015

Creche
Parish Eucharist 1130
Loop System
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St James, Ardbrecknish, Cladich
Holy Eucharist 1500

Christ Church, Lochgilphead
Loop System
Holy Eucharist 0900
Holy Eucharist 1100

St Columba, Potalloch, Kilmartin
Evensong 1530
St Columba, Gruline, Mull
Holy Eucharist 1100

St Columba, Bishop's House, Iona
Holy Eucharist 1000

DESTINY CHURCH
OBAN
Sunday 19 February
Drummore School
Lower Soroba
Oban
11 a.m.
And meeting midweek in the Lorne (see Notice Board advert)

Speaker:
Andy MacCulloch
Telephone:
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564283
www.destiny-church.com

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I HAVE always found idioms fascinating. Recently I have been dipping into a little paperback containing over 5,000 examples of English idiomatic expressions.

They range from A 1 at Lloyds to an American English colloquialism for getting some sleep - to catch some Zs.

An English idiom which has become fairly common in recent years is *singing from the same hymn sheet*. There are some slight variations, such as, singing from the same song sheet or singing from the same hymn book.

Now, quite literally, it is important that we should sing from the same hymn book, because there are so many different hymnaries used in modern congregational singing.

Some collections may contain an extra verse that we have never heard before, and in some hymnaries we see

the dreaded word altered printed at the end of a hymn, suggesting that the familiar well-loved version has been changed to make it more acceptable to modern ears.

On one occasion the two leading figures of the early Church did not seem to be singing from the same hymnsheet. Paul writes: When Peter came to Antioch, I opposed him to the face, because he was clearly in the wrong.

When Peter arrived in Antioch he had shared the common meal with everyone, whatever their background, Jew or Gentile.

But then a stricter lot of people came to Antioch from Jerusalem and persuaded Peter to withdraw from the fellowship meal if there were Jews and Gentiles present. Paul believed that we are all one in Christ Jesus. Over the basic fundamentals of the faith, in regard to the central teachings of the Gospel of

Christ, there was no disagreement or divergence between Peter and Paul. They sang from the same hymnsheet when it came to the foundations of the Christian faith. In the Church, as in other organisations, we can have unity without uniformity. There can be unity in diversity.

Each regiment in an army has its own traditions, its own battle honours, its own badge and colours and type of dress. But the members of each regiment have sworn allegiance to the same sovereign, they are fighting in the same cause, they have the same aim in view. From the earliest days of the Church the basic creed, the rallying call, which united believers was summed up in three simple profound words: Jesus is Lord.

Roddy MacLeod, Cunnlodden, Lochyfeis and Lochgair.

'Fischy' goes on at Atlantis



Fischy Music visited Oban on Tuesday and thanks to H2O the Hope to Oban group they played to an audience of nearly 400 children from nine primary schools in the area. Their music workshops help children deal with issues such as bullying, self esteem and emotions. Suzanne Adam, Ken Wyllie and Stephen Fischbacher are seen here with just some of the pupil who went along. 076501

Ann and her winning ways

KIRK Session Clerk Kate Cruickshank welcomed nearly 100 parishioners and friends who had gathered in Lochaline Hall on Friday January 27, to mark the occasion of Rev Ann Winning's retirement, following her 21 years period as Church of Scotland minister in the Parish of Morvern.

Senior elder, Alistair Scouler, spoke about, how, on the day of her induction to the parish, it was his pleasant duty as the then session clerk, to welcome Ann to Morvern - the first lady minister in the long history of the parish - and also the first lady minister in the Presbytery of Lochaber.

He continued: 'Your retirement will leave a real gap in Morvern, as you have been so actively engaged in the life of the community, such as the Morvern Players, Lochaline Hall, the heritage society, the community council and other organisations.'

Outdoor
At your induction, the minister of Palmerston Place Church in Edinburgh, when speaking about his former assistant, stated: 'Ann Winning loves the outdoor life, she is a born rural minister, a born ecumenical minister, and a born minister for Morvern.'

Strontian based Episcopalian priest Rev. Charles Tongue said that when seven years ago he applied for training as a priest, he was informed that as part of his training, he would have a private tutor.

'Ann agreed to be my tutor which was very wonderful for me, because it was very hard for me to do what I wanted to do.'

'She was very patient and kind and I would just like to say thank you, Ann, for all you did for me; and what a privilege it is for me doing what I am doing, and if it had not been for you, I would not be doing what I am doing now.'

With a very entertaining fund of stories - mainly about ministers - local historian, Iain Thornber concluded: 'Saying farewell to Ann would not be right without some mention of the dogs at the manse, and it would not be too unkind to say that Ann has given a new meaning to the word 'dog-collar'.



May Wilson, Ann Winning and Katie MacCuish at the celebration to mark Ann's retirement.

'We are all



TIMES Sport

Association and sponsor up for award

Shinty

THE CAMANACHD Association and sponsors Tulloch Ltd have been short listed in the annual Scottish Sport Sponsorship awards for 2006.

Tulloch Ltd is a major sponsor of the Camanachd Association having committed £150,000 to the sport of shinty over the next three years to assist the Association in developing the sport. A key element of this support was the appointment of a Chief Executive Officer Richard Tulloch (no relation). He took up his appointment with the Association in January.

Camanachd Association President John MacKenzie said: 'We are delighted with this confirmation that Tulloch Ltd have been short listed with us in the Best First-time sponsor category of the Awards.'

'Shinty has regularly featured in the sports sponsorship awards and we are keeping our fingers crossed now that Tulloch's contribution to our development will be recognized by the judges in their final assessment.'

The Scottish Sports Sponsorship Awards were launched by sportscotland in 2001 to recognize excellence and creativity across Scotland's vibrant sponsorship scheme.

The winners of the awards will be announced at the Business in Sport Dinner in Glasgow on Thursday, May 4.

Glengarry in the hunt for new players

Shinty

GLENGARRY Shinty Club have launched a player recruitment drive after finding themselves short of players for this season's campaign in North Division One.

If you think you might have what it takes, contact Ewan Cameron on 01809 501289 or email cameron@glengarry.net

Newtonmore win Kinlochshiel friendly

Shinty

A GOAL in each half gave Newtonmore a home win in a pre-season friendly against Kinlochshiel at the Eilan.

David Cheyne opened the scoring for 'More in the first-half but Kinlochshiel defended well until a spectacular Danny MacRae goal settled the tie. Newtonmore play Skye this weekend.

Young Scots lift Bord na Gaidhlig trophy in Ireland

SCOTLAND'S Under 17 shinty players lifted the Bord na Gaidhlig Trophy in West Limerick after a two-day challenge against their Irish hurling counterparts which saw the young Scots gain victory by an aggregate score of 45 points to 22.

The opening match of the

two-day challenge was played at the 50,000 all-seater stadium in Limerick with Grant Irvine of Kyles Athletic leading the scoring with 12 points in a 20-15 win.

The tie produced a hard physical match which swung from end to end with the Scots ability to keep the ball low and strike for goals

an important factor in the victory. There were also points from the Fort William duo of Bryan Simpson (6) and Duncan Rodger (2).

The pivotal moment of the opening tie came when two free-flowing moves down the right resulted in

Bryan Simpson being left unmarked in front of goal to score twice.

Only a tremendous display by the West Limerick keeper kept the score within five points at the final whistle.

The following day, the

Shinty/Hurling

young players produced a display of free flowing shinty and cleverly taken goals that saw them win by 25 points to 7, against a very talented and physically strong West Limerick team.

The second-half perform-

ance of the Scots proved inspirational as Irvine's pace caused havoc in the Irish defence as Duncan Rodgers long balls out of defence kept the home side on the back foot for long periods.

Fort William's Bryan Simpson was back on scor-

ing form with 10, while Caberfeidh's Kevin Bartlett adding five, Roddy MacDonald and Grant Irvine, both of Kyles with four and two respectively, while Inverrary's Neil Campbell hit three. Lewis MacLennan of Glengurquhart also added a point. Allan MacLeod of the

Camanachd Association, who has been a player in development tour squads in the past, said: 'The team returned to Scotland rightly proud of their achievements. Many of these young players likely to make a big impact on shinty in the coming season and the coming years.'



Oban Celtic and Glenorchy met in a pre-season friendly amid atrocious conditions at Mossfield Stadium, Oban on Saturday with both teams settling for a four-all draw

Skye and Lochcarron remember 'Ach'

SKYE and Lochcarron observed a minutes silence in memory of Johnny 'Ach' MacRae prior to the start of their pre-season friendly match at Portree on Saturday.

Unfortunately heavy overnight rain and a constant downpour led to the match being abandoned before half-time as the pitch

became unplayable. Skye entertain Newtonmore at Portree this Saturday.

North Division One champions Beaulie played Camanachd Cup holders Fort William in a 1-1 draw at Braeview Park while Lovat lost 4-1 to Kingussie.

Bute will travel to Inveraray on February 25 to mark the opening of the Royal Burgh club's new changing rooms. The teams will also play for the Campbell Cup, a trophy which had been lost to the sport for many years until it was discovered and restored to its former glory.

Kelly steps down as Scotland manager to focus on refereeing

Shinty

THE COACH of Scotland's national shinty team, Duncan Kelly, has decided to step down to concentrate on refereeing.

Mr Kelly, who has been involved with the Scotland team for the past nine years, announced his decision this week to the Camanachd Association.

Promoted to the position of manager of the Scotland set up four years ago his stewardship ended on a high with the win against Ireland in the shinty/hurling international in Inverness last year.

Mr Kelly will also have a new role with the association, helping to recruit more referees to the game.

Association chief executive Richard Tulloch, said: 'Duncan really just fancied a change.'

'He wants to concentrate on refereeing.'

'He will not be the board member who deals with officials but he has agreed to devote some time to recruiting more referees.'

Corrigal and Rodger awarded national medals

Shinty

TWO of shinty's finest young players will be recognised next Monday at Glasgow City Chambers, when they receive National Playing Field Association Scotland Medallions for their performances, development and contribution to shinty in the past year.

Sarah Corrigal from the Isle of Skye and Duncan Rodger of Fort William have been nominated by the Camanachd Association Youth Development Committee and will receive their awards from British Lion rugby star and former Scotland captain, Gordon Bulloch at the prestigious event in Glasgow.

Sarah started playing shinty in Kyleakin Primary School when she was in primary two and has since developed into one of the finest players in her age group.

The past year has seen Sarah play alongside male counterparts at Under 17 and reserve team level for

her home club, Skye, whilst also committing herself to play for the women's club in Glengarry, with whom she won the Women's Camanachd Cup.

She also played in the final of the MacTavish Youth Cup and finally, to cap of a great year, she represented her country in the shinty/hurling international against Ireland in October.

Duncan Rodger has had a year to remember as he broke into the Fort William senior team and established himself as a solid tackling, big hitting wing back.

Duncan started his shinty at St Mary's Primary School in Fort William at the tender age of six where he developed an aptitude and nurtured the skills of the sport of shinty.

In the past year, Duncan was a key figure in Fort William Under-17 team

lifting the MacTavish Youth Cup and also received honours at North of Scotland Under-17 level, and at National Camp where he received the player of the camp award from a pool of 65 players.

He has just returned from the Under 17 National Squad's successful trip to West Limerick, where again he played a pivotal role at the heart of the Scottish defence.

Without a doubt Duncan's highlight of the year came when he demonstrated a composure and ability beyond his years as he helped Fort William lift the Camanachd Cup.

Camanachd Association chief executive, Richard Tulloch said: 'Both players are a credit to the sport of shinty and it is hoped that they will have a long, bright future in the game, and become role models for their peers and the younger generations.'

Referee day aimed to encourage new whistlers

Shinty

IN AN BID to aid the annual problem of referee shortages, The Camanachd Association will host a Referees Development Day in the Alexandra Hotel, Fort William on Sunday, February 25 from 12 noon-5pm.

The aim of the day is to encourage new referees into the sport and to prepare all referees for the new season.

The development and training of match officials is a key feature of the Camanachd Association's development plans and the Association has confirmed that Duncan Kelly of Fort William, who was formerly the national shinty/hurling team manager, is to join the collective effort by specifically tackling issues regarding the ongoing lack of referees.

Camanachd Association President, John MacKenzie, said: 'Obviously the sad loss of John MacRae, our Board Director with responsibility for officials, has cast a shadow over our preparations for the new season. However, I can think of no better tribute to John than for us to get all the preparations for the new season in order, as he would have wanted himself.'

'Duncan Kelly, being a referee himself, knows the issues and we are delighted that he has agreed to help us with the recruitment, development and training of referees. We will do everything in our power to ensure that the games go ahead as scheduled.'

'I also want us to develop a longer term strategy to recruit and retain referees.'

'That will be something for John MacRae's successor, when appointed, to address.'

The Camanachd Referees Association are able to provide all members with a new full referees kit which includes strip, whistle, flags, notebooks and red/yellow cards thanks to financial support from lottery funding.

Anyone interested can contact the Camanachd Association office in Fort William, or come along on the day.



The new Park Sparks team with their new strips which were donated by Mark the Spark pictured with shinty coach Neil MacLennan.

Mark lends a hand for bright Sparks

AS FAR as suitable names go there is only one primary school shinty team Mark 'the Spark' Sutherland could lend his name to. Oban's Park Primary School C team will be known as Park Sparks thanks to a new set of strips sponsored by the electrician.

Mark presented 10 new strips to the team and they were gratefully accepted by team coach Neil MacLennan.

Mark said: 'It makes sense to call the team Park Sparks.'

'My son Sean plays for the C team and the strips they had before were really worn. I think they were about 10 years old.'

The players received their strips during a training night last week.

They liked the strips so much they wore them for the entire training session.



Fort William's young defender Duncan Rodger, left, in action at An Aird

THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT

WIN £2,050

in The Oban Times

'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition

Last Week's shinty ball was here...

This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are: M Rankin, Balliemeanoch, Braes, Skye and Mrs M Cameron, 17 Menteith Crescent, Callander

Easy to enter
Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to reach "Spot the Shinty Ball" Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon on Tuesday.

You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

Competition Rules
No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery.

The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.

In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company.

The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time.

Employees of The Oban Times Limited, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.

I enclose £1 (note) for 20 crosses (tick box) The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules.

How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1.

Name _____

Address _____

Tel No. _____

Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB

SPORTS DESK ☎ 01631 568000 Fax 01631 568001 e-mail sport@obantimes.co.uk website

Medals for Argyll at Scottish indoor championships

Athletics

TWO OF Argyll's most promising athletes have taken home bronze medals from the Scottish Indoor Athletics Championships.

Struan Carmichael of Tobermory and David Clunie from Kilmore have been consistent performers for their county over the past few years and this meeting, held on February 4, was no different.

Struan won his bronze medal in the under-13 60 metres.

In qualifying for the final he set a new personal best of 8.33 seconds.

The young Mullaich also placed sixth in the long jump with 4.11 metres.

David, competing in the under-17 age group, was third in the high-jump clearing 1.80 metres.

The Glasgow School of Sport pupil was the top Scot in the competition which was open to athletes from all over the UK.



Some of Oban High School's most successful girls' football team in the school's history celebrate their Scottish Schools' Cup success. 07gr101

OHS girls in Scottish Cup semi

OBAN High School's senior girls football team are through to the semi-finals of this season's Scottish Schools Cup after a thrilling 6-4 away victory over St Kentigerns, West Lothian.

Schools' football

A hat-trick in the first-half for Sammy Moore, who added another two in the second period, plus a goal from Jemma Campbell to take the Oban girls' tally to six.

A three-hour journey saw the Oban team change hurriedly and with the light fading on a very heavy and uncut pitch the home team

started more confidently putting the Oban defence under some considerable pressure.

The back-line of Lucy McNulty, Mandy MacDonald and Julie Mackinnon proved more than up to the task and, with Oban's midfield taking control, went into a half-time 4-2 lead.

The second half was a nervous yet exciting affair with St Kentigerns pulling a goal back before Sammy Moore scored a further two goals in the second to win the player of the match award.

All the Oban players showed great determination, teamwork and a desire to win instilled in them by coach Dante Lopez. They now look forward to their first ever semi-final of this cup competition.

Four awards in a row for Fort William

AS FORT William gears up to host the first triple discipline round of the 2006 UCI Mountain Bike World Cup in May, the UCI (International Cycle Union) recently announced that the Nevis Range ski area and Forestry Commission Scotland, has won the award for the best Downhill and 4-Cross Mountain Bike World Cup events of the 2005 UCI Mountain Bike World Cup series.

Mountain biking

The award is based on the votes of competitors, officials and media from all over the world who had attended events in Scotland, Belgium, Spain, Germany, Austria, Canada, Brazil, New Mexico and Italy on the 2005 UCI Mountain Bike World Cup circuit.

In its fourth year of hosting international mountain bike events, Fort William staged the 2005 UCI Mountain Bike World Cup Finals (a first for the UK), a massive, end-of-season festival of mountain bike action.

Love wins Oban squash invitational

FORT William's Bruce Love won the prestigious Oban Invitational Squash Tournament at the weekend with another Lochaber player, Andrew MacMaster, lifting the Plate trophy.

Squash

young players, took part in a league format before progressing to the knockout stages.

In a fiercely competitive final, Fort William's Bruce Love beat Oban's Andy Phillips, while in an all-Lochaber Plate final 15-year-old Alan Love failed to overcome the more experienced Andrew MacMaster.

Andy Phillips, who helped organise the event with Colin MacNiven and a host of others, said that there had been some 'cracking games'.

'It has gone really well,' he said, adding 'most of the games went to five sets.'

'The competition was really close all day.'

In a long and gruelling day, play started at 11am, with the finalist still on court at 7pm.

Oban Squash Club meets every Wednesday night at 6.30pm at Atlantis Leisure, with non-members always welcome for a game. Andy Phillips also finds time to coach squash to youngsters on a Saturday morning and can be contacted through Neil MacInnes at Atlantis.



The competitors and match officials at the Oban Squash Club's annual invitational event held at Atlantis Leisure. 07sq01

Carpet bowling

Lorn Carpet Bowling League	
P	Pts
Kilmore	8 55
North Connel	9 37
Benderloch	7 32
Connel	8 29
Easdale	8 26
Cairnbaan	6 24
Taynuilt	8 13

Pool

Oban Pool League			
P	W	L	Pts
Loch B	11	0	20
Markie Dans	11	0	18
Claredon	11	0	16
Cellar A	11	0	16
Loch A	11	0	12
Cellar B	11	0	10
Bowling A	11	0	10
J & D B	11	0	8
J & D A	11	0	6
Bowling B	11	0	2

Curling

Drimsynie Ice Rink				
Monday League				
P	W	D	L	Pts
JACL	8	6	1	13
Oban	7	4	2	10
Fyne Team	8	4	1	9
Upper Cowal	8	3	2	8
Team Cluny	8	3	1	7
Dunoon Ladies	7	1	2	4
Mike the Knife	8	1	1	3

Tuesday League				
P	W	D	L	Pts
Benmore	9	7	0	24
Drimsynie Office	9	7	0	24
Sandbank	9	7	0	24
Tighnabruich	9	5	0	10
Drimsynie Const	9	4	1	9
Dunoon Argyll 1	9	2	0	6
Lochgill	9	2	1	5
Dunoon Ladies	9	0	0	0

Thursday League				
P	W	D	L	Pts
Big Deal	9	7	0	24
Tighnabruich	9	5	1	11
Cairndow	9	5	0	10
Cot House	9	5	0	10
Arrochar	9	4	1	9
Glen Orchy	9	1	4	9
Dunoon Argyll2	9	1	3	5
Inveraray	9	1	2	4

Ardnamurchan play first game

Shinty

NEWLY formed Ardnamurchan Camanachd played their first friendly game before the season starts next month.

They took on Skye's second team in Lochaline but were 3-0 down at half-time.

The island team's organisation and domination in midfield proved the key although the weather conditions made a flowing game impossible as the pitch was saturated. Both teams enjoyed the historic fixture and Skye enjoyed the long journey home with a 7-1 victory.

Ardnamurchan under 14s went one better than the senior team and beat Mull 5-1 away from home.

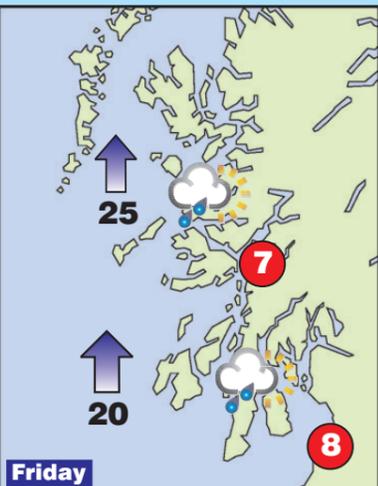
Tides

Tide tables for Oban during the week of Thursday, February 16, 2005 are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

Date	am	pm
Thur	01.34 0.9 07.29 3.9 14.06 1.2 19.48 3.8	
Fri	02.00 1.0 07.55 3.8 14.27 1.3 20.12 3.7	
Sat	02.25 1.1 08.19 3.7 14.43 1.5 20.38 3.5	
Sun	02.52 1.3 08.45 3.6 15.08 1.6 21.09 3.3	
Mon	03.26 1.5 09.18 3.4 15.46 1.8 21.47 3.2	
Tue	04.12 1.7 10.01 3.1 16.46 1.9 22.40 3.0	
Wed	05.23 1.8 11.07 2.9 18.27 2.0 ** ** *	

Ardrihaig	-5.35	Lochboisdale	+0.30
Campbeltown	-5.30	Mallaig	+0.25
Crinan	-0.47	Portree	+0.55
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Tobermory	+0.16
		Dover	+5.30

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the weather

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Thursday, February 16

A mixture of showers with sunny spells backed by moderate to fresh southerly winds
Temperatures 2°C to 7°C.

Friday, February 10

Little change, with showery intervals and sunny spells.
Temperatures 3°C to 7°C.

Saturday and Sunday

Saturday and Sunday are expected to see a continuation of showery intervals and sunny spells on moderate or fresh south or southwesterly winds.
Remaining mild
Temperatures 3°C to 8°C.

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist - Moderate becoming rough
Oban to Coll/Tiree - As above
Kennacraig to Islay - As above

Saints reach last sixteen of West Cup

West of Scotland Cup
5th Round
OBAN SAINTS 3
DENNY 1

Football

SAINTS entertained Central Scottish League side Denny at Glencluitten in the 5th round of the Colville Park Country Club West of Scotland Amateur Cup with a place in the last 16 of the competition the prize for the winners and it was the Oban lads who came out of top in an exciting encounter.

Manager Iain Jackson made four changes to the starting line-up who turned in such a poor performance against Slamannan the week before and these changes certainly worked as Saints turned in one of their best performances of the season against a well drilled outfit from Dumbarton.

Dante Lopez, Ross Graham, Colin Carswell and Darin Bryars were preferred to Joe Lopez, Willie Gemmell, Scott Johnston and Allan MacKay, who took their place on the bench.

The pitch at Glencluitten was checked at 9am and found to be perfectly playable, but by kick-off time puddles were starting to appear on the playing surface due to the heavy rain.

Referee John Brown from Bishopston, checked the park thoroughly before giving it the thumbs up, but if any more rain fell then he might have to call a halt to proceedings, but thankfully it stayed away and the match got underway.

All credit to both teams they gave the hardy band of spectators a great game to watch in very trying conditions.

The home team took the lead in the 18th minute when some good work up the right flank ended with the ball being crossed to the far side of the box to the unmarked Keith Millar, who steadied himself before firing the ball home with the help of a slight deflection.

Both teams were playing some good stuff, but the local lads seemed to have the upper hand in the attacking department and almost dou-



Colin Carswell moves in to tackle Denny midfielder Paul Stephens

bled their goal tally when Colin Carswell thumped a great right foot shot which hit the post with Denny keeper Mike Reilly stranded.

The half-time whistle arrived with Saints good value for their narrow one-goal lead.

After the break the Oban side set about increasing their lead, but the visitors, looked pretty solid at the back with Andy Napier looking impressive at the centre of the Denny defence.

Ross Graham made a great break down the right flank, but his cut-back went just behind Dean Walker as the striker had a clear run in on goals.

Saints took off Darin Bryars and replaced him with Duncan Campbell up front and this move paid dividends almost immediately when Duncan was sent clear down the right and he sent over an inch-perfect low ball across the face of the Denny penalty area for Dean Walker who slide in at the far post to

knock it into the net to give the home side the two goal cushion they play deserved.

Saints took off young Colin Carswell who had taken a knock on the knee replacing him with Willie Gemmell on the left hand side of midfield.

Both teams were playing good football on a very tricky surface, with the Saints defence of Mark MacCallum Bertie Gemmell and Alex Grindlay looking in control and the central midfield of Keith Millar, Dante Lopez and Ross Maitland were starting to dominate proceedings.

The visitors had a good effort in the 65th minute when Steven O'Kane fired a shot goalwards, but Saints keeper Tim Woodcock made a fine save to up to his left.

The home side killed the game off with ten minutes remaining when Duncan Campbell slipped a clever pass through the middle for Dean Walker who raced goalwards before despatching the ball past Mike Reilly

to make the score 3-0. Saints then took off the goalscorer and replaced him with Allan MacKay.

This had been a really good performance from the home side but the shine was tarnished slightly in the last minute when some slack play at the back allowed Steven Marrsland space in the box and the Denny forward netted a well taken goal to make the final score 3-1.

There was hardly time to take the centre before Referee John Brown from Bishopston, who had an excellent game, blew for full time with Saints fully deserving to go into the last 16 of the competition.

Manager Iain Jackson was delighted at the result and performance. He said: 'I was at an SFA coaching course recently and the tutor said a few things that really hit home to me as Saints team manager. I felt we needed to change a few players from last week's defeat at Slamannan and the boys we put in today certainly played their part in what was one of our best performances of the season against a very good Denny team.'

This Saturday the Oban lads are at home again when they face a tough match against Cambria. The game will be played at Mossfield with a 2 pm kick-off, with extra time and penalties, if required, to see who takes on the Pollok or Inverclyde at home in the quarter finals. Referee in charge is John Scott.

Saints Under 19s had an impressive 3-1 away win over Erskine BC. They are away again this weekend at Renfrew Burgh.

Saints Under 17s are away from home to Calderside. Saturday's results involving Argyll clubs: West of Scotland Cup - Oban Saints 3, Denny 1. Premier Division - Campbeltown Pupils 2, Kilpatrick 2. Pollok 2, Duncannig 0. Premier Division One - Shawlands 2, Dunoon 3. Premier Division Two - St Joseph's v Campbeltown Boys (postponed). Division One - Lochgilphead Red Star 4, Whitehill 0. Division Two - Tarbert 4, Strathkelvin Thistle 3.



George Miller, Wilma Frew, skip, Jill Stewart and Eamonn Arthur won the Strathcona Cup after a tie with Inveraray. After a countback, the Oban rink had the more shots to claim victory.

Oban curlers win Strathcona Cup at Drimsynie ice rink

OBAN won the annual Strathcona Cup competition at Drimsynie Ice Rink when they overcame stiff opposition from rinks representing Lochaber, Glenorchy, and Inveraray.

Curling

Each team had two points going into the final games which provided an exciting finish, with Oban and Inveraray tying on four

points after all the results had been counted. However, Oban had more shots and were declared the winners, with Inveraray taking the March Trophy as runners-up.



Sharks Football team won the Junior League Cup when they defeated Soroba Rovers after a penalty shootout in the final. Both sides play in the Oban Express Primary Football League