

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Established 1861 No 7976

Thursday, January 7, 2010

www.obantimes.co.uk

75 pence



Hogmanay Round up



Craignish student aims for Chelsea success



Trapped at home by the weather

Icy roads result in spate of accidents throughout Argyll

WHILE forecasters are warning that the Arctic conditions are set to continue, possibly until the end of the month, the weather is taking its toll on many parts of Argyll.

A number of islanders have been stranded in north Mull, between Ensay and Kilninian, for more than two weeks.

Stuck for days

Ian Erskine, who stays at Burg, said he and his wife had been stuck from December 22 to December 28, managed to get out but had to abandon their car at Kilninian, a mile from their home, on the way back.

He was out clearing an inch and a half thick layer of ice from the B8073 road when *The Oban Times* spoke to him on Tuesday.

'What we have been doing for the last fortnight is trying to clear a tyre track width.'

'We are hoping that things will start moving here today. We have a 45-minute walk to the car,' he said.

Guy Bolton at Tostarie, who has been helping farmer Ian MacKay tow cars out of difficulty, said: 'If there had been grit left in November there wouldn't have been the same problem. We have been given no assistance at all. They have made no effort to grit the road.'

He said some grit had been left last week at Kilninian but no effort made to spread

it further north and he and his neighbours had used quad bikes and fish boxes to spread it on the hills and hairpin bends

Priority

He understood that main roads were a priority but pointed out: 'This road is our lifeline and if there was a fire or anything happens to one of us there is no way anyone would be able to get anywhere near us.'

Mull councillor Gordon Chalmers said he had been in contact with residents on a regular basis and was pressing council officials to take extra-ordinary measures to help those at Ensay, Tostarie and Burg.

Argyll and Bute MP Alan Reid had been contacted by islanders too and he said: 'I'd never have thought that, in this day and age, people could be cut off by the weather for two weeks.'

Passable with care

A council spokeswoman said: 'The road from Tobermory to Ensay is passable with care and the road from Kilninian south towards Gruilene is also driveable, with both having been treated several times.'

'There remains a difficult section of about three miles between Ensay and Kilninian, and due to the ongoing weather conditions it is proving difficult to direct as much resource to this location as necessary to

clear the road. 'There are new grit piles at Ensay and Kilninian, and prior to the start of the winter maintenance grit piles were placed on the steeper sections of road between these locations.'

Accidents

Elsewhere icy roads have proved hazardous and on January 2 road traffic police officers attended three incidents in the space of a few hours in North Argyll.

An elderly couple, travelling west on the A85 at Fearnoch, near Taynuilt, were seriously injured when their Fiat Seicento collided with a Toyota Rav4 at 9.40am. The 70-year-old woman passenger was airlifted to the Southern General Hospital, Glasgow, suffering from head injuries. The driver, a 71-year-old man suffered concussion and was taken to Lorn and Islands Hospital, before being transferred to the Southern General. As *The Oban Times* went to press his condition was stable. Police closed the road until 4.15pm and the area was thoroughly gritted. The road had been gritted the previous night.

Other accidents that day saw cars leave the road in Benderloch, Appin and Dalnally. There were no injuries but road traffic police officers ordered the roads to be gritted again.

North Connel man injured in fencing accident

A NORTH Connel fencing contractor was in a stable condition in the Southern General Hospital, Glasgow as *The Oban Times* went to press after suffering a serious head injury while helping to build a stock fence.

David Livingstone had to be airlifted to the Glasgow hospital after sustaining serious injuries to his head in the incident involving a digger last Wednesday.



Lismore museum wins design award

A BENDERLOCH architect's design for a heritage museum on Lismore is the only winner in the first Argyll and Bute Sustainable Design Awards.

Shauna Cameron was commissioned to design St Moluag's Heritage Museum (Ionad Naomh Moluag) by Comann Eachdraidh Lios Mòr, Lismore historical society, and it opened in March 2007.

Sustainable

She designed the building both to fit in with the surrounding landscape, with its grass roof and larch-clad exterior, and to be sustainable, with its wool insulation and ground source heat pump.

The L-shaped building houses an exhibition area, shop, library, café and toilets, with a kitchen and plant room at the back and

an outside deck. She was delighted to have had her work recognised and felt that it ticked all the boxes when it came to sustainability. Its size and scale make it sustainable for the future for a community the size of Lismore.

'I am delighted. It's absolutely wonderful and it is nice to have this particular building recognised. The issue is that any client, be they an individual or a community group, gets the building that they deserve and suits them and they can afford and suits the landscape and doesn't stand out like a sore thumb. I think this building does what it says on the tin.'

The Argyll and Bute Sustainable Design Awards have been introduced to recognise, promote and celebrate outstanding

design quality across the area and the shortlisted entries in each of the four categories were visited by a panel of judges and voted on separately by members of the public on-line.

Chairman of the Argyll and Bute Sustainable Design Forum Councillor Ron Simon said: 'These awards demonstrate our determination to ensure Argyll and Bute sets standards in terms of sustainable development.'

Shauna agreed: 'It is about buildings for Argyll, not for Scotland, and buildings that we want to give people the right impression and would encourage people to look at doing things sustainably, that won't fight with the landscape and suit the people they are being built for.'

Ionad Naomh Moluag won

the non-residential category but there were no outright winners in any of the others - large scale residential, conservation and small scale residential.

There was only one finalist in the conservation category and the judges felt that while care had been taken to use conservation materials to bring Machriemore Mill at Southend in Kintyre back into use, the focus was more on conversion than conservation.

A commendation was given to Portavadie Marina in the non-residential category and Alt-An Duin at Kilmory Knap and Tir-Nan-Og, The Oa, Islay, received commendations in the small scale residential category.

The design awards will be presented at Oban's Corran Halls on February 12.

The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

REALLY BIG SALE 50% OFF

THROUGHOUT JANUARY on selected advertising
CALL OUR SALES TEAM
ON 01631 568000
TO DISCUSS YOUR ADVERTISING REQUIREMENTS
Offer ends Thursday 28th January 2010

MBE for modest Mavis

A KILMARTIN classroom assistant thought someone was playing a joke when she was told she would be included in the Queen's New Year's Honours List.

Mavis Yuill has worked at Kilmartin Primary School for 23 years and said she was startled and excited to be heading for Buckingham Palace to be made an MBE for services to education.

'I got a letter in November and I didn't believe it to be honest, because these things don't happen to me,' she said.

But the modest mother-of-two still has no idea how she came to be singled out for the prestigious honour. 'There are no bankers and politicians this year, so maybe they had some left over,' she said. 'Maybe it was my name that came out of the hat for classroom assistants. I don't feel I'm any better than any other classroom assistant. It is recognition for us all.'

She added the award was also for the whole school, where she works particularly with primary four and five children and in the school office. 'It's a good wee school. The staff just gets on so well. It's nice to see all the children come and go on to the high school.'

MBE for Skye mountaineer - see page 6

Winter blooms on Islay



Even a prize-winning gardener like John Logan is surprised to see a rose come into bloom amid sub-zero temperatures. John, gardener for Dunlossit Estate on the Isle of Islay, is well-known for growing unusually large and varied vegetables. He spotted the rose on New Year's Day and had his picture taken beside the bloom with his copy of *The Oban Times*.

Picture by Tomas MacDonald-Wilson

Mountain rescue team on avalanche alert

OBAN Mountain Rescue Team had a busy end to 2009 following a spate of avalanches across the Highlands.

On December 30 several climbers were caught in an avalanche in the northern corries of Ben an Dothaidh above Bridge of Orchy.

The rescue team arrived to give standby assistance to Rescue 177 helicopter from Lossiemouth.

The helicopter located and evacuated two casualties from the mountain, one on a stretcher.

Shortly after, the team received a call to assist a climber caught in an avalanche on Ben Udlaidh in Glen Orchy.

Accompanied by Arrochar and Strathclyde Police teams the Oban team ascended the hill to assist Rescue 137 helicopter evacuate the climber with a fractured leg.

The team were back out on Ben Cruachan on January 3 as part of their ongoing winter training programme.

MATHESON'S SALE

NOW ON

Tweedmill, Soroba Road, Oban.
Tel: 01631 565195

Council spotlight on Loch Fyne

A DOCUMENT designed to guide and inform anyone with an interest in Loch Fyne has been launched by Argyll and Bute Council.

The Loch Fyne Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan (ICZM) can be seen on the council's website through its marine version of LocalView, a web-based mapping tool.

Councillor Robert Macintyre, Argyll and Bute's spokesperson for economy, environment and rural affairs, welcomed the plan's launch.

He said: 'The coastal area of Argyll and Bute is one of our prime assets.

'It provides a unique resource from which present and future economic, social and environmental well-being can be derived.

'It is a living and working environment, home to a large proportion of our population, and hosts a great diversity of industrial and recreational activities, each playing an important role in the area's economy.'

LocalView allows maps of Loch Fyne to be viewed at different scales, displaying individual layers of information which have influenced the plan's policies and recommendations.

Different activities and interests can be seen in locations and links are provided to sections of the ICZM Plan where guidance on future use and development, including the development of aquaculture, can be viewed.

Councillor Macintyre stressed that it complements the Argyll and Bute Development Plan (structure and local plan), and will guide the use and development of the coastal zone of Loch Fyne over the next five years.

'Underpinning the entire process has been extensive consultations with local communities, stakeholders and relevant and competent authorities,' said Councillor Macintyre. Our aspiration is that this plan will be used by these same groups and organisations to guide sustainable management of the coastal and marine resource in order to secure the future of both the natural environment and the economic needs of the communities which are dependent on it.'



Chris Thornhill was fascinated by what happened to RAF Sergeant Robert Steel from Ardfern. 08_t52raf01

Ardfern airman's past unearthed

A REQUEST to preach and a family coincidence led an Ardfern man to the last resting place of an RAF man from the village.

Chris Thornhill is a lay reader with Craignish Parish Church. When he was asked to lead the Remembrance Service, he became fascinated by one name on the village's war memorial, Sergeant Robert Steel, as he remembered being asked to participate in the funeral of Robert's brother, Sandy, 15 years before.

'He had all the opportunities that his brother Robert didn't have. I wanted to draw a parallel between them,' he said.

Mr Thornhill's research unearthed that Robert was a gunner and wireless operator on a Blenheim fighter bomber, used to protect shipping convoys and for reconnaissance.

'They were doing a practice bombing raid on Lough Neagh,' he said.

'He was 29 years old when he was killed in an airplane crash. It was in a training flight but nonetheless, he was killed serving his country in the war.'

Through the Commonwealth War Graves Association, he discovered Robert was laid to rest in Killead churchyard in Antrim, near the scene of the accident. His two crewmen, Thomas William Vickers from the Midlands and Danish pilot Knud Fleming van der Kuhle, were buried close by.

'I thought that we needed to become more modern and relevant with the Remembrance Service. I thought it was appropriate to remember them in church,' said Mr Thornhill.

He also passed on the results of his research to a Scandinavian Second World War researcher and the current owner of Corran Mhor farm, Ardfern, where Robert Steel was born and lived.

Kilchrenan

Your correspondent is Marilyn Henderson: 01866 833201

Burst pipe

THE VILLAGERS of Kilchrenan did not have a good start to the New Year.

The village hall had a burst pipe and New Year activities due to take place there had to be cancelled. The severe weather caused burst pipes and the water supply was cut off for hours, with tankers coming from elsewhere having to refill the empty water treatment plant.

Fish farm

TRAFFIC coming from Ardanaisig was held up while a tractor and trailer and a forklift truck unloaded fish from the local fish farm onto a delivery lorry which was parked outside the Kilchrenan Inn.

Although the lorry driver was able to

negotiate the Ardanaisig road, the route to the fish farm was impassable.

Gritting

ARGYLL and Bute Council must be congratulated for the fantastic service they have given to the gritting of remote rural roads in the Avich and Kilchrenan area during the severe weather conditions and over the holiday period.

Scalpay

Your correspondent is Donald Morrison: 01859 540217

Snow lies on highest mountain in Hebrides

WITH the north wind, it is likely to snow soon.

There has already been snow, but only on the higher ground so far in the Western Isles.

Whereas heavy snow falling has been reported in various places of the UK, the first snow cover in Harris was on the top of the Clisham, the highest mountain in the Hebrides.

Herring

ONE OF the local fishing boats had been out with drift nets for herring and they have not detected any.

Is it overfishing? Or what is leaving herring so scarce at the moment?

Small local crafts are more out for velvet crab at the moment. With a long stretch of creels, they seem to collect market lots whenever the weather is calm.

Christmas shutdown

CHRISTMAS and New Year's Day mark closures of all business activity in general in the UK.

Ferries are berthed these two days as was customary throughout years past.

Markets are closed, friends are being entertained to dinners and school pupils are having their fill of Christmas happenings.

Christmas presents are the norm of the Christmas-friendly gestures and acknowledgements with

a spirit of solemnity at periods for the day's event of Christian outlook.

Hymns and carols are sung everywhere and prayers offered on behalf of witnessing the coming of Jesus and the Lord of Glory.

Killin Drama Club raises Christmas spirits for Shelter

CAROL singers from Killin Drama Club spread some seasonal cheer through the village on Christmas Eve.

The tuneless bunch braved the snow to entertain last-minute Christmas shoppers with festive songs, raising more than £100 for homeless charity Shelter.

Gordon Hibbert, chairman of Killin Drama Club, said: 'It is important at this time of year to think of people less fortunate than ourselves.'

Tickets are on sale now for Killin Drama Club's pantomime, *Robin Hood*.

The show runs from January 14 to 16 with adult tickets costing £8. Concessions and family tickets are available.

To guarantee a seat call 01567 820424.

Eye to Eye

with John Wallace



Winter sunlight

WINTER has well and truly arrived.

I cannot remember when we last had so much snow at this time of year. My son David and I have spent a great few days 'father and son bonding' in the snow. As fast as I was clearing our driveway he was covering it again with snowballs! Even the dog has developed a liking for running around in the snow.

It is incredible how the human eye copes with the huge changes in conditions experienced over the last few days. One minute there is intense sunlight extremely low on the horizon making driving very difficult and the next heavy blizzards where it is barely possible to see more than a few metres. Despite these huge variations in light conditions we are still able to function.

If you are a winter sports enthusiast you will already appreciate the necessity for different types of eyewear for the different light conditions. You undoubtedly already have high quality sunglasses for the extreme sunlight and contrast enhancing goggles for low light conditions.

As drivers we should all be thinking about how we

can maximise our vision in these hugely contrasting light conditions. Polarised sunglasses are ideal for driving in bright light.

However, they can be dangerous in low light conditions. It is possible to have contrast enhancing lenses for poor visibility in daylight, just like skiers do.

For driving in poor visibility at night, if you need spectacles for distance vision, they should have an anti-reflection coating to improve the amount of light passing through your lenses. You should never wear sunglasses when driving at night. It is both highly dangerous and illegal.

It is vital, as a driver, your vision system is performing at its maximum in these extreme conditions. Have regular eye examinations and ask your optometrist for advice about driving in snowy conditions. Best wishes for 2010.

John Wallace BSc (Hons), FCOptom, DipCLP, Wallace Optometrists & Podiatrists, The West Highland Orthokeratology Clinic, 11/12 Argyll Square, Oban. Tel: 0845 230 3937 (EYES) www.wallaceoptometrists.co.uk.

Induction of Dr Robert Barlow

DR ROBERT D Barlow will be inducted to his first full-time charge at Kilarrow, Kildalton and Oa, Islay, at the end of January, pending ratification by the Presbytery of Argyll.

Dr Barlow preached as sole nominee at St John's Church, Port Ellen, on December 13 and an overwhelming congregational vote found in Dr Barlow's favour.

He comes from a distinguished medical and biochemistry background and currently lives in Avoch in the Black Isle.



Easdale gymnasts celebrate

Gymnasts from Easdale primary School were delighted to get medals at a recent event held in Atlantis Leisure, Oban.

16_t53gym01

Islay's Mactaggart Leisure Centre looks to the future

THE COMMUNITY Enterprise Company which operates the swimming pool and other public facilities at the Mactaggart Leisure Centre in Bowmore is planning to develop services in the face of Argyll and Bute Council's reductions in funding support.

The problems facing the Mid Argyll pool are similarly affecting Islay and Jura's

leisure facilities. The board of Islay and Jura Community Enterprises are working with ABSEN, HIE and others to continue developments in the leisure centre and to contribute to a conference on community-owned pools scheduled for this spring. The board is also looking at ways it can support the Mid Argyll community's efforts to retain and provide for its pool. In addition,

the board has also been preparing funding applications to LEADER and SRDP for refurbishment of the Mactaggart Centre pool.

A public consultation will be held over the next six weeks to allow the public to voice its views. An ideal time would be after people and their families enjoy a swim or sauna, or a session in the gym.



Acharacle pupils perform in new hall

Acharacle Primary School staged two fantastic Christmas performances in their new hall before the Christmas and New Year holidays. Nursery children joined Primary 1-3s and thrilled everyone with their lovely Nativity *Christmas with the Aliens!* Primary 4-7s then whisked the audience off to Pantoland, where a host of familiar characters appeared in *Once Upon a Time*. Head teacher Lyndsay Bradley said: 'The children were all incredible, they really were a talented bunch. Huge thanks to all the staff, parents and volunteers who gave their time and talents to make it all possible.'

www.mgmtimber.co.uk

Scandinavian Cladding Offer

In stock now and exclusive to MGM Timber!

Available in 3 attractive colours:

- Arctic White
- Polar Grey
- Nordic Blue

Cladding Board prices starts from £2.68 per metre



Oak Veneered MDF Mouldings Offer

Get the luxurious, elegant appearance of oak at a fraction of the price of solid oak.

MDF is easy to apply - why not add a little luxury to your home in time for Christmas! Prices start from £2.68 per metre + VAT



MGM Timber also supplies: bathrooms, kitchens, decking, doors, fencing, insulation and much, much more.

Call in today and see what we can do for you!



Scotland's Timber Merchant of Choice

t: 01631 563948

Lynn Road, Oban www.mgmtimber.co.uk

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

OUT NOW



The next edition of this exciting magazine is available now

pick up your copy today

01631 568000

Care company praises local police officers for their community spirit

A CARE company who couldn't get staff to a disabled pensioner because of icy roads has thanked police officers for coming to their rescue on Boxing Day.

Musdale

Two carers from Medico in Oban were unable to get to the bed-bound 86-year-

old because the minor road to Musdale, south of Oban, was iced over.

However, Medico senior support worker Morag Manson contacted Oban Police Station and constables Ian Young and April Barron came from Dalmally in a 4x4 police

vehicle, took the carers to the client's house, waited for them to finish their jobs and took them back to their car.

'We are very grateful to the police because, without them, we wouldn't have been able to reach the client.

The elderly man's son said he was also grateful to the police, saying: 'My father cannot even get out of bed without the hoist, which the care staff are trained to operate.'

'That day the care staff were coming for the first of three visits, which is the

most important, but the side roads around here are really icy.'

Ambulance

The police have attended other similar incidents during the freezing weather.

At around 7am last Monday constables John MacBrayne

and Danny McBeth, using a police 4x4 vehicle, were able to help an ambulance crew that had difficulty in reaching an elderly female patient in the Kilninver area, because of hazardous weather conditions.

Oban Police Chief Inspector Judy Wilson

said: 'Due to this extended cold spell where we have seen the local roads and footpaths in a hazardous state, due to snow and ice, I would like to ask that we take time to check on our neighbours who may be elderly or infirm and may require assistance.'

Concern for Barra air service

THERE is concern this week about the future of Barra's world-famous beach runway service after an air operator announced that it is likely to quit the route.

Air operator Loganair has announced it is unlikely to bid for a continuation of the Glasgow and Benbecula routes when they come up for renewal in 2013.

Loganair says the problem with the routes is the soaring cost of maintaining the ageing Twin Otter aircraft, which are used on Traigh Mhor beach on Barra.

With other airlines reluctant to take over the routes it is thought that the Scottish government is considering investing £4 million to buy two replacement aircraft for the service which would then be leased to private firms.

Production of the Twin Otter stopped more than 20 years ago and second-hand models and parts are now difficult to find.

Leader funds for Argyll

FUNDING to the value of £708,639 has been allocated to projects in Argyll and the islands by the LEADER programme.

This has brought the total grant funding figure since May 2008 to £3,646,654.

The programme will run until 2013 and Argyll and the Islands Local Action Group (LAG) held its eighth decision-making meeting on applications to the Programme on December 11 in Cameron House, Oban.

The largest grants have gone to Bowmore and Dunoon town centres, which received £261,900 and £246,227 respectively, followed by £51,354 for outdoor activities organisation, Stramash.

The other groups to benefit were: Ardrishaig Community Trust, £23,500; Argyll and Bute Orienteering Partnership, £10,286; Saving St Brides Chapel, Arran, £13,524; Here We Are, £27,403; Isle of Kerrera Development Trust, £3,000; Dunoon Youth Football League, £27,995; Ionad Chalum Cille Ile, £20,000; Colintraive Village Hall, £2,000; Isle of Gigha Heritage Trust, £1,000; Scottish Association Marine Science, £8,450; Isle of Gigha Heritage Trust, £9,000; Appin Community Sports and Leisure Association, £3,000.

Workers using hand-carts to grit Oban pavements

ARGYLL and Bute workers were using hand-carts to grit pavements last week following a spate of accidents on Oban's footpaths.

At least two people fell and broke a leg in Oban last week after snow and ice left 'treacherous' conditions on the town's footpaths.

As reported in The Oban Times last week, there was confusion at the council over whether its road crews or 'street scene' workers had responsibility for clearing ice and snow from pavements.

In the end one of the refuse collection crew took it upon himself to grit pavements and all the main crossing points and junctions in the town.

A spokeswoman for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'We are using our pavement hand carts when staff resources allow.'

'These carts, which have been used before in and around Oban, use a spinner operated as the cart is pushed along. We will of course also continue to hand-spread footways in Oban whenever labour capacity is available.'

'This spreading is done both by our own employees and, in exceptional circumstances such as those being experienced this week, by sub-contracted labourers who we hire in to help out.'

Clarification

THE Oban Times would like to point out that, in reference to the article in last week's issue, the sentence received by Gavin MacColl was one of eight months for possession of heroin and two years and eight months for attempting to pervert the course of justice. The sentences will run concurrently.



Donnie Munro and his band proved a Hogmanay crowd pleaser at Oban's Corran Halls. Picture - John MacTavish

No Oban Hogmanay party? No chance

IT WAS as if it had been planned all along.

Hundreds of New Year well-wishers squeezed into the Corran Halls on Hogmanay to see Donnie

Munro, his son Neil and the band Skerryvore perform.

But if the line-up was just as the organisers had planned, the venue certainly wasn't. Frantic last-minute

organisation was required for alternatives to the planned party in Tesco car park,

which had to be cancelled after too few tickets were sold. Quick-thinking street

party organisers shifted the main event to the Corran Halls.

For more on this year's Hogmanay celebrations see pages 12 and 13.

Airline rescues Christmas for Tiree mother

Eight islanders unable to get home for Christmas as ice closes runway

A TIREE mother, who was stranded in Glasgow following a knee operation, had to tell her seven-year-old daughter she wouldn't be home for Christmas - until Loganair came to her aid.

Runway ice

The airline put on a special flight from Glasgow for eight islanders, including Tiree High School teacher Morag McManus, on Christmas Day. No flights had gone to the island the previous two days because the Tiree runway was iced over.

Morag was due to fly home on Wednesday, December 23 but had to accept she would be spending Christmas without her husband and two children.

'It was a very difficult phone call to make on Christmas Eve,' said Morag. 'I was quite upset because I had to phone my seven-year-old daughter, Eve, to say I wasn't going to be home for Christmas, I had just had an operation on my knee and I was stuck in a wheelchair.'

But with an improvement in the conditions at Tiree

airport, Loganair announced a special Christmas Day flight and Morag and her fellow islanders were home for 1.30pm.

'I had said Merry Christmas to the family online, via Skype, but I didn't tell Eve I was coming home.'

'You can imagine her surprise when I came up the driveway to the house.'

Morag, who also has a one-year-old son, Christopher, praised the airline staff in Glasgow and on Tiree for giving up part of their Christmas Day to get them home.

She said: 'This has made me realise the community spirit there is on Tiree.'

'Not only did the full complement of airline staff come to meet the flight on Christmas Day, people were phoning my husband to ask if he needed help with the children when they heard I wasn't going to be home.'

'I have promised the family I'm wouldn't be going anywhere over the New Year. Even if I wanted to, Eve wouldn't have let

New Year, new roadworks in Argyll

Creagan bridge maintenance

TEMPORARY traffic lights at the Creagan Bridge north of Barcalidine on the A828 were expected to be in place from yesterday (January 6) to allow routine maintenance work on the bridge.

The work is expected to take until March 12 to complete and traffic in both directions will be affected seven days a week.

On Monday, January 11, temporary traffic signals will be operating on the A828 in Duror near Pineapple House, to allow tree felling work.

Between Tyndrum and Crianlarich on the A82 temporary traffic

lights are likely to be in operation north bound until June 4 for maintenance work on Stuchindroin bridge.

From January 11 until the end of the month, the A82 between Crianlarich and Ardlui will be closed at night during the week to allow repairs to a retaining wall at Coire nan Each.

Access to the A83, A814 and B828 in both directions will be affected by maintenance work to Tom's Wall at Succouth with temporary traffic lights in place until March 12 this year.

For more information go to the Traffic Scotland website.

Blades has not moved - yet!

A RECENT feature in The Oban Times referred to the Blades engineering premises in Stevenson Street, Oban as 'the former Blades building'.

The Oban Times would like to point out that lawnmower engineers, Blades, has not vacated its current premises in Stevenson Street and will not do so until the end of September this year.

The company will continue to trade from Stevenson Street until that date, moving to new premises thereafter.

Woman charged with alleged wilful fire raising after Dunollie blaze

A WOMAN has been reported to the procurator fiscal, charged with alleged wilful fire raising in Kerrera Terrace, Dunollie, Oban on Boxing Day.

There was a minor fire in a house, to which the fire brigade and police both attended at around 9.30pm.

Royal Mail steps in to save Saturday flights to Islay



'The proposed cancellation of the flights during January and February was totally unacceptable,' said councillor Robin Currie

THE THREATENED cancellation of Saturday flights between Islay and the mainland has been avoided after Royal Mail delivered a funding solution.

Lack of demand

Islay and Jura Transport Forum heard from a Scottish Ambulance Service representative at its meeting on December 27 that Loganair's passenger flights from Glasgow on Saturdays would be stopped throughout January and February because of a lack of demand.

Following objections from the transport forum and Islay Community Council, Loganair has agreed to continue the service, which supplies the island's mail, after Royal Mail said it would provide a subsidy.

But while islanders are happy the service has been retained, some remain frustrated that the service could have been

removed without notification or consultation from Loganair.

Unacceptable

Islay-based Councillor Robin Currie said: 'The proposed cancellation of the flights during January and February was totally unacceptable.'

'What's more, they didn't announce it or provide any consultation, it was just going to happen.'

'Imagine if CalMac decided that it wasn't going to sail to Islay for two months!'

'I understand that Loganair is a business and they might not have had many bookings but islanders often need to catch a flight last minute and it is a crucial service for people needing to get to and from hospitals in Glasgow.'

A spokesman for Loganair said: 'Loganair services between Glasgow and Islay are operated on a purely commercial basis,

and the revenue must therefore cover the operating costs.'

'January and February are the quietest two months of the year on our Saturday service between Glasgow and Islay and as such, passenger numbers have always been relatively low.'

Partnership

'Like any business, and given the current economic downturn, we must be prudent financially. The income from the Saturday flight was not expected to cover its operating costs and we had planned to cancel it between January 9 and February 27.'

'However, Royal Mail has now stepped in to subsidise the continued operation of the Saturday flight for this two-month period.'

'This partnership between Royal Mail and Loganair has therefore benefited the Islay community by maintaining the service.'

ON NOW SALE

THIS MONTH IN SCOTTISH FIELD...

READ...
HEALTH, WEALTH & HAPPINESS: Fifty tips to change your life.
ABOVE SCOTLAND: Spectacular aerial photos of the nation.
DUNBLANE: Exploring the charms of a town with a religious heritage.
THE REAL FACE OF BURNS: Can we be sure what Robert Burns really looked like?

WIN...
WIN: A stay at Inchmarlo Resort and Golf Club; WIN: Two nights for four plus golf at the doubletree by hilton dunblane hydro hotel

DISCUSS...
GO TO OUR FORUMS: Share views, rate whiskies or restaurants, or submit book reviews at www.scottishfield.co.uk

Scottish Field
A DAY IN DUNBLANE
SCOTLAND FROM THE AIR
Plus COOKING UP A BURNS BANQUET, THE HEALTH OF OUR HILLS, SCANDINAVIAN FEEL TO ANGLE, ESTATE HOUSE, PROTECTING SCOTS PINES

50 Health, wealth & happiness
NEW YEAR TIPS
WIN two nights for four plus golf at the four hilton Dunblane Hydro Hotel

FREE INSIDE FANTASTIC 2010 WALLPLANNER

Whooper swans tracked



WHOOPER swans that have made their annual migration to Islay and Coll from Iceland have been successfully tracked by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB).

The swans, which have flown 800 miles from Iceland, have been spotted at both Loch Gruinart reserve on Islay, and the RSPB reserve on Coll. They have been satellite tagged as part of a project managed by the Wildfowl and Wetland Trust to follow their movements as they migrate from their breeding grounds to escape harsh winter weather. James How, Site Manager at Loch Gruinart, said: 'We've had a couple of the satellite-tracked swans pass through the reserve in the last few weeks, one of which left Iceland at 3pm one day, and was on Islay by noon the following day. That's 800 miles in 21 hours!'

Although many whooper swans fly at very low altitudes on their long sea crossing, they have been recorded flying at 27,000 feet, which is higher than any other British bird. At that height, temperatures can plunge to -50°C. You can follow the swans by logging on to: www.wwt.org.uk/research/tracking/maps.asp

Play workers registration opens

CHILD CARE workers are being reminded to register with the Scottish Social Services Council so they can continue to work with children.

The legislation comes into force in 2010 making it mandatory for practitioners to be registered to work with the council.

A spokeswoman for the SSEC said: 'To comply with the Scottish government managers must apply for registration with the SSSC by May 2010 and practitioners must apply by September 2010. The register opened in 2006 and it is estimated that up to 2,737 managers and 11,115 practitioners have still to apply for registration.'

'Registration with the SSSC means that workers in day care of children services will be required to gain qualifications that contain practice elements and managers will also be required to gain an additional management qualification. Registrants must also provide evidence of good character and agree to abide by the code of practice for social service workers.'

Mull gritters working round the clock to keep roads clear

DESPITE unlisted roads on Mull not being a priority for Argyll and Bute Council gritters are working around the clock to get them clear. But islanders claim a 10-day closure of the main route between the hospital in Salen and the village of Dervaig was 'unacceptable' to health and carbon footprints.

Two weeks ago The Oban Times revealed that the unlisted road had been the scene of a horrific accident where three cars went off the road due to icy conditions. This week islander and ex-professional driver Hugh Dickinson, aged 78, said:

'One of the gritting lorries went off the Glen Road between Aros Bridge and Dervaig and the road had a closed sign place on it. My wife is an invalid and if anyone from the hospital had to come out to see her - it would have taken double the time - two hours

instead of one - and if you are in trouble then it is the difference between life and death. Nobody knows why the road was closed. It certainly was not because it was being worked on but it caused havoc here on the island.'

Councillor Gordon Chalmers said: 'I have asked the staff here on the island why this road was closed and they have informed me that they were making it safe for cars. The staff have been working around the clock to get it clear. I am concerned about

one road between Torloisk, Kilninian and Larach More but staff have told me that as soon as they can they will be working on the road. Gritters are working 11 hours a day to get these roads passable and able to use freely.'

A spokeswoman for Argyll and Bute Council confirmed the C46 Glen Bellart road, which re-opened last Tuesday, was closed as a safety precaution. She added: 'The road conditions were such that it was deemed safer to close the road until resources could be made available to clear snow and ice safely.'



Pictured left to right are councillor George Freeman, resident Gavin Nicol and Argyll and Bute MSP Jim Mather.

Argyll MSP opens new homes in Oban

THREE new homes, specially designed for people with disabilities, have been handed over to tenants in Oban.

Specially designed West Highland Housing Association built the specially designed properties at Glenshellach which have been adapted to ensure people with disabilities can live in comfort within the community.

The association's chairman, Ken MacColl, said the association particularly wanted to thank staff at the Enable charity for their assistance over the years.

The association and contractor, MacLeod Construction, worked alongside Argyll and Bute Council's social work department and the community occupational therapy service to build the properties. Kenny MacLeod said: 'We are delighted to have been

involved in building these properties. The company is committed to good quality housing for all people.'

Jim Mather, along with Councillor George Freeman, housing spokesperson for Argyll and Bute Council, were shown around the houses.

Jim Mather said: 'The government has invested in social housing and these houses along with the others being built throughout Argyll at this

time prove that there is an ongoing commitment to affordable housing and also to the contracting industry.' Councillor Freeman said: 'This is a good news story for people campaigning for those with disabilities - these houses are top of the range provision and help to address specific needs within the community. We want to ensure that funding continues to come to Argyll and Bute to maintain this quality in the future.'

Council considers sale of Castle Toward

£1 million of refurbishments required

AN OUTDOOR education centre owned by Argyll and Bute Council and used by schools in Argyll and across the country needs almost £1 million of refurbishments.

Castle Toward, near Dunoon, was closed last month to residential groups after a health and safety inspection followed problems highlighted by a Strathclyde Fire and Rescue Service inspection earlier in the year.

The council's executive committee decided last week to look at putting the whole or parts of the property, including 57 hectares of land, up for sale.

A report compiled for Argyll and Bute Council, which inherited the castle from Strathclyde Regional Council in 1996, said work to bring Castle Toward up to a standard where it could continue as a residential operation would be approximately £595,000.



REPORT by MARIAN MILLER

But to bring the whole place to an acceptable standard would be in the region of £977,000.

The outdoor education centre is run by Actual Reality Learning and Leadership, one of the prospective buyers the council hopes to discuss sale terms with.

Council leader Councillor Dick Walsh said: 'It is a very disappointing situation for all of us, but our primary concern has to be the health and safety of the people who would be staying there.'

'The clear advice from our experts is that the health and safety concerns at Castle Toward are such that it cannot currently continue to be used as a residential basis. That is advice which we have no option but to act on.'

'Carrying out repairs on a patchwork basis is not sufficient in the current situation. These are major works of a nature such that they must be completed in their entirety before the building can be reopened for public use.'

'We remain in active and ongoing discussion with Actual Reality Learning and Leadership Ltd regarding the future of the building, and will continue to do all we can to work towards a satisfactory solution.'

Meantime, any limited use of the building and grounds by Actual Reality Learning and Leadership Ltd will be on a basis agreed by the relevant authorities.'

Dancers celebrate success

THE ANNUAL dance display of the Eilidh MacInnes School of Dance was held recently in Glencruitten Church Hall, Oban when a packed hall of family and friends enjoyed the evening's entertainment from tiny tots to Eilidh's adult dance troupe.

Eilidh's pupils recently sat Scottish Dance Teachers' Alliance (SDTA) examinations at Atlantis Leisure, with 41 exams taking place and every pupil gaining highly commended.

It has been a very successful year for the dance school, with Eilidh's pupils winning most of the trophies at various games and competitions. At Cowal Highland Gathering, Jenna MacInnes came sixth in the under-13 years Argyll Championship and Alannah

Higgins came third in the under 16 years Argyll Championship. Both dancers have been selected to represent Argyll in the area finals to be held in May 2010 at the Highlands and Islands Festival.

The school of dance trophy winners for 2009 were: Karina Black, most improved dancer; Katie MacPherson, most successful competitive pre-premier dancer; and Alannah Higgins, dancer of the year. Trophy winners at this year's games were: Lucy Croakin, Molly MacPherson, Katie MacPherson, Kirsty MacInnes, Lauren McCulloch, Rebecca Warnock, Chelsea Higgins, Jenna MacInnes and Alannah Higgins. The dancers all enjoyed a Christmas party provided by Eilidh.



Pupils of the Eilidh MacInnes School of Dance with their certificates

YOUR GUIDE TO INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

STRATHALLAN

Strathallan's ethos is providing the opportunities for all pupils to excel, challenging them, offering support and building confidence through a range of experiences. Central to this is academic success - 49 per cent of the results in A level in 2009 were at A grade with 95% A-C (Strathallan is the top A Level School in Scotland as published in the Financial Times, Sept 2009) - we are also committed to high standards in sport, music, theatre and a range of other activities. We have a unique Choral Scholarship programme in conjunction with St Ninian's Cathedral in Perth which has recently been heard on Radio 4. Our focus is very much on the individual who is appreciated for his/her contribution in whatever area of school life. Located in 150 acres of countryside, our facilities are outstanding with a new girls' house just completed to meet increased demand, two synthetic pitches, swimming pool, purpose built computing, art, and design technology facilities all on the one campus. We are proud of our reputation for outstanding pastoral care which is reflected in the recent Care Commission Reports, being the only School to have achieved a five grading on every category and the only full boarding school to have achieved a six, the top

DOLLAR ACADEMY

grade. Being a member of the Strathallan community is a wonderful experience in itself but vitally it is also an outstanding preparation for the future. Scholarships in academic, all-round, sports, art, music/choral/piping and design technology. Fee Assistance, Sibling and Forces discounts are available.

DOLLAR ACADEMY

of day and boarding pupils, and the Governors continue to plan for the widening of access through bursary development, to enhance the school's current levels of bursary support. For children of five up to seniors of eighteen ready to embark on new educational journeys, Dollar provides an unrivalled mixture of academic power, co-curricular variety and achievement, and

DOLLAR ACADEMY

entrepreneurial spirit, itself a hallmark throughout the Academy's history. Underpinning this success are excellent IT facilities throughout the school, recently upgraded science labs, technically advanced music rooms, a magnificent Arts, Drama and Sports facility, and a brand new all-weather pitch for hockey and tennis. The wider academic contribution made by many of Dollar's teaching and support staff in Scotland and throughout the UK ensures

DOLLAR ACADEMY

that the Academy is kept at the forefront of all curriculum and assessment work. Ultimately, there are few better environments for teaching and learning.

DOLLAR ACADEMY

Below and right: Dollar Academy

DOLLAR ACADEMY

With the current economic climate still looking uncertain parents are looking for added value when it comes to educating their children and the all-encompassing curriculum and unique ethos at Gordonstoun offers just that. Following a recent HMIE inspection the Gordonstoun curriculum was judged to be "outstanding or sector leading". We offer each and every student a programme of study based on what we call the four pillars of education: Internationalism, Responsibility, Service and Challenge.

GORDONSTOUN

Below and right: Dollar Academy

Young people do great things at STRATHALLAN

- The Top Boarding & Day School in Scotland for boys and girls aged 9 to 18
- Academic Excellence - 49% A Grades and 95% A-C at A Level
- The Highest Level of Pastoral Care and Family Community
- Safe, nurturing & stimulating environment
- Unrivalled range of Arts, Sports and Extra Curricular activities
- National success in Academic work, Music, Sport, Art, Design Technology and Drama
- Generous Fee Assistance and Scholarships available for Academic, Sport, Music, Arts and All-round
- Over 95% of our pupils go on to a wide range of universities

For further information contact: Strathallan School, Forganberry, Perthshire PH2 9EG t: 01738 812546 e: admissions@strathallan.co.uk www.strathallan.co.uk

DOLLAR ACADEMY

SCOTTISH AND INTERNATIONAL

HMC DAY AND BOARDING 5-18 | CO-EDUCATIONAL | FLEXI-BOARDING

Dollar Academy prides itself on its outstanding achievements in many areas: academic, sporting and cultural. Expectations are high and pupils flourish in a supportive environment of enthusiasm, commitment, ambition and enjoyment.

Applications for entry in August 2010 are invited.

Bursaries are available and for full details of these, and any other aspect of the school, please visit www.dollaracademy.org.uk or call 01259 742 511.

Dollar Academy Dollar Clackmannanshire Scotland FK14 7DU
T: +44 (0)1259 742 511 E: rector@dollaracademy.org.uk
www.dollaracademy.org.uk

Dollar Academy is a registered Scottish Charity No. SC009888

ENTRANCE TEST

Sat 30th January 2010

Bursaries available • Flexi-boarding

Lorn Lines



AFTER a number of small house fires in Oban and Lorn residents are being reminded that they can have a free Home Fire Safety Visit from the Fire and Rescue Service.

The check will include free smoke detectors fitted by brigade staff and a full check of any risks of fire within the home.

Crew Commander MacInnes said: 'This is a free of charge service to all residents in Oban and Lorn. 'We give your home a full inspection of areas of risk.'



THE FALLS of Cruachan stop on the Crianlarich to Oban railway line has a new passenger shelter provided by Scotrail.

The stop, which is only used during the summer season, will be used from May.



Soup and Bangers were on the menu at a recent lunch which the Inner Wheel Club of Oban held in one of their member's homes at Taynuilt. About 30 members and their friends enjoyed the lunch which raised the sum of £200 for charity.



ARGYLL and Bute Council has been named 'Most Improved Performer' in the Highways and Maintenance category at a prestigious UK awards ceremony.

Argyll and Bute was nominated for the 'Best Performer' title in the same category of the Association for Public Service Excellence (APSE) awards in Blackpool but was delighted to be named 'Most Improved Performer'.

Councillor Duncan MacIntyre, the council's spokesperson for transportation and infrastructure, said: 'Our success is a real credit to the council staff who work so hard to maintain and improve our roads network, who are so often the unsung heroes.

'These awards measured improvement in areas such as cost, quality and customer satisfaction and for an independent body to score us so highly is extremely rewarding.'



THE PAPARAZZI are in town - and by all accounts the new bar is doing a great job at making people feel like celebrities.

The new 'high class' venue in Oban's Breadalbane Street stole the show on its opening night with a stretch limo and cocktail bar.

But says manager, Ruari Armstrong, the best is yet to come. He said: 'Paparazzi will bring the city centre club culture into the heart of Oban. We want to give all our customers a great experience with top music, a great dance floor and probably some of the best cocktails in the town.'

'The opening night was brilliant but we are going to keep the bar fresh and exciting by changing the drinks we have on offer and giving people the best night out in style.'

Free ferry fares for pensioners under threat

A CHARGE in ferry fares for pensioners and the disabled may be on the cards - as an agreement on free travel comes up for re-negotiation.

Passengers eligible for concessionary travel, until now, have benefited on Caledonian MacBrayne and Argyll and Bute Council ferries.

But a discussion document from Strathclyde Partnership for Transport, shown to The Oban Times, recommends the 're-introduction of a basic concessionary fare on ferry services.'

The free ferry fares have

been seen as the equivalent to free bus travel for island-based passengers.

MP voices opposition Argyll and Bute MP Alan Reid is opposed to the proposed charges.

He said: 'I am outraged and utterly opposed to these charges. For people on the islands or peninsulas like Mull and Islay these ferries are the equivalent to the buses that pensioners and disabled people can use free in other parts of Scotland.'

'It would be disgraceful if SPT were to impose these charges on pensioners and

the disabled who live on our islands and peninsulas. They have as much right to free travel as those living in other parts of Strathclyde.'

'I will campaign against the introduction of these charges.'

Councillor Duncan MacIntyre, Argyll and Bute's representative on SPT's Strathclyde Concessionary Travel Scheme Joint Committee, said: 'The committee agreed to write to the Scottish government to request that it treats the ferries the same as it does buses. This would involve it providing

funding to allow SPT's existing ferry concessionary fare scheme - which is its own initiative - to continue.

Increased use

'SPT, like most other organisations, is facing significant budget pressures. In particular, the concessionary fare scheme for ferries is becoming more expensive as the numbers of people who use it increase.'

'The Committee is looking at all ways of maintaining a concessionary scheme. One of the possibilities is that instead of allowing those eligible for a concession

free travel on its ferries, SPT makes a nominal charge as it already does on its Glasgow underground and rail services. There are other possibilities being considered, both short and longer term, but the Committee will wait for a response from the Scottish Government before making any decisions.'

A spokeswoman for SPT said: 'Like other public sector organisations, we need to deliver more with less and we are looking at how best to do that. We want to secure the long term stability of an enhanced concession

scheme within tight financial settlements.

'If we do nothing, the cost of operating it will continue to rise to well over £5 million and it's clear there is no additional money at this stage.'

'Increasing the concessionary fare means we will continue to sustain the great benefits of the scheme and guarantee its future.'

Pensioners and disabled people who live on many west coast islands currently get free ferry travel to and from their home island or peninsula.

New Colonsay doctors aim for April start

COLONSAY'S new doctors will be hoping that their start date of April 1 is not a sign of things to come.

Husband and wife team Husband and wife Dr Jan Brooks and Dr Dave Binnie have holidayed on the island many times, as Dave's sister, Liz, and her husband Mike MacNicol run the general store on the island.

The couple, who are in their 50s, are also well known for their involvement with the Colonsay Music Festival.

And Jan said she hopes there aren't any unwelcome surprises in store for their start date. 'We are both looking forward to it and we plan to make this our last posting before we retire - we just hope that the start date of April 1 isn't a sign of things to come!'

'Traditional' GPs The couple will come to Colonsay from Perth, where they are currently working in neighbouring practices.

As a couple, they will provide 24-hour care for the island, a job requirement that was an appeal for them.

Jan said: 'When we started as GPs that was how you delivered the service and we are accustomed to that - we are looking forward to working as 'traditional' GPs.'

'Having visited Colonsay many times, we know how island communities work.'

'When we heard we had got the job we phoned our friends on the island and after the third phone call, everyone else we contacted had already heard.'

'The jungle drums seem to work very efficiently on Colonsay.'

Oban lifeboat book is town's best seller

'It is a tribute to Willie that his book has made it to this prestigious position'

AN OBAN man's book has reached the number one best seller spot in the town's branch of Waterstone's in 2009.

Worth the wait

It took Willie Melville a decade to sit down and write 'The Story of Oban Lifeboat' but for many it was worth the wait - as has been proved by sales at Waterstone's book store.

More than 300 copies have been sold through the shop, with Willie selling around 200 more, including through Albany Stores in Albany Street.

This has led to around £2,000 being raised for the Royal National Lifeboat Institution from sales of the book.

Willie was taken aback to hear the news from a delighted Ian Craig, manager of the Oban branch of Waterstone's.

'One of the staff said he wanted to see me and I thought, uh oh, there's a problem with the books coming from the publisher,' said Willie. 'But he just wanted to tell me that the book had topped the sales list for 2009.'

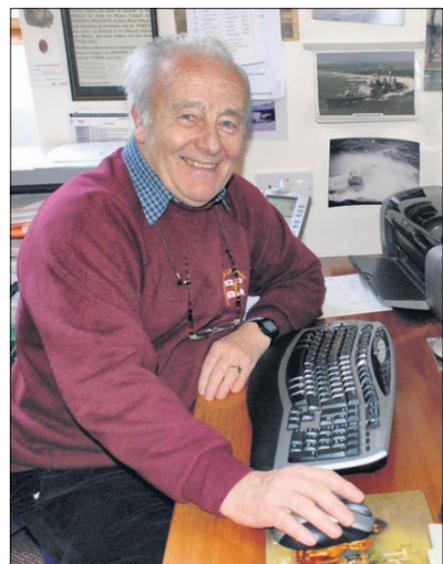
'He was delighted and wanted me to sign a copy for him!'

In his history of the lifeboat, Willie takes the reader through the journey of the lifeboat's beginnings, which he was very much involved in, through the different characters and lifeboats that have served the town since 1972.

Pat Maclean, former lifeboat coxswain and now the Oban lifeboat's press officer, said: 'It is a tribute to Willie that his book, which might be perceived to be of relatively narrow interest, has made it to this prestigious position and it is obvious that word of mouth has driven these sales.'

'As an ex-founding member, crew member, deputy launching authority, press officer and chairman of Oban lifeboat station, Willie is uniquely qualified to have written this book and his success in bringing local insight into the running of this wonderful organisation is to be commended.'

Willie is still involved with the Royal National Lifeboat Institution and Oban lifeboat on a voluntary basis.



Willie Melville, author of 'The Story of Oban Lifeboat'

'MacBrayne' book winner

THE winner of a copy of Brian Patton's book, A MacBrayne Memoir, is Allan MacKinnon of Partick, Glasgow. He answered the question 'What boat named after a king sailed to Mull and Iona?' the answer was King George V.

For further details of the book please contact Brian on 01289 386363.



ACHA staff Lesley Higgins and Alan Lamont present Katrina Gibbons of Dress For Success with uniforms.

ACHA staff come to aid of Dress for Success

KIND hearted staff from Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) in Oban donated their surplus uniforms to help disadvantaged women.

Suits, trousers, skirts, blouses, tops have been gifted to the charity Dress for Success Strathclyde. The charity promotes the economic independence of

disadvantaged women by providing smart clothes, a support network and career development tools to women who otherwise would be without.

A spokeswoman for Dress for Success said: 'Many of the women who use the charity are survivors of domestic violence, homeless, disabled, afflicted by mental health

issues or have combinations of the above. Clients are given the tools and strength to take control of their lives. Dress for Success rekindles their hope and helps them believe in themselves. Each woman's success will pay dividends not only to the women we see today, but also to their children and grandchildren.'

It is perhaps the word Challenge which is most associated with Gordonstoun and is central to our ethos. Challenge comes in many guises just as it does in later life, whether it be academic work, sport, the performing arts, service to the community or any other aspect of School life and it plays a very important part in the personal development of all our students.

Gordonstoun's outdoor education programme of expeditions, sail training and adventure activities is specifically designed to challenge students to build on their strengths, recognise their limitations and develop their full potential. Based in the north of Scotland we are able to draw on our surroundings and offer our students expeditions in the Scottish hills, voyages off the west coast of Scotland on our 80 foot sail training yacht and a wide variety of adventure activities including bushcraft

and wilderness survival skills, climbing, kayaking, skiing, mountain biking and many more. The majority of students also take part in the Duke of Edinburgh Award which was started at Gordonstoun. We are unique in that all students take part in these activities and we believe this will enable them to develop the qualities and attributes they will need to survive and thrive in a changing world and leave school ready to make a real difference in the world.

For more information on our unique brand of education please visit our website: www.gordonstoun.org.uk or if you would like to arrange a visit or see a copy of our new DVD please contact our Admissions Department on 01343 837829 or email: admissions@gordonstoun.org.uk

LOMOND SCHOOL

Lomond School is one of Scotland's most modern and progressive independent schools. Situated in Helensburgh on the edge of the Loch Lomond National Park, it was founded in 1977 building on the traditions of two previous independent schools in the town. Helensburgh has excellent road and rail links with the West Highlands and is only 35 minutes from Glasgow airport. Facilities at the school are first class. A notable feature has been extensive investment in ICT and other facilities to enhance the learning environment. The school prides itself on its 'extra curricular provision with outstanding opportunities in sport, music/drama and outdoor education. In October 2009 a £3.5 million Sports Hall was opened. Boarding at Lomond is unique with Scotland's first coeducational boarding house opening

its doors in 2003. Boys and girls are housed on separate floors with a communal ground floor with a variety of social spaces. Boys and girls living on the same site is a positive feature that has attracted families pleased that siblings can share the experience of boarding school living in the same building. A recent inspection by the HMI and Care Commission, described the boarding house as setting 'benchmark standards' for the boarding sector. Boarders at Lomond come from many parts of Scotland. The school has long associations with the Highlands and Islands through its 'bursaries in traditional music. Other means tested financial assistance may be available. Headmaster Simon Mills would be pleased to welcome families wishing to visit the school in the coming months.

GORDONSTOUN
SIXTH FORM SCHOLARSHIPS
22 & 23 JANUARY 2010

For further details please visit the Admissions section of our website

www.gordonstoun.org.uk

Gordonstoun Schools Ltd, Scottish Charity No SC037867

Busy, happy lives at Lomond School

OPEN MORNINGS
3rd March and 11th May
9am - 12noon

- A co-educational HMC Independent School
- Superb all-round education
- Excellent standards of care and supervision
- A family ethos and a flexible approach
- Highly appointed boarding for ages 10-18 yrs

T 01436 672 476
 10 Stafford Street, Helensburgh
admin@lomond-school.org
www.lomond-school.org

Experience Boys only Boarding at the Scottish Independent Secondary School of the Year*

Please contact our Admissions Department on 0131 312 2201 or visit www.merchiston.co.uk

Entrance Assessment Days
January - March 2010

Information Morning
6 March 2010

Means-tested financial assistance available

AN HMC BOARDING AND DAY SCHOOL FOR BOYS AGED 8-18
 Merchiston Castle School, Colinton Road, Edinburgh, EH13 0PU, Scotland
*Named by The Sunday Times Parent Power 2009 Recognised by the Inland Revenue as a Charity; number SC016580

MBE honour for Skye man

ANISLEofSkyemountaineer has been awarded an MBE in the New Year honours list for his voluntary service to mountain rescue in Scotland.

Gerry Akroyd, of Stac Lee, Glenbrittle, receives the honour after almost 40 years of service to Skye Mountain Rescue Team.

Gerry, originally from the Manchester area, started rock climbing aged 16 and began serious mountaineering in his 20s. He first visited the Cuillins in the summer of 1962 and vowed to move to Skye, eventually settling Glenbrittle in 1972, where he has stayed ever since.

An experienced mountain guide and accomplished mountaineer, Gerry has been guiding in the Cuillins since 1972, summer and winter.

He has also operated in many other parts of Scotland, and has spent time every summer in the Alps.

Since moving to Skye, Gerry has been an active member of Skye Mountain Rescue Team and in 1975 became team leader, a post he has held to the present day.

He has also worked in the role of training officer since 1975.

Charity party night

A LOCAL woman taking part in the 'Women for Women' Cycle China charity ride in October this year is holding her first fund-raising event at Lochaber Rugby Clubhouse, Banavie, on January 22.

Ailsa McAleer, from Appin, has organised a 'Jamie at Home' party night where Jamie Oliver home wares will be for sale and Elaine Milligan from Inverness will give a food preparation demonstration.



Brrrr! Glenfinnan swimmers take to the waters of Loch Shiel on New Year's Day. 10_f01swim02

Hardy Loch Shiel swimmers brave big freeze

A TOTAL of 19 hardy swimmers braved bone-chilling conditions to dive into Loch Shiel on New Year's Day for Glenfinnan's traditional January 1 dip.

Any excesses of the night before were soon cured by a water temperature of 3°C, five degrees warmer than the mid-day air temperature of -2°C. Glenfinnan House Hotel manager Duncan Gibson

was among those taking the plunge and ten-year old Siobhan Roe, the niece of Glenfinnan man Colm O'Rua, came all the way from Canada for the New Year swim.

A huge brazier next to the ice-fringed loch shore provided a warm welcome for the swimmers once they came out of the water, while a glass of champagne awaited the company back in the

hotel after they made their way up the snow-covered lawn from the lochside.

The water was one degree colder than last year - a sign of how severe the weather has been. But local man Tearlach MacFarlane told *The Oban Times* it would take months of frost for the loch to freeze over as summer or winter the water temperature varies little from its usual 4°C.

Crews work flat out to keep roads clear

HIGHLAND Council road crews are working flat out to keep roads clear as the worst winter weather for decades continues to grip the West Highlands.

An additional three inches of snow fell over much of the region late on Monday night, leaving main routes treacherous and minor roads passable only with extreme care.

The council has used 30,000 tonnes of salt in the past three weeks - half its normal annual usage - and road crews are laying down 2,000 tonnes of salt and grit daily.

Sufficient supplies of salt to maintain the current level of gritting for more than a week are currently stockpiled.

Around 3,000 tonnes of salt arrived at Inverness Harbour on Monday morning and a similar supply is

expected this weekend. Corpach Harbour worked overtime on Sunday to unload a salt consignment shipped from Northern Ireland. A spokesperson for owners Clyde Boyd Fort William Limited said Transerv had run out of road salt stock at its Corpach depot and requested more to keep the roads gritted.

Many rural properties have had no bin collections because the council's fleet of 26-tonne lorries have difficulty manoeuvring in heavy snow and ice.

Transport, environmental and community services committee chairman Councillor John Laing said many snow clearing staff had worked 17 days continuously, while many home care workers had gone beyond the call of duty to maintain

services to older and vulnerable people by walking miles to get through to the homes of clients.

He also paid tribute to members of the public who have helped out a neighbour or an older or vulnerable person by clearing paths, digging out a car, buying provisions or simply keeping an eye on them.

Challenge
He said: 'This is an extraordinary spell of weather - the worst since 1978. It is proving a real challenge for our communities. Within the resources available, the council is doing everything it can to keep roads open, footpaths clear and to maintain services to the public.'

'I wish to put on public record my sincere thanks to everyone who has played their part. Many have given up time they would normally have

had off on holiday to spend with their families.' He added: 'Every machine and every member of staff we have available is out there trying to keep the roads open and the footpaths accessible.'

'The snow clearing crews have been supplemented by staff from other services and we are grateful for this co-operation and team work.'

A spokesperson for NHS Highland told *The Oban Times* accident and emergency departments at Raigmore Hospital in Inverness and the Belford Hospital in Fort William had been 'very busy' with Raigmore handling 100 people a day coming in with various injuries.

She said: 'There has been an increase in the numbers of people presenting with sprains and fractures, which are down to falls.'

Speak up and halt Morvern decline

A NEWLY established community organisation is urging Morvern people to contribute their ideas on how to stem population decline and regenerate the local economy.

Morvern Community Land Acquisition Steering Group (MCLASG) is this week sending out a questionnaire and factsheet to all Morvern's 400 residents asking them to help formulate a blueprint for the area's revival.

The group, set up shortly after Tarmac closed its silica mine near Lochaline a year ago with the loss of 11 well-paid jobs, wants to investigate ways of securing small parcels of land for crofts, affordable housing, forestry projects, renewable energy schemes and business ventures.

Concerted community efforts brought two notable successes for Morvern towards the end of last year, giving MCLASG representatives belief that the determination shown on those occasions shows Morvern has the potential to achieve big things if local people put their minds to it.

Local campaigners raised £10,000 in a matter of weeks to buy a new petrol pump for the village store in Lochaline, then won a ten-year battle with Royal Mail for a separate postcode from Oban to end postal mix-ups and speed up deliveries.

Secretary Malcolm McNeill told *The Oban Times* he was convinced Morvern had both the will and the ability to turn

things around - all that was needed now was for people to come forward.

He said: 'We need to smoke folk out and get them to express their opinions and tell us what they want. If we get a negative response - and I'm sure we won't - there's not much we can do.'

'We are seeing the place sliding down the pan. We lost 11 well-paid jobs for people at the heart of the community when the mine closed - that was the straw that broke the camel's back. We thought 'who's going to help us?' and of course the answer was nobody. So we decided to get off our backsides and do it ourselves. We don't want to become another retirement village like other parts of the Highlands.'

The group has already held meetings with the Crofters Commission and Forestry Commission Scotland on the land issue.

Along with Ardtornish Estate, the Forestry Commission owns most of the land round Lochaline. Morvern differs from other West Highland locales in having practically no crofting activity.

Mr McNeill, who has strong family connections with the community-owned Gigha, hopes Morvern can follow the island's example.

Since its community buyout in 2002, Gigha's population has increased by 50 per cent from under 100 to around 150 today.

The school roll has seen a similar increase.

Big year ahead for Skye rider

SKYE stunt mountain bike rider Danny MacAskill, right, expects to be back in the saddle in around two weeks after breaking his collarbone while riding his bike in the United States.

The daredevil - who earned worldwide fame for his YouTube clip of him cycling off buildings, bridges and trees around Edinburgh - has the world at his feet after 14 million people viewed his gravity-defying exploits.

A Hollywood director has offered Danny the chance to work on his new movie but the free-spirited Skye man has his own big plans for 2010 and is in no hurry to sign on the dotted line.

See full story, page 3.



Got a story for The Oban Times? Call our reporters on 01631 568000.

ARGYLL-LAW.COM

Are you in trouble with the police? Are you facing criminal charges?

For help contact David Brookes, a solicitor advocate with more than 25 years courtroom experience.

Log on to Argyll-Law.com or Tel: 01770 700535 or 07000 333363 (07000 DEFEND)

Corran Ferry faces closure

A SPECIAL Lochaber South ward forum is being held in Strontian tonight (Thursday) to discuss proposed works at Nether Lochaber slipway and the impact this will have on the Corran Ferry.

The steel supporting the concrete structure where it meets the water is being attacked by the same metal-eating bacteria eroding steel piles at Mallaig pier.

Disruption

Harbour authorities there have secured £625,000 for repair work but fixing the Corran Ferry corrosion will

involve major disruption to ferry users.

The meeting, in the Sunart Centre at 6.30pm, will hear engineers put forward various proposals on how to tackle the damage.

Local councillor and Highland Council leader Michael Foxley told *The Oban Times* a total temporary closure was one option, but work schedules had to be balanced against the needs of the community.

He said: 'We asked the engineers to come up with every possible option.'

'There is bound to be significant disruption but it's a matter of deciding what the best approach is.'

JANUARY SALE

SAVE £2.30
99p

64pk RRP £3.29

HALF PRICE
99p

500ml RRP £1.99

SAVE £4.69
£3.49

Twin pk 500ml VALUE £8.18

SAVE £3.80
£2.99

300ml RRP £2.17

SAVE OVER 50%
(Selected lines)

SAVE £1.18
99p each

100ml RRP £6.79

GORDONS CHEMISTS
16 GEORGE STREET, OBAN

Stay warm this winter!

Delonghi Quattro Metropolis
Special price £109.99
Comes with a free gas cylinder!

other models available please visit our depot/showroom

West Highland Gas Ltd
Torrans Gorm Ind Estate, Oban
Telephone: 01631 564050

Reduce the risk of fuel theft

POLICE in the Highlands have teamed up with fuel suppliers to provide advice to the public on how to minimise the risk of fuel theft.

An electronic leaflet is being made available detailing simple measures that can be taken to secure fuel supplies.

The leaflet will be available from the Northern Contabulary website, police stations and with fuel collection and deliveries.

North Division community safety officer Constable Angie Grant-Omotsho said: 'We would always encourage anyone who has been offered reduced fuel or notices anyone suspicious around their property or tank to contact their nearest Police Station or Crimestoppers anonymously.'

Scottish regional representative of the Federation of Petroleum Suppliers David Todd said: 'We are very happy to be working in partnership with Northern Constabulary to help raise awareness and provide advice to oil customers on the problem of fuel theft which affects private, commercial and agricultural users of oil.'

Severe gales ease in 2009

THE YEAR 2009 was a relatively quiet year compared to the previous four at Lochaline in terms of severe gales, according to a local weather station.

Exceptions came on November 26, when gusts of 80mph were recorded, followed by more gales gusting up to 55mph on December 6.

There were some sustained warm periods throughout April, May and June before the weather turned unsettled in mid July.

The unsettled spell continued until early December with many local people considering it one of the most unsettled and wet spells of weather ever seen.

The year was a relatively wet one in Lochaline with a total of 2,045mms or almost 82 inches of rain. This compared to 1,500mms, or 60 inches for 2008. November was the wettest month, with 285mms or more than 11 inches of rain.

Corran ferry crew rescues drifting dinghy youngsters



The Ratcliff crew and helpers carry the inflatable from The Corran ferry up Nether Lochaber slipway. 10_f01rescue01

THE CORRAN ferry was diverted from its normal duties last Wednesday afternoon to rescue four young holidaymakers drifting out to sea in an inflatable dinghy.

The inflatable developed an engine fault and two small oars had proved ineffectual against a strengthening ebb tide as the party tried to paddle to the beach.

Skipper of The Corran, George Maitland, from Ardgour, got a call from the Coastguard at 4.05pm asking him to go to the aid of a small boat in distress off Bunree.

Mr Maitland immediately suspended ferry services, took his vessel half-a-mile down Loch Linnhe and quickly spotted the green and red flashing lights of the 10-foot grey dinghy, a 'Zodiac' class inflatable named 'Ratcliff'.

By the time the ferry pulled alongside, the Ratcliff and its four occupants were drifting out into rough water as the high tide began to turn.

The ferry crew launch also arrived on the scene five minutes later in case The Corran could not get close enough to effect a rescue. Conditions at the time were very cold, with a 15-knot wind blowing from the northeast.

An hour after the four

EXCLUSIVE
By STEPHEN NORRIS

youngsters were saved, an ebb tide was raging through the Corran Narrows.

At his controls on the bridge, Mr Maitland told The Oban Times the young sailors were 'reasonably kitted out', had walkie-talkie radios but no VHF radio.

The Oban Times understands several people had warned the holidaymakers not to attempt to put to sea in such a small craft in rough conditions with darkness falling.

Mr Maitland said: 'We just went out with the crew and no passengers to pick them up.'

'They came alongside us so we put the ramps down in the water and we managed to get them and the boat on board.'

'By 16.20 it was all done and dusted and we were back in service at 16.51.'

The four people rescued were part of a 16-strong party from London on a five-day break in Lochaber.

They decided to go for a short trip in the inflatable, launching from the Corran ferry slipway at 3.15pm to head south round the point where the sea was calmer.

After the dinghy's engine broke down those on board alerted their friends on

shore by two-way radio that something was wrong.

Bunree man David MacKinnon had been out walking his dog and had just returned to his home at Marine House when he spotted flashing lights out to sea in the gathering gloom.

He told The Oban Times: 'I knew it was a distress signal so I phoned 999 and asked for the Coastguard and the police. I just suggested to them that using the ferry would be the quickest way to rescue them.'

'The next move would have been to put them through to Stornoway for the helicopter.'

Railway maintenance man Mr MacKinnon, 56, added: 'I'll tell you something, this could have been a real tragedy. They are very lucky people because where they were was in an eddy. If they had been a bit further out with the tide a bit lower the water would have been very rough.'

Back safe in the party's base at the Corran Bunkhouse, investment manager Tim Doyle, from London, asked The Oban Times to convey his gratitude to the ferrymen.

He said: 'I'd like to say thank you very much to the Corran ferry crew. They did an awesome job in helping us out from a sticky situation.'



Young Lochaber musicians make the grade

Left to right, Christina Wilkie, Emma Robertson, Sarah Johnson, Michael Johnson and Kayleigh MacDonald, all members of Lochaber Schools Wind Band, recently received their grading from the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music at the band's winter concert in Lochaber High School hall.

Deaths spark new warning for climbers and walkers

CLIMBERS and walkers in the West Highlands are being warned to take extra care on the mountains following the deaths of three people in avalanches.

Teachers Nicholas Rosedale, aged 37, from Marlborough, Wiltshire, and William Wilkinson, 34, from Inverness, died in an avalanche in Coire na Ciste, Ben Nevis, on December 30.

Christopher Astill, 53, from Tideswell in Derbyshire, died following an avalanche on Liathach in Torridon, Wester Ross, the same day.

The continuing extreme cold has created dangerous conditions more usually seen in the Alps or the Rockies.

A carpet of ice crystals known as surface hoar has formed on snowfields above or on steep slopes on many West Highland peaks.

New or windblown snow building up over the hoar is extremely unstable as the crystals

act like tiny ballbearings, preventing the new snow from getting a purchase on layers underneath and making it liable to slide off at any minute.

A footstep or an ice axe blow can dislodge this poorly bonded top layer, triggering a potentially lethal avalanche.

The Sportscotland Avalanche Information Service is warning of a 'considerable' avalanche risk in Lochaber and Glencoe on slopes above 750 metres and a 'high' risk in the Cairngorms, where more snow has fallen.

Southeast to western facing slopes pose the biggest danger.

Natural avalanches are 'possible' in Glencoe and Lochaber, while human-triggered avalanches are 'likely', the website states.

The risk is expected to increase if more snow falls.

Father killed in two-car crash

A YOUNG Stornoway father-of-one was killed in a two-car crash on Lewis early on Saturday morning.

Colin Somerville, aged 24, of Kennedy Terrace, died when his Vauxhall Astra collided with a grey Audi estate on the A859 Stornoway to Tarbert road a mile out of town near the Arnish Road junction around 6.30am.

The occupants of the Audi, Harris doctors Angus and Kirsty McKellar and their four children, were all taken to the Western Isles Hospital in Stornoway for treatment.

Mr McKellar later accompanied his eldest daughter Rhona on an air ambulance to the Southern General in Glasgow, where she is being treated for serious back injuries.

Invitation to SNH Lochaber spotlight

LOCHABER people are being invited along to an informal evening reception by Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) in Roybridge Village Hall on Monday January 11.

SNH chairman Andrew Thin will host the event, along with local area manager Kristin Scott, SNH board member Keith Geddes and SNH local adviser John Hutchison.

SNH area staff will also be on hand to take questions and offer advice.

Mr Thin said: 'The evening will provide an opportunity for informal discussion about the work of SNH in the area, what we do and why, giving people the opportunity to raise issues relating to the natural environment which are of interest to them.'

The event, from 7pm to 9pm, is free and light refreshments will be provided.

Fort William talk

LOCHABER History Society (LHS) holds the latest of its winter talks tonight (Thursday) in the Alexandra Hotel, Fort William, at 8pm.

Lochaber Leisure Centre manager Graham Brooks will give a talk and slide show on the theme 'Victorian Fort William'. LHS's Chris Robinson said: 'Do arrive early as a good turnout is expected for Graham. No two talks of his are, or can ever be, the same - so be sure to be there. Everyone welcome.'

Skye stunt cyclist considers work on major new US film

SKYE daredevil stunt cyclist Danny MacAskill has been offered the chance to work on a major new film in the United States.

Danny, aged, 24, became a worldwide phenomenon after a video of him performing hair-raising leaps on his bike from buildings around Edinburgh was posted on YouTube.

The fearless rider, originally from Dunvegan but now resident in the capital, has been offered a money-spinning deal by the team behind the last Indiana Jones movie.

Director David Koepf wants the Skye man for his new blockbuster, *Premium Rush*, which begins filming in New York in April.

Koepf, whose credits include *The Lost World: Jurassic Park* and *Mission Impossible*, has invited Danny to perform all the film's stunts after viewing his jaw-dropping exploits on two wheels.

His YouTube clip has already attracted 14 million hits.

The movie will follow the fortunes of a group of bike



Danny MacAskill: movie offer from the US.

messengers being pursued through the city by a criminal gang.

Free spirit Danny, who has been out of the saddle for three and a half months after breaking his collarbone in 'a pathetic wee fall' in America, is still mulling over the offer.

Now with a new sponsor, Danny has a busy year ahead and has complete freedom to film his own short movies in the style he knows best captures the essence of his work - without having a Hollywood director looking over

his shoulder calling the shots. He told The Oban Times: 'For me it's not a definite thing. It has to be something that I am into, and I want to make sure that it's going to be a fun project to do - not just simply a thing I would do for cash.'

'Now that I'm sponsored by Red Bull, I'm planning to make much bigger and better videos this year.'

'With their support I can really come up with the wildest projects and that's what's driving me at the moment.'

Danny's mum and dad, Anne and Peter, run the Giant Angus MacAskill Museum in Dunvegan. Anne said: 'I am so pleased for him.'

'He has always wanted to do something with bikes and I'm glad it's working out for him.'

'He's doing the things that appeal to him, rather than just going for something that he could make money from.'

Danny expects to be back on his bike in two weeks.

Rebel councillors could face 'punishment'

LOCHABER'S four Independent councillors will find out on Tuesday what punishment - if any - they will be handed out for voting against their own political grouping.

The four rebels - Lochaber Provost Allan Henderson, and councillors Eddie Hunter, Bill Clark and Donald Cameron - all broke Independent ranks to vote with the SNP against a move to delay building five council care homes at full meeting of Highland Council on December 17.

They lost the vote 41-22 and the £30 million plan for five new council-operated nursing homes, including a new Invernevis House at Caol, is now on hold pending a 12-week 'business case review'.

The Independent group could take a tough line, with suspension or even expulsion an option.

But the 'Lochaber Four' say it is their colleagues who are out of step and maintain they were within their right to vote with their conscience on a vital ward issue.

Meet

Councillor Eddie Hunter understands the Independent group will meet after the full Highland Council meeting on January 12 to discuss the issue, but is yet to receive formal notification of it.

He said: 'I have had no word through either by letter or by email about an Independent group meeting after the Highland Council meeting.'

Subscribe to The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

To subscribe* complete the form below, call

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



Please tick your choice	3 months	6 months	1 year	2 years
U.K.....	<input type="checkbox"/> £22.00	<input type="checkbox"/> £32.00	<input type="checkbox"/> £58.00	<input type="checkbox"/> £100.00
Rest of World.....	<input type="checkbox"/> £35.00	<input type="checkbox"/> £55.00	<input type="checkbox"/> £100.00	<input type="checkbox"/> £175.00

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

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

Address.....

.....Postcode.....

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

Address.....

.....Postcode.....

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Please return to: Subscriptions Department, Wyvex Media Ltd, P.O. Box 1, Oban, Argyll, Scotland PA34 4HB. Tel: 01631 568000

*Subscribers should note that to keep down the cost of postage, some special supplements may, on occasions, be excluded from the subscribers' editions of the paper

The Oban Times & West Highland Times

Cold wind of change

A FEW days of winter weather, real traditional winter weather the likes of which we have not seen for almost two decades, and the frantic search for someone to blame is gathering momentum. The anticipated flood of complaints, finger pointing and anecdotal tales of imminent disaster increase with each flurry of snow and degree of frost.

On the warm west coast, people should be thankful that they have been but 'touched lightly' by the worst of the winter - yet the attitude of sections of our community is one of chaos and calamity.

It is interesting to ponder the differing reactions within communities as temperatures tumble. Our townspeople, unprepared and unwilling to adjust their daily routine, found underfoot and under wheel conditions most difficult. Despite living within tight communal groups, each individual waits for someone else to take steps to alleviate the problem and as the snow slowly forms a light, white winter coat there are but a few pockets of community spirit to appear.

Compare that to when we had real winters, real snow, like currently being experienced in the north and east. Country families stock their larders in anticipation of the freeze, neighbours help neighbours and the key word was 'ours' not 'mine'. Temperatures will soon rise and this harsh winter will be forgotten but many of our communities will remain cold places to live in.

Glasgow Letter

Forward to 2010

TIME certainly does fly as you get older!

This is the sixth time since I took over the Glasgow Letter that I have written the first of a New Year but if memory serves me correctly this will be the first genuine one as it is actually being written in Glasgow and not in Skye like the previous five.

It was a close run decision though and one made after much deliberation as our trip to Skye was planned but I feel common sense prevailed and a quiet Hogmanay was spent at home.

We were not tempted to join other family members in George Square as Glasgow welcomed in the next decade. Imagine, 10 years into the 21st century already!

During my time writing this column there has been a set pattern on the Highland scene within the city and it is one which probably slowly developed during the years of my immediate predecessors.

At one time there would be weekly ceilidhs at weekends and even midweek but now few organisations have a traditional ceilidh on their syllabus and when they do it is monthly at best.

This, of course, means I have had to widen the scope of the content of the column and I hope this has been successful.

Welcome additions to the scene have been Celtic Connections in January and Piping Live which culminates with the World Pipe Band Championships in Glasgow Green. They are both appropriate outlets to showcase the exceptional talent of the many young traditional musicians now on the scene. Many of these young artists are also to be heard at concerts and ceilidhs throughout the year but the problem of declining and ageing audiences at these functions is still of concern.

Unfortunately I do not have the answer but perhaps the new CD from Na h-Oganaich will illustrate that the music which was popular in the 1970s, and innovative at that time, can be given a makeover and still be pleasing to audiences of all ages. Let's hope so as the survival of our current music entertainment provision depends on young audiences being attracted.

Mention of this CD, the production of which was the subject of a most enjoyable BBC Alba programme, reminds me that the BBC Trust is seeking opinions on

the channel and these will contribute to the decision to be taken as to whether or not it will become available on Freeview. You have until January 18 to contact the trust at www.bbc.co.uk/bbctrust.

Community concerts

FOR THOSE who prefer not to travel into the city for concerts, Celtic Connections has introduced community concerts.

These will take place in the following community centres: Barmulloch, January 15; Barlanark, January 21; Penilee, January 28 and Knightswood, January 29. The fifth concert will be in Langside Halls on January 22. All are priced £3 and £2 with tickets available from the venues.

Each concert will feature Bodega, Scottish Folk Band of the Year, who met when they were all pupils at Plockton High School studying the traditional music course.

Diary dates

Friday January 8: Comunn Taobh-an-Iar Highland Ball, Milngavie Town Hall, 7.30pm. Clydebank and District Highlander's Association ceilidh, Lesser Town Hall, 7.30pm.

Saturday January 9: Glasgow Skye Association Family Ceilidh, Partick Burgh (mid) Hall, 7.30pm. **Thursday January 14:** Celtic Connections Opening Concert, Glasgow Royal Concert Hall, 7.30pm.

PLEASE NOTE: Gaelic Service, Partick Downvale Free Church, 7.30pm, with the Rev Kenneth Stewart is CANCELLED.

Friday January 15: Perth Gaelic Society Ceilidh, St Matthew's Church Hall, Tay Street, 7.30pm.

Saturday January 16: Clann Gaidhlig Ceilidh, Community Centre, Bishopston, 7.30pm. Stirling Branch An Comunn Gaidhealach Ceilidh, Lesser Albert Halls, 7.30pm. Skye Night, St Andrew's in the Square, 7.30pm.

Pub scene

JAM SESSIONS will re-start in the Park Bar tonight (Thursday).

On Friday evening it will be Deoch 'n Dorus with Martin Pottinger, on Saturday Pneumatic Drills and on Sunday Simon Moran with Stewart Cameron.

In the Islay Inn, Gunna Sound will play on Friday with Parting Glass on Saturday with the usual open night on Sunday.

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



British Aluminium Company party

Mrs Isobel Cameron of Worthing, West Sussex, submitted this week's flashback photograph which shows one of the British Aluminium Company's seasonal parties in the Tartan Hotel, Kinlochleven. We would like readers to send in flashback photographs and photographs of The Oban Times being read in far flung places. Please send prints to The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB, or email editor@obantimes.co.uk. Prints or emails must be accompanied by a caption, name, address and telephone number. Anyone wishing their prints returned must supply a stamped addressed envelope.

Letters to the editor

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

www.obantimes.co.uk

Telephone: 01631 568000
Fax: 01631 568001

Support for street party organisers

Sir, I have just spent a week in Oban on holiday with my family.

Part of our holiday was to go to the Hogmanay Street Party and I bought tickets for my husband and myself and also for my daughter and eight-year-old granddaughter.

Unfortunately we were notified that the venue had changed and on checking the new arrangements found that children under 14 would not be admitted.

Although this was a huge disappointment, we still had a lovely holiday, albeit a very relaxing one, the weather being one of the factors keeping us indoors.

I would like to assure the street party committee that although we were unable to participate in the celebrations, we as a family, cannot fault the organisers for cancelling the venue.

To organise an event of this magnitude takes many months of hard work and commitment which unfortunately is not always recognised by the public.

Funding is paramount and if tickets are not selling, decisions need to be made.

I have no doubt this committee will have come under fire for cancelling

the original venue, but I hope Oban Hogmanay had a successful evening regardless and that future events work out as originally planned.

F Thomson, by email.

Icy Oban pavements

Sir, Regarding the report of icy pavements in The Oban Times of December 30 2009, it should not be left to a guilt-ridden employee to get stuck in.

It is no good apportioning blame to a single department. If there is a labour shortage, then use could be made of people on community service orders.

As this is obviously not a nice job, the council could provide an incentive of logging time-and-a-half for each hour worked, thus shortening their 'time' served.

The community would appreciate their efforts thus making it easier for them to behave in the future.

George Doyle, Easdale.

What has gone so badly wrong?

Sir, On Sunday December 27 2009 we visited Oban for some retail therapy.

What we got was a free day's ice skating on the

town's pavements. I have never in my life seen such a disgraceful situation.

May I suggest The Oban Times runs a competition for the council officialdom to enter?

Category 1: Most pathetic excuse for the failure to grit the pavements.

Category 2: Most ridiculous excuse for said failings.

Category 3: Any excuse at all which may prevent voters deciding on changes in office at the next elections.

It was never like this years ago under the old Argyll County Council, so what has gone so badly wrong?

Iain MacColl, Inverloch, Fort William.

Wrong to blame Gordon Brown

Sir, I was interested to read of the case of Mr Campbell stuck in the French prison system.

I feel very strongly that the family is wrong to blame Prime Minister Gordon Brown for Mr Campbell's plight.

May I offer a few ideas which may have not been tried? Writing to the French Consul to Edinburgh and Ambassador to London. If he has a religion to contact the local church in France to raise the issue. To raise the matter with the Queen as head of state and ask that the issue be brought up

with President Sarkozy of France.

Equally, petition the President of France to grant a presidential pardon to Mr Campbell. Blaming the Prime Minister is not the answer. I wish them well.

Andrew Edwards, London.

Nostalgic weekend

Sir, This is a recall for all ex National Servicemen to 'Get Fell in Again' and spend a nostalgic weekend with hundreds of other ex National Servicemen this June.

Last year's event was attended by ex National Servicemen from the Army, Guards, RAMC, RASC and Signals. Also represented were the RAF, the Regiment, Equipment and Instruments and the Royal Navy.

Three-star accommodation is on offer. There will be a fun day on the Saturday and a parade with hundreds of ex National Servicemen in the Midlands on the Sunday.

For full details send name, rank, number, address and a second class stamp to Mike Crowe, 2010 National Service Weekend, 7 Heath Road, Lake, Sandown, Isle of Wight, PO36 8PG.

Ladies you would enjoy this weekend as well. The weekend books quickly so don't delay.

Mike Crowe, National Service 1958 - 1960.

Islay Letter

Dancing school

MEMBERS of the Ella Edgar School of Dancing have made an impressive contribution to the island's social scene for more than four decades.

Last year, the school celebrated its 40th anniversary and during that time pupils have appeared at events both great and small locally and much further afield. They have also strutted their stuff in island and mainland dancing competitions and have the silverware to confirm their successes.

Happily, these successes are on-going as current dancers continue to feature high on competition prizelists.

In the early days, the school mounted a series of celebration concerts which featured local instrumentalists and a troupe of talented youngsters. Among the names on the younging programmes are pipers Angus Currie and Calum MacAfter, sadly no longer with us. Also participating and still blowing a mean set of bagpipes are James MacEachern and James Brown.

Time marches on and many of the present pupils are following in the footsteps of mothers who were among the school's original members.

Congratulations and well done to distillery secretary Ella and her pupils who have kept their dancing pumps well primed since 1969. 'True grace in motion comes from art not chance, as those move easiest who have learned to dance.'

Carol concert

PARENTS and grandparents were among the large number of supporters who attended Bowmore Primary School's 'Carols by Candlelight' in the Round Church on December 21.

Head teacher Florence MacDougall welcomed the revellers and everyone enjoyed a varied programme of popular carols effortlessly sung by the pupils.

Christmas-based readings provided the continuity, as did acoustic poems, limericks and a pleasing input from the school's Gaelic unit.

The congregation also had its moments in the limelight, and the teachers, en masse, showed their ensemble singing capabilities.

Following a spirited rendering of 'O Come All ye Faithful', Church of Scotland reader Angela Stather thanked pupils and staff and delivered the Christmas blessing.

Christmas dinner

THERE was a distinct festive atmosphere at the IDEA's Christmas dinner attended by members and friends at the group's Resource Centre at Bowmore.

The seasonal fare was at its most plentiful and succulent, the chardonnay was to hand and the Christmas craic excelled.

The entertainment on offer was also

much enjoyed and there was much praise for the Bowmore Primary School folk group, directed by Helen Gillies.

Nigel Morris, pipe major of the island's pipe band and one of the charity's drivers, gave stirring selections and IDEA's favourite Moira Leitch was in top form with her humorous monologues.

The event also featured a mammoth raffle draw with prizes going to all airts. Festivities over, everyone set off home to eagerly await Santa's arrival.

New Year welcomed

EVERYONE was in carefree mood when they welcomed in the New Year at a family party in the Bowmore hall in the early hours of Ne'erday.

Musicians Jim and Peter kept everyone on the hop, a dram or two enhanced the merriment and plates of sustenance soaked up any excess.

The New Year day's ceilidh at Duffie's Bar at the Lochside Hotel lived up to expectation and provided a Highland welcome to 2010.

Lusty singing and good music were in abundance and everyone was happy to welcome back accordionist Kenny Morris, a former bar manager at the Lochside, on a short sojourn to his native Port Ellen from his home in New Zealand.

Hugh Smith, 4 Flora Street, Bowmore, Islay, PA43 7JX. Telephone 01496 810658.

A VIEW FROM THE TOWER By McCaig

Just a few centimetres of snow!

THE FREQUENCY of 'Happy Christmas' and 'Happy New Year' has paled into insignificance in recent weeks to be replaced by: 'Ain't these - expletives deleted - roads/pavements awful/disgraceful/never been touched/the bosses in their palace at Lochgilphead ought to be shot etc,etc'.

And the complaints went on and on and on.

As far as the pavements, in particular, are concerned I have to agree.

I don't drive and therefore, unless I take a taxi, I have to walk - no bus route near my abode - and I can tell the powers-that-be that the pavements, even now partially treated, are a potential death trap for the unwary.

I live close to the centre of Oban but still walk very gingerly as I can see patches of persistent ice that have stubbornly refused to be dissolved by the grit/salt mixture that was eventually spread towards the end of last week.

One night, the pavement was so slippery underfoot that I had to hold on to the building in which I live until I could get on to the Railway Pier which fortunately had been dressed with salt/grit and was negotiable.

I was lucky; there are those who have fallen and ended up with broken or fractured bones, cuts, bruises or bangs to the head.

There are elderly people who just have not come out because of the state of our glacial pavements and have had to depend on friends, relatives and neighbours for shopping and chemists and medical practices for repeat prescriptions.

Now local authorities are required by statute to have contingency plans for all sorts of bad weather, not just floods with which we are more familiar, and storms.

I know the directors at Kilmory are not native to Argyll and Bute and can be forgiven a little for not realising that just occasionally we do experience snow and sub-zero temperatures and fail totally to realise that even car drivers do use pavements occasionally and non-car drivers use them all the time.

Therefore, while it is essential that main roads and some side roads have preference most of the time, pavements need to receive attention as well.

However, we should spare a thought for those who live along the Calgary to Torloisk road on Mull where gritting has been, to be generous, spasmodic.

Yet if a vehicle leaves this road in many places through the icy, unsalted/ungritted surface it will go over a steep drop and is likely to end up on the beach or in the sea.

It seems there has been no treatment of the road since before Christmas and will be none before some time this week.

Just how careful and detailed has the contingency planning been for areas like these?

Or has it been: 'Let's hope it never happens and it's only a few folk anyway?'

McCaig's New Year message

HAVE you noticed that hoards of public figures from politicians, captains of industry, general secretaries of trade unions, to employers' organisations and anyone who thinks they are somebody has been issuing Christmas and New Year Messages, and in some cases both?

Well, the anonymous McCaig has decided to issue his New Year message.

However, let's start off with a cheerful sentence or two.

The New Year's Honours List - was released on Hogmanay.

As usual it contained precious few gongs for the people of Argyll and Bute, except for an MBE for a classroom assistant from Kilmartin Primary School.

Now I'm sure she fully deserved it as did the various school janitors similarly honoured.

But why no teachers or head teachers?

Down south, there have even been knighthoods for some teachers or head masters but not even a measly MBE for a Scottish classroom teacher or even an educational theorist.

However, there was one knighthood that particularly delighted me as I know that Ian David Grant from Blairgowrie fully deserved it.

Ian has given sterling service as president of the National Farmers Union of Scotland, chairman of the Scottish Tourist Board - now VisitScotland-andas Scottish Crown Estate Commissioner and subsequently chairman of the Crown Estate Commissioners.

And he is still as nice a friendly and down-to-earth guy as he was when he was just a big sheep farmer in Perthshire.

He would be an excellent addition to the Knights of the Thistle as well.

Well, let's get 'on message', as they say.

I'm not going to paint a bright, rosy picture as some of the many 'messengers' have done.

Mine is: remember the recession is not over. Ignore politicians claims, especially at General Election time, as there is going to be higher unemployment, fewer graduate jobs, fewer college courses and apprenticeships.

More money will be spent fighting where we should not be - and without proper equipment, too.

What can I offer to cheer us up?

Hopefully, a transformed Met Office that can get even big weather patterns generally right.

Never mind when it will pour on one side of Loch Creran while there's brilliant sunshine on the other - it does happen, honestly.

McCaig

Your letters

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

PRESS POLICY

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

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

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

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

Occupational therapists can help their patients achieve the near miraculous

Changing lives for the better

By MARIAN MILLER

OCCUPATIONAL therapy gives anyone who decides on it as a career the gift of being able to change people's lives for the better.

It is a term that is familiar and most people have a vague idea of what occupational therapy (OT) is, but what it achieves is sometimes only little short of miraculous.

OT has its roots in the First World War when various occupations, often hands-on, were used to help wounded soldiers and injured people get better and mobile again.

Linda Currie, occupational therapy

integrated team leader, explains: 'People come to us with some sort of life-changing event or injury which interferes with their ability to manage every day life.'

Often the first point of contact can be in a hospital situation where an OT will work alongside a physiotherapist to get someone mobile and doing simple tasks.

They work with someone towards the ultimate aim of being capable enough of looking after themselves to be discharged from hospital.

'In the hospital and as part of an integrated care team, when someone is quite poorly in their bed, we

would be working with them to arrange personal care, and part of rehabilitation is getting them to do as much as possible,' said Linda.

'We show them ways of doing things they haven't thought of themselves, for instance when someone has had a stroke we suggest that they do the effected side first when dressing.'

'While physiotherapy works very specifically on someone's mobility and deals with things like muscle weakness and ability to stand up - the biomechanics - we would take them into the kitchen and work with them on carrying out tasks.'

Risk assessment
'OT is responsible for facilitating the person to go home, carrying out risk assessment, planning for discharge and care packages, following up as they go into the community.'

'OT acts as a link between the hospital and community services.'

'But it is a completely different role in the hospital, where it is about assessment and rehabilitation and in the community where it is about working with people with long-term deteriorating conditions, making sure their homes are 'future-proofed' so they can stay in their homes for as long as possible.'

'The hospital is an artificial environment and when people go home we get a picture of how people manage.'

When occupational therapists work with children with cerebral palsy, for example, they assess risks and the management of problems around the home to make it a safer place, and they work

on improving the patient's motor skills, from using IT to a pair of scissors.

With people affected by strokes, they assess cognitive skills, and work on language, memory, planning tasks and carrying them out.

Once the patient is able to sit, they are then helped to carry out basic tasks like washing, dressing or, with men, shaving - often stroke patients do not shave the side of the face that has been affected by the stroke.

Transition
People with multiple injuries are helped to make the transition from hospital to home, provided with equipment to help with simple tasks and advised on the home environment and possible short-term changes, like putting a bed downstairs

Argyll and Bute used to have separate inpatient and community teams but is now the only integrated team in NHS Highland which leads to better communication and flexibility.

Oban, Lorn and the Isles has 14 occupational therapists in its team and although the service is hosted by NHS Highland, some of the team have social work contracts with Argyll and Bute Council.

Although classed under the one umbrella, occupational therapists can be quite diverse in their skills.

'Rehabilitation is more hands on,' said Linda, 'it's about having an understanding of anatomy and different conditions, and how that affects a person informs their rehabilitation programme.'

'We will analyse an



Kate Winton, right, shows occupational therapist Ylva Powlett how easy it is now for her to reach her kitchen cupboards. 07_147ofeat03



Linda Currie, occupational therapy integrated team leader, demonstrates a bath aid in a client's house. 07_147ofeat02

activity, for instance making a cup of tea; look at the different aspects of it to see what they are doing - can they plan the task, physically stand to do it, what their hand functions are like and then provide a treatment plan for each individual.'

Working with people in the community can mean

anything from carrying out risk assessments in people's homes to liaising with architects and tradesmen for modifications to a home.

They will work with a client to assess what can be done to help them manage more easily around their home, from suggesting equipment to make life

easier to physical changes within the home like grab rails on stairs and in the bathroom, or complete refits of kitchens and bathrooms.

OTs work across the spectrum of people, from those with life-long disabilities to those with mental health problems, which means those considering OT as a

career have to be patient, practical, creative and good communicators.

Referrals for OT can come from many sources, sometimes the client themselves, GPs, hospitals or social work.

The hope is that the earlier OT gets involved the less likely it will be in an emergency situation.

Transformed as they regain their mobility and independence

'IT HAS totally transformed my life.'

This is the tribute to occupational therapy (OT) from an Oban pensioner who has suffered for nearly 20 years with osteoarthritis.

The lady in question, who did not want named, has been crippled with the painful condition and effectively disabled in the past four years.

'I knew it was getting dangerous getting in and out of the bath, and outside I needed something to grab hold of in various places.'

'Then one happy day occupational therapist Linda Currie appeared and I haven't looked back since.'

'Initially I said I didn't want

too many things because I didn't want to stop trying, but Linda just said it would make things easier.'

'It has made such a difference and I have been surprised at how much they have been able to do for me.'

When Linda first came into her home, her client was walking with two sticks and simple tasks like carrying a cup of tea from the kitchen to the living room was out of the question.

Now her happy client has a moveable trolley that doubles as something she can hold on to while moving around the house, long-handled grabbers with a magnet on the end - 'Ideal when I drop a whole box of paper clips' - a raised

toilet seat, chair raisers for her comfortable chair making it easier for her to get up, an aid to help her get socks on and a bath lift.

'The bath lift is tremendous,' she said. 'It means I can still have a bath which means a lot.'

But regular visits mean everything is constantly reassessed and things can be planned ahead before they become a serious problem.

'I have learned new ways of doing things. It has totally transformed my life really,' added the pensioner.

KATE Winton was diagnosed with an aggressive form of multiple sclerosis in 2000 and moved to Dunmar Court in

Oban from Bridge of Orchy, becoming wheelchair-bound two-and-a-half years ago.

A previously active person, with an equally active mind, Kate has been heavily involved in the equipment and gadgets which make her life as independent as possible.

When her condition deteriorated, occupational therapist Julie was able to come up with all manner of different gadgets, including things for the kitchen as Kate was beginning to lose sensation in her hands.

'It gives me total independence,' said Kate.

Her kitchen has been reorganised to allow her to reach wall cupboards, a

drawer opens to reveal a chopping board and she has come up with magnetic strips to hold her knives on the wall and a tea-maker which gives her hot water without having to pour from a kettle.

Cupboard doors have push-click catches which can be opened with a grab stick and internal wire baskets that fold down for easy reach.

Elsewhere the door intercom has been moved for easier reach, a self-opening door installed, a concrete ramp put into the building and a monkey pole installed next to Kate's bed to help her get in and out.

Important changes have also been made in the bathroom.



The team of occupational therapists from Oban, Lorn and the Isles. 07_146therapy01

25 Years Ago

Those Were The Days

The Oban Times

Thursday January 3 1985

Year of the Oban Line, BR promises

BRITISH Rail in Scotland is to make a major push on the Oban line this year. Final details are still to be announced but Mr Chris Green, general manager of ScotRail said plans included a new station in the town, the re-opening of the Loch Awe Station and more rail tourist facilities in the area.

Of the plans for the station, Mr Green said the idea was to build a new one on the site of the present station.

He said: 'If permission to demolish is refused we see the new station being located alongside the existing building. Oban is a thriving tourist centre and it needs a modern railway station which would be a focal point for the town and for passengers, transferring between train, ship, bus and taxi or private car.'

'The present station which is old lacking in facilities and costly to maintain is of no use to ScotRail,' declared Mr Green.

'The business group are looking at the possibility of connecting tourist specials with Fort William trains at Crianlariach. This will not only make the round trip easier for tourists, but also increase the Oban - Glasgow

service for the people of Oban, Lorn and the Isles.'

Yacht series stays

THE Tomatin Series of yacht races, a mainstay of the Tarbert Economy will continue say organisers, the Clyde Cruising Club. This is despite the news last weekend that the main sponsors, whisky firm Tomatin Distillers, are to fold.

However, the event reckoned to be the largest master of yachts in Europe apart from Cowes will go under a different name - the Scottish Series.

The 1985 Series is scheduled for May 23 - 28 and fears were raised for its future when it was reported last Saturday that Tomatin Distillers shoe sponsorship worth £18,000 were calling an extraordinary general meeting on January 14 to wind up the company after five years of severe losses.

However, Mr Nick Wright, the Commodore of the Clyde Cruising Club has said that the event will continue.

Last year 234 yachts took part in the series. Tarbert's population of approximately 1300 doubled with major economic benefits to the village and surrounding area.

Councillor Douglas Robertson said:

'It is a vital cog in the economy of this area.'

It is not the first time people have said it is the difference between profit and loss in many a business.'

Vandals smash RNLI barometer - twice

VANDALS have twice smashed the glass in the Royal National Lifeboat Institute's barometer over the Christmas period.

As a result it has had to be removed from public view for the first time since the turn of the century.

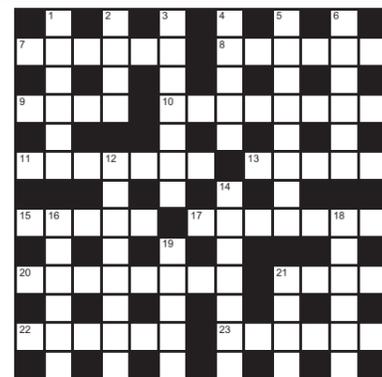
The barometer and the glass case have now been removed from outside the old lifeboat house and are in safe keeping inside the new lifeboat station. They will remain there until a suitable new situation new situation can be found - indoors.

The damage and the move means that for the first time in many years the regular recording of barometer readings, temperature and wind direction - a valuable service for all those putting out to sea - has had to be suspended.

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD

- Across**
- Can be led this way (6)
 - Irish accent (6)
 - Embellish (4)
 - Aardvark (8)
 - Complicate (7)
 - Spacious (5)
 - Religious leader (5)
 - Mounted soldiers (7)
 - Toy on rails (5,3)
 - Battering wind (4)
 - First in Trinity (6)
 - Collide with (6)

- Down**
- Used in making pen points (6)
 - Bone-dry (4)
 - Tomb (7)
 - Decrease (5)
 - Fizzy drink (4,4)
 - Building to show the ancient and interesting (6)
 - Trashy (8)
 - About the stomach (7)
 - Flyer (6)
 - Survivor (6)
 - Loan shark (5)
 - Split open (4)



Sponsored by Wallace Optometrists

For people who really care about their eyesight

Call today and book your comprehensive eye examination

Wallace Optometrists
0845 230 EYES
(3937)

Dingwall ends year with prime stock sale

DINGWALL and Highland Marts Ltd sold 74 prime cattle and 525 prime sheep at their last sale of 2009 on Tuesday December 29.

Prime bullocks averaged 170.3p (+3.3p) and sold to 187p per kg for a 640kg Charolais cross from Wester Craiglands, Fortrose, and £1,266.50 for a 745kg Charolais cross from Findon Mains, Culbokie.

Prime heifers averaged 172.0p (+0.7p) and sold to 183p per kg for a 510kg Belgian Blue cross from Easter Strath of Auchterflow, Killen, and £1,203.65 for a 665kg Charolais cross from Wester Craiglands, Fortrose.

New season lambs averaged 188.7p (-3.3p) and sold to 207.7p per kg for 39kg Texel crosses from Wester Craiglands, Fortrose, and £90.80 for 49.0kg Beltex crosses from Torgorm, Conon Bridge.

Sheep farmers braced for new 'E-ewe' tagging rules

SHEEP farmers face substantial new costs this year to comply with a European law which requires electronic tags to be fitted to their flocks.

All sheep will have to be electronically identified (EID), as a measure to prevent the spread of disease.

However, the costs of these electronic ear tags will be

considerable for farmers, around £1.50 each plus up to £1,000 for each tag-reader.

The European Commission has agreed that readers can be sited at abattoirs and markets, so that all farmers do not need to purchase such equipment.

However, for the hundreds of upland sheep farmers who move their flocks to lowland

farms during the winter, readers will be required.

Conservative Euro MP Struan Stevenson said that there is no evidence that the unreliable tags will improve animal health beyond that experienced with the current batch-based reporting system in the UK.

Mr Stevenson has fought a

long campaign to make the plans voluntary for sheep farmers, rather than compulsory.

Recently he organised a meeting in Strasbourg with consumer affairs commissioner Androulla Vassiliou who rejected pleas from Scotland's Euro MPs for exemptions or derogations from

the new regulation.

Also in December, the European Parliament's petitions committee received an 8,000 signature petition from Scottish sheep farmers calling for a halt to the plans. In response, the committee chair promised a review in the New Year.

Struan Stevenson said:

'Electronic tags offer no clear benefits to animal health and the estimated £10 million costs to Scotland's beleaguered sheep farmers will push many out of business.'

'These laws will hit UK farmers hardest as we have a third of the entire EU sheep population. The loss of sheep farmers will affect all of us

because flocks help maintain our sensitive upland environment.'

'The current system ain't broke yet the EU is trying to fix it, with devastating costs to our farmers. Sheep farmers should be getting our help at this difficult time, not more pointless regulations from Brussels.'



Garden design student Amber Goudy and her agricultural college classmates will be exhibiting at the Chelsea Flower Show this year. 07_01plant01

Craignish student sets her sights on famous Chelsea Flower Show

A CRAIGNISH woman is among a group of students from the Scottish Agricultural College that will make history by exhibiting at the prestigious Chelsea Flower Show.

Amber Goudy and 11 other second-year students at the college will be the first Scottish-based students to exhibit at the world's most famous flower show, where entry is usually exclusive to established designers.

Such is the interest in the pupils' entry, a film crew, headed by BAFTA-winning director James Alcock, is charting their progress for a documentary to be shown around the time of the flower show, between May 25-29.

The design class will enter the courtyard garden section with a 21st century Scottish croft design.

Amber, aged 25, said: 'We were very surprised to be accepted into the competition

and our tutors were simply shocked.'

Amber and her classmates had always hoped to attend the event but end-of-year exams and the difficulty of getting tickets meant it was near impossible to attend - unless they entered the competition.

Amber explained: 'We thought we were being over-ambitious as Chelsea is the absolute pinnacle of our industry with 157,000 visitors each year and over 2.7 million television viewers.'

'Now that we have a design and are starting to put together all the elements of it, there is excitement with a bit of fear.'

'It will be quite daunting having your work alongside famous designers that we study, whose work we look to as the ideal.'

Amber comes from a green-fingered background and has been around the Craignish

plant nursery run by her mother and father, Jane and Bob, for as long as she can remember.

After studying biology at Stirling University, Amber returned to her gardening roots and began the garden design degree. Since being accepted for the Chelsea Flower Show, Amber and her classmates have had to sort out a budget, construction details, what plants to use and how to get them into flower out of season and re-arranging HND exams.

'They have so far secured half of the £12,000 sponsorship required for the exhibition but are appealing to businesses to help fund the rest of the budget in exchange for advertising opportunities at the flower show.'

After Chelsea the class will dismantle the garden and bring it back to Scotland to show it at Gardening Scotland, Ingleton, in June.

COVENTRY for FENCING
Scotland's No. 1 WIRE, STOCK FENCING, BARBED, HIGH TENSILE, MILD STEEL - BEST PRICES

TIMBER DIRECT FROM OUR SAWMILL
Depots throughout Scotland Delivery available For a competitive quote please call 01631 566866

SELLING YOUR FARM STOCK?

The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Be seen by over 40,000 readers
Tel: 01631 568000
www.obantimes.co.uk

Crofters group makes progress on workable crofting reform bill

THE SCOTTISH Crofting Federation (SCF) has had meetings with MSP's across all parties in Edinburgh to discuss progress being made in getting a more workable Crofting Reform Bill.

Progress
Norman Leask, SCF parliamentary spokesman said: 'We are very pleased with

the progress we have made on getting revisions to the bill and more unacceptable parts of the bill dropped, such as the housing burden.'

'After intense lobbying we have also managed to also get the fee for croft registration down from £250 to a maximum of £130 and we are confident we can get it

down further. 'Every croft is going to have to register eventually so getting the fee reduction is very beneficial for all crofters.'

'This demonstrates how a representative organisation working with our MSP's and government can get change. It is vital that crofters stand

together as the next year is critical for the future of crofting.'

Draft
The Crofting Reform (Scotland) Bill was laid before the Scottish Parliament in December. It has been revised from the draft, mostly through the more contentious parts being cut out.

There now follows the period of scrutiny by the Rural Affairs and Environment Committee of the Scottish Parliament and submissions may be made to the committee.

Marina Dennis, chair of the SCF's working group on crofting reform, added: 'Many crofters perhaps do

not realise the amount of work that goes on behind the scenes, the government has listened to us and changed the bill.'

'The SCF is the only organisation dedicated to representing crofters and my hope is that more crofters will join us in this campaign to make our voice even stronger.'



Norman Leask

2010 Calendars



Scottish Field - £8.95

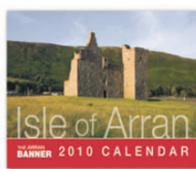


Scottish Field Mini - £6.99

ON SALE NOW!



The Oban Times - £6.99



Isle of Arran - £6.99

Prices include worldwide postage and packaging

Available from all good retailers or call us on 01631 568000
www.scottishcalendars.co.uk

Sub-zero temperatures raise concerns for Hebrides' winter migrants

Government brings in temporary shooting ban as freeze continues

AS the sub-zero temperatures continue, concern is growing in the Outer Hebrides for birds which normally over-winter on the islands in large numbers.

Shooting ban
Meantime a ban on shooting certain wildfowl has been brought in by the Scottish government for 14 days.

Normally at this time of year the islands are teeming with water fowl and wading birds, from tufted ducks, teal and wigeon to lapwing, snipe and golden plover but the lochs and shorelines are quiet.

Concern
The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) North Uist officer Jamie Boyle has expressed his concern about the situation.

'Most of the lochs have been completely frozen over now for a week, and there is not a single duck to be seen,' he said.



Woodcock are among several bird species that are covered under this week's temporary shooting ban

'They will have had to fly off elsewhere to find food, and we don't know how successful they will be.'

'In winters like this the mortality rate can be as high as 60 to 70 per cent. Although we haven't found dead birds

yet, I think it's only a matter of time. Many birds rely on being able to poke the ground to find insects, which of course they can't do when it's frozen.'

Feeding birds
Mr Boyle urged householders to put out scraps for small birds.

He said: 'Small birds like wrens are also really suffering as they can't get enough insects. They love all sorts of scraps including things like turkey carcasses.'

South Uist naturalist and wildlife tour guide Steve Duffield said he had seen a red kite on the island, and that one had also been sighted in Skye. He said: 'Red kites are never seen here.'

'This one has come from the mainland or the continent, in response to the cold weather.'

'We may yet see an influx of unusual birds coming here from elsewhere in the hope of food.'

Mr Duffield added: 'The machair is rock-hard, and I've seen hordes of skylarks trying to get through the ice to find food. I've also seen woodcock and snipe right on the tideline, unusually for them, and tufted duck, gadwall and wigeon out

at sea, not their preferred habitat.'

Temporary ban

The RSPB reserve at Balranald in North Uist is one of the stations required to report on weather conditions to Scottish Natural Heritage which advises the Scottish government on whether a suspension of water fowl shooting should be ordered under extreme weather conditions.

The government announced last week that there would be a temporary ban on shooting certain species of wildfowl from January 5 for 14 days but it would be reviewed after seven days.

Birds covered include coot, tufted duck, gadwall, goldeneye, Canada geese, greylag and pink-footed goose, mallard, moorhen, pintail, golden plover, pochard, shoveler, common snipe, teal, wigeon and woodcock.

Business is built on many things. So make sure you get to as many customers as possible.

The Oban Times the newspaper with the big reach

Call Fiona on 01631 568000 to find out how we can help promote your business. We are here to help

Oban councillor backs call for minimum pricing on alcohol

PLAN from the UK Government to introduce a minimum price for every unit of alcohol are being backed by an Oban councillor.

A minimum pricing scheme would see the Government set a single non-negotiable cost per unit of alcohol as early as next summer – at a cost, some are suggesting, of between 40 pence and 60 pence per

unit. This would put an end to cheap drinks such as cider and wine making their way onto the market.

Cheap alcohol
The proposals have been taken on board by the UK Government after being rejected in Scotland, and are meeting with approval from all sides.

Argyll and Bute councillor Roddie McCuish said: 'I

firmly believe this is a step we must take.

'For too long now we have spoken about the damage cheap alcohol is having on our communities and I would urge all political parties to put their political differences behind them and support the Scottish and UK Government on this.'

'Overwhelming evidence'
'After all, the evidence

from top public health officials is overwhelming. This would go a long way to help improve the health of our communities.

'What is the point of employing top health officials if we ignore their advice when a hard decision has to be taken and the calls are being backed by top public health officials.'

'A minimum price for al-

cohol would have a considerable impact if it was set at 60 pence a unit,' said Dr Emilia Crighton, the convener of the Faculty of Public Health in Scotland.

Damaging
Dr Crighton said that there was 'overwhelming research to prove that cheap drink was damaging Scotland's health'.

She said: 'Research sug-

gests that 866 alcohol-related deaths each year would be prevented by the introduction of a 60 pence minimum price once the policy is in full effect.

'There is an overwhelming case that cheap drink damages Scotland's health record.'

'It is clear that as prices have dropped, consumption has risen.'



Beachd Ailein

Bu shuarach a' chrìoch a thàinig air 2009 dha iomadach duine, eadar buaidh fìor dhroch aimsir; trioblaidan stiubhail; staing ionmhais; agus dìth cosnadh, agus cha bheag an t-iongnadh ged a bhiodh mòran againn toilichte a bhith a' gabhail beannachd leatha!

Mar a tha taghaidhean-beachd aig gach ìre phoblach a' dearbhadh thar nam bliadhnaichean, tha sinn air a bhith a' fàs car somalta a thaobh rianachd an t-saoghail mun cuairt oirnn agus coma fhàgail an urra ri luchd-poileataigs is eile. Bheil an leig a thathas a' nochdadh ann a' bhòtadh a' ciallachadh gum bheil sinn deònach làn earbsa a chur ann an luchd poileataigs is nach eil dragh againn de a ni iad? Mura bheil carson a tha sinn a' leigeil leotha cumail air adhart as aonais beachd neo bacadh bhuanne? Canaidh cuid gum bheil iad air fàs cho searbh de shaoghal phoileataigs is nach eil iad dol a ghabhail dragh bhòtadh, ach tha fhios ma tha iad searbh gur e bhòtadh an dearbh fhearagairt dhaibh!

Chuir sinn earbsa ann am bancairean is leig iad sìos sinn! Bha dòchas againn gun robh aonta is amas coileanta dol a thighinn a' co-labhairt eadar-nàiseanta na Danmhairg is cha do thachair sin! Bha earbsa aig na mìltean às na seirbheisean plean is trèan a cheannaich iad airson saor-làithean Nollaige, agus chaith an trèigsinn! Tha cuid de shuidheachaidhean nach gabh suileachadh agus mar sin nach gabh seachnadh, ach 's e firinn na cùise gur e daoine a tha a' cur air adhart gach gnìomh is seirbheis a tha sinn a' cleachdadh agus chan eil iad os cionn mearachd a dhèanamh. Chan eil aig a h-uile duine ach gliocas eòlais fhèin is chàich, agus tha cleasanas air a h-uile duine againn beachd is taic a chumail riutha ach an dèan iad an obair as fheàrr.

An nochd tha mi fhìn an dòchas a bhith an cuideachd chàirdean; charaidean agus eòlaich aig dannsa oidhche Challainn, agus tha fuighair oirnn gun còrd e rinn. Air starsaich Bliadhnn' Uire dè a b' fheàrr na bhith an cuideachd den t-seòrsa, le aithne air gur ann againn fhìn a tha an comas air cuid saoghail a leasachadh ma ghabhas sinn an cothrom.

Bliadhna mhath ùr dhuibh agus gach soirbheachadh innte!

Many will be happy to bid farewell to 2009! This year ended really badly for so many with bad weather and travel problems adding to economic pressures and unemployment. Many will also have felt betrayed by politicians and others as companies crashed and even the world climate summit failed to deliver on its promises.

Unfortunately many people respond by opting out of the political process and choosing not to vote. We do have power to influence events and we should recognise that the power of the ballot box is an important privilege. Our world functions as people allow; as we allow! New Year is a special time to be with friends and to look forward with hope.

A good and prosperous New Year to you!

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

Shellfish growers welcome rent reduction

Rents to be reduced by an average of 15 per cent from this month

THE Crown Estate, the owner of half the foreshore and the seabed out to 12 miles from the coast, is to reduce its rents to shellfish growers in Scotland.

The rents are to be reduced by an average of 15 per cent from January 2010 following an independent review carried out on behalf of the estate.

However the estate's outer island discount rate, currently at 20 per cent, is to be reduced to 10 per cent over the next two years.

The review was carried out by consultants James Barr with assistance from industry expert David Scott based at Stirling University.

The recommendations include the reduction of rents by 15 per cent across all species sectors including mussels, scallops and oysters.

Extended leases

Leases, started after January 1, 2010, will be for a standard term of 25 years instead of 15 years and start-up discounts will be extended to cover the first four years of an agreement, to take account of planning application fees.

Walter Speirs, chairman of the Association of Scottish Shellfish Growers (ASSG) said: 'ASSG is very pleased with the outcome of the recent Crown Estate review of rents.'

'All of our concerns have been addressed, to our satisfaction.'

'This should give our industry the opportunity to expand further, with increased security of tenure provided by the longer term leases.'

'It demonstrates quite clearly the commitment of the Crown Estate to facilitating growth in the shellfish sector.'

Alex Adrian, Scottish offshore operations manager for the Crown Estate said: 'The shellfish industry plays a critically important role in the economic well-being of communities around Scotland's coasts.'

'We will be adopting all the recommendations contained in the review, as they will help address the challenges faced by the industry and encourage confidence and participation in the sector.'

The Crown Estate manages a £6 billion property portfolio across the UK, with Scottish holdings of £237 million, and pays its surplus revenue to the Treasury.

Last year it paid £226.5 million with £15.5 million coming from Scotland. Its marine estate consists of over half the foreshore and the seabed out to the 12 nautical mile territorial limit.

The rural estate in Scotland comprises 43,000 hectares and includes the Glenlivet, Fochabers, Applegirth, Stirling and Whitehill estates.

It includes 185 agricultural tenancies and 102 residential properties.



One World Shop assistant Freya Craig, left, from Kerrera, with Oxfam Scotland's Malcolm Fleming and Betsy Reed of the Scottish Fair Trade Forum.

Kerrera girl helps promote bid to make Scotland a Fair Trade nation

COMMUNITIES across the country are being asked to follow the example set by Argyll and Bute by helping Scotland to become only the second Fairtrade nation in the world.

There are currently 31 Fairtrade cities, towns or islands in Scotland with populations of more than 5,000 – including Oban, Dunoon and the Isle of Arran. The Isle of Iona also holds Fairtrade

status and Argyll and Bute is working to become a Fairtrade zone.

The Scottish Fair Trade Forum recently set a target to triple the number of towns in Scotland with Fairtrade status.

The ambitious new targets were announced at the One World Shop – a store that sells only Fairtrade goods – on Glasgow's Great Western Road.

Shop assistant Freya Craig is originally from Kerrera and a former pupil of Oban High School.

She said: 'Oban has led the way by becoming one of Scotland's Fairtrade towns and the drive is now on to make Scotland a Fair Trade Nation. We can work hard to get more towns and villages on board. Many Argyll schools are working towards becoming Fairtrade schools

and it's a brilliant cause for the community to get behind. 'We need to get 96 towns with populations of over 5,000 to achieve Fairtrade status and that's an ambitious but attainable target for 2010.' The sale of Fairtrade products ensures that third world farmers get a fair deal for their goods.

Wales is currently the world's only Fair Trade Nation, having achieved the

Argyll and Bute Council directors to retire

TWO longstanding directors at Argyll and Bute Council are to retire on March 31.

George Harper, director of development services, and Andy Law, director of operational services, will be standing down after a total of 73 years in local government between them.

Major projects

Mr Harper has spent 22 years with Argyll and Bute Council and the former Argyll and Bute District Council and has taken the lead in many major projects including transport, town centre schemes and most recently the CHORD project – the

regeneration of the town centre water front areas of Campbelltown, Helensburgh, Oban, Rothesay and Dunoon.

Mr Law has been with Argyll and Bute Council and Argyll and Bute District since 1991.

During his time he has spearheaded initiatives such as kerbside recycling collections and has championed the improvement in quality of many day-to-day frontline services that people in the Argyll and Bute area rely on.

Council leader Councillor Dick Walsh said: 'I would

like to extend my sincere thanks to Andy and George for the outstanding commitment that they have made to our council over the years.'

Better services

'As directors, they have been at the helm of significant and innovative improvements in their areas of responsibility, which have resulted in better services to our customers.'

'I would like to wish them both all the very best in their retirement.'

Chief Executive Sally Loudon said: 'Andy and George have been key members of the council's strategic man-

agement team helping to push forward and deliver on our improvement agenda.'

'I wish them and their families well for whatever they choose to do in the future and a long and happy retirement.'

The council announced at the beginning of December that it would be reducing its number of directors from four to three executive directors working across a number of departments.

Also being reduced are the numbers of heads of service, which will be fall from 15 to 12 with existing staff re-applying for the posts.

Mull pre-school children get new energy-efficient building at Tobermory

Sheep's wool and recycled newspapers add to insulation

PRE-SCHOOL children on the Isle of Mull will be the first to enjoy the most energy-efficient building Argyll and Bute Council has ever built.

Biomass boiler

The pre-five unit at Tobermory High School is under construction after a short delay to divert the water main and the timber kit for the council's first 'A' rated building was due on site yesterday (Wednesday). Due to be completed by

this summer, the building will have 23 pre-five places and will be heated by the first pellet biomass boiler to be installed in a council building.

Sheep's wool is to be used to insulate the floors, recycled newspaper to insulate the walls, a heat recovery ventilation unit to pre-heat incoming air, eco-paints to brighten up the internal walls and the building will be clad with Scottish larch.

Councillor Isobel Strong, spokesperson for education and lifelong learning at Argyll and Bute Council, said: 'This is a much-needed facility for the Tobermory area and I know how much the local parents and children are looking forward to seeing it open.'

'The fact that the building is going to achieve several 'firsts' for the council in terms of its energy efficiency and sustainability makes it particularly exciting.'



Alan Reid MP joined Royal Mail staff to thank them for all their hard work over the festive season. 16_150post01

MP gives posties a pat on the back

POSTAL workers in Oban were visited by MP Alan Reid before their rounds on a Saturday morning.

Mr Reid said: 'I was de-

lighted to have the opportunity to thank Oban's postal workers for their hard work over the Christmas and New Year period. The atmos-

phere in the sorting office was very positive. Our postmen and women do a great job delivering our mail in all weathers.'



Search and rescue helicopter unit completes record breaking number of missions

A SEARCH and rescue helicopter unit, which has carried out countless missions in the West Highlands has surpassed its previous record number of call-outs in a year.

HMS Gannet

The Royal Navy's duty crew at HMS Gannet's Search and Rescue unit, based at Prest-

wick, has been on more than 400 call-outs – the 400th to a medical evacuation from Arran.

Last year, its total number of call-outs for the year was 382, which was a record in itself.

HMS Gannet Commanding Officer Lieutenant Commander Debdash Bhattacharya said: 'This is a phenom-

enal achievement for a stand alone SAR unit.

'Having recently taken over command of the unit, I have followed Gannet's progress with great interest throughout the year from the Royal Navy's sister SAR unit at the Royal Naval Air Station Culdrose in Cornwall.'

'As a result, I have been very aware of the challenges

and the high level of tasking experienced in this unique area.'

'This milestone is testament to the professionalism of the whole unit, aircrew, engineers and ancillary support staff and I extend my appreciation to all for an exceptional job.'

HMS Gannet is the UK's busiest helicopter search and rescue station.

Mid Argyll man left in debt by slow refund

A MID Argyll man's Christmas was almost ruined after a sales error left him in the red.

Colin Cunningham, from Craobh Haven, is warning other customers to think twice when they are offered an in-store refund.

On the spur of the moment, he popped into an Asda store in Dumbaron to look at computers on a return journey from Glasgow. Just after buying one at a cost of £325, he was told there had been a pricing error and the money was refunded using his debit card.

He then bought another computer, costing £250.

He later discovered, to his cost, while it took five minutes to take both lots of money from his account, the refund would take more than five days to process.

'When I got back that evening, I went to the pub and had a meal and my card was declined – I couldn't understand why,' he said.

'This particular visit to Asda has been not only embarrassing for me but has jeopardized my credit rating and damaged the good standing of my financial history.'

'It has incurred various expenses for unauthorized overdraft, unnecessary travel, because it is 40 mile

round trip to my nearest bank branch, and the stress of having no money for necessities like food.'

Mr Cunningham said he suffered sleepless nights with the stress and the situation was made worse because, living in rural Argyll, he was 100 miles from the store and 20 miles from his own bank.

After five days of constant phone calls, the money was refunded and his bank waived all charges for overdrafts and a short-term loan.

'I was relieved, but I just found it so frustrating, finding out where my money had been, who had been holding on to it and why?' he said.

'If I had had to stop for petrol on the way home, I wouldn't have been able to pay. They could have called the police or anything.'

'The whole thing was very stressful.'

A spokeswoman for Asda said: 'Customer service is our number one priority and we will always try to speed these things through, but our standard refund policy is three to five working days.'

'We are very sorry for any inconvenience caused to this customer and we are pleased the money has got back to him. We just hope it hasn't ruined his Christmas.'

Scottish Water ask residents to use less water in 2010

SCOTTISH Water is making a New Year resolution to save water by fixing leaking pipes throughout its network.

And the water service provider is asking Argyll and Bute residents to do the same by using less water.

A spokesman for Scottish Water said: 'Reducing leakage remains a top priority for Scottish Water, and we're asking customers across Argyll and Bute to make using tap water wisely their New Year Resolution.'

'By making this your New Year resolution, you will be doubling your efforts to save the environment. By cutting down on the water you use, you will also save energy, both of which will help to save the environment and reduce your carbon footprint.'

There are lots of simple but effective ways to use water wisely in and around the home. For more information on how to use water more efficiently visit www.scottishwater.co.uk/savewater.

www.thehighlandtheatre.co.uk for full listings and future presentations

Cinema The Highland Theatre

George Street, Oban, PA34 5NX - Box Office: 01631 562444

From Saturday 2nd January

IT'S COMPLICATED	Cert 15	120 min
	Daily 6.15, 8.45	Sat/Sun/Wed matinee 3.30
WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE	Cert PG	100 min
	Daily 6.00, sat/sun matinee 1.15, 3.30	Wed matinee 3.45
ALVIN & THE CHIPMUNKS 2	Cert U	88 min
	Sat/Sun Matinee 1.00	
SHERLOCK HOLMES	Cert 12A	128min
	Daily 8.30	

what's on

Various > Ballet, Jazz
Ballet West Classes Body conditioning
Tel: 01866 822641

Various > Kundalini Yoga
Energie Fitness
Tel: 01852 300174 for details

Mondays > Pilates
Rockfield Primary Campus
6.30pm

Mondays & Wednesdays > Pilates
Energie Health & Fitness Club
Monday 11am / Wednesday 7pm

Thursdays > Beginners Tai Chi
Church of Scotland Centre
7.45pm Tel: 01852 500361

Saturdays > Gymnastics with Nikki
Oban Primary Campus - Suitable for all ages 12-4pm
tel: 01631 770656 or 01355 904714

January 7th - 9th > Argyll Youth Theatre
Corran Halls, 7.30pm New Play
Tickets from Corran Halls and House & Home

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

Comunn Gaidhealach an Obain

Old New Year Buffet Ceilidh

Saturday 9th January 7.30pm

Masonic Hall, Albany Street, Oban

Admission £8 at door

Children First R.S.S.P.C.C.

COFFEE MORNING

Sat. 9th January

Regent Hotel, Oban

10.30 - 12 noon

Inveraray & District Acordion & Fiddle Club

Argyll Hotel, Inveraray

Wednesday 13th January at 8.00pm

Guest Artistes From Dumfries

John Douglas Trio

Supporting players most welcome

To advertise in the

WHAT'S ON COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD

Telephone: **01631 568000**



ARGYLL ANIMAL AID

JIMMY

Big neutered tabby boy. Friendly but not suitable for young children.

Contact Pat on 01852 300362
aaa.rescueteam@btconnect.com
http://www.smallpaws.co.uk

Reg. charity SC013211

Fresh, Shiny and New!

holiday west highland

your complete guide to the West Highlands

Coming Soon...
Bookings now being taken...
Tel: 01631 568000

Youth theatre production brings history of Ross of Mull to life

ARGYLL Youth Theatre is putting aside the pantomime this year and instead has opted to put on a production telling the moving story of the Highland potato famine. Starting today (Thursday) at the Corran Halls in Oban,

The Highland Famine by Willie Orr is set on the Ross of Mull between 1846 and 1851 when the potato crop failed, as it had in Ireland where more than a million people died. In Scotland, though, a remarkable effort – similar to the modern-day Band Aid – provided meals to starving Highlanders and prevented a repetition of the Irish catastrophe. As rent arrears escalated, however, and the fund ran out, many landlords sought to evict their tenants and force them to emigrate. The Ross lost more than a third of its population through emigration, disease and eviction. The youth theatre's production is the story of

a family in the township of Shiaba, which in 1841 had more than 100 people but now stands empty and derelict. Jamie McLean, Nancy Long, Finn Walton and Alastair Jordan and a full cast of young people from Oban and Lorn bring to life this story of human courage in the face of great tragedy. The show runs until January 9 with tickets from the Corran Halls and House and Home in Oban.

Notes and quotes

'The Works' worked well

MacNiven, Munro, Logan and MacPherson, sounds like a top Edinburgh solicitors practice. In fact, Davie Logan is the sole legal mind involved and doubles as lead guitarist with the reformed Oban band, The Works. The band was big in the eighties and after a 23 year break reformed for last years Hogmanay party. This year they came together for a crackin' set at Cuan Mor in Oban with a very enthusiastic audience – many who were there in the beginning - and support from youngsters, The Spinoffs. Colin MacNiven on vocals was enthusiastic and on top of the game. Gary MacPherson, despite chiding from the lead vocalist, was solid on the bass and Gordon Munro (on drums) was magnificent! Dakota, Delilah, Yellow, Word up and Wishing Well were highlights of the evening from a very professional tight setup.

Here's to the next 23 years!

Hogmanay with the Highlanders!

The street party may have been cancelled but inside the Corran Halls we rejoiced at the warmth in this bleak midwinter that is ours to behold. The party was red-hot with Skerryvore doing a 'doubler' playing shifts in support at the Corran Halls and topping the bill at The Skipinnish Ceilidh House. The Three youngsters played tracks from the new album including *The Angry Fiddler* which will become a favourite when released this year. They also had the favourites though and the audience bounced to the *Ginger Grouse* jigs and *Rox Revival* reels. They met the fans and sold a CD or two as Oban Pipe Band got us further in the mood ready for the main man. Donnie Munro is a legend, revered as the original vocalist with Runrig and it was those days recalled that got the headliner and his band off to a flying start with *Dance Called America*. We were then treated to the catalogue with *The Cutter* and *On the Westside*, the highlights until a rousing *Loch Lomond* sent us all home happy. The latter was a special as it has not featured in the Donnie Munro band repertoire since inception but the Real McKay made Oban the place to be early on Friday morning.

Heard the one about The Scotsman, the Irishman, the American, and the Mexicans?

The greatest winter music festival in the world is just over a fortnight away. Excitement builds throughout Scotland as acts and audiences gird their loins and build their energy for a fortnights worth of the best music the world has to offer. 18 days and 1500 artistes from 30 countries makes it a world event by any standards and at the head of the whole exercise is Tainuill born Festival director, Donald Shaw. Shaw has built the event into a real world music festival with acts from Senegal to Sweden and the States joining the best that Scotland has to offer. So what is his secret in building audiences in a recession? How does he manage to get the best acts to come to Glasgow in mid winter – not the choicest time to visit the dear green city perhaps? It seems to be a clever blend of hard work and persistence added to a reputation as a world class musician himself of course. Almost as he took up the post he began a quest to see The Chieftains and Ry Cooder on the same stage – The Royal Concert Halls stage – a Glasgow stage! When he went to Dublin to see what the Chieftains thought - Paddy Maloney, the founder and front man, said it would never happen. But on Tuesday 26th of January it does. Four years of persistence, planning, and persuasion pays off and Shaw gets Los Cenzontales, a Mexican band that Cooder has been collaborating with, to boot. You couldn't make it up could you? Then Donald will relax. Not a bit of it!! Can't wait to see how he will top that in 2011.

The Fabulous Borsini Brothers and Fergie

Strip out the seats and create a dance floor – pull together the All Star Ceilidh band once more and it will be dancing at the RCH in Glasgow till the wee small hours on Saturday 16th January. The All Star Ceilidh band? To Phil Cunningham and Donald Shaw, AKA the Borsini Brothers, add 'Fergie' and Gary Innes along with Alasdair MacCuish and you have a formidable box section. Then mix in four fiddles, add to that a piano, bass and drums and a special guest or two and it will make the ingredients for a great night out. The event was a great success in its debut year, last January, with the biggest village hall atmosphere you have ever seen!

Skipinnish at 10

Big Angus and Andrew take to the O2 ABC stage on the 24th of January to celebrate 10 years of the Skipinnish Ceilidh band. Messrs MacPhail and Stevenson have carved out a niche in the market for the Skipinnish brand with the boats, the Ceilidh house, and a growing record label to keep them out of mischief. The Ceilidh band has had a year in the limelight of course, as the Trad Music awards winning, 'Dance Band of the Year.' They will celebrate with friends and fellow PSYBT award winners Skerryvore, along with Gary Innes, Rachael Walker, James Graham and Archie McAllister, joining them in Glasgow to make a great Highland evening in the city.

An Tobar sessions

Colin MacIntyre has dropped the Mull Historical society tag for his latest album 'Island' and Gordon MacLean persuaded him to return home to An Tobar to record the tracks in his old classroom. Gordon also got Dave Milligan and his Trio to pop round and put together a real concept album called "Shops" celebrating Browns, Duncan's and the other celebrities that make up main street Tobermory.

To top it all off MacLean's persuasive nature signed Aiden O'Rourke to create the bold An Tobar. They all come together on January 19th at the Royal Concert Hall to raise a few Ledaig 10 year old malts, no doubt, to the cultural centre reaching its first decade of success. The converted wee school at the top of the back brae has seen some great nights over the years but this "away day" in Glasgow will be a beauty worthy of compare.

Celtic Connections clips:

BBC Radio Scotland's Iain Anderson will be joined by an eclectic mix of local figures for the festival's series of lunchtime discussions. Stars include musicians Pat Kane and Ricky Ross, fundraiser Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow, ex First Minister Jack McConnell and Duncan Bannatyne, the Dragons Den entrepreneur. Also on the agenda is legendary Gaelic comedian, Norman MacLean fresh from literary success at the Oban Mod, who discusses his autobiography, *The Leper's Bell* with Mairi MacInnes. www.celticconnections.com for more details and times.



Staff from RA Clements, Oban, got into the party spirit for their annual office party at the Tainuill Hotel. Every year the accountancy firm's staff dress up and take the train to Tainuill. 07_152lem01

Slimming manager beats the stars, says Vernon

A HIGHLAND slimming adviser celebrated her club's 40th anniversary by cuddling up to top television and radio presenter Vernon Kay at an annual awards ceremony recently. Eileen Foley, who manages slimming groups in the Argyll and Highland areas, met Vernon at a Slimming World event to celebrate the achievements of this year's most successful slimmers. The Radio One DJ joined Slimming World's founder and chairman Margaret Miles-Bramwell to host the event in Birmingham. He said: 'I've met a lot of inspirational people during my career, and Eileen and Margaret are both just that – inspirational.' Eileen said: 'At the Slimming World groups in my area we've had a great time celebrating throughout 2009 and we're going to keep that buzz and excitement going right through 2010 so we can help even more people to lose weight and improve their health. 'This January I'm sure there are thousands of people out there making New Year's Resolutions and pledging to lose weight.'



Eileen Foley with television personality Vernon Kay.

High school to host annual dance show

MORE than 150 Oban High School pupils have been busy preparing for their annual dance show, which takes place next Wednesday and Thursday in the Corran Halls. Following last year's sell-out event, it was decided to run this year's show, entitled Dance, Despair and all that Jazz, over two nights. Performance will come from junior and senior dance groups, Highland dancers, the Innovation Dance Squad, senior gymnasts, ballet dancers and cheerleaders. Three pupils will also perform solo dances. Tickets can be purchased from the high school.



Pupils who took part in last year's dance show.

Does your school have the 'x factor'?

Nominations for 2010 asked for now

SCHOOLS and students in Argyll are hoping to match their success in 2009 by encouraging people to nominate them for the Scottish Education Awards 2010. In the 2009 awards, Argyll and Bute won two of the main categories with Oban High School's principal teacher of maths, John Mackenzie, walking off with the coveted Lifetime Achievement Award, and Kilmartin Primary School winning the CBI Schools for All accolade. The scheme was a resounding success for Argyll and Bute, with two others being shortlisted for major awards - Kilmartin Primary School teacher Simone McAdam in the Teacher of the Year category, and Dunoon Grammar School in the Homecoming Scotland category. Launching the search for the 2010 stars, education minister Michael Russell said: 'There is fantastic work going on in schools the length and breadth of Scotland and many achievements that should be recognised and celebrated. 'So if you think your school has got the 'x factor', get online and nominate your school for the Scottish Education Awards.' All nominations must be received no later than March 5, 2010 and judges will then visit each of the finalists before deciding on the winners which will be announced at an awards ceremony in Glasgow in June.



While some people were dashing for last minute presents on Christmas Eve there were others who were out and about on sea kayaks as this picture in Oban Bay shows.

Oban's Hogmanay street party was cancelled but that didn't stop the celebrations

Formal, informal and last minute Hogmanay



Celebrating Hogmanay and New Year's Day at Skipinnish Ceilidh House were, from left: Sara MacLeod and her husband David 'Ox' MacLeod, who are moving to Back, Lewis, this month; Catriona MacCuish, North Uist; and Alasdair 'Duff' Graham, Lewis. 07_102skip03

FOLLOWING the late cancellation of Oban's main Hogmanay party in Tesco car park, there was much last-minute organisation to make sure 2010 was welcomed in style.

As many as 7,000 would have been expected to attend the scheduled street party but the event was cancelled on December 12 because too few tickets had been sold - fewer than 2,000.

But with Donnie Munro and Skerryvore booked to play at the event, organiser Neil Mackay quickly sought alternative venues for parties in the Corran Halls and the Skipinnish Ceilidh House.

Mr Mackay said: 'Oban Pipe Band helped to save the day, rushing between both venues, as did Skerryvore.'

'Donnie Munro gave a great performance with a lot of his own songs, as well as the old Runrig favourites.'

Mr Mackay thanked the staff at both venues and the local VisitScotland staff.

The Skerryvore boys played at both venues and were particularly excited by the party atmosphere in the Skipinnish Ceilidh House, which was packed to the rafters on Hogmanay.

The night must have been 'too enjoyable' for many revellers, as the turnout for Skipinnish's New Year Dance the following evening was not as high.

Last minute

The cancellation of the street party also made way for last-minute and informal gatherings, such as a party in Oban Rugby Club and a crowd of 1,000 at Station Square, nicknamed 'Meet, greet and go', where Oban Pipe Band played again and the New Year was signalled by a horn blast from a CalMac ferry and a fireworks display.

The Station Square gathering was organised by businessmen John MacGregor and Calum MacLeod.

Mr MacGregor said: 'We organised and financed the gathering because we didn't want to see the

people of Oban let down.

'It was too short notice to organise an official road closure, which meant we couldn't advertise the event, but I think it was absolutely fantastic and we plan to organise a similar event for next Hogmanay.'

'It is a no-risk strategy in its current form; there's no charge, no cost, so we have no plans to expand it in any way.'

Around 150 invited guests attended a more formal affair in the Argyllshire Gathering Halls for BBC Alba's televised Hogmanay ceilidh, presented by Tony Kearney and Morag MacDonald.

A hand-picked programme of performers included Anne Lorne Gillies, Karen Matheson, Donald Shaw, Aidan O'Rourke, Manus Lunny, Mod gold medallists Darren MacLean and Sineag MacIntyre, Calum Alex MacMillan and folk band Daimh, Sorren MacLean and band, comedian Seasaidh Lexy and pipers Angus MacColl and Stuart Liddell.



Innes Paterson, Taynuilt, and Oban's Michael McCuish share a joke. 07_102skip02



Singer Karen Matheson, pictured with parents-in-law Paddy and Libby Shaw, performed at the Argyllshire Gathering.



Oban's Hayley MacMillan, right, celebrated New Year's Day in Oban with Dundee student Ashley Ross at Skipinnish Ceilidh House. 07_102skip05



Robert Hannah from Seil dressed for the occasion as he brought in the New Year with friends at the Tigh an Truigh.



Stornoway lads John MacLeod, left, and George MacDonald brought in 2010 at the Skipinnish Ceilidh House. 07_102skip04



Pictured at the BBC Alba ceilidh were, from left: Iain Dunn, Maria Dunn, Rosemary MacColl, Glynis Dewar, Alistair Dewar, Duncan Campbell and Joan Campbell.



Enjoying the craic in the Argyllshire Gathering Halls are, from left: Pat MacLeod, David MacLeod, Dugald Carswell, Rosemary Carswell, Donalda Henderson and Peter Henderson.



The ceilidh dancing was in full swing at Skipinnish. 07_102skip07



BBC Alba presenter Tony Kearney with his aunt and uncle, Catherine and Charlie McAuley, from Oban.



Friends Anna Byrne, Seil; Rachel Billimore, Oban; and Laura MacQueen, Luing at Skipinnish Ceilidh House. 07_102skip06



The house band at the Argyllshire Gathering included well-known local artistes Donald Shaw, Aidan O'Rourke and Manus Lunny.

TAI CHI
New beginners Tai Chi class starting in Oban

A unique opportunity to study the ancient art of Tai Chi and its application in a modern world.
MOVEMENT, STILLNESS & ENERGY
Free introductory class
Beginners class start on Thursday 14th January, 7.45 To 9.15 PM
Classes are held at the Church of Scotland Centre, Glencruitten Rd, Oban
Contact Rising Dragon Tai Chi School
Susanne Lin McCardel. Tel: 01852 500 361
Email: susannemcardel@hotmail.co.uk www.risingdragontaichi.com

ARGYLL YOUTH THEATRE
proudly present
THE PREMIERE OF
The Highland Famine
a brand new play
by
WILLIE ORR
7th, 8th, 9th JANUARY 2010
7.30PM CORRAN HALLS
Tickets: Adults £7 / Concession £5
on sale at the Corran Halls Box Office and House & Home
This is the story of the great famine on the Islands and West Coast of Scotland which still affects local people to this day.

Oban and Lorn
Tourism Association

www.oban.org.uk the definitive web guide to Oban that enjoys 20 million hits
We can help you to help your business.
Visit: www.oban.org.uk TODAY!

YOUR STARS WITH PATRICK ARUNDEL

ARIES Mar 21st - Apr 20th 090 6612 4520
With charm and good grace, so much is possible in your situation. However, if you decide that people are not jumping to attention quite as quickly as you'd like them to, you could face a rebellion if you demand just that. Saturn also starts to edge backwards, and this urges you to tread delicately around relationships. You may need to retrace your steps. Call me now for more astral advice...

TAURUS Apr 21st - May 21st 090 6612 4521
Someone from your past keeps coming to mind. You may find yourself doing a search for them on-line. There can be talk of meeting up or a reunion. The interesting thing is, that only a while ago, you may have not been thinking so positively about them, but you can have a complete change of mind. Perhaps you're yearning for extra spice in your life. Call me now for your love scope in full...

GEMINI May 22nd - Jun 21st 090 6612 4522
By the end of this week, your ruler Mercury will have ended its long backward drag, but not before it reconnects with Pluto and squares with Saturn, much in the same way as it did early last month. Think back to then, because a thorny subject that arose may need revisiting. In love, if you are happy, things can be truly blissful, and warmly intimate. Call now for your love scope in full...

CANCER Jun 22nd - Jul 23rd 090 6612 4523
If you're someone who tries to be obliging to others, the stars are urging you to stick up for your needs for a change. That may mean rocking the boat, but once people get used to the fact that you want to be taken seriously, the extra respect this generates will make any short term upset, worth it. If you are more forceful, someone can challenge or argue with you. Call me now for more news...

LEO Jul 24th - Aug 23rd 090 6612 4524
If you're attending an interview or applying for a job, as long as you don't try too hard you can do really well and your polished performance can snare you the role. Yet if you're already in employment, there can be a fair amount of tension and someone can be resistant to your charms. The more you try to placate them, the more irritable they can seem to be. Call for more astral advice...

VIRGO Aug 24th - Sep 23rd 090 6612 4525
Someone you got chatting to late last year may have faded off your radar, but can come up in your mind again. There may have been a misunderstanding, but try to be generous in your attitudes, and there's a chance this can reignite. Finances however, can tighten up. You may need to trim back your social or entertainment budget to keep things in shape. Call now for your financial forecast in full...

LIBRA Sep 24th - Oct 23rd 090 6612 4526
Saturn starts a reversal in your sign, and this is going to ask you to simplify your life through to the spring. However, you may find yourself feeling a little bit miserable if your emotional or home life is not quite as ideal as you'd like. If you feel trapped by circumstances or fate, a feeling of restriction can be tough to take. A familiar face can comfort you. Call your prediction line for more advice...

SCORPIO Oct 24th - Nov 22nd 090 6612 4527
You can receive a letter, email or document which may highlight some awkward issues. If you've been keeping information to yourself, you may not like it if people start to intrude or snoop, as you see it, in your affairs. If you need to write to confirm anything formal, be factual. If you try to skim over things, or disguise the truth, you can soon come unstuck. Call for your in-depth forecast...

SAGITTARIUS Nov 23rd - Dec 21st 090 6612 4528
Any love of rich or calorific foods which increased over the winter holidays may be proving hard to shake off. Have you got in the habit of indulging each day? If so, a shift may be needed. Set yourself some targets to be more active. Try to eat a more earthy diet. This will be a good thing, especially if your sweet tooth has been hard to satisfy of late. Call your special prediction line for more news...

CAPRICORN Dec 22nd - Jan 20th 090 6612 4529
Your mind can be super sharp and you can show wonderful dexterity. If you are looking to enliven your love life, take up a joint hobby. If you wish to stretch your intellect, you are in prime position to do so. And yet the Quarter Moon suggests that someone senior may take quite a lot of persuading. This reminds you that appearances do still count these days. Call for more news and astral advice...

AQUARIUS Jan 21st - Feb 19th 090 6612 4530
A project that's been on the backburner or that you've been working discreetly upon, can now gain traction. This may have been a frustrating, perhaps even isolating period, but events are heading your way, more rapidly than you may realize. Yet you may find yourself needing to seek legal advice - if you feel someone has cheated you or has been deceptive. Call now for more news and advice...

PISCES Feb 20th - Mar 20th 090 6612 4531
Your long term financial position may require careful consideration. An old income can dry up or start to decline or you just may not enjoy what you're doing, and start to feel restless for a change of scene. The problem is that the things that are available may not match your expectations. Fortunately, your social circle can expand and a contact can help you. Call for your financial scope...

SP: Pronto Ltd, PO Box 52785 EC1P 1TY
Calls cost 60p per minute from standard landline
For entertainment purposes only

Local care forum to host first ever charity ball in March

LOCHABER Community Care Forum is to hold its first ever charity ball later in 2010.

The ball will be held in the Moorings Hotel on March 20 and will feature Eriskay Lilt, a three-course meal and an auction and raffle during the interval.

Prizes will include a signed Rangers football, bottles of whisky, gift vouchers and hampers.

LCCF events manager Megan MacNeill said the event had been organised to 'raise funds, awareness and support' for LCCF's activities.

The organisation, based at the An Drochaid centre at Claggan, has over 100 volunteers who provide support to over 550 clients, generally frail older people and people with disabilities, throughout Lochaber.

Schemes include a community transport service where volunteers use their own car to help people access services and the wider community, and a handyperson service to assist people with small home repairs.

LCCF also provides a befriending type service that encourages socially or geographically isolated people to volunteer and offer one to one or group support.

Ms MacNeill said: 'During the last financial year we provided over 8000 hours of volunteering time, undertook over 3000 car scheme journeys, supported over 40 individuals with one to one support, and completed over 500 small jobs to help people remain at home for longer.'

Local events company Highland Functions is organising the ball for free.

For details on the event, contact www.highlandfunctions.com or LCCF on 01397 700311.

Oban Times NEWS DESK
01631 568060 or 01397 703003



Temperatures plunged to as low as -15°C in parts of Lochaber over the New Year period bringing winter conditions not seen for decades. Above, the frozen River Nevis is pictured from across the wire bridge at Steall Falls on Hogmanay. Ben Nevis rises majestically in the background to the northwest. 10_01winter01

Harris Tweed targets American, Russian and Indian markets

Tweed joins UK Government backed initiative to promote high-end British fashion products

A HARRIS Tweed firm is targeting three global markets for expansion in 2010 – the United States, Russia and India.

Shawbost-based Harris Tweed Hebrides, which accounted for more than 90 per cent of Harris Tweed production during the past year, will be represented at major trade events in each of the three countries, starting this week with a three-day fair in the Javitt Centre in New York, which ends today (Thursday).

In an upbeat end of year report, HTH chairman Brian Wilson said: 'Our first full year in production has been fantastic. We have a profitable business, producing top quality Harris Tweed all year round without the seasonal lay-offs long associated with the industry.'

'We are exporting to over 50 countries and the prospects for 2010 are very encouraging. However, we must always look for new challenges and it is clear to us that these three markets offer priority opportunities for expansion.'

He added: 'The USA is an enigma. Historically, it was by far the biggest market for Harris Tweed but we are selling relatively little there. However, the reputation of the fabric still exists



Ken Kennedy casts his expert eye over the yarn at Harris Tweed Hebrides' Shawbost Mill

Of the third target market, India, HTH chief executive, Iain Angus Mackenzie, said: 'We have had three orders from India in the past month and have now appointed an agent there.'

'As far as I am aware, it is the first time this has happened and it is obviously a huge market that we have to explore further.'

The company's highlights of 2009 included winning the Textile Brand of the Year at the Scottish Fashion Awards and the Premier Award for Outstanding Contribution to Style at the Scottish Style Awards.

Harris Tweed Hebrides has broken into the hotel interiors market with a major contract to supply fabric and furnishings for Glasgow's first five-star hotel, the Blythswood Square.

Mr Wilson said: 'This is now a massive showcase for Harris Tweed Hebrides and the spin-offs are beginning to emerge.'

The company's plans for 2010 include the launch of a retailing web-site featuring collaborations with leading designers including Graven Images, Deryck Walker and Judy Clark. A range of bags by Brazilian designer Juliana Lawson is already available on-line and in leading boutiques.

so we will be trying to understand the American market better in 2010 and also raising the Harris Tweed standard at some major trade shows.'

In Russia, the company has existing customers but has accepted an invitation to become involved in a UK Government backed initiative to promote high-end British fashion products in this growing market.

'We think Russia could become very big indeed for Harris Tweed Hebrides,' said Mr Wilson.

Lochaber sea cadets host AGM

SEA CADETS, instructors, management team and families gathered in the Fort William Cadet Centre for an evening of fun, displays and award presentations at the T.S. St Christopher AGM recently.

The cadets starting the evening off with a series of displays and ceremonial, in which demonstrated skills learned over the past year.

At the end of the evening local Coastguard sector manager Phil Wren presented a number of awards to individuals marking their achievements.

OC Kieran MacFarlane won the best cadet trophy for gaining the most qualifications while AC Rebecca Hickman was awarded the cadet of the year trophy in recog-

nitiation of her efforts in supporting the unit at numerous community and fundraising events.

Junior cadet Hannah Calder gained the junior cadet of the year shield for her efforts during 2009.

Second pennant

Highlight of the evening was the award of an 'efficiency pennant' to the unit recording the efforts made over the past year.

While this was the second pennant to be awarded by the Sea Cadet Corps to the TS St Christopher in two years, prior to that it had been some 29 years since the previous one.

Former unit management team chairperson, Tina Calder said: 'Running a successful sea cadet unit relies on everyone pulling

together. This marks the efforts of everyone involved and is a great tribute to the time and effort made by everyone to provide our young people with a safe and stimulating place in which to learn new skills.'

'We rely on adults coming along to help teach the cadets. We are very keen to recruit two new instructors – especially if they have been cadets in the past.'

'At the moment we are unable to offer anything like the full range of activities that we should.'

'We badly need help.' Anyone wanting more information should contact Tina Calder on 01397 704246 or Derrick Warner on 01397 712605. Alternatively, go to <http://seacadets.ms-sc.org/>.



RECRUITMENT



As an executive agency of Scottish Government we deliver access to justice by providing the people, buildings and technology to support the operations of the Courts and the Office of the Public Guardian.

Full Time Administrative Officers (x2)

Oban Sheriff Court
£14,326 - £17,736

Oban Sheriff Court is a small and exciting place to work. Employees are civil servants and benefit from excellent working terms and conditions. The Administrative Officer role is a varied one and will include aspects of criminal, civil and commissary procedures and assisting in court. A full training package will be offered.

You must be highly motivated with a good attitude, excellent communication skills and be a teamworker. You must be able to demonstrate flexibility, possess IT skills and be willing to acquire new skills and learn about the Scottish Court Service. A good attendance record is also essential. You will also be required to travel to the Sheriff Court at Campbeltown on an ad hoc basis to cover for holidays and absence for which full travelling expenses will be paid.

This is a full time post working 37 hours per week Monday to Friday. Consideration will be given to anyone wishing to undertake the posts on a part time/job share basis (subject to operational needs).

The minimum qualifications are 5 Standard Grades (passes at 1-3) or 5 O' Grades (passes at A-C) (or equivalent).

In return we offer an interesting work environment with generous leave package, competitive salary and attractive pension scheme. Employees benefit from a range of family friendly policies which include flexible working hours, carers policy and child care voucher scheme.

For further details of this vacancy please visit the Scottish Courts Service Website at http://www.scotcourts.gov.uk/you_and_us/recruitment/ Alternatively, please contact Lisa Davis, Sheriffdom Business Manager on 0141 847 6720/07500 226290 or e-mail: ldavis@scotcourts.gov.uk

The closing date for the post is Friday 15 January 2010.

The SCS is exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act



The SCS is committed to equality and diversity in employment and service delivery.

www.scotcourts.gov.uk

Facilities Technician

Exciting new Opportunity



We are currently undertaking a £5m building project to increase our teaching facilities which is due for completion during 2010.

As part of our continuing drive to develop and support marine science we now wish to employ a multi skilled Facilities Technician at our state of the art Marine Laboratory in Oban.

You will ideally be qualified to NVQ level 3 in Engineering maintenance (mechanical) 1688, or Building Services Engineering (mechanical).

You will be a member of the Facilities Team, and as such, will need to be flexible in your working approach in order to contribute to the success of the team.

The successful candidate must be prepared to undertake multi skilled training as required.

Starting Salary in the range £19,203 - £26,394 dependant upon qualifications and experience.

Further information including application forms are available on line at www.sams.ac.uk Alternatively please write to: Human Resources Officer, Facilities Technician, Job Ref D04/09.DM, The Scottish Association for Marine Science, Scottish Marine Institute, Oban, Argyll PA37 1QA or e-mail recruitment@sams.ac.uk

The closing date for the above position is Friday 22nd January 2010

SAMS is a registered Scottish charity (SC 009206), has an equal opportunities policy and welcomes applications from all sections of the community.

krisp print

For a hassle free service throughout Argyll call Krisp Print on 01631 568015

PO Box 1
Lochavullin Industrial Estate
Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB
email: sales@krispprint.co.uk
www.krispprint.co.uk

• Design
• Copy
• Print

Skye drug dealers are jailed at Portree

TWO PORTREE drug dealers have been jailed for their involvement in the supply of cocaine on the Isle of Skye, over a 12-month period.

Kevin Hay, aged 26, of 15 Rathad an Fheoir and Gill Parkyn, aged 25, of 27 Urquhart Place were sentenced at Portree Sheriff Court to 12 and eight months imprisonment respectively for dealing in Class A drugs over a 12 month period.

The pair were convicted after worried local residents alerted police that cocaine was circulating locally.

Detective inspector Alex Chisholm of Portree Police said: 'These individuals were subject of a pro-active inquiry led by local officers who responded to concerns from within the community regarding the supply of Class A drugs on the island.'

'These custodial sentences reflect the serious nature of offences committed in a rural area and Northern Constabulary will continue to enforce a robust policy in relation to individuals engaged in the misuse of controlled drugs in all our communities.'

'All information received regarding drugs is treated as confidential and if anyone has information relating to such activities they are urged to contact their local Police Station or Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.'

Water bills frozen

HOUSEHOLD water and wastewater bills in Scotland are to be frozen for the next 12 months.

The Water Industry Commission for 2010-2015 has proposed that customer charges be frozen for at least one year and decrease in real terms over the next five years. The average water bill for households across Scotland in 2009/10 will continue to be around £324.

Chief executive Richard Ackroyd said: 'We believe these charges are a fair deal for our customers in these difficult economic conditions.'

'These charges are helping to pay for the current £2.5 billion investment programme which is delivering the investment that Scotland needs in its water infrastructure while providing thousands of construction jobs.'

'Millions of people are turning on their taps to clearer, fresher drinking water, a cleaner environment and improved customer service as a result.'

Kinlochleven girl bound for Strasbourg



Strasbourg here I come! Lucy Doogan celebrates winning a place on the Euroscola programme with French teacher Flora Williams 10_01eur001

'I'm very excited about going to France for the first time,' says Lucy

A KINLOCHLEVEN High School sixth year student will be one of only three representatives from the Highlands at a young people's international gathering in Strasbourg in February.

Lucy Doogan, aged 16 will spend four days on a 'Euroscola' programme in the French city to learn more about the workings of the European Parliament.

Lucy and 29 other students from Scotland will also meet hundreds of other Euroscola secondary school students from the 25 European Union countries to learn about their lives, views and expectations.

Lucy should be in her element - she is one of Kinlochleven High School's top pupils and gained an 'A' in her higher French last year.

Lucy, an accomplished musician with the Highland Regional Youth Orchestra and Highland Youth Ceilidh Band Snas, can't take her fiddle with her because of baggage constraints - but we are reliably informed a fiddle will be waiting for her in France. 'I'm very excited about going to France for the first time,' Lucy told The Oban Times. 'They are going to have violins out there so I will probably play a couple of tunes!'

Lucy's French teacher, Flora Williams said: 'Lucy is an excellent student and she thoroughly deserves this trip to Strasbourg.'

The Euroscola programme is supported by Rotary International and the Rotary Club of Lochaber are sponsoring Lucy's trip.

Sleat Community Trust to buy Tormore Forest

Exclusive by Stephen Norris

SLEAT Community Trust is facing a big year in 2010 with its plans to purchase and develop a local woodland for community use.

The trust is aiming to buy the 1000-acre Tormore Forest near Ardsvar and has been given around 16 months by present owners Forestry Commission Scotland to come up with the £330,000 required.

If the trust's bold bid succeeds, Tormore would become the biggest community-owned forest in Scotland.

SCT has already

commissioned Perthshire-based consultants Munro Gauld and Doreen MacIntyre to draw up a detailed business plan laying out how Sleat can exploit the forest to create local jobs and income.

However, significant challenges lie ahead before the Isle of Skye community can reap the economic benefits of running their own woodland.

According to SCT secretary Henry Mains, finding the money to buy Tormore will not be easy. Potential funding sources are either

less accessible or have dried

up entirely.

'At this moment in time we are trying to identify where we are going to raise the capital from,' Mr Mains told The Oban Times. 'There is no Scottish Land Fund and No Big Lottery money so it is going to be difficult.'

'I am hoping we will get our draft plan early in the New Year and if it looks good we should be looking at raising the finance to buy the forest.'

Around 50,000 tonnes of

standing and windblown timber are due to be extracted from Tormore, Mr Mains said, with cash generated from sales helping to bring other forestry projects on stream. Sustainable woodchip production and opening up the forest for leisure use among the ideas being considered.

'We have sent Munro Gauld the actual outline on what the business plan should contain,' he said. 'Sales of standing timber

are a possibility, because the timber there is ready for harvesting and that would have to come out over the next five to seven years or so.'

Because export by sea is not an option, the single-track road from Tormore to Ardsvar would have to be used to get the wood out, Mr Mains said.

A Bailey bridge with a 32-tonne weight limit halfway along the road could also constitute a problem for 44-

tonne timber lorries, whose journey times would have to be tightly regulated to minimise disruption to the community.

'We are going into talks with Highland Council for extraction through the village by road,' said Mr Mains. 'Because you are talking about a large number of heavy lorries going through Ardsvar, that will need public consultation as well.'

'It's up to Sleat Community Council to decide what the best times are for getting the timber out.'

Ardnamurchan high school's first musical proves a big hit with audiences

ARDNAMURCHAN High School's first amateur musical show went down a storm last Tuesday before an enthusiastic audience before the Christmas and New Year break.

That 'We Will Rock You', by Ben Elton and featuring the music of Queen, turned out to be such a big hit was thanks to

producer and director Mrs Katie Sharp, who worked tirelessly with her team of staff and pupils to bring the musical show to fruition.

The dress rehearsal/matinee was watched and cheered by local primary school children as well the high school's own pupils and the evening sell-out per-

formance received rapturous applause from parents and members of the public alike.

Ardnamurchan High School's Head teacher, Mr Millar-Craig said he was delighted with the show and with the talent and enthusiasm the young people displayed throughout the production.



Gaelic to gain £5.28m

GAELIC is to benefit from a £5.28m grant for research and support of the language.

Bòrd na Gàidhlig, the Gaelic development agency, has welcomed a £1.86m investment from the Scottish Funding Council (SFC), which will contribute to the Soillse project, a research partnership among UHI Millennium Institute (UHIMI) and the Universities of Aberdeen, Edinburgh and Glasgow.

The total grant will be shared among four Scottish higher education institutions and will fund the recruitment of research staff, create nine PhD studentships and contribute to the operating costs.

The key function of Soillse will be to inform the Scottish Government's economic and social priorities for Gaelic.

Bòrd na Gàidhlig chairman Arthur Cormack said: 'Bòrd na Gàidhlig is pleased to support the establishment of Soillse, which offers us all significant new opportunities and directions.'

'It is vital that Gaelic development in the future is underpinned by sound research and planning so that the Bòrd, and other agencies, can make informed decisions as to the initiatives that are most likely to succeed in supporting our delivery of the National Plan for Gaelic for our communities.'

CRINAN IS CALLING

SEASONAL WATERWAY OPERATIVES

c.£260 per week • Up to 30 weeks starting March 2010
37 hours per week with overtime as required, variable hours

Friendly? Practical? Enjoy working in the great outdoors? Then why not spend this year helping us on the Crinan Canal? We're looking for seasonal staff to help us manage and maintain this canal during the busy months.

It's a great opportunity to work in one of Scotland's most picturesque tourist attractions. For more information about the role and to apply, please visit www.britishwaterways.co.uk and click on the 'Work For Us' link.

Closing date for applications: 22 January 2010.



British Waterways Scotland

Beat Forester

Lochgilhead, West Argyll Forest District
Starting Salary £25,788 and benefits

You will have responsibility for organising the delivery of one of the biggest restock programmes in the district. You will manage staff and contract workers and liaise with other forest district departments to balance programme delivery and restock performance with recreation and conservation responsibilities.

Experience of forest management operations, a full UK driving license and an HND in forestry or equivalent, are essential.

Benefits include a Civil Service Pension or stakeholder pension scheme, 25 days' annual leave.

To apply, visit our website at the address below. Alternatively, write to Donna Macpherson, HR Services, 231 Corstorphine Road, Edinburgh EH12 7AT.

Please note all applications must be accompanied by a Forestry Commission application form.

Please quote ref: HR09/138.

No recruitment agencies please.

Closing date: 22 January 2010.

The Forestry Commission is committed to providing equal opportunities for all sectors of the community, irrespective of age, disability, ethnicity, gender, marital status, religion, sexuality and transgender.



www.forestry.gov.uk/vacancies



BIELD
INDEPENDENCE FOR OLDER PEOPLE

Torosay Court, Oban

SCHEME ASSISTANT (Temporary*)

£12,141 to £12,669 (pro rata) per annum

Torosay Court provides Very Sheltered Housing for older people. We are looking for someone who is enthusiastic about working with older people, has a caring nature and is flexible and calm in the way in which they approach their work. Your main duties will include maintaining a high level of cleanliness within the scheme's common areas, providing tenants with general support, preparing light snacks and serving meals, responding to calls for assistance and supporting tenants to participate in social activities. Hours of employment are 6 per week, working alternate Saturday and Sunday from 11.00am to 5.30pm. *This post is temporary until 31 March 2010.

BIELD encourages further training and development of all staff and offers 7 weeks annual leave and a final salary pension scheme with a 14.1% employer contribution.

For further information visit our web site at www.bield.co.uk where an application form and information can be downloaded. Alternatively, please tel 0131 273 4020 (answering service) or 0131 273 4071 (general enquiries).

Closing date for returned applications is Friday 22 January 2010.
Scottish Charity No. SC 008878
Striving to be an equal opportunities employer

PART TIME CARER REQUIRED

Care worker required to work with elderly lady, previous experience preferred.

Applicant must be caring, active and understanding.

Hours are 7 per week but these will increase over time.

Please phone 01631 566453 for details.

Find all these jobs online at our new website

West Coast Jobs
www.westcoastjobs.co.uk



TIMESFORUM
Have your say on the forum at
[WWW.OBANTIMES.CO.UK](http://www.obantimes.co.uk)

Local newspapers and their websites are the number one choice for local jobs.

Regional Press
Closer to home

It's easy to apply for jobs through local newspapers.

Regional Press
Closer to home

JUST ARRIVED

09 59 Demo Subaru Tribeca 7 seater.....	£27,995
07 57 Subaru Impreza WRX White.....	£12,495
07 07 Subaru Impreza 2 litre R Sport.....	£9,995
06 56 Subaru Forester Black.....	£10,295
05 55 Subaru Forester X T Black Auto.....	£10,895
05 05 Subaru Impreza WRX 5 Door.....	£9,995
03 03 Subaru Outback Auto Lux Pack.....	£5,495

S&S Services Subaru

Let it snow let it snow



Tel: 01292 880080/880440
www.sandsservices.co.uk



new car index

 TOYOTA Helensburgh 5 John Street, Helensburgh Tel. 01436 672779 www.helensburgh.toyota.co.uk	 RENAULT W.D Semple Inveraray & Lochgilphead Tel. 01499 302150
 ISUZU S & S Services Old Bridge Road, Heathfield, Ayr Tel. 01292 880080 / 880440	 SUBARU S & S Services Old Bridge Road, Heathfield, Ayr Tel. 01292 880080/880440
 VOLKSWAGEN Hawco Caol, Fort William Tel. 01397 700900 www.hawco.volkswagen.co.uk	TO PROMOTE YOUR NEW CAR DEALERSHIP PLEASE CALL: 01631 568000

E.M. COMMERCIALS LTD

08 MITSUBISHI L200 Diamond double cab pick up, auto, leather, canopy	£12,950
09 TOYOTA Hi-LUX Invincible, double cab pick-up, met green, leather, manual, 40k	£11,950
07 MITSUBISHI Shogun SWB, Equipa commercial, full spec, black alloys, air con, black, 40k	£12,250
07 MITSUBISHI L200 Anmal, double cab, auto, sat nav, leather, black,	£11,450
06 MITSUBISHI L200 Warrior double cab, met grey, leather, canopy, 27k	£9,950
06 MITSUBISHI L200 Warrior double cab pick up, full spec, alloy, silver	£7,650
06 MITSUBISHI L200 Triton double cab pick up, full leather canopy, black	£7,950
06 MITSUBISHI L200 single cab, 4WD, pick up, black, 40k	£6,950
06 MITSUBISHI Shogun Sport Commercial 5 dr, alloy, 30k	£8,950
06 MITSUBISHI L200 Triton double cab pick up, leather, silver, 30k	£7,950
06 MITSUBISHI L200 Anmal, double cab pick-up black, 30k, leather	£8,950
06 MITSUBISHI L200 single cab pick up, black, line, 40k	£5,950
06 MITSUBISHI L200, did, double cab pick-up, white, 20k,	£6,450
06 MITSUBISHI L200 single cab pick-up, met blue, 20k, choice	£3,250
05 MITSUBISHI Shogun SWB Commercial, 3 door 4 WD, red, epack, 70k	£2,750
01 MITSUBISHI L200 4L6, double cab pick up, met green, epack, towbar 90k	£9,650
07 NISSAN Navara King Cab pick-up, silver, alloy, air con,	£5,950
07 NISSAN Navara D22 double cab, 4WD, epack, alloy, canopy, towbar, silver, high miles	£5,950
07 FORD Transit 350 115X, LWB, high top van, silver, 6 speed, epack, choice	£8,450
07 FORD Ranger, single cab pick up, 4WD, new shape, silver, canopy,	£8,450
06 FORD Ranger, double cab pick up, silver, canopy, air con, 40k,	£6,650
06 FORD Transit 350 alloy drop-side, mobile workshop, hub, generator, tool boxes, silver,	£5,950
05 FORD Transit 350 LWB Mini bus, 9 seater + luggage area, epack, silver	£5,950
05 FORD Ranger, Super Cab pick-up, 2WD, 14k, as new	£5,950
07 SANTANA Station Wagon crew cab, SP10 LWB, met blue, 9k, no vat,	£8,950
07 SANTANA Station Wagon, SP10 LWB, 9 seater, 18k, no vat,	£8,950
08 NEW HOLLAND 55 wheeled excavator, 4 in 1 bucket, 4 wd, 4000 hrs, very clean,	£14,950
03 DAEWOO DSL602 Skid Steer, C hitch bucket, 400 hours, very clean	£7,950

Many other vehicles in stock All above vehicles plus VAT at 17.5%

Kilwinning, Ayrshire
01294 554098 or 077696 88110
www.emcommercials.co.uk

AUDI A4 QUATTRO

1.9Tdi R Reg mot'd for 1 year.
Telephone:
01852 500 693
£1500 o.n.o.

VAUXHALL SPORTIF 2.0 LTR TURBO DSL DEC 2003

First used on road April 2004
FSH 112000 miles, metallic silver
55 MPG, plywood lined loading area.
ABS, traction control, Aircon, CD
radio player, Sports seats, one owner,
excellent condition, MOT and tax.
Telephone:
01866 833207
£2250 ONO

JEEP

£2999 o.n.o.
11 Months MOT, 5 Months tax
59,000 Miles, LPG Converted, F.S.H
Tel: 07865 088324

ROVER 25 1.4 IL 5 DR

W reg (2000) good condition, low
mileage, full service history.
Drivers door window needs small repair.
Telephone:
07919 278755
£600 o.n.o.

Great stories, news, views and photos
are just a **click** away as well as sport, leisure, what's on, recruitment, property
section and much more - you can even order a copy online
VISIT US AT www.obantimes.co.uk

54%
of people travel 10 miles or less
to buy a second-hand car
Regional press is the relevant choice for motors advertising.
Regional Press
CROSS 10 101118

Need an MOT?
From Cars
to Light
Commercials
Contact Donald or Neil
Quarry Road MOT Centre
Quarry Road, Oban
Tel: 01631 564614

Motoring Times
For the latest local deals on new and used cars
In association with Quarry Road MOT Centre

**The Quarry Road
MOT CENTRE**
FLIT

PUBLIC NOTICES

Burns Club of Oban
**Admission to this year's
BURNS SUPPER
(on 22rd January)
will be by ticket only**
Tickets may be purchased at the
Regent Hotel on 11th, 12th and 18th January
Between 6.30 and 8pm
Alternatively ring Roy Wood 01631 562042 or
Ken Oxland 01631 566010.

GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE
David Stuart Alsop trading as Alsop Transport
Services of Rycroft, Cuan Road, Seil, Oban,
Argyll PA34 4RJ is applying to change an
existing licence as follows: To add an operating
centre to keep 5 goods vehicles and 5
trailers at Oban Livestock Centre, Upper
Soroba Road, Oban PA34 4SD. Owners or
occupiers of land (including buildings)
near the operating centre who believe that
their use or enjoyment of that land would be
affected, should make written representations
to the Traffic Commissioner, Scottish Traffic
Area, Hillcrest House, 386, Harehills Lane,
Leeds, LS9 6NF stating their reasons,
within 21 days of this notice. Representors
must at the same time send a copy of their
representations to the applicant at the address
given at the top of this notice. A guide to making
representations is available from the Traffic
Commissioner's Office.

69%
of the business
community read
the regional press

**Boundary Commission for Scotland
First Periodic Review of Scottish Parliament
boundaries –
Revised Recommendations for regions**

The Boundary Commission for Scotland has reviewed its Provisional Proposals for Scottish Parliament regions.
The Commission is not revising its Provisional Proposals for Glasgow; Mid Scotland and Fife; and North East Scotland regions. The Commission's Revised Recommendations for regions are:

Region	Electorate	Description
Central Scotland	493,000	The constituencies of Airdrie and Shotts; Coatbridge and Chryston; Cumbernauld and Kilsyth; East Kilbride; Falkirk East; Falkirk West; Hamilton, Larkhall and Stonehouse; Motherwell and Wishaw; and Uddingston and Bellshill.
Highlands and Islands	334,720	The constituencies of Argyll and Bute; Caithness, Sutherland and Ross; Inverness and Nairn; Moray Na h-Eileanan an Iar; Orkney Islands; Shetland Islands; and Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch.
Lothian	517,110	The constituencies of Almond Valley; Edinburgh Central; Edinburgh Eastern; Edinburgh Northern and Leith; Edinburgh Pentlands; Edinburgh Southern; Edinburgh Western; Linlithgow; and Midlothian North and Musselburgh.
South Scotland	520,840	The constituencies of Ayr; Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley; Clydesdale; Dumfriesshire; East Lothian; Ettrick, Roxburgh and Berwickshire; Galloway and West Dumfries; Kilmarnock and Irvine Valley; and Midlothian South, Tweeddale and Lauderdale.
West Scotland	528,680	The constituencies of Clydebank and Milngavie; Cunninghame North; Cunninghame South; Dumbarton; Eastwood; Greenock and Inverclyde; Paisley; Renfrewshire North and West; Renfrewshire South; and Strathkelvin and Bearsden.

Further information is available for public inspection on the Commission's website: www.bcomm-scotland.gov.uk and at the same locations used for public display of the Commission's proposals at earlier stages of this review. A list of these locations is available on the Commission's website, or can be obtained from the Secretariat.

Representations about the Revised Recommendations should be submitted by 7 February 2010 by email to: representations@scottishboundaries.gov.uk by using the reply facility on the Commission's website; in writing to the address below; or by fax to 0131 538 7511. All representations should include full details of the correspondent's address and postcode. Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, representations will be made available to those interested in the Review except in very exceptional circumstances.

Dr Hugh Buchanan
Secretary, Boundary Commission for Scotland, 3 Drumsheugh Gardens,
Edinburgh EH3 7QJ. Telephone: 0131 538 7510.

**Lodge St.Modan
No.985**
Installation Meeting to
be held on 9th January
2010 @ 5pm
Right Worshipful
Master elect Br.Angus
Macfadyen Junior
will be Installed by
PM Malcolm
MacDonald 985
PM Alasdair Macleod
PM 985
Harmony to follow

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING
(SCOTLAND) ACT 1997
PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION
AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**
The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined between the hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) at the AREA PLANNING AND BUILDING STANDARDS OFFICE, FULTON HOUSE, GORDON SQUARE, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6XY and, where given, the alternative location(s).
Written comments should be made to the Area Planning and Building Standards Manager at this office within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description	Alternative locations where application may be inspected and time period for comments
09/00468/PI/PO	Land East of Mamore House Kinlochleven	Erection of house	Kinlochleven Post Office (14 days)

Area Planning and Building Standards Manager, Ross, Skye & Lochaber:
Dafydd Jones, Highland Council, Fulton House, Gordon Square, Fort William, PH33 6XY
Tel: (01397) 707015 Fax: (01397) 707022 e-mail: planning.lochaber@highland.gov.uk

To find out more about living and working in argyll & bute visit us @
www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

Argyll & Bute COUNCIL

PLANNING
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED 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 Dalriada House, Lochgilphead or Lorn House Albany Street Oban PA34 4AR and by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk and clicking on Online Planning Applications. Anyone wishing to make representations should do so in writing to the undersigned within 21 days of the appearance of this notice, whichever is applicable as indicated below. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

SCHEDULE - DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION PLANS

- **Ref No: 09/01646/PP**
Applicant: Mrs Miller
Proposal: Installation of new windows
Site Address: Scaraben, Cullipool, Isle of Luing, Oban, Argyll and Bute PA34 4UB
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Cullipool
- **Ref No: 09/01366/PP**
Applicant: Mr and Mrs Unwin
Proposal: Erection of dwellinghouse
Site Address: Land to East Of Larachbhan, Kilchrenan, Taynuilt, Argyll and Bute PA35 1HE
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Taynuilt
- **Ref No: 09/01558/AMSC**
Applicant: Ms Lotta Leahy
Proposal: Erection of dwelling house and outbuilding
Site Address: Milbuile East, Machrins, Isle Of Colonsay, Argyll and Bute PA61 7YR
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Isle of Colonsay
- **Ref No: 09/01623/PP**
Applicant: Mr Ian Worton
Proposal: Erection of 1 and a half storey detached domestic dwellinghouse and detached 1 storey shed
Site Address: Land East Of Ardwin, Lochdon, Isle of Mull, Argyll and Bute
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Craignure
- **Ref No: 09/01695/PP**
Applicant: Mr Nick Bridges
Proposal: Erection of site extension, renovation and landscaping works
Site Address: Achadhiseal, Tiroran, Isle Of Mull, Argyll And Bute PA69 6EU
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Bunessan Isle of Mull
- **Ref No: 09/01722/PP**
Applicant: Storm Kemp
Proposal: Erection of one and a half storey side extension to dwellinghouse
Site Address: Farm House, Comaigmore, Isle of Tiree, Argyll and Bute, PA77 6XA
Location of Plans: Tiree Area Office
- **Ref No: 09/01751/PP**
Applicant: Mr and Mrs Welsh
Proposal: Erection of dwellinghouse
Site Address: Land South Of 'Lea Park', Benderloch, Oban, Argyll and Bute PA37 10P
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Ledaig
- **Ref No: 09/01841/PPP**
Applicant: Mr and Mrs M Reade
Proposal: Erection of dwellinghouse
Site Address: Land East Of Calgary Cottage, Calgary, Isle of Mull, Argyll and Bute PA75 6QQ
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Dervaig
- **Ref No: 09/01859/PP**
Applicant: Mr and Mrs Allen
Proposal: Alterations and extension to dwellinghouse and erection of garage with study
Site Address: Dunmor, North Connel, Oban, Argyll and Bute PA37 1RA
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Connel
- **Ref No: 09/01866/PPP**
Applicant: Mr and Mrs H Isaac
Proposal: Site for the erection of 2 dwellinghouses
Site Address: Land Adjacent To Burnsides, Ledaig, Oban, Argyll and Bute PA37 10S
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Ledaig

Argyll and Bute Council maintain a Register of planning applications which can be viewed between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. at Planning Services, Dalriada House, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8ST.
An extant list of planning applications which can be viewed on the Councils website www.argyll-bute.gov.uk
A weekly list of applications which can be viewed at Planning Services, Dalriada House, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8ST and Argyll and Bute Council Libraries.

COMMUNITY SERVICES: EDUCATION
REGISTRATION OF INFANT BEGINNERS IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS SESSION 2010/2011
Children who attain the age of five years between 1 March 2010 and 28 February 2011 should be registered for education during the week commencing 18 January 2010.
Parents concerned should take their children to the appropriate local primary school on one of the school days during the above week between the hours of 10.00am and 3.00pm.
Gaelic Medium Education
Gaelic Medium Education is available in the following schools:- Bowmore Primary School, Islay; Tiree Primary School, Tiree; Salen Primary School, Mull; Rockfield Primary School, Oban; Strath of Appin Primary School, by Oban and Sandbank Primary School, Dunoon.
The child's birth certificate should be produced. A leaflet providing information for parents on enrolment of children in school and giving details of placing request procedures (including under age placing requests) may be obtained from any school or the Director of Community Services, Argyll House, Alexandra Parade, Dunoon, PA23 8AJ (Tel: 01369 708508).
Douglas Hendry, Director of Community Services

COUNCILLORS SURGERIES
Councillor Mary Jean Devon (E.W 4 Oban South and the Isles)
Constituents can contact Councillor Devon on Tel: 01688 301215 or e mail - mary-jean.devon@argyll-bute.gov.uk
Councillor Gordon Chalmers (E.W. 4 Oban South and the Isles) Constituents can contact Councillor Chalmers on Tel: 01688 302689 or e mail - gordon.chalmers@argyll-bute.gov.uk or gordon.chalmers@btinternet.com
Councillor Donald McIntosh (E.W 4 Oban South and the Isles)
Councillor McIntosh's constituents can contact him on Tel: 07788 882200 or by e mail - donald.mcintosh@argyll-bute.gov.uk
Councillor Donald Macdonald (E.W.5 Oban North and Lorn)
Councillor Macdonald's constituents can contact him on Tel: 01631 566367 or by e mail - donald.macdonald@argyll-bute.gov.uk

Source: Business Choice II, The Newspaper Society
Regional Press
closer to home

Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES
Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES
PUBLIC NOTICES PUBLIC NOTICES PUBLIC NOTICES

Fairer Oban, Lorn and the Isles group to host local conference

IN A recession there are a number of groups who are in need but a new group has been set up to find out where the problems lie.

Fairer Oban, Lorn and the Isles has the responsibility of allocating funding to where it is most needed, focusing on a wide range of social and economic issues.

However, the group is also keen to support other groups and clubs in the area, as well as addressing deprivation.

In order to prioritise need, the group is hosting a conference in Oban on January 15 at the Argyllshire Gathering from 11am.

Anyone can attend but should book with Maureen Evans beforehand on 01631 562 466.

Boxing Day assault claim in Tainuait

A FUNDRAISER for a local shinty club was allegedly assaulted in Tainuait.

The incident, which happened around 11.30pm on Boxing Day at the village hall, involved two men, one of whom has been reported to the procurator fiscal.

Shoplifter arrested in Oban

A 22-year-old has been charged with shoplifting after stealing a quantity of cosmetics from Boots chemists in George Street, Oban.

The woman was stopped as she left the store on New Year's Eve.

Police seek information after car is stolen

POLICE want to hear from anyone who may have seen a black Peugeot 206 car driving around Oban between 8.30pm on January 2 and 6am on January 3.

The vehicle, registration number SK54 JHV, had previously been reported as stolen from outside a property in Shuna Terrace, Soroba, Oban, but was later recovered.

MP hits out over Oban passport office

ARGYLL'S MP has criticised the UK Government for failing to advertise the Oban passport office enough.

The Government said last year it was to consult with the Identity and Passport Service (IPS) and the Public and Commercial Services union over the closure of 10 passport offices, including the one in Oban.

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State Meg Hillier told Mr Reid that IPS felt people were choosing to use offices in the towns and cities over some of the more local offices, combining a visit with other personal or work commitments.

The Oban office only opened in 2007, when new



The prizewinners from last week's Spirit of Scotland Awards including Ronald Ross, far left, and Pete Gottgens, front row, left, and Argyll and Bute MSP Jim Mather, front, right.

Perthshire hotel celebrates 'spirit' success

ARDEONAIG Hotel and Restaurant chef and owner Pete Gottgens has beaten some of the country's most recognisable chefs to claim the Glenfiddich Spirit of Scotland Food Award.

The South African-born Perthshire hotelier was up against top chefs including celebrity chef Tom Kitchin and others who hold Michelin

Stars.

The awards ceremony was held at Edinburgh's Prestonfield House last Wednesday, where Argyll and Bute MSP presented the overall prize, Top Scot, to Susan Boyle's brother, Gerry.

Kingussie Shinty Club's Ronald Ross was given the Spirit of Scotland Sports Award after he netted his 1,000th

career goal in May.

Finalists in each category are nominated by a number of well-respected figures within the industry and then it is open to the public to vote for the outright winner.

'It is a true honour to have been given this accolade,' said Pete.

'However, it is certainly not about one person. I have a

great team working with me at Ardeonaig to whom I am forever grateful.

'My respect for the farmers, crofters and fishermen continues to grow, along with our fantastic local suppliers who are often the invisible food heroes of Scotland.

'I was a chef in London, and we were always bringing Scottish ingredients down to

London, and someone once said to me: 'Go where all the ingredients are.'

The other winners: Screen - Peter Capaldi; Writing - Ian Rankin; Art - Nicky and Robert Wilson, Jupiter Artland; Business - Richard Dixon, Vets Now; Environmental - Mike Robinson, Stop Climate Chaos Scotland; Music - John McCusker.

Highland charity turns tour operator for 2010

A HIGHLAND charity is turning tour operator to boost its income next year.

Inverness-based Highland Hospice is to offer a series of sailing weeks round the Scottish west coast aboard a choice of two vessels, a 100 year old pilot cutter, or a modern yacht. The charity hopes to raise up to £100,000, with overheads kept to a minimum.

Falling donations

Straitened times have forced the charity to look at new ways of raising the £43,000 it needs per week to deliver end-of-life care in its 10-bed unit in Inverness. The hospice also requires additional funding to cope with increasing demands in the long term, and to deliver an expanding

outreach service around the region.

But in the last year, the hospice has seen a drop of around 35 per cent in corporate donations, and around 10 per cent in general donations.

The charity also had £661,468 invested in Iceland's Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander bank. The bank went into administration in October 2008, throwing into jeopardy the hospice's reserve funds, designed to keep enough money in the kitty to enable it to continue to function for at least 10 months in the event of emergency.

So far the hospice has recouped only 30 per cent of its investment from the bank's administrators, although Highland Hospice

fund-raising director David Welch says he is confident the hospice will get back up to 75 per cent of its investment, and vowed to continue the fight for the rest.

He said: 'We are operating in a different financial environment these days. Public spending is being severely curtailed and the chances are that we will not see an increase in our NHS budget although we are trying to expand our service.'

'Our fund-raising team is having to work harder and harder to achieve the same results, so we've been looking for new and innovative ideas to bring in funds.'

The sailing holiday idea came from the hospice Skye and Lochalsh area fund-raising

manager, Judith Charmer. She said: 'Where I live I see lots of boats going up and down the lochs, and I thought it had fund-raising potential. I haven't heard of any charity doing anything quite like this before, we think it is totally unique.'

Ms Charmer said the team is doing everything possible to ensure that every penny of income goes straight to the hospice.

The two vessels concerned, Mascotte, a 100-year old Bristol pilot cutter now based in Arisaig, and Inverness-based Gael Force, a Beneteau 40.7 fast cruiser, have been donated, with funds only required to pay the Mascotte crew.

Ms Charmer said: 'The Gael Force crew is made up of ex-

perts donating their services. 'We're confident that we'll get sponsorship for food and other overheads.'

Mr Welch added: 'Many ethical holidays see only 40 or 50 per cent of funds actually going to the charity, but in our case it will be a very high proportion indeed.'

Four different trips are on offer over the four weeks from Saturday May 29 to Saturday June 26. The voyages will take place in week-long stages from Oban to Fort William and will cost £750 per week's bunk on the Mascotte, which has two double and three single berths, and £700 aboard Gael Force, which has three double berths. Fund-raising events are also being arranged in each port of call.

War and Peace Museum gets a new coat for Christmas



Thomas Wegryn, left, and John Telfer of Connaught plc took advantage of the dry weather to smarten up all the windows on the outside of the Old Oban Times building.

OBAN War and Peace Museum has benefited from a lick of paint thanks to the generosity of Connaught Plc.

Just before Christmas, the contracting company arranged for two of its employees to redecorate the exterior and parts of the interior of the museum in the old Oban Times building on the Esplanade.

John MacPherson, museum director, said: 'The windows were decorated four years ago as part of the refurbishment project when the museum purchased the premises but exposure to the elements had taken its toll.'

'The generosity of Connaught Plc in carrying out this work at no cost to the museum is greatly appreciated.'

'We had earmarked funds to undertake the work and now we will be able to plough that money back into paying off our outstanding loan for purchasing the premises.'

The work was arranged by Mr MacPherson and Connaught's local manager Donald Addison.

Connaught has been contracted to do work to replace kitchens and bathrooms for Argyll Community Housing Association's tenants.

Although the museum is now closed for the winter, work on changing and renewing displays is going on behind closed doors.

Despite the recession, 2009 was a successful season for the voluntary-run museum with both average visitor numbers around 30,000 and income being maintained.

It is estimated that sometime in May the 400,000th visitor since the museum started in 1995 is expected to cross the threshold.

Just 8,017 visitors are needed to reach the 400,000 mark after the doors open again in March.

Old televisions can be converted to receive digital, says councillor

THERE is no need to throw out your old television in preparation for the digital switch-over in October 2010.

Switch-over

This is the message being given out by Argyll and Bute Council after several members of the public contacted the council concerned about the switch-over leaving their old TVs redundant.

Chairman of Argyll and Bute's environment policy and performance group Councillor Donald Macdonald said it was an issue over which there seemed to be some confusion.

'There are many people out there who believe that they have to replace their analogue TVs with new digital models in order to be able to receive digital transmissions,' he added.

'This is not true. With very rare exceptions, all TVs can be converted to digital with a digital box - even black and white models.'

Most television sets can be converted using a digital set-top box, available from about £20.

The majority of these boxes connect to a TV using a SCART cable and if your television was manufactured after 1996, it will have a SCART socket.

Anyone who does not have a SCART socket on the back of their TV and has only a small round aerial socket instead, can still adapt it for digital.

The council has recently seen a significant increase in the amount of electrical items for recycling - much of which is thought to be analogue TVs.



Students from Imperial College and Warwick University canoe clubs were among the kayakers to brave the currents of the Falls of Lora underneath Connel Bridge over the New Year period. The students said their preferred runs, such as Glen Etive, were frozen over. 07_102kay03

TO BOOK THIS PROPERTY SPACE CONTACT
The Oban Times
A WEST HIGHLAND TIMES
ON 01631 568000
OR Email: property@obantimes.co.uk

West Coast Property Guide

Sell your property online at our new website:
www.westcoastpropertyguide.co.uk

Cottages & Castles
Are looking for desirable Holiday Homes
We can help you:
• Maximise your Letting Potential
• Achieve the Best from your Property
• Take the Stress out of Bookings
• Happy to work alongside owners & other bookings
For further details or to arrange a Visit From Your Local Representative Katie Cox
01738 451 610
www.cottages-and-castles.co.uk

HOLIDAY COTTAGES WANTED
ONLY AGENCY COMMISSION until Jan 2011
10%
For details and an Owner Information Pack please contact Karen McWilliams
01665 570 715
Email: karen@scottish-cottages.co.uk
www.scottish-cottages.co.uk

WANTED
SYKES COTTAGES

TO RENT:
2 BEDROOM HOUSE
OBAN, FURNISHED,
QUIET RESIDENTIAL
AREA
OFF ROAD PARKING
£600 PCM + COUNCIL TAX
TEL 07799534276

3 BEDROOMED, DET. HOUSE TO RENT
Creag Bhan, Oban
£650 pcm Incl. council tax
Parking, fully furnished kitchen, carpets, curtains.
ref. required, no pets or smokers
01852 300339 or 07734 063700

PORT APPIN
3 bedroom modern Detached Bungalow with garden.
Stunning sea views, Open coal fire
Private Driveway, Close to shop and hotels
Furnished or unfurnished
£600 pcm + C/Tax & Bills No D.S.S.
One months deposit, ref required
Tel: 01631 730332 or 07917113187

Well presented Two bed Flat For rent in Oban Centre
Furnished or unfurnished
£525 pcm + C/Tax & Bills
Please contact Emma on 07723058487

www.westcoastclassifieds.co.uk

NOW ONLINE

Advertise your unwanted items in either The Oban Times, Campbeltown Courier or Argyllshire Advertiser and your ad will also appear online at www.westcoastclassifieds.co.uk. Simply use the coupons on this page or visit the website and input your details there

LOCAL services

BABY EQUIPMENT

BABYDEN PLAYPEN and play tent, hexagonal playpen in silver finish with denim blue padded mat, includes a play tent to turn the playpen into a play house, £49.99 Telephone 01546 603108.
BOUNCY CHAIR Baby Bjorn bouncy seat suitable from birth to 2 years, reversible and machine washable seat cover, play bar with spinning toys, £20 Telephone 01546 603108.

CAR ACCESSORIES

SNOW CHAINS (HUSKY) Bought for Vauxhall Vectra, 16" tyres, suitable for many makes/tyres, used once, cost £45, £20 Telephone 01866 822773.
THULE CAR ROOF RACK nearly new, stylish, secure and stable bars with rapid fitting kit, selling on behalf of son who's moved abroad, £35 Telephone 01546 606475.

CLOTHES, SHOES AND ACCESSORIES

BROWN WAX COAT Size medium, shoulder cape, two way brass front zip, rear riding vent and leg strap, inside pocket, two front pockets studded, £25 Telephone 01546 606475.
NORTH FACE TRAINERS North Face Voza womens light weight endurance running shoe, suitable for on and off road use, brand new in box, size 7, £45 39.5, Grey/orange, £45 Telephone 01631 720149.

DOMESTIC APPLIANCES

BOSCH DISHWASHER good condition, £80, also LEC fridge freezer, £50 Telephone 01631 565741.

FURNITURE

3 SEATER SETTEE green, very good condition, smoke free home, meet requirement to resistant to cig and ignition, £45 Telephone 01546 606475.
BED SETTEE small, clean, £9 Telephone 01631 564848 during office hours.
CONSERVATORY SETTEE and chair with green cushions, £19 Telephone 01631 564848 during office hours.
DOUBLE DIVANBED with royal orthopaedic mattress, two drawers, matching headboard, unused, still in wrappers, cost £395, will accept £195, can deliver Telephone 07979 424241.
EASY CHAIRS 2, green velour, very good condition, must be seen, £45 Telephone 01631 710380 (Connel).

HOME FURNISHINGS

RUSSELL HOBBS Limited edition Marco Pierre White 5 piece set in white and grey, 3 saucepans, small/med/large, milkpan and frying pan, all excellent condition, £45 Telephone 01631 720149.
MAIL ORDER
SCOTTISH FIELD CALENDARS, featuring spectacular photography of some of our most scenic lochs, rivers, beaches and mountains. Always a popular gift for family and friends at home or abroad. Order on-line at www.scottishfield.co.uk/calendar 2010.

SETTEE 3+2+1 settee, blue fabric, good condition, £49 Telephone 01631 720260.
SETTEE green two seat settee in good condition, £29 Telephone 01631 564848 during office hours.
SINGLE BED good, clean, comfortable single bed, £25, Telephone 01631 564848 during office hours.
SINGLE WARDROBE in good order, modern, £12 Telephone 01631 564848 during office hours.

THREE PIECE SUITE modern, blue, £39 Telephone 01631 564848 during office hours.

HEALTH AND FITNESS
LLOYDS PHARMACY TENS Machine for safe effective pain relief without pills, brand new, never used, dual channel, 8 modes, 4 pads, large LCD display, £25 Telephone 01631 770201.

PET ACCESSORIES
SELF CLEANING LITTER BOX By omega Paw, roll and clean system, no scoop necessary, great system, blue and silver, normally £40+ new, £10 Telephone 01546 606475.

PHOTOGRAPHY
MACRO/ZOOM LENS 28-80mm with leather black case, £15 Telephone 01546 606475.

PRINTING AND STATIONERY
LAMINATING keep your important documents safe from dust, dirt, tears and creases. From photos, health and safety documents, telephone lists, room signs etc. A4 - £2 A3 £3.

CHANGED ADDRESS? avoid writing out your details over and over again! Sticky labels to attach on all your correspondence, 500 labels from £20. Contact Krisp Printing and Stationery, Burnbank, Campbeltown Telephone 01586 554975.

WANTED
SCRAP METAL all types of scrap metal, we uplift cars, call Mr Cook, West Coast Scrap Metals Telephone 01499 500638 07774 621917.
WINKLES WANTED top prices paid Telephone 01700 503451 07710 529975.

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS
ELECTRIC KEYBOARD Yamaha, with stand, as new, £49.99 Telephone 01631 570952.

OUTDOOR SPORTS EQUIPMENT
SKIS blizzard skis, 170cms, red with bindings, turn control profile, very good condition, £49.99 Telephone 01631 710380 (Connel).

DIAMOND WEDDING
Thank You Bill and Lil Mackie would like to thank most sincerely the Lord Leut. of Argyll and Bute for delivering H.M. Message, also Cllr. MacKintosh for the beautiful bouquet from Argyll and Bute Council. Thank you also to our relations, friends and neighbours for cards and presents. £360 was raised for Heart and Stroke Wards at Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban. Thank you also to Manor House for catering.

LOOK WHO'S 40
Have a good one Love Mum, Dad, Roz, Jodie and Scott Jnr. X

Happy 50th Birthday
Christine Scott
on January 7, 2010
Love Mum and Dad

MISSING
Black and White Cat Called 'Minkie'
From Longdale area since December 27th Family pet, reward for safe return. Please call 01631 566030 or 07900943480

PERSONALS
THANK YOU Margaret Fletcher would like to thank most sincerely all her friends in the Kilmore and Oban Church of Scotland congregation who contributed so generously to the beautiful painting she received at the presentation on her retreat as Church Organist.

Happy 18th
Matthew
Love from Mum, Dad and Katie

CONDITIONS OF ACCEPTANCE FOR ADVERTISEMENTS
YOUR attention is drawn to the following terms and conditions which relate to the placing of advertisements in all publications owned by Wyvex Media Limited. Parties to this agreement are the Publisher, Wyvex Media Limited Limited on the one part and the Advertiser on the other part. The Publisher publishes newspapers, magazines, books and provides advertising space therein or provides for the delivery of advertising materials to the public within these publications.
1. Advertising copy shall be legal, decent, honest and truthful and comply with the British Code of Advertising Practice and all other codes.
2. The Publisher does not guarantee the insertion of any particular advertisement.
3. The Publisher reserves the right to cancel or alter the advertisement by giving reasonable notice.
4. An order for an advertisement shall be deemed to be made on acceptance of the advertiser's order by the Publisher whether 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 arises 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.

OBAN TIMES WEST HIGHLAND CALENDAR, fabulous views of the West Highlands portrayed in this handy and conveniently sized calendar. Ideal for home offices or as a gift. Order on-line at www.obantimes.co.uk/calendar 2010.

OBAN TIMES WEST HIGHLAND CALENDAR, fabulous views of the West Highlands portrayed in this handy and conveniently sized calendar. Ideal for home offices or as a gift. Order on-line at www.obantimes.co.uk/calendar 2010.

OBAN TIMES WEST HIGHLAND CALENDAR, fabulous views of the West Highlands portrayed in this handy and conveniently sized calendar. Ideal for home offices or as a gift. Order on-line at www.obantimes.co.uk/calendar 2010.

OBAN TIMES WEST HIGHLAND CALENDAR, fabulous views of the West Highlands portrayed in this handy and conveniently sized calendar. Ideal for home offices or as a gift. Order on-line at www.obantimes.co.uk/calendar 2010.

OBAN TIMES WEST HIGHLAND CALENDAR, fabulous views of the West Highlands portrayed in this handy and conveniently sized calendar. Ideal for home offices or as a gift. Order on-line at www.obantimes.co.uk/calendar 2010.

OBAN TIMES WEST HIGHLAND CALENDAR, fabulous views of the West Highlands portrayed in this handy and conveniently sized calendar. Ideal for home offices or as a gift. Order on-line at www.obantimes.co.uk/calendar 2010.

OBAN TIMES WEST HIGHLAND CALENDAR, fabulous views of the West Highlands portrayed in this handy and conveniently sized calendar. Ideal for home offices or as a gift. Order on-line at www.obantimes.co.uk/calendar 2010.

OBAN TIMES WEST HIGHLAND CALENDAR, fabulous views of the West Highlands portrayed in this handy and conveniently sized calendar. Ideal for home offices or as a gift. Order on-line at www.obantimes.co.uk/calendar 2010.

OBAN TIMES WEST HIGHLAND CALENDAR, fabulous views of the West Highlands portrayed in this handy and conveniently sized calendar. Ideal for home offices or as a gift. Order on-line at www.obantimes.co.uk/calendar 2010.

OBAN TIMES WEST HIGHLAND CALENDAR, fabulous views of the West Highlands portrayed in this handy and conveniently sized calendar. Ideal for home offices or as a gift. Order on-line at www.obantimes.co.uk/calendar 2010.

OBAN TIMES WEST HIGHLAND CALENDAR, fabulous views of the West Highlands portrayed in this handy and conveniently sized calendar. Ideal for home offices or as a gift. Order on-line at www.obantimes.co.uk/calendar 2010.

OBAN TIMES WEST HIGHLAND CALENDAR, fabulous views of the West Highlands portrayed in this handy and conveniently sized calendar. Ideal for home offices or as a gift. Order on-line at www.obantimes.co.uk/calendar 2010.

OBAN TIMES WEST HIGHLAND CALENDAR, fabulous views of the West Highlands portrayed in this handy and conveniently sized calendar. Ideal for home offices or as a gift. Order on-line at www.obantimes.co.uk/calendar 2010.

OBAN TIMES WEST HIGHLAND CALENDAR, fabulous views of the West Highlands portrayed in this handy and conveniently sized calendar. Ideal for home offices or as a gift. Order on-line at www.obantimes.co.uk/calendar 2010.

OBAN TIMES WEST HIGHLAND CALENDAR, fabulous views of the West Highlands portrayed in this handy and conveniently sized calendar. Ideal for home offices or as a gift. Order on-line at www.obantimes.co.uk/calendar 2010.

OBAN TIMES WEST HIGHLAND CALENDAR, fabulous views of the West Highlands portrayed in this handy and conveniently sized calendar. Ideal for home offices or as a gift. Order on-line at www.obantimes.co.uk/calendar 2010.

OBAN TIMES WEST HIGHLAND CALENDAR, fabulous views of the West Highlands portrayed in this handy and conveniently sized calendar. Ideal for home offices or as a gift. Order on-line at www.obantimes.co.uk/calendar 2010.

OBAN TIMES WEST HIGHLAND CALENDAR, fabulous views of the West Highlands portrayed in this handy and conveniently sized calendar. Ideal for home offices or as a gift. Order on-line at www.obantimes.co.uk/calendar 2010.

OBAN TIMES WEST HIGHLAND CALENDAR, fabulous views of the West Highlands portrayed in this handy and conveniently sized calendar. Ideal for home offices or as a gift. Order on-line at www.obantimes.co.uk/calendar 2010.

PERSONALS

THANK YOU Margaret Fletcher would like to thank most sincerely all her friends in the Kilmore and Oban Church of Scotland congregation who contributed so generously to the beautiful painting she received at the presentation on her retreat as Church Organist.

DIAMOND WEDDING
Thank You Bill and Lil Mackie would like to thank most sincerely the Lord Leut. of Argyll and Bute for delivering H.M. Message, also Cllr. MacKintosh for the beautiful bouquet from Argyll and Bute Council. Thank you also to our relations, friends and neighbours for cards and presents. £360 was raised for Heart and Stroke Wards at Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban. Thank you also to Manor House for catering.

LOOK WHO'S 40
Have a good one Love Mum, Dad, Roz, Jodie and Scott Jnr. X

Happy 50th Birthday
Christine Scott
on January 7, 2010
Love Mum and Dad

MISSING
Black and White Cat Called 'Minkie'
From Longdale area since December 27th Family pet, reward for safe return. Please call 01631 566030 or 07900943480

OBAN TIMES WEST HIGHLAND CALENDAR, fabulous views of the West Highlands portrayed in this handy and conveniently sized calendar. Ideal for home offices or as a gift. Order on-line at www.obantimes.co.uk/calendar 2010.

OBAN TIMES WEST HIGHLAND CALENDAR, fabulous views of the West Highlands portrayed in this handy and conveniently sized calendar. Ideal for home offices or as a gift. Order on-line at www.obantimes.co.uk/calendar 2010.

OBAN TIMES WEST HIGHLAND CALENDAR, fabulous views of the West Highlands portrayed in this handy and conveniently sized calendar. Ideal for home offices or as a gift. Order on-line at www.obantimes.co.uk/calendar 2010.

OBAN TIMES WEST HIGHLAND CALENDAR, fabulous views of the West Highlands portrayed in this handy and conveniently sized calendar. Ideal for home offices or as a gift. Order on-line at www.obantimes.co.uk/calendar 2010.

OBAN TIMES WEST HIGHLAND CALENDAR, fabulous views of the West Highlands portrayed in this handy and conveniently sized calendar. Ideal for home offices or as a gift. Order on-line at www.obantimes.co.uk/calendar 2010.

OBAN TIMES WEST HIGHLAND CALENDAR, fabulous views of the West Highlands portrayed in this handy and conveniently sized calendar. Ideal for home offices or as a gift. Order on-line at www.obantimes.co.uk/calendar 2010.

OBAN TIMES WEST HIGHLAND CALENDAR, fabulous views of the West Highlands portrayed in this handy and conveniently sized calendar. Ideal for home offices or as a gift. Order on-line at www.obantimes.co.uk/calendar 2010.

OBAN TIMES WEST HIGHLAND CALENDAR, fabulous views of the West Highlands portrayed in this handy and conveniently sized calendar. Ideal for home offices or as a gift. Order on-line at www.obantimes.co.uk/calendar 2010.

OBAN TIMES WEST HIGHLAND CALENDAR, fabulous views of the West Highlands portrayed in this handy and conveniently sized calendar. Ideal for home offices or as a gift. Order on-line at www.obantimes.co.uk/calendar 2010.

OBAN TIMES WEST HIGHLAND CALENDAR, fabulous views of the West Highlands portrayed in this handy and conveniently sized calendar. Ideal for home offices or as a gift. Order on-line at www.obantimes.co.uk/calendar 2010.

OBAN TIMES WEST HIGHLAND CALENDAR, fabulous views of the West Highlands portrayed in this handy and conveniently sized calendar. Ideal for home offices or as a gift. Order on-line at www.obantimes.co.uk/calendar 2010.

OBAN TIMES WEST HIGHLAND CALENDAR, fabulous views of the West Highlands portrayed in this handy and conveniently sized calendar. Ideal for home offices or as a gift. Order on-line at www.obantimes.co.uk/calendar 2010.

OBAN TIMES WEST HIGHLAND CALENDAR, fabulous views of the West Highlands portrayed in this handy and conveniently sized calendar. Ideal for home offices or as a gift. Order on-line at www.obantimes.co.uk/calendar 2010.

OBAN TIMES WEST HIGHLAND CALENDAR, fabulous views of the West Highlands portrayed in this handy and conveniently sized calendar. Ideal for home offices or as a gift. Order on-line at www.obantimes.co.uk/calendar 2010.

OBAN TIMES WEST HIGHLAND CALENDAR, fabulous views of the West Highlands portrayed in this handy and conveniently sized calendar. Ideal for home offices or as a gift. Order on-line at www.obantimes.co.uk/calendar 2010.

OBAN TIMES WEST HIGHLAND CALENDAR, fabulous views of the West Highlands portrayed in this handy and conveniently sized calendar. Ideal for home offices or as a gift. Order on-line at www.obantimes.co.uk/calendar 2010.

OBAN TIMES WEST HIGHLAND CALENDAR, fabulous views of the West Highlands portrayed in this handy and conveniently sized calendar. Ideal for home offices or as a gift. Order on-line at www.obantimes.co.uk/calendar 2010.

OBAN TIMES WEST HIGHLAND CALENDAR, fabulous views of the West Highlands portrayed in this handy and conveniently sized calendar. Ideal for home offices or as a gift. Order on-line at www.obantimes.co.uk/calendar 2010.

OBAN TIMES WEST HIGHLAND CALENDAR, fabulous views of the West Highlands portrayed in this handy and conveniently sized calendar. Ideal for home offices or as a gift. Order on-line at www.obantimes.co.uk/calendar 2010.

PERSONALS

THANK YOU Margaret Fletcher would like to thank most sincerely all her friends in the Kilmore and Oban Church of Scotland congregation who contributed so generously to the beautiful painting she received at the presentation on her retreat as Church Organist.

DIAMOND WEDDING
Thank You Bill and Lil Mackie would like to thank most sincerely the Lord Leut. of Argyll and Bute for delivering H.M. Message, also Cllr. MacKintosh for the beautiful bouquet from Argyll and Bute Council. Thank you also to our relations, friends and neighbours for cards and presents. £360 was raised for Heart and Stroke Wards at Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban. Thank you also to Manor House for catering.

LOOK WHO'S 40
Have a good one Love Mum, Dad, Roz, Jodie and Scott Jnr. X

Happy 50th Birthday
Christine Scott
on January 7, 2010
Love Mum and Dad

MISSING
Black and White Cat Called 'Minkie'
From Longdale area since December 27th Family pet, reward for safe return. Please call 01631 566030 or 07900943480

OBAN TIMES WEST HIGHLAND CALENDAR, fabulous views of the West Highlands portrayed in this handy and conveniently sized calendar. Ideal for home offices or as a gift. Order on-line at www.obantimes.co.uk/calendar 2010.

OBAN TIMES WEST HIGHLAND CALENDAR, fabulous views of the West Highlands portrayed in this handy and conveniently sized calendar. Ideal for home offices or as a gift. Order on-line at www.obantimes.co.uk/calendar 2010.

OBAN TIMES WEST HIGHLAND CALENDAR, fabulous views of the West Highlands portrayed in this handy and conveniently sized calendar. Ideal for home offices or as a gift. Order on-line at www.obantimes.co.uk/calendar 2010.

OBAN TIMES WEST HIGHLAND CALENDAR, fabulous views of the West Highlands portrayed in this handy and conveniently sized calendar. Ideal for home offices or as a gift. Order on-line at www.obantimes.co.uk/calendar 2010.

OBAN TIMES WEST HIGHLAND CALENDAR, fabulous views of the West Highlands portrayed in this handy and conveniently sized calendar. Ideal for home offices or as a gift. Order on-line at www.obantimes.co.uk/calendar 2010.

OBAN TIMES WEST HIGHLAND CALENDAR, fabulous views of the West Highlands portrayed in this handy and conveniently sized calendar. Ideal for home offices or as a gift. Order on-line at www.obantimes.co.uk/calendar 2010.

OBAN TIMES WEST HIGHLAND CALENDAR, fabulous views of the West Highlands portrayed in this handy and conveniently sized calendar. Ideal for home offices or as a gift. Order on-line at www.obantimes.co.uk/calendar 2010.

OBAN TIMES WEST HIGHLAND CALENDAR, fabulous views of the West Highlands portrayed in this handy and conveniently sized calendar. Ideal for home offices or as a gift. Order on-line at www.obantimes.co.uk/calendar 2010.

OBAN TIMES WEST HIGHLAND CALENDAR, fabulous views of the West Highlands portrayed in this handy and conveniently sized calendar. Ideal for home offices or as a gift. Order on-line at www.obantimes.co.uk/calendar 2010.

OBAN TIMES WEST HIGHLAND CALENDAR, fabulous views of the West Highlands portrayed in this handy and conveniently sized calendar. Ideal for home offices or as a gift. Order on-line at www.obantimes.co.uk/calendar 2010.

OBAN TIMES WEST HIGHLAND CALENDAR, fabulous views of the West Highlands portrayed in this handy and conveniently sized calendar. Ideal for home offices or as a gift. Order on-line at www.obantimes.co.uk/calendar 2010.

OBAN TIMES WEST HIGHLAND CALENDAR, fabulous views of the West Highlands portrayed in this handy and conveniently sized calendar. Ideal for home offices or as a gift. Order on-line at www.obantimes.co.uk/calendar 2010.

OBAN TIMES WEST HIGHLAND CALENDAR, fabulous views of the West Highlands portrayed in this handy and conveniently sized calendar. Ideal for home offices or as a gift. Order on-line at www.obantimes.co.uk/calendar 2010.

OBAN TIMES WEST HIGHLAND CALENDAR, fabulous views of the West Highlands portrayed in this handy and conveniently sized calendar. Ideal for home offices or as a gift. Order on-line at www.obantimes.co.uk/calendar 2010.

OBAN TIMES WEST HIGHLAND CALENDAR, fabulous views of the West Highlands portrayed in this handy and conveniently sized calendar. Ideal for home offices or as a gift. Order on-line at www.obantimes.co.uk/calendar 2010.

OBAN TIMES WEST HIGHLAND CALENDAR, fabulous views of the West Highlands portrayed in this handy and conveniently sized calendar. Ideal for home offices or as a gift. Order on-line at www.obantimes.co.uk/calendar 2010.

OBAN TIMES WEST HIGHLAND CALENDAR, fabulous views of the West Highlands portrayed in this handy and conveniently sized calendar. Ideal for home offices or as a gift. Order on-line at www.obantimes.co.uk/calendar 2010.

OBAN TIMES WEST HIGHLAND CALENDAR, fabulous views of the West Highlands portrayed in this handy and conveniently sized calendar. Ideal for home offices or as a gift. Order on-line at www.obantimes.co.uk/calendar 2010.

OBAN TIMES WEST HIGHLAND CALENDAR, fabulous views of the West Highlands portrayed in this handy and conveniently sized calendar. Ideal for home offices or as a gift. Order on-line at www.obantimes.co.uk/calendar 2010.

OBAN TIMES WEST HIGHLAND CALENDAR, fabulous views of the West Highlands portrayed in this handy and conveniently sized calendar. Ideal for home offices or as a gift. Order on-line at www.obantimes.co.uk/calendar 2010.

PERSONALS

Do you believe this? She said to him, 'Yes, Lord. I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world!' YOU ARE KNOWN UNTO GOD! Visit SermonAudio.com

OBAN TIMES PERSONALS

CONDITIONS OF ACCEPTANCE FOR ADVERTISEMENTS

YOUR attention is drawn to the following terms and conditions which relate to the placing of advertisements in all publications owned by Wyvex Media Limited. Parties to this agreement are the Publisher, Wyvex Media Limited Limited on the one part and the Advertiser on the other part. The Publisher publishes newspapers, magazines, books and provides advertising space therein or provides for the delivery of advertising materials to the public within these publications.
1. Advertising copy shall be legal, decent, honest and truthful and comply with the British Code of Advertising Practice and all other codes.
2. The Publisher does not guarantee the insertion of any particular advertisement.
3. The Publisher reserves the right to cancel or alter the advertisement by giving reasonable notice.
4. An order for an advertisement shall be deemed to be made on acceptance of the advertiser's order by the Publisher whether 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 arises 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 Wyvex Media Limited, P.O. Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB, (01631) 568000 Fax (01631) 568001 — www.obantimes.co.uk and registered as a newspaper at the Post Office

UNWANTED ITEM TO SELL?
The Oban Times
A WEST HIGHLAND TIMES
Be seen by over 40,000 readers
Tel: 01631 568000
www.obantimes.co.uk

UNWANTED ITEM TO SELL?
The Oban Times
A WEST HIGHLAND TIMES
Be seen by over 40,000 readers
Tel: 01631 568000
www.obantimes.co.uk

UNWANTED ITEM TO SELL?
The Oban Times
A WEST HIGHLAND TIMES
Be seen by over 40,000 readers
Tel: 01631 568000
www.obantimes.co.uk

UNWANTED ITEM TO SELL?
The Oban Times
A WEST HIGHLAND TIMES
Be seen by over 40,000 readers
Tel: 01631 568000
www.obantimes.co.uk

UNWANTED ITEM TO SELL?
The Oban Times
A WEST HIGHLAND TIMES
Be seen by over 40,000 readers
Tel: 01631 568000
www.obantimes.co.uk

UNWANTED ITEM TO SELL?
The Oban Times
A WEST HIGHLAND TIMES
Be seen by over 40,000 readers
Tel: 01631 568000
www.obantimes.co.uk

UNWANTED ITEM TO SELL?
The Oban Times
A WEST HIGHLAND TIMES
Be seen by over 40,000 readers
Tel: 01631 568000
www.obantimes.co.uk

UNWANTED ITEM TO SELL?

THE OBAN TIMES
West Highland Times

THE REGIONAL NEWSPAPER FOR THE WEST HIGHLANDS, ISLANDS AND ARGYLL

The Oban Times is the best-selling weekly newspaper in the Highlands and is distributed via 1742 newsgazettes every week.

Editorial Director: **Joan P. Bennett**
Group Managing Editor: **Stewart MacKenzie**
Deputy Editor: **Graham Crawford**
Chief Reporter: **Marian Miller**
Head Office: **Oban 568000**
Fax: **Oban 568001**
E-mail: editor@obantimes.co.uk

Branch Offices:
Fort William **01397 703003**
Lochgilhead **01546 602345**
Campbeltown **01586 554646**
Fax **01586 553006**

MCCORMICK - Suddenly at his home, 57 Argyll Street, Lochgilhead on December 29, 2009, Dan H McCormick, aged 78 years. Beloved father of Isobel and dear brother of Maggie and the late Peter and Alex. A good neighbour and dear friend to many. Funeral service will be held in Lochgilhead Parish Church, today, Thursday January 7, 2010, thereafter to Achnabreac Cemetery.

McINTYRE - Peacefully but suddenly at home on December 29, 2009, in her 90th year, Trixie McIntyre, beloved wife of the late Hamish McIntyre, dear mother of Julia and the late Helen, much loved grandmother of Ross. Sadly missed by all the family.

PATERSON - Isabel MacNab nee Carmichael. Peacefully at Whim Hall Nursing Home on Thursday December 31, 2009, Isabel, beloved wife of the late Willie, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister, mother-in-law, sister-in-law and aunt to the family. Funeral service will be held at Chalmers Memorial Church, Port Seton on Wednesday January 13, 2010 at 11am thereafter to Prestonpans Cemetery arriving 11.40am, to which all family and friends are invited. Family flowers only please, retiral collection in aid of Alzheimer's Scotland.

RITCHIE - On January 1, 2010, peacefully in Elgin, George Stanger Ritchie, in his 99th year, formerly of Barbreck Farm, dear father of James and the late George, much loved grandfather of Angus, Sandy, Fiona and Margaret and great-grandfather of Mallory, George, Dougie and Iona. Cremation in Buckie on a date to be confirmed.

TORRIE - Suddenly at home, Cantford, Rafford, on Monday, December 28, 2009, Elizabeth Maclean of Ardgour, dearly loved wife of the late Rev Ronald Torrie, adored mother of Philippa, Robin, Catriona, Hamish and Sarah, loving grandmother, mother-in-law, aunt and dear friend to so many. Funeral service at Rafford Parish Church on Thursday, January 7, at 1pm. Burial at Pluscarden Churchyard. Family flowers only but donations if desired to Riding For the Disabled in Moray, c/o Smith and Catto Funeral Directors, Clovenstone Road, Forres IV36 3BU.

ANDERSON-STRETTE - Both families are delighted to announce the engagement on December 25, 2009 of Lyndsay, daughter of Jimmy and Irene, Golspie, to Andrew, son of John and Jackie, Oban.

CRILLEY-PEARSON - Both families are delighted to announce the engagement of Mhairi, youngest daughter of Dave and Sheila, Ballachulish to Kenneth, son of Tam and Christine, Oban.

DEATHS

LAWRIE - (Lairg). Sadly in Migdale Hospital, Bonar Bridge on Wednesday December 30, 2009, following a long illness bravely borne, Constance "Connie" MacNaughton, "Savalbeg Farmhouse", Lairg, much loved wife of Gyle, a loving mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and sister. A service was held in Fearn Abbey on Wednesday, January 6, 2010, followed by interment in Balintore Cemetery. Enquiries to Alasdair Rhind Funeral Directors, Sutherland House, Bank Street, Tain.

MACGILLIVRAY - Peacefully and surrounded by her family at the Royal Infirmary, Glasgow on December 20, 2009, Dolina MacGillivray nee Walker, Milton, Glasgow. A dear and adored mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, much loved and missed by all the family members and friends.

MACGILLIVRAY - Ian. Suddenly but peacefully at home in Acharacle, on Sunday, January 3, 2010. Funeral Saturday, January 9 at 12 noon. Family flowers only.

MACSWEEN - Kenneth John, peacefully, at Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban, on January 1, 2010, aged 90, formerly of the Royal Bank of Scotland. Beloved husband of Flora (MacDonald) and father of Lewis and both the late infant John and Kenneth, brother of both the late Christina and Catherine, and father-in-law of Morag. Funeral service will be held at the Associated Presbyterian Church, Campbell Street, Oban, on Friday, January 8, 2010 at 1.00pm, thereafter to Pennyfuir Cemetery. Family followers only please.

Margaret in hospital and for his comforting services. Thanks also to the Alexandra Hotel for lovely food and hospitality. The sum of £392 was collected for the medical ward at Belford Hospital.

MACGILLIVRAY - The family of the late Duncan MacGillivray, Kilchoan, would like to thank all relatives and friends for their support and kind expressions of sympathy following our recent tragic loss. Sincere thanks to the Rev Alison Grainger for her comforting words, and to Ewen MacLennan of John McLellan and Co for his caring and professional handling of the funeral arrangements. Thanks also to Sonachan Hotel for excellent catering. Finally, the family would like to thank all who came to pay their last respects at the church and graveside, and those who donated so generously to the Kilchoan Nurses Resource Fund, for which the sum of £551 was raised.

MACMILLAN - Moira and family would like to thank most sincerely all relatives and friends for their sympathy, kindness, cards and telephones calls during their recent sad bereavement. Special thanks to Rev Anne Winning for her support and comforting service and to Helen and Douglas for sensitive funeral arrangements. Many thanks to the Tailrace Inn and all who attended church and graveside. Collection at church amounted to £549.61 for Heart, Chest and Stroke, Scotland.

MORRISON - The family of the late Mary Ann Morrison wish to thank all who gave support during and after her last illness. Thanks are due to the staff of Ward C at Lorn and Islands Hospital, and to the doctors, nurses, and carers who attended her at home. Thanks are also due to Ian MacInnes and the staff of D and A Munn, to management and staff of Argyllshire Gathering Halls and to neighbours and friends who attended the funeral and sent cards, letters and flowers and expressed their sympathy in other ways.

BRIGHTMORE - In loving memory of my dear parents, Eric who died on January 8, 2009 and Mary, died January 21, 2000. Loved and remembered every day.

CAMERON - Fond memories of my mother, Margaret, who died January 10, 1991, and of my father, Duncan, who died March 28, 1985.

CAMERON - In ever loving memory of my dear brother John, who passed away January 5, 2009, and all my loved family who have gone before. I often think of bygone days

CAMPBELL - Precious memories of Chrissie, who died January 12, 2004, a dearly loved wife, mum, gran and sister. Loved and remembered everyday

GRAHAM - Rina and the family of the late George Graham, Ballygrant, Isle of Islay, sincerely thank their relatives and friends for the kind expressions of sympathy on the passing of George on December 10, 2009. Thank you to those who attended the funeral service at Kilmeny Church and graveside.

CARMICHAEL - In loving memory of our dear father, father-in-law and grandfather Neil, who died January 4, 1993. Forever in our hearts

EVANS - In loving memory of my dear mum, granny and great-granny Cathie, who passed away on January 10, 2008. Loved and remembered always.

EVANS - In loving memory of my beloved mother Mrs Cathie Evans who died January 10, 2008. Remembered every day but especially today.

GILLESPIE - In loving memory of Ewen, our precious son, brother and uncle, who died on January 6, 2008. His light shines on in our hearts and he is always in our thoughts.

wife and mother, who died so suddenly on January 6, 2006. Always in our thoughts.

MACDONALD - Treasured memories of Eileen, dearly loved mum of Philip and precious daughter of Margaret, sister of Colin and Karen, taken from us January 6, 2008. Always on our minds. Forever in our hearts.

MACDONALD - In loving memory of my dear mother May (nee Wilson), who died on January 10, 1995. We can't have the old days back

MACHUGH - Precious memories of Tony, who died January 8, 1997, and also Bella, died January 9, 2009. You were the sunshine of our lives.

MACKERCHAR - Cherished memories of our mum and nana Mary, who died on January 3, 2009. Loved and remembered always.

MACLEAN - In loving memory of our dear parents, Neil MacLean, died May 8, 1976 and our mother Florian died January 6, 1996. Treasured memories of our sister Ann taken from us January 11, 2001.

MACLEOD - In loving memory of my dear wife Bella, died January 7, 2009. Sadly missed in every way. Quietly remembered every day.

MACLEOD - In loving memory of our dear mother Bella, nana and great-nana, died January 7, 2009. Always in our thoughts.

MACNEILL - Treasured memories of our much loved parents, grandparents and great-grandparents Donald and Neenie, dad passed away June 22, 2003 and mum on January 11, 2007. Quietly remembered every day.

MACPHAIL - In memory of our precious son and big brother Ryan, tragically taken from us on January 7, 2003 aged 16 years. At sixteen years of age Ryan's life here is done. It is hard to accept he was just having fun.

McARTHUR - In loving memory of Iain, a dear father, papa and pa, who died on January 7, 2009. Also remembering loved ones gone before. Precious memories treasured forever

McINTYRE - Mary. In loving memory of a much loved mother and gran who passed away January 9, 2007. Always in our thoughts. Forever in our hearts.

McKINNON - In loving memory of my dear husband Charles McKinnon, died December 28, 2005, also remembering loved ones departed before and since. Always in my thoughts.

MORRISON - In loving memory of Mary, a dear sister, aunt and great-aunt, who passed away January 1, 2008. Always in our thoughts.

MORRISON - In loving memory of Johnny, husband, father, grampa and son who passed away January 3, 2008, aged 60 years. Sadly missed along life's way. Quietly we remember every day.

STODDART - In loving memory of our dear brother, Malcolm Livingstone, died January 10, 1972. Always in our thoughts.

JACKSON - In loving memory of Liz, a dear Glasgow.

TESTER - In loving memory of our dear dad and papa Bobby, died January 6, 1995, also remembering our mother Nan, and our nana Alix. Forever in our hearts and thoughts.

WARD - In loving memory of a dear brother William, who died January 7, 2000 and a dear mother Mima, who died on the same date in 2003. Always remembered.

YOUNG - Happy memories of a loving mum and granny Flora, died January 9, 2005. Today and every day.

CHARITY DONATIONS
Oban Hospice
CARING FOR THE FUTURE
Donations always gratefully accepted
Please contact **David Mudie (Treasurer)**
Oban Hospice Ltd
The Croft
Kilmore

WE ARE MACMILLAN. CANCER SUPPORT
Working towards a time when every person in Scotland has equal and ready access to the best information, treatment and care for cancer
West of Scotland Fundraising Office
1st Floor, Erskine House
North Avenue, Clydebank
Business Park, Clydebank G81 2DR
Tel 0808 100 6000
In memory of Dawn Joyce

CANCER RESEARCH UK
Fighting Cancer on all fronts...
CRC Scotland spends more on research than any other organisation
Commitment of over £15 million each year
Cancer Research UK Scotland
Suite 1/1, Unit 4 Blair Court
Clydebank Business Park
Clydebank, G81 2LA

FOR THE BLIND CHILDREN OF SCOTLAND'S ACADEMIC TUITION AT THE ROYAL SCHOOL IN EDINBURGH
Please give your financial support by donation, deed of covenant or legacy
Please send to **Appeals Department, Highland Arts School, PO Box 500, Gillespie Crescent, Edinburgh, EH10 4HZ**

ECCLESIASTICAL NOTICES

LORN CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
Sunday 10th January 2010
North Connel Hall
10:30am
All Welcome
Telephone
07836 342 622
www.lorncf.org.uk

ASSOCIATED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, OBAN
Campbell Street Church
Sunday 10th January 2010
11 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.
Phone-In 'Worship Link' available
Rev. Archie McPhail
MA, MTh
(01631) 567076
All welcome

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH ANGLICAN COMMUNION
Sunday 10th January 2010
Epiphany 1
Baptism of Christ
St John's Cathedral, Oban
Holy Communion.....08:00
Sung Eucharist.....10:15
Sunday School and Creche
Loop System
Large Print Hymn Books
All Welcome
Norman MacCallum,
Provost.
(01631) 562323
Holy Spirit, Ardhattan
Holy Eucharist.....12:15
St Columba, Gruline,
Mull
Holy Eucharist.....11:00
St Columba,
Bishop's House, Iona
Holy Eucharist.....10:00

OBAN MEMORIALS
Alistair MacLean
Master Sculptor
Glenalma, Soroba Road, Oban
Design and prices on request
LETTERING AND RENOVATING
DONE IN ANY CEMETERY
TEL: 01631 563123 / 565269



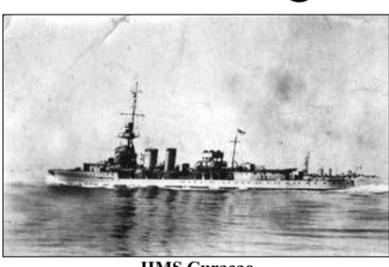
A very special present was handed over to Margaret Fletcher on Christmas Day at the Church of Scotland, Corran Esplanade, Oban to mark her retirement. On behalf of the ministers, kirk session and congregation Catherine McCulloch, a senior member of the church choir, presented gifts of a framed painting also a cheque, in appreciation of Margaret's long and dedicated service as organist with Kilmore and Oban. Pictured left to right are Rev Dugald Cameron, Rev Cath Knott, Catherine McCulloch and Margaret Fletcher.



Children from Easdale have been making surgical gowns as part of the Blue Peter Christmas campaign. The vests, along with a number of rucksacks for Mary's Meals, were making their way to children in poorer countries in the world. 16. £53blue01

HMS Curacao raised again

WAR GRAVES of seamen lost during a hushed-up incident in 1942 will be the focus of a documentary being made by BBC Scotland.



HMS Curacao

More than 150 graves of men serving on the HMS Curacao can be found at Lower Breakish in Skye, Arisaig, Pennyfuir in Oban and Morar- and the mystery surrounding the men's murky journey to the west coast has long puzzled amateur historians.

When the government released papers on the HMS Curacao it was revealed that the men's bodies were washed ashore during the war due to a military blunder. The papers reveal that on October 2 1942, the Curacao was escorting the ocean liner RMS Queen Mary carrying 20,000 American troops to join the Allied forces in Europe.

Both ships were following evasive courses about 60 km north of the coast of Ireland when the Queen Mary cut across the path of the Curacao with insufficient clearance cutting her in two. The Curacao sank immediately, about 100 yards from the Queen Mary. Due to the risk of U-boat attacks, the Queen Mary did not stop and instead steamed onward with a fractured stern.

Hours later, the convoy's lead escort returned to rescue 99 survivors from the Curacao's crew of 437, including her captain John W. Boutwood. Alfred Johnson was 22-years old and a seaman on the HMS Queen Mary. Alfred takes up the story in 1942. 'We were returning to Glasgow from New York, which was a four or five day journey.

'The Queen Mary was carrying about 20,000 American troops to join the Allied Forces. She was known as a 'hornets nest' in the war as there were lots of nationalities

on the ship. 'There were two of us on the poop deck on the aft, or stern, of the ship and we were manning the six-inch gun - in case we came under attack.

'HMS Curacao met us 200 miles off the coast to escort us into Greenock. I could see her clearly as I was on the aft. 'We could see our escort zig-zagging in front of us - it was common for the ships and cruisers to zig-zag to confuse the U-boats. In this particular case however the escort was very, very close to us.

'I said to my mate 'You know she's zig-zagging all over the place in front of us, I'm sure we're going to hit her.' 'And sure enough, the Queen Mary sliced the cruiser in two like a piece of butter, straight through the six inch armoured plating.

'The Queen Mary just carried on going at about 25 knots. It was the policy not to stop and pick up survivors even if they were waving at you. It was too dangerous as the threat of U-Boats was always present.

'My mate and I wanted to do something, so after the collision I said to my mate 'let's sling this over' and we released the cork life raft into the sea. 'Whether anyone from the cruiser managed to climb aboard the raft I have no idea.

'The Queen Mary continued her journey to Greenock, dropped anchor and discharged the American soldiers. In her wake a tragedy was unfolding behind her in

the Atlantic. 'I estimate that about 600 men were aboard the cruiser, and I don't know if there were any survivors or not, as the collision was covered up and wasn't reported in the papers.

'The case went to court many years later in 1949, and the Queen Mary was exonerated of blame and the whole event was forgotten.

Johnny Strongback whose grandfather AE Beavis was an officer on HMS Curacao and survived the collision. Mr Strongback said: 'My grandfather died a couple of years ago but in 1942 he was a marine engineer working in an engine room workshop space when the event occurred. He described his escape through twisted metal and broken ladders to entering the water. He bobbed in the water for quite some time, trying to make as little movement as possible in order to conserve warmth and energy. Eventually he was picked up.

'The most telling part of the story was the way that survivors were treated. They were put ashore and segregated in Northern Ireland, with no news given to relatives in case the shocking story undermined the propaganda effort.

'It was quite some time before my grandmother learned that he was safe.' The Curacao's wreck site is designated as a protected place under the Protection of War Graves. The documentary will be shown as part of a season of films about warships in the autumn.

Argyll is waving

ARGYLL made its presence felt with people from Taynuilt to Tarbert taking part in the climate march in Glasgow.

Members of Sustainable Oban, Craignish goes Lo-CO2! and Big Green Tarbert, were amongst the many other groups and individuals calling upon the government to push for a meaningful climate change deal at the Copenhagen talks this month.

The march, of more than 8,000 protesters, made its way from Bellahouston to Kelvingrove Park, culminating in a rally with political and religious leaders, Samba bands and Glasgow choir Protest in Harmony on stage.

Jane Wilding from Craignish goes Lo-CO2! said: 'The rain stayed off, the samba bands were great and everyone had a good time. We hope something happens in Copenhagen - either a strong, fair, binding climate change deal which will protect the poorer countries and actually get to grips with our carbon emissions - or a complete disaster will happen.'

Energy saving in winter

FREE energy saving and draft-proofing devices are being offered to young families, people on benefits and the elderly to in Argyll and Bute to help reduce fuel bills during this Arctic weather.

With temperatures plummeting to -12 or more over the festive season, the Scottish government is encouraging people to take advantage of the Energy Assistance Package, which can supply loft insulation, cavity wall insulation and central heating systems and other ways to save energy.

Housing and communities minister Alex Neil said: 'These past few weeks everyone has been feeling the cold but no-one should feel they can't keep themselves or their family warm.

'We need to send out a strong message, especially when it's bitterly cold, that real help is available and encourage anyone in Argyll and Bute who is struggling to meet high fuel costs to phone 0800 512 012.'

NEWSDESK
01631 568000
01397 703003

Corporate stationery
Business cards, letterheads, envelopes, comp slips

Personal stationery
Matching paper & envelopes, postcards, address labels

krisp print

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

A New Year wish

SKYE Camanachd shinty club has come up with a 'New Year Shinty Wish List' to draw the attention of the game's powers that be.

Recommendations include a rulebook available to all, a push to increase mid-week league shinty where it can be accommodated and better advertising of youth fixtures.

Stronger referees for youth matches and local referees rather than clubs to carry out Saturday morning pitch inspections where necessary also feature on the list.

On rules, the club argues for an online version of the Camanachd Association rules, which could be instantly updated and would provide clarity 'on all those controversial circumstances which arise'.

More midweek fixtures, according to the club's 'View from the Touchline', could also benefit the sport.

'These will be primarily during the summer months

Shinty

when students are at home anyway,' says the View.

'Derby matches would be most suitable and could attract large crowds if advertised.

'This could also give clubs who are fixtured to play games on the weekend of shinty's dreaded music festivals the chance to agree an alternative midweek fixture.'

On youth fixtures, the View says the Camanachd Association can play a role by advertising games as long as clubs provided fixture dates in advance.

'There are always shinty fans looking to attend a game midweek and many would turn out at such games,' he says, adding that referees must apply the letter of the law at youth matches.

'Some referees seem confused as to what they should and should not allow at youth level,' he adds.



Conditions were tricky for the Aonach Mor Uphill race.

No cold feet as 90 runners brave the hills

SNOWY conditions did not deter 90 runners from taking part in the annual Lochaber Athletics Club New Year's Day race, the Aonach Mor Uphill.

The runners started from Nevis Range Bottom Station and ran 2.5 miles, climbing 2,000 feet to the

top restaurant. The entire course was white with snow and had a few icy patches.

For the first time this winter Manny Gorman did not make a podium place. Local Ruari Watt had a fantastic run and finished first in a time of 27 minutes and 4 seconds in front of

Football

Ed Catmair from Thames Running Club. Ewan Taylor from Perth Road Runners was third. The times were slower than usual due to the snowy conditions. Manny Gorman (Westies) came in fourth and was also first

McEwan. First lady veteran and 54 seconds. Alan Dent was 14th and first veteran over 50 to finish in a time of 32 minutes and 11 seconds.

Lochaber's Nix Forster finished first lady in 33 minutes and 48 seconds in front of teammates Amanda Blackhall and Linda

again.

Lochaber Athletic Club would like to thank Nevis Range Staff, all marshalls, and especially Andy Rogers who did the timing yet

Tides

Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday, January 7, 2010 are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

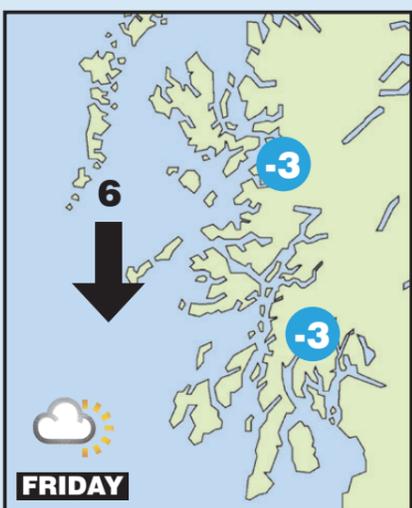
All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur 04.19	1.0 10.16 3.4 17.08 1.5 22.50	3.1
Fri 05.15	1.3 11.18 3.2 18.10 1.7	*** **
Sat 00.10	3.0 06.18 1.5 12.51 3.0 19.22	1.8
Sun 01.39	3.0 07.31 1.7 14.31 3.0 20.43	1.8
Mon 02.51	3.1 08.53 1.7 15.53 3.1 21.46	1.7
Tues 03.46	3.3 10.04 1.6 16.27 3.2 22.33	1.5
Wed 04.29	3.5 10.56 1.5 16.56 3.4 23.12	1.4

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

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

Sponsored by **NANCY BLACK** Ships' Chandler 01631-562550



the weather

Sponsored by **NANCY BLACK** Ships' Chandler

Thursday
Today should be bright and dry but remains very cold. Winds a light north/north-easterly. Temperatures -5°C to -1°C

Friday
Sunny intervals but will be another freezing cold day. Winds light northerly. Temperatures -7°C to 0°C.

Weekend Outlook
Weather will be similar to the previous day. Winds light north-easterly. Temperatures -3°C to -1°C.
Ferry Crossings/Sea States
Oban to Barra/South Uist - Calm
Oban to Coll/Tiree - As above
Kennacraig to Islay - As above

Calling all coaches

Sports coaching

ARGYLL and Bute residents interested in training as sports coaches are being encouraged to sign up for a development event in February.

The Sports Coaching Weekend, at Dunoon Grammar and other nearby sports facilities on the weekend of February 6-7, will be the third such event run by Argyll and Bute Council in partnership with Argyll College and sportsScotland.

Courses are available in football, rugby and shinty, as well as new courses such as table tennis, triathlon training and badminton, reflecting the growth of interest in these sports and activities across the area.

Free minibus transport is being offered from Oban, Campbeltown, Rothesay and Helensburgh.

See the council's website for more details.

Rally

MOTORING race duo Shaun Sinclair, Connel and Chris Hamill, Kilmore, have been celebrating a successful rally season, culminating in a top 10 drivers place for Shaun.

He was named fourth in the top ten best asphalt rally drivers by Motorsports News, in the UK rallying newspaper's review of the year.

Experience

Despite limited experience on the asphalt surface, Shaun and co-driver Chris took second place in the Scottish Tarmac Championship and seventh on the Tour of Mull, where his performance impressed the reviewers at a London-based newspaper.

The duo also finished first in Class 10 and sixth overall in the Scottish Rally championship and Chris won the Group N co-drivers award.

The Sinclair Plant Rally Team now plans a full assault on the Scottish Rally

Team Sinclair celebrate successful season



Chris Hamill and Shaun Sinclair, centre, with their support team and their trophies for the season.

championship this coming season with their Mitsubishi Lancer Evo 9.

The season starts with the Snowman Rally around Inverness in February.

Oban Saints - the season so far

OBAN Saints senior team have had a great start to the season and are presently lying in top spot in the premier division, having played eight games, winning six, drawing once away to Kilpatrick and losing 2-1 away to old rivals Greenock HSFP. However, the Oban side got revenge over Greenock in Oban beating the tail o' the back side 4-1.

Unfortunately Saints got knocked out of the West of Scotland Cup away to Milton by a narrow 2-1 margin. The club are in the 5th round of the Scottish Amateur Cup, but face a tough away tie against former finalists Falkirk. This game is scheduled to take place at Little Kerse, Grangemouth, on Saturday with a 2pm kick-off, weather permitting.

Saints are still in the Jimmy Marshall Trophy and have a 2nd round home tie against

Arkleston. A date has still to be allocated for this game.

The Under 13s are having a great season as well and are sitting top of the Dumbarton Development League and it would be a major shock if they didn't go on and win the championship.

The youngsters have won all nine of their league games so far, scoring an incredible 65 goals and losing only five.

They are also in the 3rd round of the Regional Cup with a home tie against Barcalomond.

Saints Under 15s are also doing well sitting mid table having played seven games, winning four, drawing two and losing just one.

A very young Under 19 team have struggled a bit this season, but this was expected. Coach Jim Lynch is building a new side and the experience gained will stand the players in good stead next season.

SCOTTISH AMATEUR LEAGUE - PREMIER DIVISION									
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts		
Oban Saints	8	6	1	1	23	6	19		
Greenock HSFP	7	5	1	1	18	7	16		
Inverclyde	5	3	0	2	10	6	9		
Aikenhead Thistle	5	2	1	2	18	10	7		
Kilpatrick	3	2	1	0	7	2	7		
Cambria	6	2	0	4	7	14	6		
Castlemilk	3	1	1	1	6	8	4		
Postal United	5	1	1	3	11	18	4		
St Josephs	1	0	0	1	0	2	0		
Glencastle Sparta	7	0	0	7	5	32	0		

Brora outlook is bleak

Football

FORT William FC are due to play Brora Rangers away on Saturday - but barring a weather miracle the prospects for the game going ahead as the severe winter tightens its icy grip are zero.

Season 2009-2010 is already being marked down as one of the bleakest yet with ice and snow carpeting almost all of the Highlands.

Fort committee member John Corbett told *The Oban Times* the snow in Brora is far worse than Lochaber and thought there was 'no chance' of the game being on.

'They will make a definite decision on Thursday,' he said.

Ladies looking for players

Football

OBAN Saints Ladies FC are on the lookout for players, in all positions, for the coming season.

The club have entered a team in the Scottish Women's Football Association West Region Division Two.

Coach Chris Picken is looking for more players to strengthen his squad before playing a number of friendly matches, the first against Rangers Ladies at Murray Park on Sunday January 31.

The league programme commences in March and the minimum age of the players is 15.

If you are interested give Chris a call on 07935 741893 for further details.

Saints youth fixtures

Football

Fixtures: Saturday 9 January - Regional Cup 3rd Round Saints Under 13s v Barcalomond.

Saturday 16 January - Under 13s v Baljaffray; Blair Thistle v Under 15s.

Saturday 23 January - Under 13s v Westerton United.

Glenmore 10K

Athletics

SKYE AND Lochalsh Running Club holds Round 3 of its winter series, The Glenmore 10K, next Saturday, January 16. The club will also stage a fun run ahead of the main event.



Bowling club hails prizewinners

Lochaber Bowling Club held its annual presentation of trophies in the BA Social Club recently. Winners and runners-up: Ladies Championship - A Boyle, r/u A Thain; Westland - G Hamilton, r/u W Thain; Two Bowl A Robinson, r/u W Gibbons; Pairs - W Hutchison and I Gregor, r/u A and Judith Robinson; MacDonald Cup - A Haggart, r/u A Robinson; Sutherland Cup - I Haggart, r/u A Robinson; Gents Championship - I Gregor, r/u I Haggart; Club Championship - I Haggart, r/u F Sweeney; Best Improver - Tina Aberley.

OBANTIMESTALK
TELL US YOUR NEWS FROM YOUR AREA AT OUR WEBSITE:
WWW.OBANTIMES.CO.UK

