The Oban Times & West Highland Times

OBAN EDITION

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UIST HEDGEHOGS CAN LIVE ELSEWHERE

FIRST FEMALE BEEFEATER IS FROM ARGYLL

Life rafts overboard

CALEDONIAN MacBrayne's *MV Isle of Mull* was out of service at the weekend after two 50-man life rafts fell from its starboard side in force 10 gusts. The life rafts came loose during a trip from Oban to Craignure and an attempt by *MV Isle of Eigg* to retrieve the rafts was aborted. The rafts were found in Ardmucknish Bay, Benderloch after Clyde Coastguard issued a navigational warning to all vessels in the area.

Oban mod experiment

IN A move described as an 'experiment', organisers of the Oban and District Provincial Mod have shifted the date of this year's event to September 1. The Oban mod is traditionally held on the last Friday and Saturday in June but organisers have decided to move to a one-day format, at a time when competitors are gearing up for the Royal National Mod in October.

Flares fired

RED distress flares were fired from the shore in Tobermory, Mull on Sunday to celebrate the arrival of a new fishing vessel.

The Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) is currently investigating the incident and remind seafarers and the public that misuse of a distress flare is a criminal offence.

Hospital assault

A WOMAN has been charged with an alleged assaulting on members of staff at Lorn and the Islands District General Hospital, Oban, around 5am on January 14.

Pub curfew

A NEW curfew has been imposed on all Oban licensed premises that have a drinks' licence until 2am.

Nobody can enter one of these pubs after 1am and anybody leaving the premises after that time will not be re-admitted.

From left, Maureen Cameron, Dr Angus Cameron, Doreen Henderson, Dr Andrew Henderson, Dr Allan Henderson and Sarah Henderson at McTavish's Kitchens in Oban on Saturday. t03hen01

Hospital bids farewell to Dr Andrew Henderson

AFTER 30 years as a consultant physician to the people of Oban and Argyll, Dr Andrew Henderson has hung up his white coat.

Dr Henderson, North Connel, started at the County Hospital in Oban in 1977 after completing his training at The Western Infirmary and Royal Hospital in Glasgow. He has seen huge improvements in coronary care, high dependency, medical endoscopy services and the introduction of a CT scanner at Lorn and Islands District General Hospital.

He was also involved in the outreach services to Lochgilphead, Campbeltown, Dunoon, Mull and Iona. He said he was particularly pleased to be involved in the improvements in management at in-patient and out-patient level. He was chairman of Argyll Beats Cardiovascular Disease (ABCD) from its inauguration in 2000 until last year. As well as enjoying more time with his wife Doreen, a retired primary head teacher, and three children and six grandchildren, Dr Henderson said he would be pursuing his interests of gardening, music, the church, sport and golf.

Colleagues and friends gathered at McTavish's Kitchens on Saturday evening for a farewell dinner, speeches and a presentation.

Playing with promises

LAND promised for a children's play park in Glencruitten, Oban, could be used for housing instead.

Glencruitten Residents' Association was set up with the main intention to ensure a play park was built for children, and after three years of negotiations, all 36 councillors in Argyll and Bute agreed to give them a piece of land at the playing fields in Glencruitten for that purpose.

Transferred

But the council appears to have backtracked on its promise and the land was transferred to Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) along with 5,300 houses and other assets in November.

At a meeting of the residents' association on Monday night, Alistair MacGregor, chief executive of ACHA, said the title deeds for the green area at the pitch known as Glencruitten Two were now in its hands - and the land earmarked for a park could be developed for housing.

He said the housing association was 'under tremendous pressure to try and build affordable houses', and it had an obligation to look at all the land it had been given to assess if it could be developed for housing.

Mr MacGregor added: 'There are drainage issues in Glencruitten, but land can be drained and developed and I've seen worse areas, so there are development opportunities there.

'Our first priority is to find houses for the 600 people who are on the housing list.'

Christine Pearson of Glencruitten Residents' Association received a letter from the council's legal services department last October saying it had requested that the area concerned was removed from the schedule to be transferred to ACHA, but it had not been done in time. The letter stated that residents would now have to arrange to lease the land from ACHA if they wanted to build a play park.

Christine said: 'We have agreed to write to the chief executive of Argyll and Bute Council, James McLellan, to complain about this, as somebody at the council has made a major faux pas.'

According to a recent survey by children's charity Play Scotland, Argyll and Bute has the lowest number of council-run play parks in Scotland - 28 compared with 30 in the Western Isles.

Residents' association member Roddy McCuish said: 'It is beyond belief. We are right back to square one and we have to look at the wrong done to this community through no fault of our own. The sensible solution would be for the council, as an act of good faith, to give us another suitable piece of land for a play park.'

Oban South Councillor Donald McIntosh, at the meeting, admitted the land should never have been transferred to ACHA and he would raise the subject at the next Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Committee meeting.

New pipe to end Seil's water woes

THE WATER woes of people in Clachan Seil could soon be over after Scottish Water pledged more than £600,000 to fix water mains serving the community.

Pipes delivering water to homes in Clachan Seil burst on a regular basis last year causing the water to be cut off. As a result, the community called an emergency public meeting to voice its disapproval.

However, Scottish Water confirms it will replace nine kilometres of water main from Easdale Service Reservoir to Balvicar and Kilbrandon. In a letter to Argyll and Bute MSP George Lyon, Scottish Water's chief executive states the target completion date will be March 2007.

Residents in the affected areas have suffered up to 12 burst water pipes in one week with some claiming compensation from the water company after being without water for 12 hours.

Seil Community Council chairman Seumas Anderson said: 'This is wonderful news. I don't see them completing the work in the timescale but it will stop a lot of the problems. We would have numerous leaks in a week because as soon as one part was fixed, another would burst.'

Mr Lyon said: 'I have been pressing Scottish Water to renew the pipe instead of continually patching up the old one which was a waste of time and effort as it was in such a poor state of repair.'

RNLI honours fund raising founder

AN OBAN woman is delighted this week to recieve a special award from an organisation she has been involved with for more than half a century.

Isobel Black is a founder member of Oban Fundraising Branch of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI).

She is to be presented with a Bar to Gold badge for her outstanding support of the charity, which is the second highest honour the RNLI awards its volunteers.

Miss Black said: 'It is an honour to receive this award and very much appreciated.

'I was awarded the Gold badge many years ago and have been involved with the RNLI for 55 years.

'I was on the committee before there was even a lifeboat in Oban, and first became involved with the institution as I have always lived in Oban beside the sea and sailed when I was younger.'

Oban Fundraising Branch President Lorraine McCracken said she 'couldn't be more pleased' about Miss Black's award.

She added: 'It is unbelievable what Miss Black does for the RNLI. She has raised thousands of pounds over the years by holding book fares, tombola stalls and her own particular bits and pieces.

'She still does a marvellous job and no-one deserves this award more than her.'

For more on this story see Page 9.

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Mull's roads and economy collapsing

❒ No further forward after 30 years

HUNDREDS of jobs could be lost if the road network on Mull is not improved.

That was the stark warning from councillors at the recent meeting of Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Committee.

A recent report on the economic impact of the effects of weight restrictions on roads on the island indicated that if the current restrictions continued it could lead to 261 job losses and an economic loss of just under £5 million.

Despite councillors urging the Scottish Executive to stump up the majority of the cash, it is still unclear where the £15 million needed to make the improvements is going to come from to remove the weight restrictions.

'Roads are just about collapsing'
- Councillor Alistair MacDougall

Tiree and Coll Councillor Ian Gillies said at the meeting: 'This is an issue we have been talking about for three years. We need to encourage the Scottish Executive to spend more money in Argyll and Bute, particularly Oban, Lorn and the Isles.'

Mull Councillor Alistair MacDougall was first involved in the fight to upgrade the roads on the island in 1977 and is frustrated that they are no further forward 30 years on.

He said: 'I realise that most of the roads in Argyll and Bute need a lot of money spent on them and I don't want to jump the queue, but the situation in Mull could have serious consequences and I feel we are a special case.

'We are talking about a relatively small amount, and although I don't care where the money ultimately comes from as long as we get it, the Scottish Executive have got to come up with some of it. Although I am very concerned about job losses, there is even more than that at risk. The bad weather in the last couple of weeks has seen the roads just about collapsing. Very soon, tourists won't be able to travel here.'

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Deputy Lord Lieutenants appointed in Argyll and Bute

TWO new Deputy Lord-Lieutenants have been appointed in Argyll and Bute and one has announced his retiral.

Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Argyll and Bute Kenneth A MacKinnon, RD, WS announced earlier this week that, with Her Majesty's approval, he has appointed and granted commission to Jane MacLeod, Lochgilphead and Robert Campbell-Preston, Inverawe as Deputy Lord-Lieutenants for Argyll and Bute.

Mrs MacLeod is a solicitor and Company Secretary of M&K MacLeod Construction. She is married to Murdo MacLeod, a director of the company which is owned by himself and his brother Kenny.

Mr Campbell-Preston and his wife Rosie run Inverawe Smokehouse near Taynuilt, where the family started the business in 1974, growing it into a thriving mail-order business, country park, fisheries and self-catering cottages.

After many years' service as a Deputy Lord-Lieutenant, David Fellowes, long serving secretary of Dalmally Show and land owner near Dalmally, has retired.

Daffodils bloom in January

ROBERT Shields of Longdale Crescent, Oban, displays an early blooming daffodil in his garden.

Mr Shields said: 'This type of daffodil shouldn't appear until about April. It's huge! It's definitely down to climate change. There's no doubt about it.'

Have you any signs of an early spring that you would like to share?

Appin

Historical society

POPULAR Appin resident Ian Weir was guest speaker at Appin Historical Society's December meeting.

His talk, entitled 'A Romantic View of Appin', filled the hall with laughter as he delighted members and guests with tales of thinly-disguised characters.

Ian, who writes a regular column in The Scots Magazine, has lived locally all his life.

Mull

Community council

PRESENT at a recent meeting of Mull Community Council were:

Linda Cameron, chairman; Fiona Brown, Pennyghael/Tiroran; Bert Leitch, Ulva Ferry; Jim Corbett, Lochbuie; Hazel Yule, Tobermory; Adrian Fitness, Craignure; Councillor Alistair MacDougall; Paul Forster, Salen; Linda Dawson, minute/correspondence secretary; PC Fraser, Strathclyde Police; Richard Morrey, Service Science, six representatives from Caledonian MacBrayne (CalMac) and six members of the public.

Items discussed included: **Mull Aquaculture and Fisheries Association (MAFA):** A meeting, organised by Mull and Iona Community Trust (MICT) and MAFA, had been held in Craignure. MICT had spoken to the community council chairman asking if the council would like to take part, but Mull Community Council (MCC) felt it had nothing to contribute at this stage. However, an email was to be sent offering support to meeting.

An event was organised by the Scottish Executive in Oban in December. The chairman was invited to attend. This was the first official notification MCC had had regarding the proposed coastal marine national park.

Approximately 40 people attended, including representatives from community councils from other areas. Everyone agreed there had been no consultation about proposed places for a park. The majority of people at the event felt it was not a consultation; it was more a promotional event and the agenda had to be altered in view of the feelings expressed.

Contact was made with other community councils. MCC is to keep in touch with them.

Retiring secretary Marilyn Kristiansen and retiring treasurer Sheila Appleby pictured with their gifts from Appin Historical Society.

All change at annual meeting

AT THE annual general meeting of Appin Historical Society, the following members were elected to office:

Chairman, Mary Gregory; vice chairman, Iain McNicol; secretary, Eileen Bell; treasurer, Roger Evans; archivist, Sylvia Laing; and archive editor, Ronnie Laing.

Committee: Sheila Appleby, Midge Gourlay and Hazel Wager.

Following the meeting, a picture painted by Fiona Hunter was presented to retiring secretary Marilyn Kristiansen. Marilyn and husband Kris have run Cala Craft shop in Port Appin for 25 years and have become well-known local figures, but they are now returning to the USA.

Both founder members of Appin Historical Society, their input has been key to the society's success.

Flowers were also presented to retiring treasurer Sheila Appleby, above, also a founder member of society.

Marilyn and Kris Kristiansen, who have run the Cala Craft shop in Port Appin for 25 years, are returning to the USA.

The chairman attended a local National Farmers Union meeting where it was agreed it would send in a response to the marine park plans. The council had also spoken to a member of Mull Car Club to make it aware why it is important it sends in a response.

Organisers of the Isle of Mull Rally, which brings in a lot of income to the island, are to be urged to respond as well.

Prior to the MCC meeting, as a result of the short timescale, the chairman asked individual community councillors to send their comments/views on the proposal. Councillor MacDougall suggested that stakeholders like CalMac and the Royal National Lifeboat Institution should have been consulted.

Planning application: An e-mail had been received wanting MCC to support a planning application. Following discussion, it was agreed to write a letter of support. Following the meeting, the chairman felt, on reflection, that the decision was made in a hurry without discussing the facts fully. No letter would be written at present.

Proposals to introduce a taxi/police stance at Craignure Ferry Terminal: A letter had been received from Argyll and Bute Council outlining proposed amendments to the order currently in place. Following discussion, it was agreed to support the proposals as set out.

House building, Aros, Salen: The Tobermory community councillor said five objections had been received. A public hearing will be held. There is insufficient affordable housing on the island and MCC would like a letter of support sent.

This issue has already been fully discussed at previous MCC meetings and with residents living in the area; a previous letter had already been sent supporting the above. Gregor Cameron may attend future meeting

Ulva Ferry school sign: Councillor MacDougall agreed to speak to Neil Brown.

CalMac: Phil Preston informed the meeting that the Scottish Executive has now invited tenders for Clyde and Hebrides ferry services. CalMac is one of two companies invited to bid. The bid must be submitted to the Scottish Executive by 3pm on May 11 2007. There is a specification to work to and CalMac is currently working through the documentation.

Following the last meeting between CalMac and MCC, Richard Morrey of Service Science, an independent market research company, which has worked with CalMac over a number of years was asked to carry out a survey on Mull.

He was asked to test the opinion and general satisfaction/dis-satisfaction with the ferry service. Consultations with the public were carried out by six people from out of the area, completely independent of any organisation.

During 100 hours of interviewing, carried out over a three-week period during October and November 2006, which coincided with half-term and the Mull Rally, 527 people were interviewed - 151 Mull residents, 121 non-Mull residents and 255 tourists. The limit on tourists was 200.

Questions were asked under different headings and the results were rated at 0-3 negative and 4-7 positive, which were shown in graphs and diagrams.

Part of the Mull residents' results were that 35 per cent wanted cheaper fares; 34 per cent wanted more crossings in winter; 15 per cent wanted more crossings in summer; 15 per cent wanted additional later services; 16 per cent felt discriminated against in favour of tourists; seven per cent wanted more flexibility regarding the 30-minute rule and timetabling and six per cent felt the food could be improved.

A copy of the survey and full results would be received at a later date.

Comments from Linda Cameron, chairman MCC: Following discussion, the survey results seem to have worked well for CalMac, although value for money on fares only came out at 3.1 per cent - privatisation or other operator three per cent.

Some local people felt some areas had not been covered; on reflection some of the results do not seem to add up.

It was noted that passengers who use the ferry daily, some of whom were present at the meeting, were not consulted. They had not seen the survey taking place during the three-week period. One hundred and fifty one Mull residents surveyed is not many out of a population of nearly 3,000.

Of the 15 people present - excluding CalMac representatives - the percentage that Service Science was working on should have shown at least one person in attendance should have been interviewed. Another issue which has caused frustration is why many people are unable to make a booking.

At a previous community council meeting, CalMac noted that during October, 1,167 cars and 157 commercial vehicles had not turned up to sail as booked.

They asked Mull residents to phone in and cancel any bookings they would not be using.

Under the circumstances, it was felt this was a valid request regarding the high numbers involved.

Kyle of Lochalsh

Your correspondent is Charlie MacRae: 01599 544359

Royal British Legion

THE ANNUAL general meeting of the Lochalsh branch of Royal British Legion Scotland was held recently in the Lochalsh Hotel, Kyle.

Treasurer Donnie Gordon submitted a satisfactory report despite expenditure of more than £1,000. Filling Smartie sweet boxes with 20 pence pieces had raised £120.

The following were elected: president, Jock Healy, Drumbuie; vice president Hector Morrison, Achmore; chairman Major Alasdair Stewart, Balmacara; vice chairman, Paul Newton, Ardelve; secretary/press and pension, Charlie M MacRae, Plockton; treasurer Donnie Gordon, Balmacara; assistant treasurer, Noel Gordon, Balmacara; representative to area meetings and conference, Alex Murray, Kyle. Committee - Lieutenant Commander Berwyn Edwards, Inverinate; Alastair Davidson, Glenelg; Jonathon MacSween, Ardelve; Francis Coghill, Kyle; Arthur Shaw, Sallachy, and Iain Macfadyen, Kyle.

The branch delivered 36 Christmas parcels to descendants of former legion members and also sent Christmas cards to serving personnel.

The branch was delighted to report a record Poppy collection of more than £3,000. It also won the Best Kept War Memorial Competition in the Highland area. The branch has 88 members.

Plockton pontoon's £500 boost

On Thursday December 21, Roger Parry, Commodore of the Royal Highland Yacht Club (RHYC), Oban, travelled to Plockton with his wife Ursula to present Plockton Harbour Association with a £500 cheque. Forty yachts from the RHYC visited Plockton on July 1 as part of its 125-year celebrations and were impressed with Plockton's new Pontoon. However, it hopes that water can be provided at the pontoon in the future, and this money will go towards the cost. When the pontoon was installed, Scottish Water was unable to provide water. Roger was thanked by chairman of Plockton Harbour Association Jimmy Fergusson and treasuer Geoff Webster. Left to right: Geoff Webster, Roger Parry and Jimmy Fergusson.

Festive treat

SEVENTY three senior citizens from Stromeferry, Achmore, Duirinish, Drumbuie and Plockton enjoyed their annual Chrismas dinner on Saturday December 9 in Plockton Village Hall.

After an excellent meal, dancing was to first class music from a band from the National Centre of Excellence in Traditional Music at Plockton High School.

Master of ceremonies was Donald Ross and Alastair Bremner, the oldest senior citizen present, gave the vote of thanks.

Society boost

A STALL at the Lighthouse Centre, Kyle, on Friday December 8 raised £1,221 for the local Alzheimers Society.

Field club

THE SOUTH West Ross Field Club met in Kirkton Church Hall on December 8.

A good turn out heard Dr John Love give an excellent illustrated lecture on 'The Machairs of Uist'.

Village hall

THE ANNUAL general meeting of Plockton Village Hall was held in Plockton Hall on December 12.

There was the usual attendance and treasurer Charlie M MacRae submitted a satisfactory report showing a profit for the year despite expenditure of £5767.07.

The following were elected: chairman, Kenneth Gollan; vice chairman Johnnie Nicholson; and secretary/treasurer Charlie M MacRae, who has now held the post for 45 years. Committee: Alan James; Mick Coe; Ruari Campbell; George Glasgow; John MacDonald; John Leiper; Gill James; Lorraine Matheson; Fiona Williams and Jimmy Fergusson.

The committee discussed hall improvements including the kitchen and possibly a sound system.

Computers for Africa

TERRY and Pat Heaviside continue to raise money for Computers for Africa and they recently raised more than £200 at a sale in Plockton Hall.

Concerts

THE ANNUAL concert given by pupils of the National Centre of Excellence in Traditional Music at Plockton High School attracted the usual large crowd on December 16 and was enjoyed by everyone.

On December 18 Plockton Primary School presented 'The Stars Come out for Christmas'. Primary school pupils also took part in a carol service in the Church of Scotland on December 21.

Thirty-three children attended the annual Christmas party in Plockton Hall on December 21.

Piping

THE SEVENTH Kevin Stoddart Memorial piping competition was held in the Lochalsh Hotel on December 9.

Nine pipers from Skye and Lochalsh were invited to play. Winner: Andrew Smith, Kyle; 2 Alasdair Murray, Erbusaig; 3 Rhona Jagger, Portree.

The trophy was presented by Mrs Agnew Stoddart, Inverinate.

Prize draw

THE ANNUAL Christmas prize draw organised by the Plockton Hotel was drawn on Christmas eve with the top prize of £300 going to Sybil Cameron, Frithard Road, Plockton.

Golf

THE ANNUAL golf tournament organised by the Plockton Hotel was held on December 27.

Twenty golfers travelled to Lochcarron Golf Course for the event. Winners were Jamie Coe and Andrew Macdonald, Jamie winning for the fourth year in a row.

Weather

THE WET spell in November continued into December and although there was a dry spell of eight days, rainfall in December was a record 11¼ inches.

A fairly dry summer meant rainfall at Plockton in 2006 was 70 inches, only two inches more than 2005. The warmest day in December was 14°C and the coldest was 0°C.

Bag packing

THE MACMILLAN Cancer Committee for Lochalsh, Glenshiel and Glenelg packed bags at the Co-op in Kyle and raised £416.

The total raised in 2006 was £16,950.

Yacht breaks moorings

FOR THE second time in a few weeks, a yacht left in Plockton Harbour over the winter broke her moorings.

The yacht came ashore in Loch Reraig but refloated without damage.

Kyle Ceilidh Band calls it a day

Kyle Ceilidh Band play for the final time in Plockton Hall on December 1 at the wedding of Michael Hay and Roslyn Hagan. Left to right, Sandy Macvarish, guitar, Willie Kennedy, accordion, Francis Coghill, drums, and John Paterson, accordion. Francis and John have decided to retire so it will mean the end of Kyle Ceilidh Band as everyone knows it. However, Willie has formed a new band with John D MacKerllich from Dornie and Murdo MacKenzie, Lochcarron, called the Westward Ceilidh Band. Francis started playing the drums in 1960 with the late Willie Nicolson's Band so he's happy to retire after 40 years playing.

JANUARY ISSUE ON SALE NOW

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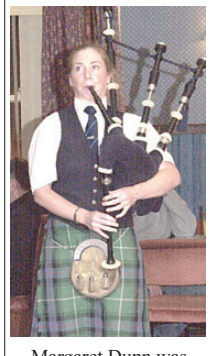
Talent on show at Kintyre piping recital

BAD WEATHER saw a disappointing number of people turn out to the recent Kintyre Piping recital.

Those who stayed at home missed hearing two of the best young pipers around, who both hail from Ireland but now live and work in Glasgow, along with two talented young local pipers.



Margaret Dunn was guest piper along with the Gold Medal-winning husband Alistair.

First up was Sarah Muir who performed a variety of march, strathspey and reels, horn pipes and jigs.

Margaraet Dunn, nee Houlahan, from County Cork, was next. Margaret had difficulty tuning as the tuning room was cold and coming into a warm room put the pipes askew. After settling, Margaret gave an excellent display with slow airs, march, strathspey and reels and the ground of *Macleod's of Rassay's Salute* and a lovely tune on a well-balanced pipe.

Next up was David Muir who, as usual, stepped out briskly with march, strathspeys and reels, a slow air, hornpipe and jig.

Next Alistair Dunn, who married Margaret on September 30 last year, played the ground of the piobaireachd *Isobel MacKay*. This lovely tune was the one Alistair played to win the Gold Medal this year.

Young local pipers Sarah and David Muir performed at the recital. c49rec01

Alistair settled quickly and gave an outstanding performance, showing he is one of the up-and-coming young pipers.

Alistair is Pipe Sergeant of world champion pipe band Field Marshall Montgomery. As well as the Gold Medal, Alistair has won the silver at the Northern Meeting. He is general manager of well-known firm RG Hardie and Co.

It's a pity a lot of young pipers missed the excellent display as they could have learned a lot.

W McC.

Plockton boat trip tips boost charities

CALUM MacKenzie, who runs seal trips from Plockton with his boat *Argus*, has raised thousands of pounds for charities over the years.

This year was no exception and with a cruise and the gratuities received by himself and his crew they recently presented £2,900 to Macmillan Cancer Relief and £350 to the Highland Hospice.

Ruby MacRae, Kyle, second left, top, received the cheque for the Highland Hospice and Marie Finlayson, Drumbuie, fourth left, above, received the cheque for Macmillan Cancer Relief.

Calum is pictured far left in both photographs, along with his crew.

You can email your Lorn news to
lornlines@obantimes.co.uk

WORK continues to fill the vacancy at Kilmore and Oban Church of Scotland, in Glencruitten Road.

David Mitchell is chairman of the nominating committee and Roy Wood, clerk. Adverts have been placed in suitable publications and members of the congregation can nominate possible candidates.

The youth group, Alive At Five, held its annual coffee morning and baking stall in the church centre following the Nativity service at Glencruitten Road Church on Sunday December 17. This helps general funding and allows the organisers to continue to sponsor Binaya Choudhari in Nepal.

Some of the Alive At Five team were also present at the close of the Esplanade Church service to add to the fare available there when more donations were received.

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A COFFEE morning organised by staff of Lorn and Islands District General Hospital's Ward A raised £736 for ward funds.

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TAYNUILT villagers crowded into the village hall to welcome 2007.

It was the second year in succession that Taynuilt's Hogmanay revels have centred on the village hall, making the event very much a community affair.

Responding to the invitation to come along, families, including children, were soon flooding in as the party kicked-off at 10pm. Toasts were drunk as everyone mixed happily and danced to the music of Campbell Anderson on accordion and Jamie Livingstone on drums. There was also piping from Russell Campbell, home on holiday from the Central Belt where he works in a technical college, as well as superb singing from National Mod Silver Medallist Audrey Paterson, Taynuilt.

Outstanding solo piano playing by a visitor to the village, here for New Year, proved one of the evening's highlights.

The MC was Jack Campbell, Taynuilt.

The inspiration behind the party was Cathie Reid, Taynuilt, who, with the help of friends, made all the arrangements.

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ALAN Reid, MP for Argyll and Bute, has stressed to the government the difficulties viewers in many parts of Argyll will face when the analogue TV system is switched off in 2010.

Pointing out that the licence fee is the same for everyone, Mr Reid has urged the government to ensure all viewers in Argyll can receive digital TV.

Oban is one of a number of areas in Argyll in which George Lyon MSP has pressed Scottish Water to upgrade water supplies. He has been promised an upgrade of the current waste treatment plant.

Speaking on transport, he has also called for more affordable fares for islanders.

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IT HELD all the attractions of a traditional Highland ceilidh with many members of the audience themselves happily taking to the stage.

Held to raise funds for the local games, the annual New Year Ceilidh at Kilmore drew an eager audience of adults and children. A compelling programme included soloist Peter Sinclair and friends from Connel, young pipers Donald Morrison, Kilmore, and Neil Jordan, Kilvaree, both members of Oban High School Pipe Band; accordionist Fraser McGlynn, Tarbert, teamed with his son Kevin on drums; accordionist John Allan MacLean, Kilninver, Sandy Carr, Glenlonan, who sang bothy ballads; as well as soloists Graham Campbell, Easdale; and Jenn Jones, who works at Scammadale, in addition to Neil MacCorquodale and Angus MacFadyen, Scammadale, who performed duets.

With the takings boosted by a raffle, the ceilidh, which was organised by the local games committee, raised a gratifying sum.

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GUEST at the meeting of Oban Camera Club held in the Regent Hotel on January 8, Philip Price typified the calibre of the speakers this organisation attracts.

Mr Price lives in Kilchrenan where he operates Loch Vision, a company which specialises in outdoor adventure, wildlife and photography. Using a digital presentation, he talked club members through his efforts to photograph a swallow in mid-flight, screening the resulting stunning shot. Also projected were equally impressive photographs of ducks, birds and deer.

The evening was thoroughly enjoyed by a large turnout. The speaker was thanked by club president Alex Clark.

Drink driver three times over limit

A MAN who admitted his second drink drive conviction in three years had his sentence deferred until February 5 when he appeared at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday.

David Benni admitted being three times over the limit at Airds Crescent, Oban, on December 9.

The court was told he had a previous similar conviction imposed in July 2003 when he was banned for two years and fined £300.

Sheriff Douglas Small was told on Monday that on December 9 a breath test showed 116 microgrammes of alcohol in 100 millilitres of breath. The legal limit is 35/100.

Benni, aged 26, of 19 Findhorn, Erskine, told the sheriff he did not have an alcohol dependency problem but agreed he had ignored the drink drive laws.

Sentence was deferred for reports in view of the high reading of the breath test and for Benni to produce his driving licence which he said was with the DVLA.

Road safety

A ROAD safety campaign has been the driving force in making Argyll roads safer, according to a survey by Argyll and Bute Council.

A Citizens' Panel survey revealed that 44 per cent of respondents felt the DRIVESafe campaign had caused them to drive more safely whilst 29 per cent felt that it had improved the general level of safe driving in Argyll and Bute.

A radio-tracked Uist hedgehog finds a home far from the birds it is accused of decimating.

Research backs hedgehog relocation

NEW EVIDENCE has emerged which raises questions over the policy to cull hedgehogs on North and South Uist.

A scientific study has claimed that the welfare of hedgehogs will not be significantly affected by transportation to the mainland, something which animal rights campaigners have argued for years.

Hedgehogs were imported to the islands in the mid-1970s to combat garden pests and have since spread all over the islands reaching 5,000 in number by 2003. They have been implicated in the poor breeding success of important species of ground nesting birds, such as the lapwing, dunlin and ring plover.

While most animal groups agree that the spiny mammals need to be removed from the island, Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) decided a cull was the best method as relocating them would cause a 'slow and lingering death'. This has been fiercely disputed by groups including Uist Hedgehog Rescue and the British Hedgehog Preservation Society (BHPS) which has offered £20 to locals to hand the creatures over to them instead for transportation to the mainland.

Survive

SNH has argued that problems adjusting to a new habitat, such as disease, predators and lack of food, meant that hedgehogs would not survive the move.

The latest study of 20 Uist hedgehogs, conducted by ecologist Hugh Warwick on behalf of the BHPS, suggests that this is not the case.

The research found that hedgehogs were more likely to survive when they were over a certain weight but had an overall survival rate of 67 per cent.

'Obviously some hedgehogs die anyway,' added Mr Warwick, 'about 30 per cent in a season, so the figures are actually pretty good.'

BHPS has also argued that it has cost £950 per hedgehog killed by SNH, whereas their translocation project cost £50 each, with no realistic prospect of eradication in less than 10 years. The findings of the latest research are currently being considered by SNH.

A 'spot lamper', who was involved in looking for hedgehogs for SNH, said: 'No-one wants to see them killed if it's not necessary. If there's a better way of doing it then we should definitely change. The bird population was getting decimated so I think SNH was just looking to do something as soon as possible.

'It does seem strange, though, that people seem to have such a big problem with killing hedgehogs. Mink and rabbits are culled all the time and no-one bothers about them. Hedgehogs are not an endangered species.'

Oban traders enjoy good Christmas period

WIND and rain may have dampened people's spirits over the festive season but it doesn't seem to have affected shopping habits as Oban retailers report another successful year on the high street.

Many stores say it has been business as usual with profits in line with last year's takings over Christmas. The day Christmas fell on made a difference, according to Euan Finlayson of the Jean Shop: 'Takings are slightly up on last year. Having the full week leading up to Christmas helps.' However, in Martin's jewellers they felt this 'created a distortion'. 'It always appears busier if you only have three days,' said a spokesperson.

Dave Aubertin, manager of WH Smith, said: 'It seems to get later every year. We did better than anyone else in the company.'

Superdrug, a fairly recent addition to George Street, had no figures to compare with this year's takings but they got into the festive spirit. 'It was mobbed,' said employee Alana Robb. 'We had music and everyone was dressed up. We had a lot of fun.'

First female Beefeater is from Argyll

A FORMER Mid Argyll woman has been appointed as the Tower of London's first female Beefeater.

Moira Cameron, who grew up in Furnace before moving to Lochgilphead, beat five men to win the vacancy in the Yeoman Warders, becoming the first woman guard in the 500-year history of the Beefeaters.

Speaking to *The Oban Times's* sister paper *The Argyllshire Advertiser*, Moira's dad Dougie Cameron, of Union Street, Lochgilphead, said: 'We're very proud of Moira.

'She found out that she'd got the job just before Christmas, but managed to keep it quiet until last week.

'She knew when she applied that she would be the first female Beefeater if she was appointed.'

Moira joined the army in 1985, aged 16. She is now a warrant officer in the Adjutant-General's Corps in Aldershot, Hants.

An official from the Tower of London said: 'We have had other women candidates but none were up to the job.

'Moira clearly is.'

The Yeomen Warders of Her Majesty's Royal Palace and Fortress the Tower of London, popularly known as the Beefeaters, are ceremonial guardians of the Tower of London. In principle they are responsible for looking after any prisoners at the Tower and safeguarding the British crown jewels, but in practice they act as tour guides and are a tourist attraction in their own right.

The origin of the term Beefeater is unclear, but it may originate from the fact that early warders were paid in beef, amongst other things.

Moira Cameron.

Police files

Two reported

AS A result of police enquiries, two men have been reported for breach of the peace after an allleged incident in Oban's Breadalbane Street around 1.10am on January 14.

Miller Road disturbance

A LOCAL woman appeared from custody at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday after being apprehended for alleged breach of the peace and assault around 4.45am on January 14 in Miller Road.

Landslide

REPORTS were made to police of a landslide on the A85 at Bealach an Ruigh, Oban, around 12.45pm on Saturday January 13. The road remained open to traffic.

Combie Street arrest

A MAN was arrested for an alleged assault after a disturbance in Combie Street, Oban, around 11.10pm on January 12.

Ben Cruachan flare report

REPORTS were made to police of what looked like flares being set off at the side of Ben Cruachan, Lochawe, around 5.45pm on January 12.

However, it appears that sparks were coming from an electricity pylon.

Fake notes

CENTRAL Scotland Police are warning people to be on the look-out for counterfeit bank notes.

An increasing number of counterfeit bank notes have been circulating in the Stirling area and have been reported by both customers and retailers.

A police spokesperson said: 'The counterfeit notes we are seeing are £10 and £20 denominations and are clearly not genuine currency notes.'

Lochgair woman receives OBE

A LOCHGAIR woman recently attended Buckingham Palace to receive her OBE from Her Majesty the Queen.

Wilma Campbell at Buckingham Palace, where she received her OBE from Her Majesty the Queen.

Wilma Campbell received the honour for services to economic development in the Highlands and Islands.

She said: 'I received notice in strict confidence from 10 Downing Street that the Prime Minister would be submitting my name to the Queen with a recommendation that I be appointed as an officer of the Order of the British Empire.'

Wilma served as a board member of Argyll and the Islands Enterprise for three years until appointed to the board of Highlands and Islands Enterprise five years ago. She has served as a governor of the UHI Millennium Institute for several years and is also chairwoman of Argyll College, which has 11 learning centres throughout Argyll and the Islands. The college has recently built and opened a childcare nursery at Dunstaffnage and is building a construction skills centre in Lochgilphead.

Benderloch couple celebrate diamond day

BENDERLOCH couple Ian and Grace Sharp were delighted to receive a visit recently from Depute Lord Lieutenant of Argyll and Bute Robert Campbell-Preston on the occasion of their Diamond Wedding anniversary.

Ian and Grace were married in Crosshill Victoria Church, Glasgow, on January 4 1947.

As well as being presented with flowers and chocolates, the couple also received a congratulatory card from Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

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Appin pensioner warned by Oban Sheriff

A PENSIONER who made repeated nuisance phone calls to doctors at Port Appin Surgery was admonished when she appeared at Oban Sheriff Court recently.

Patricia Wilson, aged 61, of Waterside Lodge, Port Appin, admitted that on April 25 last year and on various other occasions between November 2005 and January 2006, she did annoy, inconvenience and cause needless anxiety to doctors at the surgery, and did make false and repetitive calls of an unnecessary nature.

Defence agent Duncan Durbin told the court that Wilson was going through a medical crisis at the time and made the calls to the surgery 'when she was frantic'.

Sheriff Douglas Small said: 'In the unusual circumstances of this case I will admonish her'.

He added: 'I don't want to see her here again.'

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Marine world closed for good

ONE of Mallaig's top tourist attractions, Mallaig Marine World, has been forced to close after 14 years because of irreparable structural damage.

Owners Ross and Frankie Campbell had hoped to reopen the centre's aquarium and fishing exhibition following the sudden collapse of a ceiling last May when the centre was closed pending damage assessment.

However, they have now announced that the centre will not re-open.

No one was injured in the collapse and the marine exhibits were released back into the sea.

The couple thanked the many people who had visited the centre and supported it over the 14 years.

Barra hearse's final drive

BARRA'S hearse is to oversee one final funeral on the island – its own.

The 22-year-old hearse has been based on Barra for 15 years, leading every funeral cortege the island has seen in that time with various volunteer drivers at the helm.

Scottish Co-op – which has plans to build a new £1 million store on the island - has donated a new hearse in the form of a second-hand Vauxhall Omega. The new vehicle was transported to the island by the manager of Castlebay Co-op, Graham Pilson, on Tuesday.

Raasay House ballot

THE RAASAY House Trust has this week set the ball in motion for community ownership of the manor house, beginning with a restructure of the trust itself. The restructuring of the trust took place on Monday and the next step towards community ownership will be a ballot on January 29, asking islanders if they wish to take over ownership of the house used currently as an outdoor activity centre.

South Uist crofters divided over golf course extension

A MAJOR development causing ripples in world golfing circles has made a much larger splash closer to home.

Crofters in Askernish on South Uist are disputing moves by Askernish Golf Club to extend the course by almost four times its present size.

Askernish golf links was laid out in 1891 by Old Tom Morris, who is regarded as the father of golf course greenkeeping, and a big enough name to attract more modern golfing enthusiasts to the course.

Golf course architect Martin Ebert and consultant Gordon Irvine have been sufficiently impressed to travel to South Uist from Sussex and Ayrshire, respectively, to offer their services at no cost. But some crofters say the machair is common grazing, and may take their case to the Scottish Land Court.

The township's shareholders are divided, the majority having protested against the development's planning application.

Chairman of the Askernish Grazings Committee William MacDonald said the nine-hole course would quadrupled in size, covering most of the 432-acre machair, which Scottish Natural Heritage has designated as a part of the National Scenic Area. Mr MacDonald says the development will have a disastrous impact on the ecology and wildlife in general and asked where the cattle and sheep would go when hundreds of people were playing on the course.

'We have nothing against the course that they have got there, but they have no right to the common grazing,' added Gilbert Walker, the committee's clerk.

Crofters claim the machair's cropping shares and arable land are essential to their livelihood and the dunes, which will define the new golfing greens, are essential for winter shelter of livestock. A third shareholder, Angus Johnstone, said: 'If they go ahead with this, in 10 years we will not be allowed on to the land, and we will have to ask them for rights.' Another shareholder, Don MacPhee, a crofter and a member of the golf club, said: 'I can understand them objecting if they were actually going to lose something, and I would be the first one to go along with them.

'But I have looked at the plans and I only see positives.

'There is no question of the crofters' rights being taken away; the machair is in the state it's in because of being grazed, and the architects want to keep it grazed.'

Donald MacInnes of Askernish Golf Club said planning permission had been approved and work was underway.

Rain, what rain, say Banavie pupils

Pupils from Banavie Primary School show why they are not bothered by the wet and windy weather as they demonstrate their new all purpose wet suits. The brightly coloured waterproof suits have allowed them to go for walks and enjoy spots of gardening despite the conditions. The suits were bought at a cost of more than £200 for the pupils by the school's parent teacher association, whic was praised recently for providing 'very good support to the nursery'.

Outdoor capital challenge

FORT William is fighting back at suggestions that Aviemore is more entitled to the claim of Outdoor Capital of the UK.

The suggestion came during the television programme *Landward* when presenter Lindsay Cannon asked viewers if Fort William and Lochaber really had more to offer than 'Scotland's premiere mountain resort' Aviemore.

Seriously

Outdoor Capital of the UK Project director Anna Trafford said: 'I don't take it too seriously. I think Fort William has the edge over Aviemore just because of the depth and breadth of the landscape here.

'Aviemore has fantastic facilities but what we have here is great lochs, great sailing, the Small Isles, coast, mountains, the glens; in general just a really diverse landscape. Their white water isn't as challenging as ours and they don't have the iconic landscapes such as Glencoe for example.'

Some outdoor enthusiasts featured on the show were not so convinced with one saying: 'Aviemore is just that bit more special' and another claiming that the rightful owner of the title 'had to be Aviemore'.

Managing Director of Nevis Range Marian Austin said: 'I don't think that upping the ante between the two is necessarily a good idea. Both areas have good skiing but there are differences. We're able to offer more variety because of the downhill mountain biking which they are not able to do because of the conservation issues in the Cairngorms.'

The title was questioned prior to the community company's creation in 2003 and a study was carried out by Professor Terry Stevens to validate the claim.

Ms Austin said: 'Professor Terry Stevens did a feasibility study and compared Fort William and Lochaber to all the areas in Scotland including Aviemore and he approved the claim.'

Poll

Producers are currently running a poll to find out what the public feeling is but were tight-lipped about the results which will be announced on the next show.

One person who is confident is Ms Trafford: 'I'd have to say Lochaber will win the poll but it's great that we have two places in Scotland that are world class destinations.'

Mallaig man's night out ends in jail

A MALLAIG fisherman, who had a raucous night out in December while on bail from Inverness Sheriff Court, ended up spending the festive season remanded in jail.

James MacLean, of Flat 16, East Bay, pled guilty at Fort William Sheriff Court to three charges of assault and one of failing to comply with a condition of bail.

MacLean, aged 31, was at the Marine Bar in Mallaig on December 21 when he slapped and kicked the licence-holder on the backside.

Fiscal Alison Wyllie said: 'She was upset by it; in fact, she broke down in tears.'

Forbidden

After others in the bar became aware of this, MacLean was asked to leave and he went to the Steam Inn – a pub which he was forbidden to frequent as a condition of bail.

Police arrived to escort MacLean out of the pub and found him in a temper.

After being arrested and while in the police vehicle, MacLean repeatedly tried to bite two police constables.

Gerald Sweeney, defending, said that MacLean had been 'hopelessly and disastrously inebriated', and that he had very little recollection of the evening's events.

'He has harmed himself, he has harmed his family and he has missed that very important seasonal period with his daughter,' said Mr Sweeney. 'He accepts that his behaviour was beyond the pale.'

Mr Sweeney continued: 'I am not his mother, I am not his social worker, I am not his best friend; but I have spoken candidly to him.

Redeem

'He must take himself to those persons and to those activities which redeem him from the depths of alcoholism.'

'You would think that he would have learned his lesson by now, Mr Sweeney,' responded Sheriff Douglas Small, referring to MacLean's previous record.

'I have little alternative but to impose a custodial sentence in respect of these charges,' he added, addressing MacLean. 'If you keep appearing in front of this court, no doubt the sentences will increase in time.'

He jailed MacLean for a total of two months for the assaults and admonished him for breach of bail.

Glencoe residents challenge NHS chiefs

AT LEAST 130 residents went to a public meeting held in the Isles of Glencoe Hotel last Wednesday to quiz NHS representatives about the closure of Glencoe Hospital.

Many were forced to stand outside the main room as their neighbours challenged general manager for Mid-Highland Community Health Partnership Gill McVicar, NHS Highland chairman Garry Coutts, Head of Public Involvement Gill Keel and a selection of healthcare advisers.

Donald Stewart of Glencoe Community Council said the residents of Glencoe and Ballachulish had been failed as they were promised no decision would be made on the hospital until an alternative was in place.

For locals, the only alternative is a purpose-built hospital in South Lochaber; for the NHS a deal which reserves six beds at Abbeyfield Care Home in Ballachulish is the proposed option.

Post Office row rages on

THE DEBATE over rural post offices has taken another turn as MSP Peter Peacock and Conservative's hopeful Jamie Johnston have added their opposing views to the table.

Mr Peacock, Labour Highlands and Islands MSP, was speaking after discussion with Ian McKay, the director of Scottish affairs for Royal Mail.

He said: 'The current situation across the network is simply not sustainable and this is acknowledged by the National Federation of Sub-postmasters and the cross party group of MPs who looked at the issue. While opposition politicians have and doubtful will seek to accentuate any potential negatives in the situation, it is clear there are many positive new initiatives and policy approaches also being proposed'.

However, prospective Scottish Parliamentary Conservative candidate Jamie Johnston says it is 'nothing short of a betrayal of local communities.'

Mr Johnston, who will be standing for Inverness East, Nairn and Lochaber, has met with sub-postmasters in the Lochaber area including Kinlochleven postmaster.

He said: 'Labour simply doesn't understand the important social role played by our local sub-Post Offices, especially those in rural areas.

'When the local Post Office closes, often the last shop in the village closes as well.

The success of communities and the fate of their local post office are inextricably linked and, with 4,000 branches lost since 1997 and with Labour now pushing through plans to axe a further 2,500, more and more people risk losing local access to vital services.'

The Government announcement last month the closure of 2,500 rural post offices because of losses of £4 million a week.

Still delivering post 20 years on

SPEAN Bridge postwoman Catriona Andrews is more than a familiar face in the Lochaber village after delivering mail to residents for 20 years.

To celebrate this service, on Tuesday she was presented with a long service certificate and silver Royal Mail pin by manager Kenneth Rigg.

After picking up the post from Fort William at 5.30am and sorting the contents she was joined by colleagues at the Spean Bridge branch before beginning her three-hour walking route round the village houses.

She said: 'I do enjoy it a lot. I wouldn't have stuck at it for 20 years if not. The area has grown so much since I started.

There are a lot more houses now but I like the contact I have with people.

'It's nice to speak to people as I go round and it keeps me fit.'

Catriona and husband Simon will attend a dinner in Edinburgh next March in honour of long serving staff members.

Mr Rigg paid tribute to the dedicated post woman saying: 'We really value the contribution Catriona has made to the community she works in especially after the great length of time she has spent in one office.

'After so long in the area she is much more than just a postwoman to the residents.

'She's is a very hard working member of staff and she is constantly thinking about her customers.'

Catriona Andrews of Spean Bridge Post Office receives her long service award certificate and silver pin from Royal Mail Manager Kenneth Rigg watched by colleagues, left to right, Marie MacRae, Elizabeth Rogers, Donnie Cameron and Ethel Redpath. t03post02

Lochaber mountain rescue called twice to same hill

LOCHABER Mountain Rescue Team was called out on Tuesday for two separate incidents that both occurred in the Coire Leis area on Ben Nevis.

The first incident happened at around 12.30pm when a 48-year-old man slipped and fell 150 metres because of 'icy conditions.' He was airlifted by Rescue 137 helicopter from Kinloss and transferred to Belford Hospital in Fort William suffering head and back injuries.

The second incident took place at approximately 1.40pm when a male walker from a separate party slipped and broke his ankle. Lochaber mountain rescue attended and he was airlifted by the same helicopter to Belford Hospital. John Stevenson, who was leading the nine-member team, said: 'We got the call for the second rescue as we were getting ready for the initial call.

'It's not a particularly bad area but the climbing was a mix of rock and ice because of the lack of snow. Both occurred on quite steep slopes.'

Ganavan may host Oban bonfire

OWNERS of Ganavan Sands, by Oban, have agreed in principle to host a bonfire and fireworks display this year.

John MacGregor and Sam Silcock agreed to make Ganavan the venue for the November celebrations after being approached by community councillor Roddy McCuish.

Opportunity

Oban has not had an official public bonfire night and fireworks display for two years and Mr McCuish said he hoped an Oban bonfire night could follow the model set by Dunbeg.

Mr McCuish said: 'This is a great opportunity for everyone to pull together and not just leave it to a few organisations.

'Because it is Ganavan we would have to ask Argyll and Bute Council or the bus company to run a shuttle service between Ganavan and the town. We would also need to speak to the police, fire brigade and probably the coastguard but it is a great gesture from John and Sam.

'Most people believe we need a community bonfire and, being the Highland Year of Culture, there must be funding available somewhere.'

Mr MacGregor said: 'Oban should have a bonfire and we feel Gananvan, as Oban's playground, should have a broader spectrum of activities, the bonfire night being one of them.

'We are paying more tax but getting fewer services so we need to do it ourselves.'

West Highlands weathers worst of the storms

Leading hanging loose at Rockfield Primary School, Oban, required a crane to fix.

THURSDAY and Friday last week saw some of the wildest days that the West Highlands has seen so far this winter as south-westerly gales blasted the coast - with more forecast.

Ferry sailings were cancelled and buildings damaged, while fallen branches and flooding along with the high wind made driving conditions challenging.

On Skye a service bus, serving the North End circular route left the road on the A87 Portree to Uig road.

The Rapsons bus came off at the Earlish junction but the driver escaped unhurt although a little shaken, said a Rapsons spokesman.

There were no passengers on board when it left the road although the vehicle suffered some bodywork damage.

On Monday two HGVs were blown over by high winds, again on the A87. All schools on Barra were shut down on Thursday and Friday with Uist schools affected on the Thursday.

Hermitage Academy in Helensburgh was also closed on Thursday and Friday. Storm damage still to be repaired from the New Year period was reinvigorated sending pieces of the roof flying off. The school was closed for safety reasons but temporary repairs allowing it to re-open after the weekend. Similar problems occurred at Atlantis Leisure centre and Tesco in Oban. A loose sheeting tile caused Atlantis to close part of the walkway until the winds had died town sufficiently to repair it.

Cordoned off

At Tesco a panel came off at the front of the store and another loosened at the petrol station with a few pumps cordoned off and some roof tiles landed in the car park.

Tayvallich Primary School was closed on Thursday as a result of power cuts. Campbeltown, Barcaldine and Lismore also found themselves without electricity at the weekend. Sharon Miller McKenzie of Scottish Hydro Electric said: 'We were expecting the bad weather so we were able to prepare for it, putting extra staff on the islands to deal with repairs and getting more people in answering the phones. When the winds pick up the first thing that happens is the ferries get cancelled so it's important we are ready before that with contingency plans.'

Numerous ferry sailings were cancelled and as a result, Caledonian MacBrayne claimed a small minority of frustrated passengers resorted to abusing its staff. Ferry timetables saw most disruption last Thursday when many Hebridean and Clyde routes were cancelled for the day.

Further disruption continued on Friday and, to a lesser extent, over the weekend.

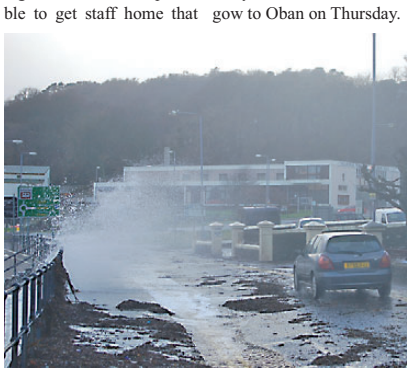
Grateful

A CalMac spokesman said: 'CalMac is most grateful to customers and residents of islands who have communicated their appreciation for the company's efforts over the last few days and weeks.

'These have been particularly challenging times and our crews and shore-based staff have faced some unbelievable weather conditions - some of the worst in living memory.'

More than 100 people workers were stranded at Yeoman Glensanda Quarry on Morvern on Thursday night as it was impossible to get staff home that evening via the ferry to Rugh Garbh.

A three-foot high landslip at Dalreoch caused long delays for trains from Glasgow to Oban on Thursday.



Oban's Esplanade at high tide, Thursday. t03wav02

Trauma nursing training in Oban

MORE than 20 nurses from around Scotland attended a trauma nursing training course in Oban.

The course, held in Lorn and Islands District General Hospital, gives nurses the skills to deal with trauma patients.

Jane White, an emergency nurse practitioner at the hospital, is one of only 30 UK course instructors.

She said: 'This course was designed by nurses for nurses and provides candidates with the necessary skills to enable them to confidently assess, diagnose, plan and implement care for trauma patients.'

Bogus caller warning

OBAN Youth Café is worried by reports of youths going round doors claiming to be raising money in its name.

Two youths of high school age were reported approaching residents at Craigard apartments 'looking nervous'.

Fiona Rowan, of Oban Youth Café, said: 'We would never send people round door-to-door asking for money and hope no-one is taken in by this.'

Oban High School 'twin' in education debate

A SCHOOL twinned with Oban High School has sparked a debate in North Carolina by introducing a drastic change to the way pupils are taught.

Scotland High School in Laurinburg, which shares an annual exchange programme with Oban High School, has reduced the number of traditional classroom lessons to allow pupils to take part in more hands-on lessons.

The pupils now help run a day-care centre and future projects may include running a restaurant and producing a play.

Barra features on calendar

A PICTURE of the Isle of Barra, taken by SNP MEP Ian Hudghton, has been included in the 2007 calendar for the European Parliament magazine.

The photograph of Halaman Bay, near Castlebay, is included alongside scenes from across the EU such as a Baltic sunset and snow-capped Alps.

Mr Hudghton said: 'I am delighted my photo of the beautiful Isle of Barra will find its way into many homes and offices all over Europe. I hope this year's calendar will encourage more tourists to visit Scotland.'

Chairman calls for changes to new concessionary transport scheme

DONALD Manford, chairman of Comhairle nan Eilean Siar transport committee, is calling on Scottish ministers to bring the new concessionary travel scheme for youngsters into line with other schemes.

A scheme allowing 16 to 18-year olds living on Scottish islands two free return ferry journeys to the mainland a year came into effect on January 8. However, the concessionary scheme for people aged over 60 allows those two journeys to become three if the travellers opt to buy a six-trip ticket.

Mr Manford points out that multi-journey fares should be more economical than single fares and that this move should save the executive money; however, he maintains that the six-journey ticket cost has been going up at a faster rate than singles. 'A six-journey ticket should be cheaper than four singles,' said Mr Manford. 'If it is not, what is the benefit of buying a multi-journey ticket? This scheme has only highlighted an existing problem. The purpose of it is to give you a better deal, but over the past 10 years, Caledonian MacBrayne (CalMac) has been surreptitiously eroding that saving. CalMac is letting people believe they are getting a benefit. That is conning the public.'

CalMac's six-journey tickets do offer a saving when compared to six single tickets; however, this saving varies between just under 30 per cent, for routes to the Inner Hebrides, and Lewis and Harris, to 9.5 per cent on the service to South Uist and Barra.

Mr Manford is committed to bringing his request to the executive. However, Transport Scotland contend that the executive's ministers would be reluctant to change the workings of the scheme before the initial three-year period is up.

Gordon Hanning, the body's head of concessionary travel and ticketing, told *The Oban Times* that allowing six trips instead of four for older people was a part of the scheme when Transport Scotland inherited it from Comhairle nan Eilean Siar.

Regarding the scheme for 16 to 18-year-olds, Mr Hanning said: 'The executive is committed to reviewing all of its concessionary travel schemes after three years, when we see what's working and what's not. It probably doesn't make sense to chop and change things too early. We have to allow things to bed down.'

Sergeant Iain Mitchell was sent by the Royal Navy Special Branch to pick up the confidential document from Mary McGregor at Bruichladdich distillery.

Navy 'secrets' recovered from Islay distillery

BRUICHLADDICH distillery on Islay has had another bizarre run-in with the intelligence services, its third in recent years.

A confidential folder from a US Navy warship, currently involved in operations against al Qaeda off Somalia, has washed up on a beach near the distillery.

The yellow folder from the *USS Anzio* was found by walkers and is reported to be missing some of its contents.

An off-duty member of an elite Royal Navy unit stationed at the Faslane base on the Holy Loch overheard Mary McGregor, Bruichladdich's shop manager, discussing the confidential folder and alerted Royal Navy intelligence which contacted the distillery.

'We know who found it and where, but don't want to get a good customer into trouble,' said Mary. 'Who knows what it originally contained?

'The files may have been destroyed by the sea or eaten by sheep; they may have been stolen - who knows? Doesn't fill you with a great deal of confidence, though!'

Bruichladdich's first brush with the authorities came in 2003 when a phone call from the Defence Threat Reduction Agency was received, informing them that their web cam wasn't working. Apparently, they had been watching the distillery as a possible factory for weapons of mass destruction!

In September 2005 a mini-submarine belonging to the Ministry of Defence was found by local fisherman John Baker off the coast of Islay. The £500k sub was lost by the Royal Navy, which could not understand how it could have reached the area in which it was discovered.

Island

Mary added: 'We are only a small, private distillery on a sleepy Hebridean island. Who would think that this sort of thing would happen not once but three times!'

The *USS Anzio* was involved in a naval exercise near the island last year and it is believed the folder was lost then. It is currently involved in an operation in Somalia to capture al Queda terrorists attempting to flee the country.

The CIA has also been checking out the distillery recently.

Managing director Mark Reynier explained: 'We run an academy where people can come and make whisky. When this group of Americans left they gave us a bunch of golf balls with 'CIA, Pentagon' written on them! They must have heard about us from the weapons of mass destruction incident and decided to pay us a visit.'

Daisy with her big sister Violet, aged five.

MSP's delight at Daisy's arrival

DALMALLY-based Highlands and Islands MSP Jamie McGrigor has announced the birth of his sixth child and fifth daughter.

His wife Emma gave birth to Davina Mary Shira McGrigor, to be known as Daisy, at the Queen Mother's Hospital in Glasgow on December 29.

Jamie said: 'I am delighted to be a father again and Daisy is absolutely beautiful. We've given her the middle name of Shira which is the name of the loch in the high hills behind my wife's house in Argyll. It's very special to Emma's family.'

Mr McGrigor has five other children, Sibylla, aged 18, Sarah, 17, Alexander, eight, Violet, five, and Rosanna, aged three.

Sea cadet unit sets sail for Oban high

OBAN High School pupils are to be given the chance to learn about the sea.

Sea Cadet Corp Royal Navy Reserve Ewan McCuish will be at the school tomorrow (Friday) to talk to pupils aged between 12 and 18 years interested in joining the Oban Sea Cadet Unit which was formed at the end of last year.

Mr McCuish has 27 years' experience at sea and is a Second Officer on Caledonian MacBrayne's *Hebridean Isles*.

The Oban Sea Cadet Unit will offer youngsters the chance to learn about seamanship, sailing, communications and cookery. They can also take part in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.

Mr McCuish said: 'The Cadet Unit is big on values, self respect and discipline. We are looking to get a boat. We have a base at the old shop at the back of the Army and Cadet Hall and we can use the Scout Hall for drill. The Northern Lighthouse Board has been very good to us as well.'

Mr McCuish says youngsters could be taught in all aspects of the sea, skills which they could retain for life, even if they were to pursue different careers. With the Merchant Navy now actively recruiting for officers, training with the cadets can also help youngsters in that direction.

Mr McCuish said: 'I'm the deputy coxswain on the lifeboat and when you look at the crew every one of us learned from Captain Norman Grant.

'He and Captain Bill Grant ran the nautical department at Oban High School in the late 1970s.

'So if one of the youngsters learns from us, they could then go off and do other things and in 20 years or so come back and put something back into the town.'

Oban High School former pupils Frank Walton, Kathleen Kennedy and May MacKinnon at the 2005 reunion in Glasgow.

Woman's behaviour completely out of character

A WOMAN acted completely out of character on the first day she took new medication, when she stole from Oban shops.

Previously, Rachel Bove had an 'unblemished character', Sheriff Douglas Small was told at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday when she appeared for sentencing.

Sentencing had been deferred for six months for the defendant to be of good behaviour.

The sheriff admonished Bove, aged 39, unemployed, of 8 Westbay Flats, Corran Esplanade, Oban, after hearing she had been of good behaviour.

He was told that on October 30 2005 Bove stole a fleece from Regatta, a pair of earrings, a Celtic cross and a lucky heather key ring from Whitborne and Hamilton and a rugby shirt from the House of Scotland, all in George Street.

She also admitted stealing four batteries and a cycle light from Mica Hardware.

Her solicitor David MacNeill said that on the day in question the defendant had taken new medication and had behaved as she never had before.

'The defendant had an unblemished character previously,' he said.

In admonishing Bove, Sheriff Small said he took into account that the offences were completely out of character and that she had been of good behaviour and had not come to the attention of the authorities.

Oban Day Hospice volunteer appeal

OBAN Day Hospice needs more volunteers to spend time with people who use the service.

Open on a Monday between 10am and 3pm, the hospice provides palliative day care, which allows those with terminal illnesses a break from their usual routine in a place that offers a social atmosphere with help and advice on how to manage symptoms as well as giving carers respite.

The hospice started out with a pool of 20 volunteers but is now down to a core six or seven who are providing a helping hand. There are three qualified members of staff to run the day hospice in Oban's Lorn and Islands District General Hospital but volunteers are needed to do anything from making tea to talking to patients.

Volunteer drivers are also required to spare an hour or so to help get patients to and from the hospice on the Monday. A mileage allowance is provided so no-one would be out of pocket.

To offer a helping hand contact Karen King on 07789941408.

The catering course students and their support workers.

Islay students' cookery course success

A COURSE to help people on Islay with learning difficulties learn to cook has been so successful it is to run again with four times the number of students.

With support from nursing agency Medico, Argyll and Bute Council's social work department and Supporting People, the course was run through Argyll College.

Several people, including Marion Bonar, Islay MacIntyre and Eamon Boyle, pictured, completed a 14-week basic catering skills course, with tuition from college tutor Mary Bevin and help from their support workers, in Trust Housing's kitchens in Bowmore.

The course ended with the students cooking Christmas lunch for special guests Mairi MacCuaig, Islay Learning Centre manager, her assistant Maria Cameron and Karen Morice from the social work department. Senior Support Worker with Medico on Islay Norma Douglas said the lunch was enjoyed by everyone.

She said the course was only possible with support from Argyll College, which came up with a course package, the social work department and Supporting People, whose assessment worker for Mid Argyll and Islay Fay McCuish was impressed by the motivation of the staff and students.

'The course has proved so popular that we have decided to quadruple it,' said Norma.

The next course will be run in the evenings at Argyll College attached to Islay High School, using the school's kitchens.

Aside from the catering course, Norma said Medico - formerly the British Nursing Association - had enjoyed a busy 2006 on Islay, including support workers Yvonne Anderson and Marion McLuglash organising whist events through the year.

Oban high former pupils celebrate 50th birthday

FORMER pupils of Oban High School will gather together to celebrate a special anniversary this year.

In March, a special dinner dance will take place in Glasgow to acknowledge the 50th birthday of Oban High School Former Pupils Association.

Malcolm Black, who has just moved back to Argyll from Fife, was instrumental in setting up the association in 1957.

Malcolm explained: 'I set the ball rolling in autumn 1956 by writing to the Rector, John MacLean, to seek his advice and support. He responded by making contact with several former pupils widely distributed throughout the Glasgow, or in the modern idiom, West of Scotland community.

'He immediately quashed the idea that we were setting up a club. It was an association. With such attention to detail, it took us until June 1957 to produce our constitution, which I don't think has been invoked to solve any dispute in the last 50 years.'

Well-known former pupils of Oban High School include Donald Meek, author of a well-received book on the history of Caledonian MacBrayne, and Gillespie McMillan, minister of St Giles Church in Edinburgh. Present chairman Duncan MacDonald's father was minister of the Parish Church in Oban, and another former chairman, Donald Skinner, was in the chair at the 100th anniversary of Oban High School in the early 1990s.

This year's special event will be held on March 10 in The Swallow Hotel, Paisley Road West, Glasgow. Guest speaker will be former pupil Dr James Hunter CBE, currently director of the UHI Centre for History, and formerly chairman of Highlands and Islands Enterprise.

Former pupil Irene Stewart, who has been attending the reunions for the last 23 years, said that despite many people living further afield than before, many former students make the trip from places like Aberdeen and Inverness.

'Norman Liddle, who reads *The Oban Times* online every week, came over from Australia last year for it and is returning again this year and Kathleen MacKinnon always makes it over from Dublin.'

Any former pupils who would like to attend the dance should contact Isabel Ross on 0141 5639729 or Anne Byiers on 0141 9430281.

Speak up on access and transport

ARGYLL and Bute Council will carry out consultations later this month to seek people's views on outdoor access and transport in Oban and Mull.

The consultation will help to identify a path plan for the area, which will detail the needs of both local people and visitors and help to integrate access with land management and other land uses.

The draft of the new Local Transport Strategy will outline the council's policies, plans and projects for transport over the next three years.

The consultations will take place in Craignure Village Hall, Mull, on Tuesday January 23 from 11.30am until 7.30pm, and in the Corran Halls, Oban, the following Tuesday, January 30, also between 11.30am and 7.30pm.

Further information can be found at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk.

James Rory Ottway.

Tobermory man's Green Beret delight

TOBERMORY man James Rory Ottway has successfully completed 32 weeks of the hardest initial training in the world and become a Royal Marines Commando.

Former Tobermory High School pupil Rory recently passed out at the Commando Training Centre Royal Marines, Lympstone, Devon, with 916 Troop.

The distinctive hallmark of a Royal Marines Commando is the Green Beret. It indicates to others that the wearer has undergone gruelling and physically demanding tests of endurance, and has the Commando qualities of unselfishness, cheerfulness under adversity, courage, determination and high professional standards.

At his passing out parade, Rory said: 'Training was both physically and mentally challenging. I'm now looking forward to the new challenge of a Commando Unit'.

Rory will be joining 45 Commando Royal Marines based in Arbroath, Angus.

Tiree centre stage at Celtic Connections

TIREE'S musical talent takes centre stage at the Celtic Connections festival in Glasgow this weekend.

'Tiree Night' will take place at Glasgow's Royal Concert Hall and features musicians James Graham, Wilma Kennedy, Rachel Walker, *Skipinnish* and *Skerryvore*.

The concert on Sunday January 21 will showcase the island's musical talent and follows on from the success of the association's A'Bhuain concert last year.

Association president Donald Iain Brown said: 'Tiree continues to be a treasure trove of musical talent and I'm delighted we can provide a platform to showcase this to a wider audience. We are the first island association to stage events of this size and scale and have proved we have the experience to do this.'

The Oban Times
& West Highland Times

Playing with parks

AN ARGYLL and Bute councillor's honest admission that the council transferred land to Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) which they had previously promised to an Oban community project for a children's play park has understandably angered local residents who campaigned for three years to secure their 'promise'.

The revelation comes at a time when the availability of such play areas throughout Scotland comes under public scrutiny, with a recent report highlighting Argyll and Bute as having one of the lowest numbers of such facilities in local authority control.

ACHA, whose priority is to create housing, is caught in the middle, but will young families want homes without somewhere safe for their children to play?

Glasgow Letter

Back in business

WITH New Year well behind us, Highland associations are back in full swing.

Comunn Taobh-an Iar Highland Ball

MILNGAVIE Town Hall was the venue last Friday for what has long been an important event on the social calendar.

A crowd of almost 200 attended and enjoyed an excellent buffet. Music was provided by Charlie Kirkpatrick's band with other musical contributions from Anne Bone MacLean, accompanied by Anna Cameron, and pipers Graham Richardson and John MacLean.

Clydebank and District ceilidh

THE INCLEMENT weather and a clash with the above Highland Ball led to a reduced attendance at the January ceilidh.

Those who did go along were treated to excellent singing by Margaret Callan, Mary C MacLean, Norman MacKinnon and Isla MacLean.

A highlight of the evening was the fiddle playing of Shona MacFadyen, a student at the Royal Scottish Academy, accompanied by her sister playing the piano. Also pleasing was the piping of young Andrew Caulfield from Elderslie, making his first appearance at Clydebank.

There was, however, a sad note to the evening when president Kate MacDonald announced the death of vice president John MacKay, aged 93. John had in the recent past lived with his daughter Margaret and son-in-law Dave in Lochgoilhead, but he always enjoyed a visit to his friends in Clydebank.

He was a gentleman, dearly loved by everyone privileged to have known him, and a large representation from the Highland community attended Clydebank Crematorium to pay their respects to John.

Our sympathies are with Margaret and Dave at this sad time.

Family ceilidh

GLASGOW Skye Association had a good attendance at its New Year Family ceilidh at which the president Seumas Campbell was in charge of proceedings.

Lyle Kennedy and Sheena MacKenzie both sang well and youngsters from Gael Force performed songs and demonstrated expert musicianship on the bagpipes, fiddles, clarsach and keyboard. This showed us, once again, that the future of our traditional music is in safe hands.

Additional music was provided by Charlie Kirkpatrick who played a recently composed tune called 'Twenty-one Again' for a Skye committee member.

As well as traditional New Year fayre being served, there was a quiz. I am not sure if there is any truth in the rumour that one of the quiz questions was to guess the name of the committee member for whom Charlie composed the tune!

Renfrew Ferry

ALTHOUGH a few weeks have passed, it gives me great pleasure to report on the most successful ceilidh dance organised by Glasgow Uist and Barra Association on Renfrew Ferry just before New Year.

Previously this dance was held in the Henry Wood Hall but the bright and pleasant surroundings of the ferry resulted in 300 patrons, mostly youngsters, having a wonderful evening as they danced until 2am to the music of Colin Garvin's Band.

Celtic Connections dates

Thursday January 18: Ceolraidh Ewan MacPherson with Seumas Egan and Jenna Cumming with Mary Ann Kennedy, Piping Centre, 8pm. Phil Cunningham and friends, with Dochas, Old Fruitmarket, 10pm.

Friday January 19: Barra Night. Cathie-Ann MacPhee, Maggie MacInnes, Ruairidh, Mairi-Ann and Rory Campbell, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm.

Sunday January 21: Tiree Night. Tiree songs and music with James Graham, Wilma Kennedy, Rachel Walker, *Skipinnish* and *Skerryvore*, Strathclyde Suite, 8pm.

Monday January 22: Songs and Music of Scotland, Skye and Uist Universal Club, Sauchiehall Lane, 8pm.

Tuesday January 23: Songs and Music of Scotland, Wester Ross and Lochaber, Universal Club, 8pm.

Iain Anderson in conversation on Thursday January 25 at 12.30pm in the Concert Hall will feature the Lord Provost Mary Ann Kennedy and Calum Ross.

The theme will be 'The Development of the Highland Community in Glasgow and its Contribution to Highland Culture, the Gaelic language and Music in the Past, Present and Future'. As many people as possible are requested to attend this event.

Diary dates

Friday January 19: Perth Gaelic Society ceilidh, St Matthew's Church Hall, Tay Street, Perth, 7.30pm.

Saturday January 20: Glasgow Islay Association Burn's Supper, Westerton Hall, Bearsden, 7.30pm.

Monday January 22: St Columba's Church Scot's Night, Church Hall, 7.30pm.

Thursday January 25: Glasgow Sutherland Association, Burn's Night, Balshagray Social Club, Clydeview Lane, 7.30pm.

Friday January 26: Glasgow Uist and Barra Association, ceilidh dance, Whitefield Road Community Hall, Whitefield Road, Ibrox, 9pm to 1am. Helensburgh and District Highland Association, dance, 8pm, with Stewart McKeown's Band, Commodore Hotel.

Saturday January 27: Motherwell and Wishaw Highlander's Association, ceilidh dance, 7.30pm, Dalziel St Andrew's Church Hall. Glasgow Lewis and Harris Association, Buntat' is Sgadan, 8pm, Patick Burgh (Lesser) Hall.

Pub scene

MUSIC in the Islay Inn this weekend will be provided by Dodgy Ground on Friday, Tir Connel on Saturday and the Benidorm Irish Rovers on Sunday while in the Park Bar it will be Gunna Sound on Saturday, Deoch'n Dorus on Sunday with Friday still to be confirmed.

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

Loch Lomond police patrol cars - early 1960s

This week's flashback photograph features the two Hillman Imps which used to patrol the narrow, winding Loch Lomond road in the early 1960s. Pictured with their two regular drivers, former constables Jimmy MacKay and Donnie MacKenzie, these cars escorted wide loads and attended to accidents on the road. The Imps only had a driver's seat and carried a large amount of equipment to deal with any emergency. Constables MacKay and MacKenzie were thought to be the most photographed police officers in Scotland as their photograph with the Hillman Imps appeared in newspapers in Canada, America, Australia and New Zealand. The photograph was submitted by Donnie MacKenzie, Hertfordshire. We would like readers to send in 'Flashback' photographs. Please send prints to The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. Prints must be accompanied by a caption, name, address, stamped addressed envelope and telephone number. Each month a photo will win £10.

Glencoe Hospital confusion

Sir,
Your article 'Last ditch attempt to keep Glencoe open', January 4, confuses the role of the Scottish Health Council with that of NHS Highland.

The article suggests the Scottish Health Council took the decision to close Glencoe Hospital when, in fact, this recommendation was made by NHS Highland. It is not within the Scottish Health Council's power or remit to recommend the closure of hospitals. Furthermore, the Scottish Health Council has not, and never would, claim that the hospital 'could not meet Care Commission standards' as it is not our role to comment on clinical standards.

The Scottish Health Council was set up to ensure people have a genuine say in their health services. We have a remit to consider whether NHS boards have consulted properly with their local populations whenever a significant service change is proposed.

In recent months we have been meeting with NHS Highland and the local community to monitor the consultation relating to Glencoe Hospital. Once the consultation is complete we will report to the Minister for Health and Community Care on whether NHS Highland has met the required standards for consultation.

Our report will relate purely to how well NHS Highland has consulted, rather than the specific proposals it has put forward, and the ultimate decision on the hospital's future will rest with the Minister for Health and Community Care.

Richard Norris, director, Scottish Health Council.

National park debate

Sir,
Inhabitants who feel a national park is unnecessary, as they have been providing 'ranger' services to Mull and its surrounding area, have been hiding their light under a bushel until now.

And the three young ladies who recently wrote to you regarding their concerns about the marine national park have so far not attended forums, consultations or meetings to voice their opinions.

Perhaps this is why some more dynamic voices appear to be being heard over others. They certainly took their time in putting their point across.

A national park would mean that Mull held a future for myself and my contemporaries. I have finance, professional qualifications and a young family of my own and I would happily return to the island I was raised on to offer these qualities. Marine national parks would create new interesting jobs, most suited to intelligent and experienced people with empathy and admiration for Mull and its inhabitants. If anyone from Mull feels that their '30 years in their primary trades' would equip them for these roles then there should be no problem with their application.

Concerns and suspicions are understandable, particularly from a close-knit community such as Mull. However these emotions should not be put forward as adequate reasons for denying ourselves a prestigious national park.

Comments on Mull's 'true locals' are insulting. Mull is not some 'League of Gentlemen' style sinister backwater, where jobs are 'local for local people'. Opinons like this drag Mull back to the anti-English dark ages.

The idea that local trades adequately provide for Mull and its economy is ridiculous. Some do but most don't. Most of Mull's natural produce is sent overseas and this revenue lines the pockets of specific 'locals' who have created these economic allegiances.

National park status should encourage real respect for all locals, their skills and their produce. It would encourage respectful tourism and higher quality visitors rather than the Balamory-style tourism, pub crawls and coach trips which are made for less stunning destinations. It is a thriving, green-tourist location and potential platform for all local businesses with respect for the area.

Girls, leave marine park discussion to those who have actively been involved in Mull's growth.

Lucy Woodhouse, Partick, Glasgow.

Marine park consultation

Sir,
I have read all the recent letters and correspondence regarding the proposed coastal and marine national park with interest.

These, together with opinions voiced at the conference we held on Mull and the community stakeholders meeting in Oban, should be giving the Scottish Executive a very clear message at least from Argyll and Lochaber, about both the consultation process and any imposition of a park against the wishes of people who live in the area that is affected.

While initially it was those involved in fishing and aquaculture who saw their industries under threat, more recently marine tourism businesses have expressed concern, not just for themselves but for the communities they live in. Also, farmers and land managers have become aware that the establishment of a park would affect every person, whether land based or sea based. I was heartened recently to read in the Glasgow Herald that the Scottish Crofting Foundation has joined the 'long queue of detractors'.

While much of what it says about the consultation process has been said many times before, it put a new slant on the possible detrimental effects a park may have on thriving coastal crofting communities.

Now that the current round of consultation has come to an end, it is to be hoped that everyone concerned managed to make their views known. The key question is - will the Executive and our MSPs listen and react accordingly? All our views and arguments will come to nothing if they choose to ignore us.

I personally believe the Executive has grossly misjudged the reaction to its consultation. No community likes being saddled with an imposition, particularly from our own Scottish Parliament. Now is the moment for the Executive to redeem itself and show that it really does want to consult and that the consultation done so far was not just a paper exercise to keep Mr Finnie and his Holyrood cohorts happy.

MSPs, including Mr Finnie, have stated categorically that they will not impose a park against the wishes of the people concerned. They now have their chance to show they genuinely mean what they say. Why not agree to hold a referendum?

According to the Executive, results of this 'consultation' will be available in March. This still leaves time to question MSPs closely on their intentions before the May elections.

Nick Turnbull, secretary, Mull Aquaculture and Fisheries Association.

A chance for fishermen?

Sir,
It seems to me the central question is: can marine national park status be made to provide a legal framework to enable fishermen in the area to acquire exclusive fishing rights and thus combine in a mutually advantageous co-operative to improve the productivity of commercial catches?

The objective - abundant, diverse and sustainable fish and shellfish stocks - should be common to park plans and fishermen.

In this regard, fishermen in the proposed marine national park area should approach the park proposals with the attitude can it be made to work for us?

Methods such as ocean ranching and rotating closed areas could be made to work. Temporarily closed areas could be seeded with juveniles of lobster and clams reared at local hatcheries controlled by the co-operative. Fishing is, in essence, progressive exploitation of a natural resource.

Just as agriculture replaced hunting and gathering, so current destructive fishing practice must be replaced by marine farming. The initiative for this change would be better coming from fishermen themselves than dictated by distant authorities.

One thing seems certain; the decline in fish and shellfish stocks in the last few hundred years will reach an end point in this century. The status quo does not seem a viable option.

Peter Lamont, Glenburn, Isle of Luing.

McCaig's confusing implications

Sir,
I would be grateful if future McCaig columns could be printed with a postscript defining what the writer actually means.

In a badly constructed piece in *The Oban Times* of January 4, he appears to be suggesting that if some people fail to use their vote at the next elections then evil, in the form of the Scottish National Party, may triumph.

This assertion will be deeply offensive to friends and collegues of Jim Mather, Fergus Ewing and the many other decent people who will be candidates at the next Scottish Parliamentary and local elections.

I suspect those candidates will also be greatly insulted by the suggestion that they merely 'wave the Saltire' without the substance of firm policies.

If he reads current affairs at all, McCaig would be aware of the SNP's long held position of retaining the Queen as Head of State at least until the outcome of a referendum on the subject. To suggest otherwise is, at the least, mischievous.

Dorothy Macdonald, Pulpit Hill, Oban.

Faslane police costs

Sir,
I read with surprise your report on January 4 on the cost of policing the Faslane 365 demonstration.

In the interests of balanced journalism, would you consider devoting a similar number of column inches to the reasons the police are so deployed?

The point of your article was to inform and alarm local people about the cost of this exercise; I would hope that they would be equally interested in the cost to the taxpayer of the proposed upgrade of Britain's weapons of mass destruction.

You may also be able to explain to them who our nuclear deterrent is going to deter and how often the existing Trident system was deployed.

From my experience at Faslane blockades, police authorities could safely withdraw 50 per cent of its manpower; the demonstrations have been peaceful and the police presence seriously 'over the top'. The cost of the 'war' in Iraq alone must surely make the price of policing this public protest pale into insignificance.

Maggie Clayton, Longistan Road, Oban.

Boneparte Gull

Sir,
I recently saw a Boneparte Gull standing on the road just outside Ardfern.

It was much smaller than a Herring Gull, with bright red legs and black bill. It had non-breeding plumage, without the grey head.

A few days later I was told that a Ross's Gull had been reported in Ormsary. Boneparte and Ross's Gulls are similar in size, with red legs. With the recent stormy weather, it is entirely possible both might have been blown off course onto our shores. Have any similar sightings been reported?

Bridget MacDougall, Grianan, Ardfern.

First class television

Sir,
Once again we had to suffer a dire offering on television at Hogmanay.

On January 4, BBC2 produced two programmes which would have graced any Hogmanay. I refer to A'Fagail Bharraigh about a trip from Barra to Canada and Brothers in Music about the MacDonald Brothers from Glenuig.

We sat entranced at this first class Scottish entertainment. We have so much young talent in the Highlands, can we please hear more of it in 2007?

Margaret MacEachen, Glengarry Place, Arisaig.

PRESS POLICY

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

It is the policy of The Oban Times Group to correct any errors in print. If you find an error of fact on our pages please write to The Editor, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 5PY giving your day-time telephone number where possible. This statement of policy will appear on this page every week along with any corrections or clarifications.

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

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

Apology

REGARDING the article 'Uist roads unchanged two years after tragedy', *The Oban Times*, January 11, the reference to waves going over the roof and water breaking into the house on the night of January 12 2005 was incorrect.

This should have read: 'The spray from the waves would have been hitting the roof, and the tide was coming up to the house.'

We apologise for any offence caused.

Steven MacLaughlin

WE HAVE been asked to point out that, with reference to 'Man who stabbed Oban DJ jailed' in *The Oban Times* of January 11, despite information given in court, the accused Steven MacLaughlin does not reside at 22C Shuna Terrace, Oban, and never has.

Your letters

THE EDITOR welcomes letters of approximately 200 words in length for publication on this page. The editor also reserves the right to shorten, to amend or to refuse to print them. Names and postal addresses must be supplied, including 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.

A View From The Tower

By McCAIG

A welcome improvement

LAST week, the Health Committee of the Scottish Parliament gave its support to a Private Members Bill, introduced by Bill Butler who succeeded the late Donald Dewar in his Glasgow constituency.

This would introduce legislation to compel the country's 14 NHS trusts to hold elections for a proportion of their board members.

As a Private Member's Bill, it was always going to require executive support and there was some doubt, prior to the health committee's scrutiny of it, that this would be forthcoming.

Andy Kerr, the health minister, has now announced his support having indicated he would when I interviewed him at the Scottish Labour Conference last November.

The committee agreed that the status quo is not an option, something that anyone with an interest in the governance of health trusts would endorse.

Argyll and Bute has always been the poor, rural relation as far as representation on NHS Argyll and Clyde was and is now on NHS Highland. When I challenged the Minister to explain why 90 per cent of the landmass of this constituency was not represented and why Oban, Lorn and the Isles, in particular, was ignored in the appointments made to NHS Highland, he agreed to do so as even he was unhappy about the lack of such representation, especially as Oban's Lorn and Islands District General Hospital served such a big area, providing surgical and accident and emergency services.

There is a problem though. Bill Butler's Bill is unlikely to get through all its stages before the end of this parliamentary session in a few weeks time because of the elections for it in May.

However, there is something potent everyone can do: when asked for our vote, tell candidates that unless they agree to support this legislation in the new session there will be no vote for them.

'Education, education, education'

IT WAS announced last week that the government at Westminster intends to raise the school leaving age to 18, something that teachers in England, Wales and Northern Ireland must have heard with an enormous degree of despair.

Scotland has already been warned that it is the intention of the current executive to do likewise in due course.

Whether this is being done for purely educational reasons is doubtful. Those who would normally have left at 16, without any qualifications, are the most difficult to place in employment and therefore become an unemployment statistic.

No political party wants rising unemployment and all go to incredible lengths to run schemes that will take people off the register, even although they are doing some form of 'training' that will not fit them for a proper job at the end of it.

Even although Tony Blair has promised all sorts of schemes to occupy those who are not going to get any sort of qualification that will take them on to further and higher education, and Oban High School already has such courses through Argyll College, the most obvious outcome will be to drive more and more teachers away from the profession.

Recent statistics show that more than 90 per cent of Scottish teachers already find the profession stressful and almost a quarter of them have suffered from stress-related illnesses. Last month, Argyll and Bute had two head teachers, two heads of departments and seven teachers absent for that very reason.

By all means provide the best education possible for all young people but split them into those who are going to achieve academically and those who are going to flourish as the providers of all the practical services we will always need. The latter need a different ethos under which to learn that does not need a school uniform or teachers who are dedicated to the trivia of its detail.

Big entry for Jolomo Foundation Awards

THE PLACE to be in Edinburgh last Saturday was Torrance Gallery where 'Scotland's most successful artist' John Lowrie Morrison was holding the private viewing of his exhibition of paintings 'A Mull Diary - Part 2'.

The usual queue had formed before the doors opened and, by the time MSP Lord James Douglas Hamilton spoke about the Princess Royal Trust for Carers which receives a percentage of the sales and officially opened it, viewers had to breathe in collectively or not at all. By the end of the morning there was the usual rash of red spots, indicating paid-for purchases.

During a brief lull in the proceedings, I talked to Michael Wheatley, chief executive of the Jolomo Foundation, and was delighted to learn that there has been an international entry of 85 for the first Jolomo Foundation Awards for a Scottish landscape painting. From Britain, Europe, Mexico and the USA entries have come for the first prize of £20,000. The winners will be announced in June at an awards dinner in the National Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh.

Enquiries for the next set of awards were being made on Saturday, even from a young and very talented Taiwanese painter who promises a Scottish landscape with oriental influences.

McCaig

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GEORGE STREET - OBAN
6.15 DAILY, Excluding Sunday – 1.30 Saturday Matinee
12A Pursuit of Happyness 117 min
7.15 DAILY, Excluding Sunday – 1.15 Saturday and Sunday Matinees
12A DÉJÀ VU 126 min
8.30 DAILY, Excluding Sunday – 1.30 Sunday Matinee
12A Employee of the Month 108 min

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20) ☎ 09111 767 272
With the new Moon powerful in your sector of success, go for it. If you find yourself in an improved position in terms of your work, the greatest satisfaction can come from knowing that you can better protect those you care for. And with the Sun accelerating, the best way to get ahead is through developing mutual co-operation. Call to hear which wonderful new friendships can develop...

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21) ☎ 09111 767 273
If you're prepared to relocate in the pursuit of new work opportunities, this week offers you lots of scope to get ahead. This can also be an excellent time to have a chat with that older person you have recently experienced strains with. If you resort to manuals or self-help books these can also prove useful. A work friendship can grow. Call me to hear what the new Moon can do for you Taurus...

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21) ☎ 09111 767 274
The Sun charges into the funkiest part of your scope Gemini, giving you an awesome collection of planets in your most adventurous chart sector. If you have been hankering over taking a Winter break, now you may decide to make it happen. If you would like to gain more knowledge either formally or by teaching yourself, then why not? Call to hear how your business moves can be so creative....

CANCER (June 22 - July 22) ☎ 09111 767 275
If you've been working towards taking on more responsibilities at work, this can now be reflected in your earnings - which can pick-up. Revamp your approach to private matters. Are there some smart moves that you can make? If so, make them happen. Solo? The next month offers interesting romantic possibilities. An Aquarian can intrigue. Call me to hear the magic that Jupiter can bring...

LEO (July 23 - Aug 23) ☎ 09111 767 276
The new Moon provides a litmus test of how seriously you've been taking your welfare. If you've been striving hard at the start of 2007, this would be an opportune time to view the big picture. Your partnerships are going to become more and more important to this. In fact one tie can become very much more central from this week. Call to hear which signs can be spectacularly good for you....

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23) ☎ 09111 767 277
Uranus has been a mischievous influence over the Winter months. Yes, it's made you more open to unusual people but equally it has had an unsettling influence on long standing situations and obligations. Now the planets above give you a framework to demonstrate your grasp of detail and to use your savvy to assist others. Call to hear why being a good egg can be good for you too....

LIBRA (Sept 24 - Oct 23) ☎ 09111 767 278
The changes you've been hoping to effect to your abode can now come to pass. But the reality Libra is that your focus is set to very rapidly switch to more creative interests. And it is your links to others which really start to sparkle. For the first half of this week particularly, music, film, literature or hobbies can see you connect so well. Call to hear just how romance can now become stellar now....

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 22) ☎ 09111 767 279
As this month has gone on, so your appreciation of the benefits of security, both emotional and physical is growing stronger. Expect more of this now. And family considerations can take on more sparkle. A sibling can be very important to you. If you have close friends, one in the locality can take on enhanced importance. Call me to hear why home changes or moves can beckon...

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23 - Dec 21) ☎ 09111 767 280
All this year Sagittarius, your ruling planet Jupiter, is going to be your bonus ball. This week it makes an awesome link to Mercury. If you have ideas you want to express, few weeks would be as good as this one to do so. You may even find yourself taking possession of a new car, motorcycle or gleaming new mountain bike. Get moving! Call to hear how you can sparkle in some many areas of life....

CAPRICORN (Dec 22 - Jan 20) ☎ 09111 767 281
The new Moon, in your sign, brings down the curtain on the Sun's occupation of your sign, but gives you one more push to be true to your more individualistic instincts. Think about how you can make yourself stand-out from the crowd and the better you can do. This week can see you refreshing your wardrobe with classy bargains from the sales. Call to hear who your cash-flow can be revived....

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19) ☎ 09111 767 282
Your year can really kick-off in earnest Aquarius. New starts, bold moves and extra energy injected into existing projects, are all possible. Yet the full Moon suggests that there could still be some unfinished business of the emotional variety. Keep your ear to the ground, if you stay attuned to undercurrents, this will guide you. Call me now to hear why you can show so much leadership from now....

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20) ☎ 09111 767 283
You reach a time of reflection. After the early optimism of the new year, and the high hopes you had, it is now a good time to think back over the previous twelve months and figure out what it's all meant. Once your birthday comes around you will be well positioned to fire forwards. Healing, natural medicine and yoga can be great supports. Call to hear why personal development course can help so much....

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At the Cinema

DÉJÀ VU
12A Certificate
126 Minutes
SCREEN ONE
OBAN HIGHLAND THEATRE
7.15 DAILY, excluding Sunday
1.15 SATURDAY and SUNDAY MATINEES

Déjà Vu is a great all-action suspense thriller directed by Tony Scott, starring Denzel Washington, Val Kilmer, Bruce Greenwood, Adam Goldberg, Paula Patton and James Caviezel.

Denzel Washington is an FBI investigator who is sent back in time, to prevent a bombing and falls in love with a woman who is due to be murdered. There is also the experience of the unsettling mystery of déjà vu – that strange twist of memory of having been somewhere before, or having met someone seemingly for the first time, you feel you have known all your life.

But then comes the further question – what is the feelings are actually sent from the past to the future? In the movie, it is Déjà Vu that unexpectedly guides FBI agent Doug Carlin (Denzel Washington) through a very difficult investigation.

Doug Carlin is called in to investigate evidence after a bomb sets off a cataclysmic explosion on a New Orleans ferry. He discovers that most people not only believe what is in their minds, but that it is also something more powerful. This leads him on a mind-bending race to save the lives of hundreds of people, in a movie that delivers great punch and is a combination of being a police thriller and a high-tech sci-fi fantasy.

PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS
12A Certificate
117 Minutes
SCREEN TWO
OBAN HIGHLAND THEATRE
6.15 DAILY, Excluding Sunday – 1.30 SATURDAY MATINEE

Chris Gardner (Will Smith) is a bright and talented salesman, struggling to make ends meet. He finds himself evicted with his son, from their San Francisco apartment – with nowhere to go. Gardner lands himself an internship at a prestigious stock brokerage firm but he and his son endure many hardships in pursuit of a better life for the two of them.

Inspired by a true story, Chris continues to honour his commitments as a caring and loving father. Driven forward by the love and trust his son has placed in him, as a driving force to overcome the troubles he faces, he belies that if you want something, you just have to go ahead and get it.

The movie, directed by Gabriele Muccino, co-stars Thandie Newton, Andy Arness and Alissa Anderegg.

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH
12A Certificate
108 Minutes
SCREEN TWO
OBAN HIGHLAND THEATRE
8.30 DAILY, excluding Sunday
1.30 SUNDAY MATINEE

Directed by Greg Coolridge and starring Andy Dick, Dane Cook, Jessica Simpson, Elfren Ramirez and Dax Shepard, 'Employee of the Month' is about life in a big retail store – and in particular about the very beautiful cashier.

We meet Zack (Dane Cook), an amicable slacker in the packing department, who has been working in this large 'SuperClub' bulk-discount retailer store for many years – without making much of an impression!

On hearing that the lovely pin-up cashier will go out on a date with the winner of the Employee of the Month award, he decides to compete for the prize and her hand. Zack however is up against Vince (Dax Shepard).

This 'in-store' situation has many humorous moments, with a droll contribution from deadpan Jorge (Elfren Ramirez) as a stolid shelf-stacker. In previous similar movies, such as 'One-Hour Photo' and 'The Good Girl' the dramatic potential and humour offered by America's massive retail stores have all been demonstrated. This production succeeds where others have not achieved their full potential.

Denzel Washington stars in Deja Vu now showing at the Highland Theatre, Oban

Traditional gold medal winner Sineag MacIntyre, bean an tighe Joy Dunlop, Connel, piper and accordionist Alasdair MacDonald and Gold medallist Norman MacKinnon, who all performed at the Tattie 'n' Herring ceilidh. t03tat01

Herring nearly missed the Oban Tattie 'n Herrin' boat

THE TRADITIONAL Comunn Gàidhealch an Òbain Tattie 'n' Herring ceilidh was a resounding success but it very nearly didn't feature the herring.

As part of the traditional fare, herring is one of the central features of the meal which includes home-made oatcakes, cheese and a cup of tea for afters.

But Agnes MacLean, North Connel, one of the organisers of the evening told *The Oban Times* that the herring was very hard to come by because none could be found either in Oban or Mallaig.

'Morag Smith's cousin, a skipper on one of the ferries, was able to bring some fish to Oban from Stornoway,' she said.

Entertainment

Providing the musical entertainment following the meal, introduced by bean-an-tighe Joy Dunlop, were Sineag MacIntyre of South Uist, Traditional Gold medal winner at the 2006 Royal National Mod in Dunoon.

She is studying Gaelic song and piano at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama in Glasgow but has been in high demand on the ceilidh circuit since her win.

Also singing were Gold medallists Norman MacKinnon, Campbeltown, and Angus Smith, Oban – who was also playing with his band at a wedding at the Argyllshire Gathering Halls in between songs – and providing some instrumental music was Alasdair MacDonald, Connel, on the pipes and accordion.

The ceilidh was enjoyed immensely by the 70 or so folk who attended and finally wound up around 11pm.

Thanks went to the members of Comunn Gàidhealch an Òbain who helped to prepare and serve the meals and to those who performed.

Museum celebrates successful year

OBAN War and Peace Museum had a successful first year in its new premises in the old Oban Times building on the Esplanade.

The newly refurbished space on the ground floor, bought by the museum in 2004, opened in March last year and saw almost 28,000 visitors pass through its doors between then and November.

Volunteers

At the end-of-season lunch board chairman John Wilson thanked all the volunteer 'watchkeepers' who work two-hour shifts, seven days a week from March to November.

'Without their support the museum would just not function and we are extremely grateful for the time and support these volunteers give,' he said.

Chairman of Oban War and Peace Museum board John Wilson addresses the end of season lunch.

He added that the level of income generated by donations from visitors, instead of an admission charge, was satisfactory.

'We are now looking forward to opening again on March 3 when we plan to show items of interest for local people as well as visitors to the town and if we can find enough additional volunteers, we hope to be able to open longer during the summer months,' said Mr Wilson.

300,000 visitor

Since the museum opened in 1995 more than 296,000 people have visited the museum and its is hoped that the 300,000th visitor will pass over the threshold early this summer.

Open Day at The Beach

THE Beach Health Club is having an Open Day on Saturday February 3 and so you can try them out for free! A team of qualified professionals will be keen to show you round the modern club with its spacious gym complete with the highest quality equipment. Personal attention is key to the Beach Health Club experience.

Robin, the owner says, "We can help you set your goals and plan actions to achieve those goals. Many people are nervous about exercising until they come through our doors. Then they discover that they CAN do it, they LIKE it and that it WORKS."

It is not all hard work however. The club has a beautiful spa area with fibre-optic steam room and large sauna. Or you could pamper yourself with a session in The Egg, a totally unique and personal relaxation experience.

There will be classes to try such as Bodypump, the adrenaline pumping Bodycombat and their famous bike classes.

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

Friday 26th January
Burns Night Ceilidh, Pier House, Appin
9.30pm till midnight.

Saturday 27th January
'Secrets, Lies & DIY' performed by MsFits Theatre Co., Cairndow Village Hall, 7.30 pm

WHAT'S ON GUIDE
CONTACT - 01631 568000

forthcoming events

Tuesday 20th March, 2007 - Oban Maternity User Group Meeting, Day Centre, Lorn and Islands Hospital

Tuesday 1st May - Oban Maternity User Group Meeting, Day Centre, Lorn and Islands Hospital

Tuesday 3rd July - Oban Maternity User Group Meeting, Day Centre, Lorn and Islands Hospital

Tuesday 4th September - Oban Maternity User Group Meeting, Day Centre, Lorn and Islands Hospital

Tuesday 16th October - Oban Maternity User Group Meeting, Day Centre, Lorn and Islands Hospital

Tuesday 4th December - Oban Maternity User Group Meeting, Day Centre, Lorn and Islands Hospital

GET YOUR EVENT LISTED
CONTACT 01631 568000

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TAYNUILT GAELIC CHOIR
Invite you to come and celebrate with us at our
10th Anniversary Buffet Ceilidh Dance
Saturday 27th January 2007 at 7.30pm
The Argyllshire Gathering Hall, Oban
Music by Hector MacFadyen
Fear An Taighe - Kenneth Thomson, Glasgow
Featuring
Alasdair Whyte, Mull - 2006 National Mod Gold Medallist
Joy Dunlop, Connel - 2006 National Mod Oban Times Gold Medallist
Tickets £10 from Taynuilt Post Office, choir members or Audrey Paterson 01866 822 565

An Comunn Gaidhealeach
Cruachan Branch
CEILIDH
Saturday, 20 January 07 at 7.45pm
Taynuilt Village Hall
Piper and Musicians
Fiona Mackenzie (GM)
Riona MacInnes, Aplen Stuart
Toni Russell Dancers
Fear an Taighe:
Donald MacKenzie
Admission £3: Members and Children £2

OBAN ART SOCIETY
'My Work and the Oban College of the Arts'
Kate Kirby
Glencruitten Church Hall (Main Hall) Oban
Friday 26 January
7.30pm
Visitors welcome

Sahara Trekking Challenge
CAR BOOT SALE
in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support
CO-OP CAR PARK, OBAN
10am - 3pm
Sunday 28th January
£5 per car/table
No booking - just turn up!

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'SECRETS, LIES & DIY'

performed by MsFits Theatre Co

A DIY disaster brings together three very different women and unearths more than dry rot under the floorboards!

Fiona Knowles is a star performer – a show not to be missed

Guaranteed to brighten up a winter night!

CAIRNDOW VILLAGE HALL
Saturday January 27th at 7.30 p.m.
Tickets: adult £7 child (under 16 years) £3

To book tickets please contact Cairndow Arts Promotions tel: 01499 600260

Scottish Arts Council
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Give a pet a home

FOR years Argyll Animal Aid has been the first port of call for pets in need of everything from medical care to love and attention.

Despite very basic beginnings the charity has now built up a facility that can provide four kennels, an isolation kennel, four large cat pens, a hospital for sick cats and a large cat maternity unit.

Many pets have come from loving and secure homes but have suddenly found themselves ownerless or homeless through a variety of circumstances.

Some poor animals are brought to them after suffering abuse, neglect, abandonment and all manner of unpleasant backgrounds but no matter what fate has been experienced in the past, every pet is guaranteed a warm, safe and loving home at Argyll Animal Aid.

The sanctuary has a strict no kill policy, except on veterinary advice, ensuring every animal will be given the chance to go on and enjoy a happy life.

Although more common, dogs and cats are by no means the only types of boarders that can be found resting at Argyll Animal Aid.

Over the years carers have found themselves nursing and looking after ferrets, rabbits, deer, hedgehogs, birds, fish and even bats and turtles.

As well as acting as a temporary home, for animals in need of specialist attention, Argyll Animal Aid can also play a vital role in passing them over to the appropriate agencies.

Thanks to the much loved place that Argyll Animal Aid holds in the hearts of local animal lovers, they have managed to survive on donations and volunteering for essentials such as food, bedding and equipment however there are still many pets looking for owners to continue the good work of the facility.

They can often be seen manning a stall at local events and games so please take the time to support this much needed facility as ALL money is guaranteed to be spent on the animals.

Argyll Animal Aid has and always will provide a safehaven for unwanted animals from the Argyll area but space is limited and for most animals the home can only ever be a stepping-stone.

How you can help

There are always animals waiting for people to give them a second chance so if you have the room and the inclination, make an appointment with Pat to see if there is an animal waiting for you.

There is also the possibility of sponsorship whereby people can adopt a cat and be kept informed of his or her progress for a small amount of money each year.
For more about Argyll Animal Aid contact Pat on 01852 300362 or visit the website: www.smallpaws.co.uk

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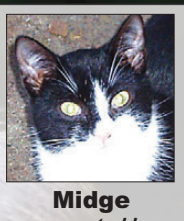

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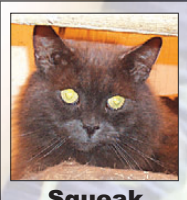

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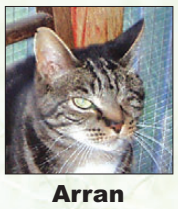

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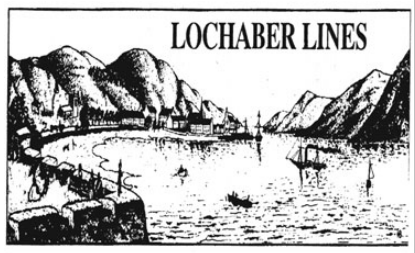

email lochaberlines@obantimes.co.uk

WE HAVE yet to confirm this story but as it may take several days of research in the Masonic Social Club and even longer perhaps,for a member to invite us in, we will go ahead anyway.

It is no secret that the club stewardess speaks the Doric and it is alleged that when two lads from south of the border called into the bar Doreen asked: 'Fit are you boys hae-in then?'

Her question was answered with another: 'Do you have any real ale?' ventured one of the strangers. 'Ahinny' was Doreen's short reply. 'Good, we'll have two whiskies and two halves of the Ahinny then,' says the Sassenach.

❒ ❒ ❒

It had to happen you might think.

With some mischievous winding up – not a trait we like of course – from BBC television's Landward programme, Aviemore is now claiming the title of Outdoor Capital of the UK.

Last Sunday Aviemore and Lochaber had their credentials put to the test.

It was unclear who came out on top but results of a vote are scheduled to be announced on this coming Sunday's programme. However, no instructions were given on how to record a vote.

Now you may feel ambivalent about the whole thing but we can't have those Badenoch Bandits having one over us. Get e-mailing your views to landward@bbc.co.uk because the Cairngorm computers will be doing the same.

❒ ❒ ❒

The OCUK and ancillary activities keep the wolf away from the door for some people we were thinking, and that in our peculiar way led us to the solution for which centre is the Outdoor Capital.

The matter should be settled over a game of chess.

You see, away back nearly 800 years ago, Big Alexander, known to his friends and enemies as 'The Wolf of Badenoch,' fancied his chances just like Aviemore but was cut down to size over a game of chess.

One day a tall dark stranger, whom legend claims was the devil, engaged The Wolf in a game of chess. After several hours the stranger cried 'checkmate'.

A violent storm broke out and when silence fell the next morning The Wolf of Badenoch was found dead in his castle and his claims on other peoples' lands were over.

Now if Finlay, OCUK chairman, knows as much about pawns as he does about prawns and we cover up the wee white bit at the front of his head, could he not be the tall dark stranger to sort out the Badenoch boasts once and for all?

❒ ❒ ❒

We were having a wee blether the other day with May Bruce, Secretary of Fort William Community Council and 'bonny fechter' for many local causes.

A serious chat concerning the changes past, present and in the future around the Gearasdan ended on a lighter note when Mary sent us away with a smile.

Her granddaughter Gemma was one of the lucky children to win the prize of a ride on Santa's sleigh at the High Street Christmas Festival. The large crown lining the streets and the sight of live reindeer from the UK's runner-up as Outdoor Capital naturally made the wee soul a bit apprehensive.

Santa sensed this and asked:' You're not worried about coming on my sleigh, are you?'

Gemma shyly replied: 'No as long as we just go along the street. I don't want to go up into the sky!'

❒ ❒ ❒

The President and all the President's men report that the arrangements are complete for Lochaber Burns Club to honour the National Bard in the Alexandra Hotel, Fort William on Friday, January 26 at 7.30pm.

On the night Philip Nolan will be introducing the principal speakers, Hector MacLean, Sandy Henry, John McGilp and Alec Cole-Hamilton and all the sangs and clatter.

As we go to press the evening is heading for a 150 + sell out and any members yet to collect their briefs from the hotel should do so without delay.

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Charlie's Challenge 2007

The 'Modfather' is on the final countdown to the Royal National Mod to be held in An Gearasdan Agus Lochabair this coming October.

He is regretting being so easy-oasy over the festive period and he expects his students to tackle their lessons with renewed vigour because as they say in Shielfoot – 'Tempus Fugit'.

Here is another thing they say in Acharacle – 'It's a day's work to get started - 'S e obair là tòiseachadh (sheh oebir lah tawshochugh), but Teàrlach is not in the mood for excuses.

Alison Devey from the John Muir trust and Lillian Ross helped to inspire young Lochaber poets who were putting their views of the surrounding area into verse as part of the Highland Year of Culture 2007.

Waxing lyrical for Highland 2007

FIRST Minister Jack McConnell officially launched the Highland Year of Culture 2007 at the weekend with celebrations that attracted around 15,000 people to the city of Inverness.

There was plenty on offer to mark the beginning of the year long celebration of Highland culture, including a Monster Street Party, aerial ballet displays, massed pipe bands and top Celtic performers, Blazin' Fiddles.

The wet and windy weather did cause some concern for organisers but the majority of events were unaffected.

Unfortunately the Old New Year shinty match between Strathglass and Glenurquhuart had to be cancelled due to a waterlogged pitch.

Organiser Alison Bell said: 'We were delighted with the fact that the weather moderated enough to allow us to go ahead with the programme for the weekend; 15,000 people enjoyed the fantastic celebrations and it was a huge success.'

There are many events planned for the Lochaber area and these were kicked off with a poetry workshop for Lochaber primary school pupils.

The children were being encouraged by Inverness-based poet Lillian Ross to come up with creative offerings inspired by their unique Highland surroundings.

The drive is in conjunction with a poetry competition being run by the John Muir Trust which centres on wild places, animals and activities.

All the entries, from children and adults, will be on display in the Nevis Centre later this year.

To showcase the wide range of events that will be taking place throughout the Highlands there has been a new radio programme launched called Highland Café.

Each week on Radio Scotland a mixture of television and radio presenters will be joined by guests and musicians to talk about the coming events.

Over the course of the next month Fort William will play host to speakers on subjects ranging from the siege of Fort William to developing self-portraits.

There is also a tour celebrating the best of Scottish songwriting, Burnsong, which will be visiting Strontian and until January 20 the artworks from the room 13 project will be on display in the Limetree Gallery in Fort William.

For a full list of events visit www.highland2007.com.

Fort museum's big plans

CAPITALISING on the Highland year of culture 2007 and reinvigorating local interest in the West Highland Museum are just two of the things new curator Mairi Mooney is hoping to accomplish over the following year.

The Fort William native has some fairly big plans in the pipeline and although she was reluctant to unveil the full works just yet she was happy to tell *The Oban Times* about the museum's newest additions.

She said: 'Late last year the museum purchased the old pharmacist's house and land behind the pharmacy. We've got big plans for the land and the house which we are hoping to develop over the coming year.'

This acquisition has greatly increased the space available to the museum.

Mairi said: 'The collection is fantastic at the moment and there's a massive amount of archive material that is not on display. We would like to have a temporary exhibition so we can get some of that out and also possibly borrow from national galleries.'

The space has also opened up the possibilities for new exhibitions.

'Another thing we're working on is getting more local and up to date pieces in. We are thinking about the possibility of an exhibition dedicated to the Pulp Mill. The timing is right for that and it's such a big part of Fort William's history.'

The museum has become famous over the years for such trademark items as the anamorphic painting of Bonnie Prince Charlie and many Lochaber locals will never forget the haunting image of a mother and child in a mock black house that instilled equal measures of fear and curiosity amongst onlookers.

The museum holds many significant artefacts from around Lochaber which is not surprising when considering the area is steeped in history - a fact that Mairi is keen to take advantage of.

'We have a fantastic Jacobite collection. One of the most significant collections outside the national museum. We also have a fantastic collection of books upstairs that we would like to see put to better use. We're hoping to introduce a reading room for members and an archive and research area. We're getting more and more enquiries about genealogy so we'd like to cater for that.'

Mairi, aged 38, who has a degree in Cultural Studies of the Highlands and Islands, will continue studying on the part time Museum and Gallery Studies course at St Andrews University.

Clearly unafraid of a challenge, it seems plans are focused on getting people back into the museum, which Mairi points out relies on locals just as much as tourists.

'We already have a children's club every month which is proving very popular. Now we want to get the locals interested and realise that they have this fantastic facility on their doorstep and to get involved too.'

New curator of West Highland Museum, Mairi Mooney, has big plans for the Fort William based attraction which will soon be extending behind the town's High Street with a new exhibition space. f03mus02

Pensioner didn't stop for lollipop lady and child

A WIDOWED pensioner was surprised to be charged with careless driving two months after the incident took place, but pled guilty to the charge last week at Fort William Sheriff Court.

Ellen Broome, of Tigh a Ghlinn, Muirshearlach, Banavie, was told that on September 26 of last year she had failed to stop for a lollipop lady, who was escorting a young child across the road at the Tomonie junction in Fort William, a well known school crossing.

Alison Wyllie, prosecuting, said that Broome had narrowly missed the woman.

Defence agent Stephen Kennedy explained that the accused did not recall this, and had formed the impression that it was safe to continue.

He added that Broome, 77, remembered seeing both the woman and child, but said that they were nearly across the road and that she had a clear road ahead.

Sheriff Douglas Small fined Broome £400 and put six points on her driving.

Addressing the accused, he said: 'I am going to deal with this case on the basis that you had a momentary lapse of concentration.'

Woman kept hire car for two months

A WOMAN hired a car for two weeks but kept it for two months.

Susan Parsonage Graham, aged 40 pled guilty to a charge of theft at Fort William Sheriff Court last week and was fined £375.

She lived in Lochaber when she hired the car on March 25 last year; but she moved to 24 Millbank Road, Munlochy, on the Black Isle to try and get her life in order.

Defence agent Hamish Melrose explained that the move was one of the reasons she had kept the car. 'She knew that she couldn't keep the vehicle indefinitely,' said Mr Melrose. 'Time passed fairly quickly and after the nine weeks or so that she had the vehicle and it was detected, it was returned undamaged.'

Easy Drive car rentals claim that the incident has cost them £3,000.

Sheriff Douglas Small decided against forcing Graham to pay a compensation order, but warned that the company would be likely to seek payment through the civil courts.

Addressing Graham, Sheriff Small said: 'I find it difficult to understand what actually happened here, why you thought you could keep this vehicle. You have an unblemished record; it just doesn't make sense to me.'

Oban's RNLI fund raisers are rewarded for their work

A NUMBER of members of Oban's fund raising branch of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) have been recognised for their hard work.

As well as stalwart Isobel Black receiving a Bar to Gold badge for 55 years' service, former president Anna Bevis, is to be presented with a Silver badge for 25 years' service. Helen Currie and Heather Smith will be presented with a Bronze badge, and Margaret Parfitt will receive a Certificate of Thanks at the awards ceremony at the Royal National Lifeboat Institution's Scottish Annual Meeting at Perth Concert Hall on June 5. Maren Caldwell, National Fundraising and Communications Manager for the RNLI in Scotland said: 'Without the dedication and commitment of our volunteers, the RNLI's role of saving lives at sea would be impossible.'

Help with temper keeps man free

A FORT William man found guilty of acting in a racially aggravated manner has avoided jail in favour of anger management classes.

James George Donaldson, aged 32, verbally threatened Arthur Scott, then a senior social worker based at Fulton House in Fort William, after Mr Scott refused to reimburse him for travelling expenses to Inverness to see his children.

Donaldson, of 29 Mamore Crescent, began to argue and use offensive language, calling Mr Scott – who is from Portsmouth – a Cockney and telling him to get back to London.

At the trial on December 13, Mr Scott testified that Donaldson's receipts had few details on them and that he felt there may be a scam going on. Defence agent David MacNeill said Donaldson, who appeared for sentencing last week at Fort William Sheriff Court after being found guilty at the trial, had reacted to being accused of dishonesty. 'He does accept that he tends to lose his temper,' said Mr MacNeill.

'I take a serious view of this type of conduct,' Sheriff Douglas Small told Donaldson. 'However, I am persuaded by Mr MacNeill that it might not do you any harm for me to allow you the opportunity to attend an anger management course.'

Donaldson's sentence was deferred until September 6. Sheriff Small said: 'When I defer sentence on you, it does not mean I am letting you off. It means you are in a position of trust with the court. If you let me down, make no mistake, I will impose a custodial sentence.'

Don't get caught out in the COLD this winter!

WINTER's here with a vengeance but while it lasts you can make your home warmer and snugger with a few handy hints:

- Insulation is the name of the game this winter: make your home more energy-efficient by ensuring hot water tank lagging is adequate to reduce heating costs and keep water hot for longer. A temperature of 60C is hot enough for most domestic uses so check your thermostat is not too high.
- Heavy curtains and curtains with thermal linings will retain heat if drawn at dusk against the cold but make sure you don't cover any radiators under windows.
- Don't open a window to let in cold air if your radiators are too hot – turn them down to a heat you are comfortable with.
- Use low energy light bulbs which can last eight times longer than ordinary ones. They also use only one quarter of the electricity of ordinary ones so use them where lights are on for long periods.
- Put small shelves about two inches above your central heating radiators to push warm air towards the centre of the room.

These measures will help to ensure more comfort for you and your family and will also help the environment by reducing CO2 emissions.

Elderly folk are particularly vulnerable into winter cold, making them susceptible to cold or influenza or more serious conditions such as heart attacks, strokes and pneumonia.

If you have an elderly neighbour or relative, show you care. Don't ignore curtains closed during the day or no lights on at night. This could mean something is wrong. Knock on the door and if you can't get an answer contact someone who you know may have a key to the property or who knows the person or persons inside. Don't hesitate to contact emergency services. Your action could save a life.

Hypothermia is one of the more common conditions among the elderly in winter - where the body's temperature falls to a dangerously cold level either through brief exposure to extreme cold or prolonged exposure to mild cold. It can be fatal if not treated quickly and is a serious concern to senior citizens, who are more prone to falling or collapsing. Symptoms to look for are very cold skin, even under clothes, on the stomach or under the arms; drowsiness and slurred speech; and not feeling cold when it is cold. If you recognise these symptoms, telephone 999 for an ambulance and try to warm the person by increasing the heating and making a warm drink (not alcohol). Don't try to warm the victim up too quickly.

Advice about new individual fires or heaters can be obtained from the Energy Efficient Advice Centre on 0800 512 012. Ensure any new electric heater has a thermostat and get advice from the Solid Fuel Association on 0845 601 4406 or go to www.solidfuel.co.uk if you plan to buy a new open fire. If you are a tenant, consult your landlord to see if he or she can supply a heater or to check any restrictions on the types of heater you can have.

Gas and fossil fuel appliances and flues should be regularly tested to see that they are properly maintained and installed and not leaking carbon monoxide, which kills at least 50 people a year in England and Wales. Make sure you use a trained, reputable and registered engineer, e.g. CORGI or HETAS, but don't do it yourself.

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Young farm tenants looked for

A MEETING about the future of tenant farming in Scotland will take place in Oban next Monday as farming groups grow increasingly concerned about the lack of young people coming into agriculture.

The meeting at the Corran Halls on January 22 has been organised by the Scottish Tenant Farmers Association (STFA) and the National Farmers Union of Scotland (NFUS).

With the high capital requirement of farming, lack of available land for rent and high land values it is feared that younger people may be deterred from going into farming.

The meeting which is part of a series of roadshows in Scotland aims to give the audience a 'practical insight' into letting land from both a tenant and landlord perspective.

Lochaber's first sale of the year

THE FIRST livestock sale of 2007 will take place tomorrow (Friday, January 19) at Lochaber Rural Complex.

All classes of sheep will be available and it is also the annual sale of cast rams.

The auction is being organised by Dingwall and Highland Marts and the auctioneer will be Paul Spencer.

Ian Tolmie of Dingwall and Highland marts said: 'The sheep price is not as strong as it was in the autumn however this is the last opportunity in Fort William until April.

'There will be feeding ewes, store lambs and cast rams.'

Understanding bull management systems is key to breeding success

MANAGEMENT of bulls and use of Estimated Breeding Values (EBV's) is the subject of a series of talks organised by the Scottish Agricultural College (SAC) for farmers and crofters in Argyll and Lochaber.

Venues

The events, to take place in late January/early February, will be held in Islay, Kintyre, Connel, near Oban and Fort William (see advert at bottom of page for full details).

Good management of a bull is essential to ensure that it works properly, both just after purchase and over the longer term.

Many farmers and crofters will have experienced the problems of a bull not working: cows not served, calving delayed or even worse, no calves on the ground for a year.

In farming today, technical efficiency is more important than ever. The target must be to have a compact calving, with all cows producing a healthy calf, without any assistance.

With the annual Perth bull sales just round the corner, many suckler producers should know by now if they are intending getting a new bull.

Improvement in the profitability of the suckler herd needs to increase and the correct choice of bull will help to meet the aims. The question asked should be 'How can I improve on my current calf crop?'

Do I need?
1 easier calving
2 faster growing calves
3 more shapely calves
4 milkier replacements

The answer lies in GENETICS.

Improving genetics leads to improved performance which leads to improved profitability. Estimated Breeding Values (EBV's) are a measure of genetic merit.

Bull buyers will find breed EBV figures in catalogues, so the buying decision is now made easier. When used in conjunction with a visual assessment, EBV's provide a vast amount of invaluable information to reduce the risks in the buying decision. EBV's are available for all commercially desirable traits.

A measure of efficiency in a suckler herd is a calf per cow per year, and EBV's can be used to achieve this. Long gestation lengths and difficult calvings are likely to lead to a reduction in the period available from calving to settling the cow back in calf, therefore, making it difficult to achieve the calf per cow per year. Difficult calvings can also lead to deaths or failure to re-breed, thus causing economic waste. However EBV's are available for the important calving traits of birth weight, calving ease and gestation length.

At the same time as ensuring the new bull will transmit easy calving traits selection must ensure that he will also transmit the desirable growth and conformation traits to his calves, and furthermore, when buying a bull to breed replacement daughters care should be taken in selection on maternal figures.

This series of talks will focus on identifying key points of good bull management to minimise problems and maximise profit. They will also help understanding of EBV's and, using practical examples, will increase confidence in purchasing the correct bull for individual farms.

The meetings are supported with funding from the European Social Fund. For further information, please contact SAC Oban on 01631 563093 or SAC Campbeltown on 01586 552502

Local Landini tractor owners, travelled to Oban to celebrate Argyll Agricultural Engineers' northern Dealer of the Year award. They are (left to right), Duncan Clark, Cuilaine, Connel; Neil MacCorkindale, Scammadale, Kilninver; Duncan Livingstone, Laggan, Lismore; Cameron MacFarlane, Argyll Agricultural Engineers; Duncan Buchannan, Shenavallie, Benderloch; Archie MacGillivray, Achuaran, Lismore; Peter Sinclair, Dalrannoch, Connel and Martin Ingram, Landini UK.

Local tractor dealer's success

❒ Northern Dealer of the Year

OBAN-based Argyll Agricultural Engineers have won a tractor manufactuer's northern Dealer of the Year title.

The award, presented by Landini regional manager Martin Ingram for outstanding sales and service, comes at the end of the Oban company's first year as a Landini franchised dealer.

Cameron MacFarlane runs the Oban-based firm with his wife Sine. Their son Cameron and Duncan Aitken are qualified Landini technicians who service and repair tractors and machinery either on-farm or in the new workshops that the company purchased last December.

'We bought the new office and workshop premises to go with the Landini franchise, partly because we wanted to project the right image but also because we were serious about doing the job properly,' said Mr MacFarlane.

It was the Landini tractors' suitability to the local farming that attracted Cameron when was looking for his first tractor franchise a little over a year ago.

'There are not many dealers around here so we had the pick of all the tractor manufacturers,' he said. 'I decided on Landini because I liked the products, I thought they'd be ideal for our farming customers and I liked the company's approach to business.

'Farmers here don't want anything too complicated; they want a tractor that'll do the job and can be relied upon,' said Mr MacFarlane. 'The Landini tractors have certainly delivered that with excellent reliability, especially those working in tough island environments.'

Martin Ingram, Landini's regional manager said: 'It's a great achievement for Cameron MacFarlane and his team to win this award in his first year with Landini - and their first year selling tractors.'

Sheep scoring on the agnda

CONDITION scoring of sheep and the comparison of account figures will be on the agenda for the first meeting of the Argyll Monitor Farm in 2007.

The Monitor Farm facilitator, Niall Campbell of the Scottish Agricultural College (SAC), hopes to have five small groups of sheep for the community group to check over at Ardachy Farm next week.

A SAC business specialist will lead the accounts session with four sets of accounts to compare including figures from monitor farms in other parts of Scotland.

There will also be an overview of tax accounts before the different farm enterprises are analysed separately.

The meeting starts at 10.45am on Thursday January 25.

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Nature Times

Pick up a 'buckie' and hear the sea

ONE OF the biggest seashells you will find washed up on the shore in winter is the common whelk.

Known in Scotland as a 'buckie', this is the shell that children most often put to their ears to 'hear the sea'. Look too for its spongy egg cases, known as sea wash balls – reputedly useful for cleaning your hands!

The common whelk is one of the largest sea snails that live in Scottish waters. Its shell typically grows to about 12 cm long, and even larger specimens are occasionally found in deep waters - down to 1200 m depth.

The shell is usually yellow-brown and covered with lines and ridges; and it very often has 'passengers' attached such as acorn barnacles and tubeworms. The only other shell of similar size and shape that you are likely to find is the spindle shell, also known as the red whelk. This has a heavier but smoother shell, often pure white with fine spiral lines but without longitudinal ribs. It can grow even larger than the common whelk.

Live specimens of the common whelk are sometimes found on the shore at low tide, but tend to be quite small. Empty whelk shells are often used by hermit crabs that have outgrown top shells and winkles.

The common whelk's body and 'foot' are white, flecked with black. It has two thin tentacles with an eyespot at the base of each.

More important for sensing its environment though is the siphon – a long flexible tube which projects from the groove in the shell above the whelk's head. This draws in clean water for respiration - useful when burrowing through mud; but it also enables the whelk to use its keen sense of smell to detect its food.

Whelks are carnivorous, eating both live and dead prey. A dead fish will attract whelks from all around, waving their siphons like elephant's trunks as they 'sniff' the water. This behaviour is used by fishermen to catch whelks in baited pots, as they are quite edible, provided they are boiled for long enough. They are harvested commercially in various places around Britain, though most are exported to the Far East.

The common whelk or buckie is one of our largest marine snails

The female whelk lays its eggs in horny cases or capsules, stuck together to form a rounded, straw-coloured mass about the size of an apple. This is attached to a rock or other surface.

A single female may produce up to 2000 capsules, and each capsule may contain hundreds of eggs! The eggs develop within their cases, and the first few to hatch feed on the remaining eggs. They emerge after several months as miniature versions of their parents, and the egg masses may then become detached and wash up on the beach.

The island of Canna is a fine location for marine life, but is perhaps best known for its colonies of seabirds. These have suffered in recent years through predation by brown rats.

Bob Swann of the National Trust for Scotland will give an illustrated talk to the Lochaber Natural History Society on Friday, January 26 about Canna's seabirds, and the recent project to control the rats.

The meeting will be held at the Alexandra Hotel in Fort William at 7.30 pm, all are welcome.

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SAC
Farmers & Crofters Meetings

Bull Management and Estimated Breeding Values (EBV's)

With Ian Pritchard: SAC Beef Specialist

Islay	31st Jan	Bridgend Hotel	8pm
Kintyre	1st Feb	Charlottan Farm, Glenbarr	1.30 pm
Connel	1st Feb	Falls of Lora Hotel	8 pm
Fort William	2nd Feb	Strone Farm, Banavie	11.00 am

Good bull management is essential to ensure that your bull will work properly, both just after purchase and over the long term.
EBV's are a valuable aid in helping you choose the best bull for your needs. EBV information from local bulls will be used as examples.

The meeting is supported by the ESF.
Entry is free to all.

Contact SAC on 01631 563093 or 01586 552502 for further details

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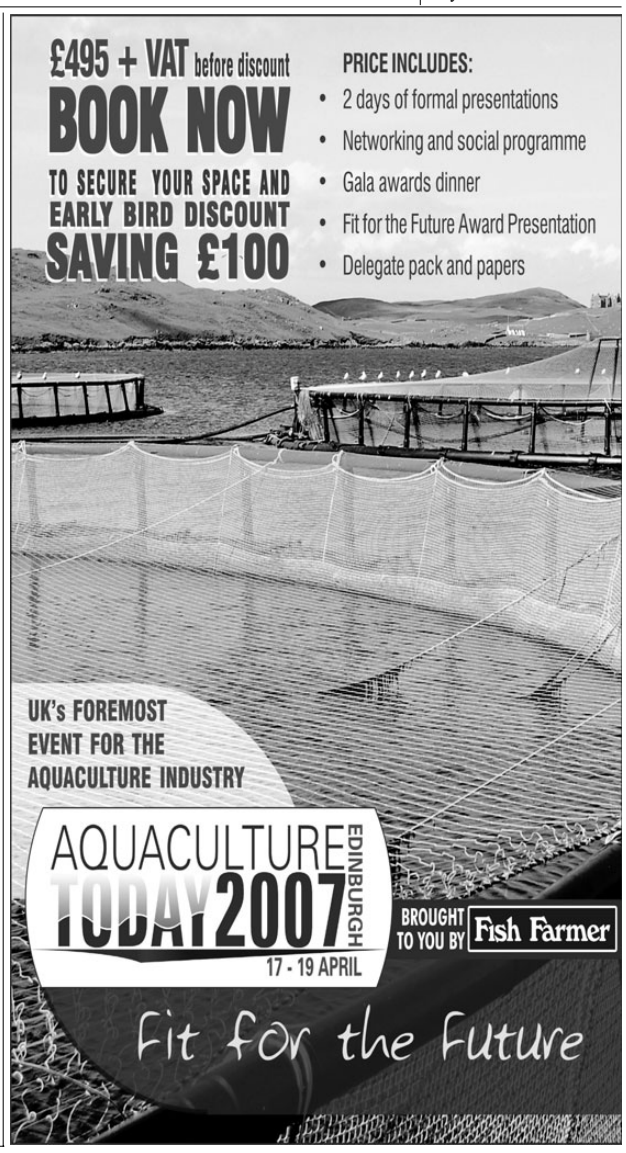

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Highland 2007 scarves thanks to Islay mill

ISLAY Woollen Mill is playing a part in the launch of Highland 2007, the year of culture for the Highlands, by helping a primary school produce a tartan scarf.

Mulbuie Primary School at Muir of Ord created the Golden Broom tartan last year and it was adopted by Highland 2007 as its official tartan.

It was chosen as the winning design at a parent's evening in the school and is now officially registered.

But as part of the celebrations it has been turned into scarves by Islay Woollen Mill, which is owned and run by Gordon and Sheila Covell.

The Islay mill was the only one able to produce the scarves in eight weeks, in time for the launch.

Jack McConnell was presented with one of the scarves at the official launch of Highland 2007 in Inverness on Friday.

The tartan includes burgundy, the colour of the school's uniform, with greens and browns representing the area's farming community and the golden colour of the broom shrub prevalent in the area and after which it is named.

Pupils have taken to wearing the tartan as part of their uniform and some parents have bought swathes of the material for furnishings.

Islay Woollen Mill has been run by the Covells since 1981 but was first established in 1883.

A team of seven people, including the Covells' son Marcus, are employed at the mill, which creates its own designs and weaves them on the looms turning them into a range of scarves, caps, tweed jackets, rugs and kilts as well as the raw fabric.

Seated, Iain Scott, Steven Parr, Chris Cumming and Graeme McLeish learn about health and safety from Angus MacPherson, contracts manager, and Sandy Dunlop, managing director. t03oes02

Skye dippers prove good investment

SKYE crofters weary of government legislation and a labour shortage have hailed the initiative of two islanders who are enjoying success with mobile sheep dipping units.

Dipping sheep on Skye to combat parasites has traditionally been carried out by township crofters at permanent baths in township fanks.

It has always been labour intensive work which was not a major problem when there were more working crofters on the island.

Legislation which means crofters must buy a £500 licence to carry out dipping and follow strict rules over the disposal of the waste has added to the burden.

As a result Calum Graham of Glenmore and Neil Montgomery from Ose now hire out separate mobile sheep dipping units to crofters on Skye.

Showered

Calum said: 'I bought a Monsoon mobile sheep shower about five months ago. It is a trailer in two sections, in the first section the sheep walk in and they are showered for about three-and-a-half minutes with jets from above and below.

'They are covered from all sides with the shower spray. Then what you do is move the sheep forward into the next section. The water then goes into the sump and the principle is that you are left with 200 litres of water. Around 200 sheep can be dipped in an hour.

'The old style dipping is still the best and it doesn't hold a torch to it but this is a personal choice.'

Neil's Electrodip machine sees sheep walking through a raise individually where they are treated by jets of water enough pressure so the dip penetrates the skin. An electronic eye is activated by the sheep walking towards it and activates the jets.

He said: 'It is a New Zealand machine and I have been busy in the autumn time on Skye hiring it out. I have put about 15,000 sheep through it this year and it can do about 500 sheep an hour. People don't really understand it until they see it working but it cuts out the handling and is enviromentally friendly.'

Borve crofter John Angus MacKenzie is impressed with the reduction in sheep handling.

Mr MacKenzie said: 'Dipping has always been hard work and labour intensive because sheep don't want to go through the dipper. In the last two years we have used Neil's high pressure jetting system. It does not get them on the ears so it is not as effective but it keeps them immune if there has been good flock management. But if there is a problem the injection for scab is very effective.'

Harlosh crofter John Laing said: 'I am the only crofter on the peninsula here and last Saturday I put 100 ewes through Neil's dipper and it took me half an hour. If it was the old dipper I would have spent all day doing that. If you had a major outbreak of scab I don't know how effective it would be. But where there has been good scab control it seems to work well.'

Mr Laing says the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) requests a map of where the dispersal of dip from the traditional baths will be placed. 'It can't be near any water concourses which is very difficult on Skye,' he added.

Apprenticeships snapped up

OBAN Electrical Services (OES) has had so much interest in its apprenticeships that instead of taking on one or two this year, it has taken on four.

Managing director Sandy Dunlop said the standard of applications received for the four-year apprenticeship was extremely high, with more than 25 applications – but only one girl - from all over Argyll.

But he accused other parts of the construction industry of failing to invest in their future by not taking on apprentices. 'The biggest problem is a lot are one-man bands and are not interested in training. If someone like ourselves hadn't trained them, they wouldn't be out there' said Mr Dunlop. The four apprentices at OES, Iain Scott, aged 16, Steven Parr, 16, Chris Cumming, 17 and Graeme McLeish, 18, as part of their training will attend Reid Kerr College in Paisley. Graeme told *The Oban Times*: 'I definitely wanted to be involved in a trade and electrician seemed to be the most appealing to me. My father is an electrician too.'

OES has around eight apprentices on its books at the moment. The electrical industry has set up the Scottish Electrical Charitable Training Trust (SECTT) to help young people apply for and find apprenticeships, help with training and grants for college.

Neil McLeod of SECTT said the electrical industry needed companies like OES for the support they offered apprentice electricians. Neil manages the training of apprentice electricians in the Argyll region. He said: 'The quality of electricians who have come through OES is first class, and many of them have won apprentice of the year awards. Sandy Dunlop and OES are fantastic supporters of young apprentices.'

Mixed fortunes for economy

THE SERVICE sector now accounts for 70 per cent of economic output in the Highlands and islands.

The latest monthly economic report for the area for January by MacKay Consultants suggests the sector will grow by a further 2.2 per cent this year.

Manufacturing counts for 13 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) while agriculture, fishing and forestry accounts for just five per cent - although that is more than double the fugure for Scotland as a whole.

Electricity, gas and water and construction account for around nine per cent of GDP and it is estimated it will grow by another two per cent in 2007.

Mackay Consultants suggested that economic growth in the Highlands would increase by 2.2 per cent in 2007, 1.9 per cent in Argyll and Bute and Orkney and two per cent in the Western Isle while Shetlend's economic output will raise by 2.3 per cent but that is a fall on the 2006 forecast of 2.7 per cent.

Tony Mackay, of Mackay Consultants said that December had been a mixed month for the Highlands and Islands, with unemployment rising by 172 to 4,962. But that is just 13 more than the same time in 2005.

There was good news concerning investment in Sullom Voe in Shetland, investment in the hotel industry due this year and a a £308 million Ministry of Defence contract for Quinetiq, securing 12 jobs on South Uist.

On the down side there was a lot of bad news involving job losses during December.

'The economy is doing reasonably well but the growth rate has remained at 2.1 per cent for the last four months and unemployent is rising,' said Mr Mackay.

Munro's lucky ticket

AS PART of its 21st anniversary celebrations CGL has been holding a monthly prize draw for business account holders.

This month's winner is Munro's Garage in Oban.

Calum Munro received a BIC presentation box and the golden key from Campbell Cameron, CGL Key Accounts manager.

Munro's is a family run business, approved to ISO 9002 standards, that has been based in Oban for many years.

It was started in 1992 by Kenny Munro and the reins are now in the hands of Kenny's two sons, Calum and Neil.

They operate around the clock, with a complete 24-hour rescue and recovery service, 365 days of the year.

For further information on the prize draw, contact Campbell at CGL on 01631 565485 or sales@cgl-ltd.co.uk

Calum Munro is presented with Munro's prize by Campbell Cameron of CGL Ltd.

Inverawe celebrates success

INVERAWE Smokehouses has celebrated its most successful year to date.

The smokery based near Taynuilt picked up a plethora of accolades as well as increasing its sales by 15 per cent on the previous year.

Owners Rosie and Robert Campbell-Preston are delighted. 'The addition of 50 per cent extra smokeboxes has increased production and we have been rewarded by an increase in sales,' said Robert.

Awards have included a silver at the Soil Association Awards and the overall Excellence trophy at the Highlands and Islands food and drink awards.

'The awards are welcome too as great recognition for doing our job, particularly because we are competing with our peers not only in the fish industry but across many other food sectors too,' he added.

Starter for Six support

BUDDING entrepreneurs from the Highlands and Islands are being called up to take part in a new scheme for future movers and shakers of the business world called 'Starter for Six'.

The project will see 100 new starters in business being selected to receive business support, mentoring and the opportunity to get a start-up grant of up to £10,000.

A recent report commissioned by UBS Wealth Management revealed that Scotland is the UK's most entrepreneurial region and has more companies backed by venture capital per head of population than London.

The selection process will award places and funding by looking at the quality of the idea, business potential and the strength of the proposed business team.

The programme will last for three years taking in 100 entrepreneurs every year and will span across the science, technology and creative industries.

It is being led by the National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts (NESTA) in partnership with Highland and Islands Enterprise.

The project was launched in Glasgow recently and attended by many leading industry figures including Stuart Cosgrove.

He said: 'Starter for Six is a significant new opportunity for innovative and aspiring Scottish talent to get their businesses off to an ambitious start.'

The deadline for applications is February 12.m

Islay company takes boat world by storm

ISLAY boat company StormCats Ltd has branched out further into leisure craft with its latest design the Stormbreaker.

The company, which builds catamaran and mono-hull boats for diving, angling, research, patrol or charter purposes, has now built a hydrodynamic cathedral hull boat suitable for the serious angler, watersport enthusiasts and families.

It has been specially built and tested to deal with the tough west of Scotland climate.

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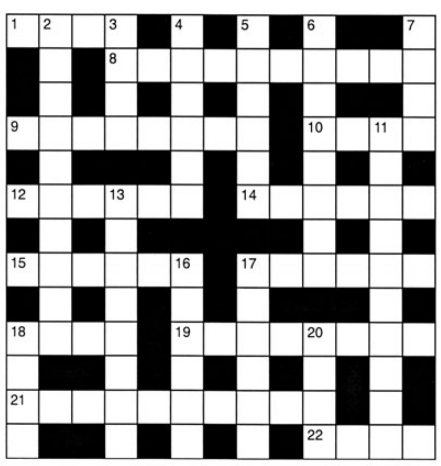

ACROSS

1. European mountain range whose highest peak is Mont Blanc (4)
8. Comedy play by Richard Steele first produced in 1701 (3,7)
9. See 17 Across.
10. Loch —, Scottish lake in the Great Glen said to contain a monster (4)
12. See 17 Across.
14. Wine bottle holding the equivalent of two normal bottles (6)
15. Mississippi birthplace of Elvis Presley (6)
17, 12, and 9. 1908 book by G.K. Chesterton featuring the character Gabriel Syme (3,3,3,3,8)
18. Plant such as the mangelwurzel (4)
19. In poker, five cards in sequence irrespective of suit (8)
21. 1961 Elvis Presley film from a story by Allan Weiss (4,6)
22. Hard waxy fat around the kidneys and loins in sheep and cattle (4)

QUICK CLUES ACROSS

1. Unhearing (4)
8. Insufficient (10)
9. Respectful (8)
10. Vale (4)
12. Control (6)
14. Invader (6)
15. Purpose (6)
17. Invent (6)
18. Abandoned (4)
19. Invert (8)
21. Confederate (10)
22. Poverty (4)

DOWN

2. 'To the —', novel by Virginia Woolf (10)
3. Betelgeuse or Vega, for example (4)
4. Chico, Brazilian rubber tapper assassinated in 1988 (6)
5. Character in *The Mikado* who loves Nanki-Poo (3-3)
6. 1960 British Open golf champion (3,5)
7. 'Desire under the —', play by Eugene O'Neill (4)
11. Form of bass tuba which circles the player's body (10)
13. Dennis, author of *To the Devil - a Daughter* (8)
16. Legendary Irish hero and bard of the 3c (6)
17. '— of the Apes', novel by Edgar Rice Burroughs (6)
18. 'Pretty —', 1978 film by Louis Malle (4)
20. Wading bird of the family *Threskiornithidae* (4)

QUICK CLUES DOWN

2. Undergo (10)
3. Capital (4)
4. Obvious (6)
5. Whisk (6)
6. Bog (8)
7. Acute (4)
11. Voters (10)
13. Building (8)
16. Company (6)
17. Reliance (6)
18. Guide (4)
20. Afterwards (4)

SOLUTIONS TO LAST WEEK

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE - Across: 7 Hermes; 8 Dodoma; 10 Tiomkin; 11 Itten; 12 Abel; 13 Polka; 17 Light; 18 Beta; 22 Lippi; 23 Novotna; 24 Milton; 25 Urania.
Down: 1 Whitman; 2 Triolet; 3 Peake; 4 Soyinka; 5 North; 6 Marne; 9 Indo-China; 14 Silicon; 15 Neptune; 16 Galahad; 19 (The) Alamo; 20 Apple; 21 Ivory.
QUICK - Across: 7 Obtain; 8 Strife; 10 Venture; 11 Rogue; 12 Reek; 13 Since; 17 Merit; 18 Mute; 22 Start; 23 Niggard; 24 Depart; 25 Regain.
Down: 1 Convert; 2 Stunted; 3 Minus; 4 Attract; 5 Singe; 6 Rebel; 9 Deficient; 14 Restore; 15 Runaway; 16 Heading; 19 Aside; 20 Happy; 21 Agree.

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20 Years Ago — Those Were The Days

The Oban Times Thursday January 15 1987

Mallaig shop to make way for road – and no compensation

AN EVICTION threat is hanging over the old established Mallaig food shop, MacLennan's.

Highland Regional Council are taking the present owner Mr Gordon MacLennan to court later this month in a bid to make him vacate the shop at Station Road, Mallaig.

They want the shop premises – which includes the Mace Grocer's, dairy, bread shop and butcher's – to be demolished to make way for road improvements.

Mr MacLennan, 59, whose family have run the business for the past 70 years, agrees that the improvements, which are designed to stop traffic congestion, are much needed. What he doesn't agree with is the proposal to make him vacate the premises without paying him a penny in compensation.

Mr MacLennan said: 'They are putting in a new street and they want the shop out of here and that's it.

'In the summer they were reported to have offered me £25,000 but in actual fact it turned out it was only £10,000 of a loan!

'What they have offered me now is to sell me ground or to lease me ground at the back of the present shop but with no financial help whatsoever.

'I would have to demolish the shop and I would have to build a new one.

'I own the shop, but the council own the dairy, the stores and the ground.'

Aonach Mor hopes hit set-back

SCOTTISH Secretary Malcolm Rifkind has dealt out another blow to the Aonach Mor ski development proposal.

In a letter to Lochaber District Council Chairman Mr Colin Neilson, Mr Rifkind says that he does not agree with various points which the council put to him in a recent letter which pressed for a go-ahead.

The main bone of contention is over the number of jobs which the scheme would give birth to.

The Scottish Office are sticking to their claim that only 60-80 jobs would be created while the council – and other parties – put the figure at 260.

Six-month delay in house repairs draws criticism

THE DELAYS in carrying out repairs to council houses – with one tenant in Oban waiting for over six months for action – were strongly criticised at a meeting of Oban Community Council on Monday night.

Mr Sidney Beaton said he had been approached by a tenant living in Soroba Terrace, Soroba. She had severe problems with water coming through her back door and had first reported this to the council last June. The tenant is still waiting for repairs to be carried out. Noel Faccenda, chairman of the district council's housing committee said: 'Repairs to houses are carried out on a priority basis.'

PUBLIC NOTICES

THE WEST HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS BEST READ PUBLIC NOTICE BOARD SEEN BY MORE THAN *40,000 READERS EACH WEEK
(* Source JICREG Reader per copy average from ABC Audit)

Charles Kennedy MP
Serving Ross, Skye and Lochaber

Fort William Surgery

Friday 19, January
Highland Council Service Point
Lochaber House
12.30pm - 1.30pm
No appointment necessary
01349 862152

Craignish Peninsula
PUBLIC MEETING
Affordable Housing Options
Craignish Village Hall
Saturday 27 January
7:30 pm
Sponsored by Community Self-Build Scotland
www.selfbuild-scotland.org.uk

The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

FERGUS EWING MSP
ADVICE SURGERIES FOR CONSTITUENTS

Friday 19th January 2007

12:30pm Till 1:30pm
Community Centre,
Glenkingie Street
CAOL

2:30pm Till 3:30pm
Highland Council
Service Point
Lochaber House,
High Street
FORT WILLIAM

No Appointment necessary
For Further Information Contact:
Constituency Office, Highland Railhouse
Station Square, Inverness IV1 1LE
Telephone: 01463 713004
Email: Fergus.ewing.msp@scottish.parliament.uk

SURGERY
GEORGE LYON
MSP

5pm – 6pm
Monday 22 January 2007
St Moluag's Centre,
Croft Avenue, Oban
For appointments please telephone
(01700) 500 222

S4 Parents Evening
Oban High School
Thursday 18th Jan 6.30-9.30pm
Your chance to discuss your child's report that was sent home last week

1

ENNSTONE THISTLE

PLEASE NOTE THAT WE WILL BE BLASTING AT BANAVIE QUARRY, FORT WILLIAM
ON
MONDAY 22ND JANUARY AT 12 noon

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carillion

Port Askaig Ferry Terminal
Due to reconstruction work at Port Askaig the ferry terminal will be closed to the Caledonian Macbrayne service vessel from Friday 16th February 2007 for 6 weeks until 30th March 2007. During this period all sailings will be diverted to Port Ellen.

1

West Highland Housing Association Ltd
Comunn Thigheadais Na Gaidhealtachd An Iar

PROCUREMENT NOTICE

West Highland Housing Association has recently placed an advertisement through the Official Journal of the European Union to invite contractors and consultants to apply to be considered for Framework Agreements for new build development work and major/minor repairs for the period of 2007-2010.

JOURNAL REFERENCE NUMBERS:
Consultant Services: ***Ref. Number - 259383-2006***

Contractors Services: ***Ref. Number - 258932-2006***

If interested in applying please contact:

Gregor Cameron
Project Director
West Highland Housing Association
Crannog Lane
Oban
PA34 4HB

E MAIL ADDRESS: mail@westhighlandha.co.uk
Telephone: 01631 566451
Fax: 01631 565711

Closing date for submissions 5 February 2007

1

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL
SEIRBHEIS FOGHLAIM, CULTAIR AGUS SPÒRS
FIOSRACHADH DO PHÀRANTAN A THAOBH CLÀRADH CHLOINNE SAN SGOIL

Faodaidh clann sam bith a bhios 5 bliadhna air no ro 14 Lùnastal 2007 tòiseachadh san sgoil san Lùnastal 2007. Tha e air iarraidh air pàrantan an clann a chlàradh aig an sgoil ionadail aca aig 3 uairean feasgar air latha sam bith tron t-seachdain a' tòiseachadh 29 Faoilleach 2007. Bu chòir do phàrantan teisteanas breith an leanabh a thoirt leotha.

Faodar clann a ruigeas aois 5 bliadhna às dèidh 14 Lùnastal 2007 ach air no ro 29 Gearran 2008 a bhith air an clàradh cuideachd agus faodaidh iad tòiseachadh san sgoil san Lùnastal 2007. Air an làimh eile, faodaidh pàrantan na cloinne sin roghnachadh gun an clann a chlàradh gu Lùnastal 2008.

Ma tha sibh airson ur clann a chlàradh ann an sgoil seach an sgoil ionadail agaibh, gheibh sibh fiosrachadh air mar a nì sibh seo an dara cuid on sgoil no bhon Oifis Foghlaim Sgìreil.

Far a bheil Foghlam tro Mheadhan na Gàidhlig ri fhaotainn ann an sgoil, bu chòir do phàrantan an roghainn innse dhan sgoil nuair a tha iad a' clàradh an cuid chloinne.

Gheibh a h-uile pàrant leth-bhreac de leabhran-fiosrachaidh na sgoile aig àm clàraidh.

Bu chòir ceistean sam bith mun t-sanas seo a chur air a' Mhanaidsear Foghlaim Sgìreil agaibh.

Sgire Ghallaibh	Graham Nichols	(01955) 602362
Sgire Chataibh	Bill Couston	(01408) 623900
Inbhir Nis, Narainn, Bàideanach agus Srath Spè	Hector Robertson	(01463) 663800
Sgire Loch Abair	Rosemary Bridge	(01397) 707350
Sgire Rois agus Chrombaidh	John Ritchie	(01349) 863441
Sgire an Eilein Sgitheanaich agus Loch Aillse	Laurence Young	(01478) 613697

The Highland Council
Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL
EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORT SERVICE – LOCHABER AREA
LOCHABER GAELIC MEDIUM ENROLMENTS AUGUST 2007

The Highland Council Education, Culture and Sport Service operate the undernoted Gaelic Medium classes within the Lochaber Area.

Parents who have a child/children who will be five years old by the last day of February 2008 and who are interested in enrolling them in a Gaelic Medium class should do so by contacting the Head Teacher of the school concerned during the week beginning Monday, 29 January 2007. Parents are reminded that they should take their child's birth certificate with them.

Acharacle Primary School
Acharacle
Mrs L Bradley, Head Teacher (Tel: 01967 431645)

Fort William RC Primary School
Fassifern Road
Fort William
Miss L MacDonald, Head Teacher (Tel: 01397 702674)

Mallaig Primary School
Mallaig
Mrs J Smith, Head Teacher (Tel: 01687 462420)

SEIRBHEIS FOGHLAIM, CULTAIR AGUS SPÒRS – SGÌRE LOCH ABAIR
CLÀRADH AIRSON FOGHLAM TRON GHÀIDHLIG LOCH ABAR LÙNASTAL 2007

Tha Seirbheis Foghlaim, Cultair agus Spòrs na Gàidhealtachd a' tabhann chlasaichean Foghlam tron Ghàidhlig anns na sgoiltean a leanas ann an Sgìre Loch Abair.

Far a bheil pàrantan le cloinn a bhios còig bliadhna ron latha mu dheireadh den Ghearran 2008 agus a tha airson an clàradh airson Foghlam tron Ghàidhlig, bu chòir dhaibh sin a dhèanamh le bruidhinn ri Ceannard na Sgoile san t-seachdain a' tòiseachadh Diluain, 29 Faoilleach 2007. Bu chòir do phàrantan teisteanas breith an leanaibh a thoirt leotha.

Bunsgoil Àth Tharracail
Àth Tharracail
A' Bh-Uas L Bradley, Ceannard (Fòn: 01967 431645)

Bunsgoil Chaitligeach a' Ghearasdain
Rathad Fassifern
An Gearasdan
A' Bh-Uas L NicDhòmhnaill, Ceannard (Fòn: 01397 702674)

Bunsgoil Mhalaig
Mhalaig
A' Bh-Uas J Smith, Ceannard (Fòn: 01687 462420)

The Highland Council
Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997
THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL (AVILON, TORLUNDY – REVOCATION) ORDER 2006

TAKE NOTICE that the Highland Council as Planning Authority for the area of Highland has made an Order under Section 65 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 entitled as above to revoke planning permission for the extension to the Old Mill to form a dwelling house, north west of Avilon, Torlundy, Fort William, (reference 06/00319/OUTLO) granted on the 25 August 2006.

The Council has been notified in writing by the owner and the occupier of the land and by all other persons who in the Council's opinion will be affected by the Order that they do not object to the Order.

If any person wishes an opportunity of appearing before, and being heard by, a person appointed by the Scottish Ministers you should give notice in writing to that effect to the Scottish Executive, Development Department, Planning Division, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh EH6 6QQ, not later than 16 February 2007.

If no such notice has been given by that date, the Order shall take effect by virtue of section 67(7) of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 on 5 March 2007.

Mr K D Falconer
Area Solicitor/Administrator
For and on behalf of Highland Council
Lochaber House
High Street
FORT WILLIAM PH33 6EL Dated 9 January 2007

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL
Notices Under the Town and Country Planning Acts

The applications for Planning Permission listed below, and Environmental Statements where appropriate, together with the plans and other documents submitted with them may be examined at the AREA PLANNING OFFICE, FULTON HOUSE, GORDON SQUARE, FT WILLIAM, PH33 6XY, between the hours of 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday and at the location where listed below during normal office hours.

Written comments (whether supporting or opposing the applications) may be made to the AREA PLANNING AND BUILDING STANDARDS MANAGER at the address below within the period listed below from the date of publication of this notice.

Applicant Name & Development Address Reference Number	Proposal Description	Location where application may be inspected & reason for Advertisement
Mr C Manwaring Land 250m North East Of, Land 150m North East Of, Land 100m East Of, Land 200m East Of and Land 300m East Of Inbhirgarbh, Invergarry 06/00574/OUTLO 06/00575/OUTLO 06/00576/OUTL 06/00577/OUTLO 06/00578/OUTLO	Erection of 5 houses	Invergarry Post Office Section 34 of the Act (14 Days) Potential Departure from Development Plan (Potential) (21 Days)

Area Planning and Building Standards Manager, Lochaber Dafydd Jones, Highland Council, Fulton House, Gordon Square, Ft William, PH33 6XY. Tel: (01397) 707015, Fax: (01397) 707022. E-Mail planning.lochaber@highland.gov.uk

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www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

Argyll & Bute COUNCIL

PLANNING
TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997, RELATED LEGISLATION PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Take notice that the applications in the following schedule may be inspected during normal office hours at the location given below. Anyone wishing to make representations should do so in writing to the undersigned within 14 or 21 days of the appearance of this notice, whichever is applicable as indicated below. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

SCHEDULE - DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION OF PLANS

● **Ref No: 06/02469/OUT**
Applicant: John Sinclair
Proposal: Site for erection of one and a half storey dwelling including demolition of garage
Site Address: Dunrobian Laurel Road Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 5EA
Location of Plans: Oban Area Office
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days

● **Ref No: 07/00049/DET**
Applicant: Mr W McInnes
Proposal: Erection of Dwelling House
Site Address: Site South West Of 39A Ellenabeich Isle Of Seil Argyll PA34 4RQ
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Balvicar
Article 9 and Section 60 Advert - 21 Day

● **Ref No: 07/00044/DET**
Applicant: Mr Mrs Donald Skinner
Proposal: Proposed new one and a half - one and three quarters storey detached house
Site Address: Plot 1, Ard-Craobh Connel Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 1PT
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Connel
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days

● **Ref No: 06/02159/DET**
Applicant: Nicola Meekin And Laura Carmichael
Proposal: Temporary siting of static caravan for staff accommodation for 18 months
Site Address: Visitors Centre Appin Argyll And Bute
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Ledaig
Section 34 and Article 9 Advert 14 Days

● **Ref No: 06/02445/OUT**
Applicant: A MacLeod
Proposal: Site for Erection of 4 dwelling houses, formation of access road and installation of septic tank
Site Address: Land West Of St Cross Church Portnacroish Appin
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Ledaig
Section 34 and Article 9 Advert 14 Days

● **Ref No: 06/02445/OUT**
Applicant: A MacLeod
Proposal: Site for Erection of 4 dwelling houses, formation of access road and installation of septic tank
Site Address: Land West Of St Cross Church Portnacroish Appin
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Ledaig
S60 Setting of Listed Bldg Ad - 21 Days

● **Ref No: 06/02665/OUT**
Applicant: Crerar Hotels
Proposal: Erection of 10 new chalets
Site Address: Isle Of Mull Hotel Craignure Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute PA65 6BB
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Craignure
Section 34 and Article 9 Advert 14 Days

● **Ref No: 06/02490/DET**
Applicant: Colin Kennedy
Proposal: Alterations and extension to dwellinghouse - Amended design to 04/00047/DET (Retrospective)
Site Address: Highland Corrie Arinagour Isle Of Coll Argyll And Bute PA78 6SY
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Isle of Coll
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days

● **Ref No: 07/00031/DET**
Applicant: A & J Jeffree
Proposal: Erection of 3 Holiday Letting Units
Site Address: Land South East Of Suidhe Bunessan Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute PA67 6DU
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Bunessan Isle of Mull
Section 34 and Article 9 Advert 14 Days

● **Ref No: 07/00030/DET**
Applicant: Norman MacDonald Builders
Proposal: Erection of 3 dwellinghouses
Site Address: Surgery Rockfield Road Tobermory Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute
Location of Plans: Tobermory Area Office
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days

● **Ref No: 06/02606/VARCON**
Applicant: Mr A MacLeod
Proposal: Consent for Dwelling 06/01087/DET Deletion of Condition 2 re visability splay
Site Address: Land North East Of Tigh Bhaan Portnacroish Argyll And Bute PA38 4BL
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Ledaig
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days

● **Ref No: 07/00013/DET**
Applicant: Enoch Dhu Ltd
Proposal: Erection of 22 Semi Detached Terrace Detached houses and upgrade access
Site Address: Land Lying To The East Of Lynn Of Lorn Nursing Home Benderloch Argyll And Bute
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Ledaig
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days

Area Team Leader Development Control, Planning Services, Lorn House, Albany Street, Oban, PA34 4AR

● **Ref No: 06/02441/OUT**
Applicant: Islay Estates Company
Proposal: Proposed erection of 4 detached dwelling houses
Site Address: North East Of Kilmeny School House Ballygrant Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Ballygrant
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days

Area Team Leader Development Control, Planning Services, 67 Chalmers Street Ardrishaig, PA30 8DX

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT CONTRARY TO DEVELOPMENT PLAN) (SCOTLAND) DIRECTION 1996

The following planning applications have been lodged for determination with Argyll and Bute Council and are available for inspection during normal working hours at the local area office/Post Office identified below. The proposals contained in the application are considered to be a departure or potential departure from the Development Plan for the area concerned.

Anyone wishing to make representations about any of the applications identified below should do so in writing within 21 days from the date of publication of this notice to the Area Team Leader Development Control at the address below.

Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

SCHEDULE - DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION OF PLANS

● **Ref No: 07/00049/DET**
Applicant: Mr W McInnes
Proposal: Erection of Dwelling House
Site Address: Site South West Of 39A Ellenabeich Isle Of Seil Argyll PA34 4RQ
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Balvicar
A18 Local Plan Potential Depart Adv (21)
Potential Departure from Policies RUR1, RUR2 and HO22 of the Lorn Local Plan

● **Ref No: 06/02445/OUT**
Applicant: A MacLeod
Proposal: Site for Erection of 4 dwelling houses, formation of access road and installation of septic tank
Site Address: Land West Of St Cross Church Portnacroish Appin
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Ledaig
A18 Local Plan Potential Depart Adv (21)
Potential Departure from Policy HO22 of the Lorn Local Plan

● **Ref No: 06/02665/OUT**
Applicant: Crerar Hotels
Proposal: Erection of 10 new chalets
Site Address: Isle Of Mull Hotel Craignure Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute PA65 6BB
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Craignure
A18 Local Plan Potential Depart Adv (21)
Potential Departure from Policies RUR1 and RUR2 of Mull Coll and Tiree Local Plan

● **Ref No: 07/00031/DET**
Applicant: A & J Jeffree
Proposal: Erection of 3 Holiday Letting Units
Site Address: Land South East Of Suidhe Bunessan Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute PA67 6DU
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Bunessan Isle of Mull
A18 Local Plan Potential Depart Adv (21)
Potential Departure from Policies RUR1 and RUR2 of the Mull, Coll and Tiree Local Plan

Area Team Leader Development Control, Planning Services, Lorn House, Albany Street,Oban, PA34 4AR

Any letter of representation the council receives about a planning application is considered a public document.

Please therefore note that representations will be made available for public inspection and, under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act, will be copied on request. They will also be published on the council's web site.

The author of such a representation is solely responsible for its content and accuracy.

Anonymous representations will be "shredded" and those marked confidential will be returned to the sender. Neither will be taken into account when the application is being considered.

Details of representations we receive on planning applications can be viewed on the council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/publicaccess

NOTICE OF PRE-INQUIRY MEETING, FINALISED ARGYLL AND BUTE PLAN 2005, TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

The Pre-Inquiry Meeting for the Finalised Draft Local Plan 2005, Including Modifications 2006, will be held in the Main Hall of the Victoria Halls in Helensburgh on Thursday 8th February 2007 at 1.00 pm. The Meeting will be chaired by Mr Michael Thompson, the Reporter appointed to conduct the Public Local Inquiry. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the arrangements and procedures for the forthcoming Inquiry. Meeting topics will include; outlining the scope and format of the Inquiry and the provisional general programme, explaining the main procedural steps to be followed in the build up to and during the Inquiry, setting the final dates for the Pre-Inquiry exchange of materials by and between parties, and the exchange of statements of case and participation, documents, precognitions and statements of evidence, agreeing the means of achieving these exchanges, and answering any queries objectors may have on procedural matters.

For enquiries regarding the public inquiry please contact Wendy Bruce, Public Local Inquiry Programme Officer on 07768541699 or by emailing wendy.bruce@argyll-bute.gov.uk To view the web-page for the Finalised Draft Local Plan 2005, Including Modifications 2006, please go to www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/localplan

CORE PATHS PLAN CONSULTATIONS

Do you use paths for walking, cycling, riding or other activities? Are you a land manager with an interest in access? If so, we would like to hear your views. Your opportunity to shape the Core Paths Plan for Argyll and Bute will be at the drop in event on:

Tuesday 23rd January 2007
11:30am until 7:30pm Craignure Village Hall,
Craignure, Isle of Mull
and Tuesday 30th January 2007
11.30am until 7.30pm The Corran Halls,
The Esplanade, Oban

(There will also be information available about the Local Transport Strategy) The core paths plan consultation can also be viewed at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/corepaths or obtained on CD-ROM, please call 01546 604137 or email corepathenquiries@argyll-bute gov.uk

COMMUNITY SERVICES: EDUCATION
REGISTRATION OF INFANT BEGINNERS IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS SESSION 2007/2008

Children who attain the age of five years between 1 March 2007 and 29 February 2008 should be registered for education during the week commencing 22 January 2007.

Parents concerned should take their children to the appropriate local primary school on one of the school days during the above week between the hours of 10.00am and 3.00pm.

Parents are reminded that Gaelic Medium Education is available in the following schools:- Bowmore Primary School, Islay; Tiree Primary School, Tiree; Salen Primary School, Mull and St. Columba's Primary School, Oban, Strath of Appin Primary School, by Oban and Sandbank Primary School, Dunoon.

The child's birth certificate should be produced. A leaflet providing information for parents on enrolment of children in school and giving details of placing request procedures (including under age placing requests) may be obtained from any school or the Director of Community Services, Argyll House, Alexandra Parade, Dunoon, PA23 8AJ (Tel: 01369 708508).

DOUGLAS HENDRY, Director of Community Services

ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL LOCAL TRANSPORT STRATEGY

A new Local Transport Strategy for Argyll and Bute is being developed and we would like to hear your views.
The project team will be in your area on:
Tuesday 23rd January 2007
at Craignure Village Hall, Craignure, Mull
from 11.30am until 7.30pm
and
Tuesday 30th January 2007
at the Corran Halls, The Esplanade, Oban
from 11.30am until 7.30pm
Why not come along to the drop in event and give us your views.

Details about the Local Transport Strategy can also be viewed at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk
(There will also be information available about the Core Path Plan, please see separate advert for further information.)

Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES
Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES
Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL
EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORT SERVICE
NOTICE TO PARENTS ON SCHOOL ENROLMENT

All children who reach the age of five years on or before 14 August 2007 may begin to attend primary school in August 2007. Parents are asked to enrol their children at the local school at 3.00pm on any day during the week beginning 29 January 2007. Parents are reminded that they should take their child's birth certificate with them.

Children who will reach the age of five years after 14 August 2007 but on or before 29 February 2008 may also be enrolled and commence in August 2007. Parents of these children should be aware that they may choose not to enrol their child until August 2008.

If you wish to send your child to a school other than your local school, you can get information on how to do this from either the school or the Area Education Office.

Where Gaelic medium education is available in a school, parents should indicate their preference when enrolling their child.

All parents are given a copy of the school brochure at the time of enrolment.

Any queries with regard to this advertisement should be addressed to your Area Education Manager/Area Education Culture & Sport Manager.

Caithness Area	Graham Nichols	(01955) 602362
Sutherland Area	Bill Couston	(01408) 623900
Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch & Strathspey Areas	Hector Robertson	(01463) 663800
Lochaber Area	Rosemary Bridge	(01397) 707350
Ross & Cromarty Area	John Ritchie	(01349) 863441
Skye & Lochalsh Area	Laurence Young	(01478) 613697

The Highland Council
Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd

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WEST HIGHLAND PROPERTY GUIDE

The largest weekly property pages covering Argyll, West Highlands & Islands. Selling your property? Make sure your advertisement is here in *The Oban Times* – it works! (Seen by more than *40,000 readers each week) *Source: JICREG Reader per copy average from ABC audit

MORHAM & BROTCHIE
Chartered Surveyors
Providing Domestic and Commercial Property Valuation throughout the West Highlands and Islands
5 Stafford Street, Oban, Argyll, PA34 5NJ
Telephone 01631 563721
Fax 01631 566566
E-mail: admin@morhambro.co.uk
RICS

Cottage property overlooks Loch Awe

Tighanna . . . 'beautifully presented accommodation surrounded by an acre of trees and shrubs'

'A DETACHED cottage,' says the brochure. But if the description conjures up images of an ancient, stone-built croft house, forget it – Tighanna is a sumptuous property occupying a site to die for high above the tranquil village of Lochawe.

The views over the loch and of Ben Cruachan are breathtaking though in summer these can be restricted as a result of the lush foliage by which the house is surrounded.

A well presented property, it benefits both from double glazing and electric heating throughout.

All floor coverings, curtains and blinds are included in the sale and certain items of furniture may be offered independently.

Lochawe boasts a pub, hotel and well-stocked general store incorporating a post office.

Trains plying the Oban-Glasgow line stop at the local station. Oban, 24 miles away, offers a full range of modern services and amenities including supermarkets.

Within, the house more than matches its exterior promise, with beautifully presented and immensely comfortable accommodation.

This includes a vestibule/hall, kitchen/diner, utility room, bathroom, lounge, sunroom, upper hall, two bedrooms and shower room.

The vestibule, which features ceramic tiled flooring, houses a double cloak cupboard with sliding doors. There is also an under-stair storage cupboard in the hall.

Light oak-effect walls and floor units counter-balanced by cream-coloured work surfaces, are guaranteed to cook up immediate appeal within the kitchen-diner which has a window to the side and is well supplied with tiled splashbacks. Facilities include a Bosch ceramic hob with stainless steel extractor and chimney acrylic sink and drainer in addition to a Bosch Classixx dishwasher. Wooden wall shelving means there is no problem with tidiness.

An eye-catching utility room in white with aluminium-trimmed wall units and onyx-effect work surfaces harmonised with mosaic tile-effect flooring, create an environment in which anyone would be happy to keep busy. It is plumbed for a washing machine and integrated fridge.

The downstairs bathroom hosts a knockout, almond-coloured suite complemented by wood lining to dado height.

Central in a seductive lounge is a log-effect electric fire with white stone-effect surround.

French doors open onto the sun room, a conservatory-type space with ceramic tiled floor, wood-lined wall and built-in under cill storage cupboards.

A carpeted staircase rises to the upper floor where the two bedrooms and convenient shower room housing a Bermuda blue ensemble, are to be found. Both derive character from coombed ceilings and offer double or single fitted wardrobes with hanging rails and shelves.

Gardens extending to around an acre are a profusion of trees and shrubs, many of which are uncommon in Argyll. They are designed to offer year-round colour. Paths wind through and around areas of woodland, formal beds and borders, a burn and a pond.

The property is accessed by the tarmacadam driveway which sweeps down through the rear garden. Flagged paths surround the house and other attractions include two slabbed patio areas.

All this comes with a price guide of £190,000. For more details and arrangements to view contact the Oban office of estate agents MacPhee and Partners.

www.dmkestates.co.uk
01631 566122
rightmove.co.uk
dm mackinnon estates

SUILVEN, GLENMORE ROAD, OBAN

Spacious, well presented four bedroom detached villa within one of the most desirable residential areas of Oban The property has been very well maintained, is attractively decorated, and benefits from being in walk-in condition, suitable as family home or bed and breakfast. The accommodation comprises: Entrance hallway, open plan living/dining room, kitchen, four bedrooms, bathroom and shower room/WC. There is a driveway and extra parking to front, large integral garage with workshop and an external store. The surrounding mature gardens are fully enclosed with lawn area, herbaceous plants, trees and shrubs on three sides of the property, and a stone flagged patio area. **Offers over £220,000**

NO. 10, POLFEARN HOUSE, TAYNUILT

One bedroom self contained apartment. Fully fitted kitchen with integrated appliances. Panoramic views towards Loch Etive, Airds Bay and Ben Cruachan. All furniture, fixtures, fittings and white goods are included in the sale. The accommodation comprises: Entrance porch, open plan living room/dining area and kitchen, bedroom and shower room **Offers over £72,000**

11A TWEEDDALE STREET, OBAN

Compact and well presented flat in a good central location just off George Street. Accommodation comprises: Entrance hall, living room, bedroom, bathroom, kitchen with small dining area. Night storage heating and secondary double glazing. Rear drying area with shared and private storage. **Offers over £65,000**

Chartered Surveyors
Land and Estate Agents
2 Gibraltar Street, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4AY
T: 00 44 (0) 1631 566 122
F: 00 44 (0) 1631 564 764
enquiries@dmkestates.co.uk
www.dmkestates.co.uk
primelocation.com

MCP MacPhee & Partners

Sealladh Na Mara
13 Castle Road, Dunbeg
Fixed Price: £135,000
End-Terrace House

Kitchen
Lounge/Diner,
Three Bedrooms, Bathroom
Garden Shed, Garden
Views to Ardmucknish Bay Oil-Fired Central Heating

Tighana
Lochawe Village

Price Guide: £190,000
Lounge, Sunroom, Kitchen/Diner, Utility Room, Bathroom, Two Bedrooms, Shower Room
Double-Glazing, Electric Heating
Approximately One Acre of Garden

Lower Lora, Main Road, Connel
Price Guide £140,000
Garden Flat

Dining Room/Sun Room
Lounge, Kitchen, 3 Bedrooms, Shower Room
Oil Fired Central Heating, Double glazing
Off Street Parking, Garage, Garden

2 Deirdre Cottages, Connel
Price Guide: £210,000
Semi Detached
Extended Cottage

Three Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower
LPG Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing
Garden With Shed, Views to Loch Etive
Plot With Full Planning Permission Granted for Two-Bedroom Bungalow

10 The Green,
Craobh Haven
Price Guide:
£135,000

Mid-Terrace House
with Views over Marina to Isles of Scarba, Shuna and Luing
Lounge/Diner with
Open Coal Fire
Fitted Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom
Electric Heating, Double-Glazing,
Decked Area to Rear Parking

Tel: 01631 565251
Fax: 01631 565434
www.macphee.co.uk
property@macphee.co.uk

MacPhee & Partners
8 George Street
Oban
PA34 5SB

Solicitors & Kintyre Estate Agency
C & D Mactaggart

AN-AIRIGH, 3 GLENGILP, ARDRISHAIG

This is an extremely spacious and well appointed four-bedroomed, detached bungalow with dining kitchen, lounge, conservatory, utility room and cellar. The property, situated in the small exclusive development of Glengilp, enjoys an elevated position in large landscaped garden with panoramic views to Loch Fyne. Internally, the property has been upgraded and fitted to the highest quality. There is a substantial detached building to the rear, which offers a versatile workshop, hobby or games room.

Castlehill, Campbeltown, Argyll, PA28 6AR
Telephone (01586) 552317
Fax (01586) 554719
(24-Hour Answering Service)

57 Lochnell Street, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8JN
Telephone (01546) 602581
E-mail:
mail@cdm-law.co.uk

Alexander DAWSON

NANT DRIVE, OBAN

For Sale: A well proportioned modern **Detached Bungalow** offering easily managed family accommodation in a popular residential area convenient to the town. Double glazing, electric heating. Comprising: Vestibule, Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Bathroom, Toilet, 3 Bedrooms. Garage, Workshop, Shed. Good sized level garden with ample parking. **Offers over £180,000.**

RELIEF LAND, INVERARAY

For Sale: A centrally situated **First Floor Flat** in a substantial traditional building in the picturesque loch-side village of Inveraray. Glimpse of the loch over neighbouring rooftops. Solid fuel central heating. Accommodation comprising Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Bathroom, 3 Bedrooms. Communal garden area. **Offers over £85,000.**

1 GEORGE STREET, OBAN, ARGYLL PA34 5RU
www.alexanderdawson.co.uk
Tel: 01631 563901 Fax: 01631 566778

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Well maintained furnished properties to let in OBAN and DUNBEG
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Luxury, furnished TWO-BEDROOM HOUSE FOR RENT
CENTRAL OBAN
£600 p.c.m.
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No D.S.S., pets or smokers
References and deposit required
Contact
01631 770 218
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TO LET
Two Semi-Detached Cottages
One Two-Bedroomed
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Seil, 16 miles from Oban
Long lease, fully refurbished
Immediate availability, references required
Telephone **07778 375 657** or **0141 339 0882**

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Luxury Fully Furnished One-Bedroom Flat in the centre of Lochgilphead
available for long let
Own car parking space
£400 per calendar month
No D.S.S.
Apply in writing to
Box No. 100
Argyllshire Advertiser, Argyll Street, Lochgilphead

TO LET
Two-Bedroom Furnished FLAT in CENTRAL OBAN
Available early mid-February
£500 p.c.m.
No D.S.S., smoking or pets
Telephone
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TO LET
LOCHAWE TWO-BEDROOM HOUSE
£420 p.c.m.
Sorry, no D.S.S.
Telephone
07770 737 654

FLAT TO LET
Two-Bedroom Third Floor
DUNOLLIE, OBAN
Part-furnished
No D.S.S., non-smoking
£450 p.c.m.
(plus Council Tax)
Telephone
01866 822 580 or
0776 220 5313

FLAT TO LET
OBAN
Three bedrooms
Fully furnished with new fitted kitchen
Stunning views across Oban Bay
Immediate availability
£600 p.c.m.
Telephone
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Alexander DAWSON

APARTMENTS TO LET – OBAN
To Let: Attractive fully furnished Two-Bedroom Apartments in modern purpose-built town centre buildings with private parking and/or lift facilities. Available on six-month renewable tenancies at circa £550 per month. Financial and character references required. Application forms available on request.

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Tel: 01631 563901 Fax: 01631 566778

COMMERCIAL

Alexander DAWSON

TOWN CENTRE RETAIL UNIT TO LET
UNITS: 1 and 2 MacGREGOR COURT, OBAN

Modern ground floor Shop Premises occupying prominent corner site on Argyll Square, Oban's commercial hub. Approximately 97.5 square metres (1050 square feet) in all with principal sales area plus ancillary storage, staff and toilet facilities. Available on full commercial insuring and repairing lease terms for a negotiable period. Full details available on request.

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FOR SALE
CRERAN GARDENS, OBAN
Two-Bedroom Semi-Detached PROPERTY
situated in a popular residential area
Benefiting from Double-Glazing and Total Control central heating
Garage and Sun Deck
Front and rear gardens with off road parking
Walk-in condition
Offers over £130,000
Telephone
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FOR SALE
SOROBA ROAD, OBAN
TOP-FLOOR FLAT
Two bedrooms, fitted kitchen, large tiled bathroom
Close to all amenities
Offers over £90,000
Telephone **01631 571180**

E. Thornton & Co.
SOLICITORS NOTARIES AND ESTATE AGENTS
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Argyll, PA34 4BG DX OB 12
Telephone (01631) 566771
Fax 01631 564011

FOR RENT
Two One-Bedroom Flats
Craigard Road, Oban
Unfurnished
£100 per week (plus Council Tax and Utility bills)
References – Character and Financial : No D.S.S.
www.ethornton.co.uk

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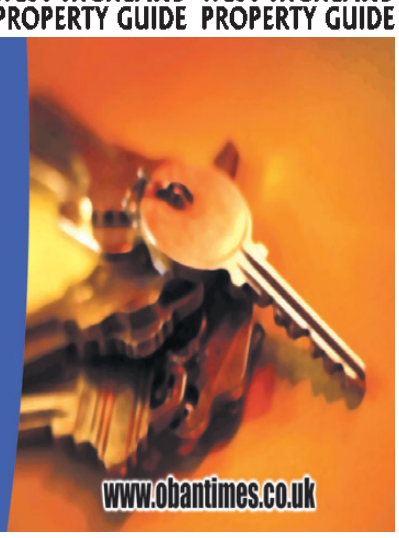

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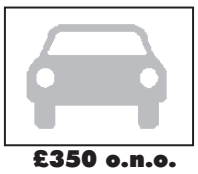
PEUGEOT 205 1.8TD

M Reg, 75,000 miles, 12months MOT and 4 months Tax, Electric windows, Power steering, Engine immobiliser and Central locking, Excellent runner.

Telephone 07789 091234

£1100 o.n.o.

BMW 323



Dark Green, M3 look-a-like with 18" Spoke Alloys. Sports Exhaust. **Non-runner but has 5 months MOT left**

Telephone 01586 820217 07776 192321

£350 o.n.o.

VAUXHALL ASTRA LSI

1993, Unleaded petrol, Five door hatchback Metallic Grey, Good condition, with roof rack, Mot's till May, 22, 2007, Taxed, Good runner

Telephone 01546 602859

£650 o.n.o.

SEAT IBIZA 1.4

3 door, W Reg, Year 2000, Dark Blue, 62k, 15" Alloys, PAS, CD Changer, MOT & Taxed

Telephone 01586 810210

£2100

3

FIAT PUNTO

51 plate, 27,000 miles, 17" alloys, lowered, tinted windows, Vibe 5 amp and 6 x 9's, clean car

Telephone 01631 566798

£3750

FIAT ULYSSE 7 SEATER

full service history, timing belt done, one year MOT, 5 months road tax, P reg, good condition for year

Telephone 01852 314333

£1350 o.n.o.

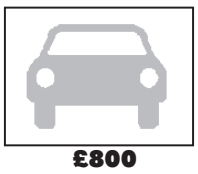
FORD FIESTA

P Reg 1.3 litre. No Mot, taxed till June 07. 59,000 miles. Needs welding work.

Telephone 01631 571203 07913 826072

£550 o.n.o.

FORD ESCORT 1400 ENCORE



1987, 55,000 miles, good tyres

Telephone 07774 000542

£800

CORSA

02, Taxed and Mot'd till May 2007 Excellent condition

Telephone 07718 309551 01866 822400 (evenings)

£2800 o.n.o.

2

MITSUBISHI SPACESTAR 1.6

2004/04, 5 door Equippe Automatic with manual mode. 12,600 miles, one lady owner from new, service history, CD player, cruise control, air conditioning, tow bar, alloys.

£4700 o.n.o.

Telephone 01770 302095

RENAULT MEGANE 1.6 ERT

1999 T reg, electric mirrors, windows and sunroof, MOT to October, 54,000 miles, tax to March, good condition.

Telephone 01631 562711 (Evening)

2

PEUGEOT 106XN ZEST

1100cc, 2000 on W Reg, **only 15,000 miles** from new, with 5 speed, air bag, radio cassette, immaculate condition throughout.

£2250

Telephone 01631 567154

2

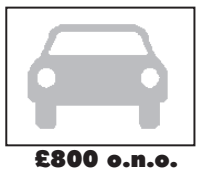
SAAB 900S

P reg,1996. 2 Litre petrol,Full MOT,3 months tax,E/W,E/M,RWW,Headlamp wash/wipers,Computer,CD player,Recently serviced,Excellent inside and out,any inspection welcome,Genuine reason for reluctant sale,First to see will buy

£1200 o.n.o. 2

Telephone 01852 316153 or 07715 001213

RENAULT 19



N reg, 60,000 miles MOT and tax till May 2007

Telephone 01546 603020

£800 o.n.o.

2

SERIES 3 LANDROVER

1981, SWB 2.25 petrol, black, 5 seats, MOT March 07, tax May 07,chequer plated load area, radio cassette, towbar with electrics, rear spotlights, good condition.

Telephone 01852 314274 (Luing)

£1750 o.n.o.

2

RENAULT DIESEL PICK-UP

T & T'd, vgc. (2002)

For further details Telephone 01343 842114 07702 985180

2

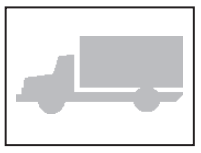
RENAULT KANGOO VAN 865

02, Heavy Load 1.9 diesel 43,000 miles Fully lined, Towbar, Elec Windows, New Tires Exaust Good Condition

Telephone 01688 302564

£2750 o.v.n.o.

RENAULT 7.5 TON LORRY



c/w 16ft Livestock Container. T & T'd vgc

For further details Telephone 01343 842114 07702 985180

2

HONDA CR250

2002, Mint Condition

Telephone 01770 302625

£1500 o.n.o.

2

HONDA XR400

Excellent condition, little used, will consider part exchange for Aprila RS50 or 1300

Telephone 01770 870377 for further info

£1300 o.n.o.

2

HONDA CRF250

2004 good condition one owner from new some spares

Telephone 01631 564300

£2000

2

FARMERS QUAD HONDA 200CC SRX

Rapture style 300cc, 4 stroke, black, lights, full suspension, 2006, v.g.c, Suit 14 Adult

Telephone 01546 886666 07867 661500

£495

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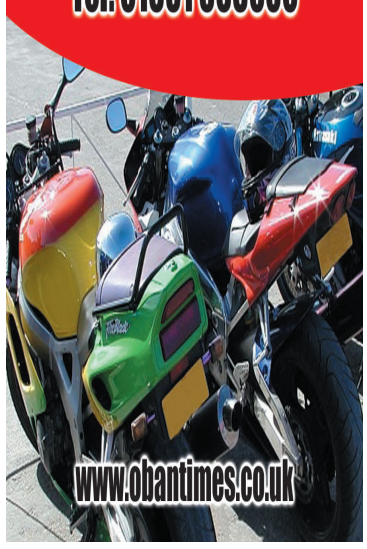

STATIC CARAVAN

34ft x 10ft caravan, Willowby

Telephone 01770 700516

£3200 o.n.o.

ATLAS MOONSTONE 2000

30 x 10', two bedrooms, very good condition

Telephone 01855 831279

£4200

WANTED

CARAVAN, MOTORHOME OR CARAVANETTE

anything considered, instant payment and decision, will travel anywhere.

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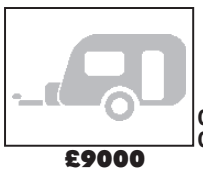
FLEETWOOD COUNTRYSIDE TOURING CARAVAN

1998, 4 Berth, Shower/Toilet, Full Oven, Heating.

Telephone 01586 810366 07910 302751 (MACHRIHANISH)

£2500

SWIFT CONQUERER 640 TOURING CARAVAN



TWIN AXLE, YEAR 2000, FULL OVEN, CENTRAL HEATING, SHOWER AND CASETTE TOILET, MINT CONDITION, MANY EXTRAS INCLUDING PORCH AWNING

Telephone 01586 810366 07910 302751 (MACHRIHANISH)

£9000

COSALT TORINO STATIC CARAVAN

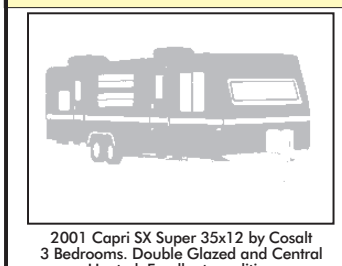
1995 28' x 10', 6 berth, 2 heated bedrooms, vgc, new carpet & curtains, CORGI gas serviced annually

Telephone 01852 314274 (Luing)

£1800 o.n.o.

2

STATIC CARAVAN



2001 Capri SX Super 35x12 by Cosalt 3 Bedrooms. Double Glazed and Central Heated. Excellent condition

£9600 o.n.o.

Telephone 01631 720242

2

WESTERLY MERLIN

vgc, boat ashore MRC Barcaldine, Bukh engine, fully battened main, furling genoa

£25,000

Contact N MacDonald 01688 302252 or 07909 960750

2

Buyers should note where standardised silhouettes are used they do not accurately represent the vehicle being sold

50,000 POTENTIAL BUYERS

PEUGEOT 206 1.4 LX

Y reg 3 door, One years MOT very good condition PAS electric windows, remote locking first to view will buy

£2950

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(Lux Pack), 2001/51 reg. 4WD, Green, 82600 miles, twin sunroof, leather interior, full service history, MOT to Aug, 07 tax to Feb.07 excellent condition

£5450 o.n.o.

Telephone 07775-564907 (day) 01567-830385 (evening)

2

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1998, 91,000 miles, excellent condition throughout, very reliable. 9 month MOT, CD player, power steerring, central locking.

£1450

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1998 2.5 TDI V6. 165k miles, Midnight Blue. Good clean example of car, comprehensive history, many new parts. First to view will buy.

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4 X 4 vehicle, Landrover 90 or 110, Toyota, Isuzu etc, any 4x4 considered, high mileage, will travel

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2

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Landrover 90/110 Toyota Hilux or similar 4wd for farm work

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0% APR typical finance on selected cars across the range.

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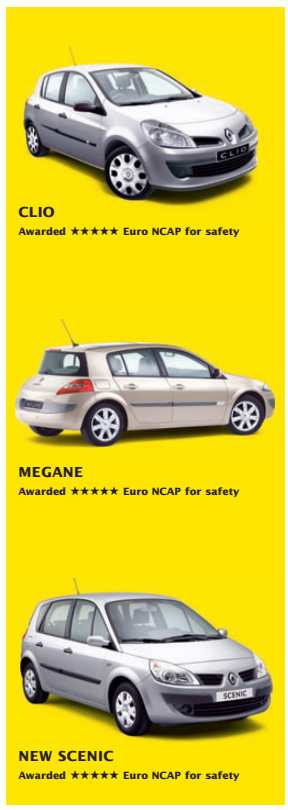

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The official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the petrol range shown are: Urban 37.2–23.7 (7.6–11.9), Extra Urban 57.6–42.2 (4.9–6.7), Combined 47.9–32.8 (5.9–8.6). The official CO_2 emission figures range from 140–205g/km.

Finance is subject to status and applies to selected car models ordered and registered by 31st March 2007. A minimum deposit of 20%-30% is payable dependent on model. You must be at least 18 and a UK resident (excluding the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man) to apply for finance. Finance provided by RFS Ltd., Charterhall House, Charterhall Drive, Chester CH88 3AN. All figures correct at time of going to press.

The new MINI One and MINI Cooper D

Brand new MINI range boosted by introduction of the frugal, but fun MINI One and first ever MINI Cooper D

The new MINI hatch line-up will soon be complete, when the new MINI One and MINI Cooper D models are unveiled to the public at the International Geneva Motor Show on 8 March 2007. The entry-level One features a perky 95hp 1.4-litre petrol engine, while the Cooper D boasts performance and fuel efficiency from an all-new 1.6-litre 110hp turbodiesel powerplant.

A Cooper-badged MINI diesel hints at the sporty nature of the new model. MINI fans will be equally excited at the prospect of the Cooper D promising to be the most fuel-efficient and cleanest MINI ever built. In comparison to the outgoing MINI One D's combined fuel consumption of 58.9mpg, the Cooper D is capable of 64.2mpg. A CO2 figure of just 118 g/km puts the car in tax band B.

Both models feature the new body shape already seen on the recently launched MINI Cooper and Cooper S models. Interior quality enhancements and unique design features remain key characteristics of the One and Cooper D. However, several individual highlights set the cars apart.

The new MINI One and new MINI Cooper D both come as standard with a six-speed manual gearbox. Dynamic acceleration is a result of the precise shift control provided by carbon friction plates and helical gears operating within an optimised syncromesh. With its long transmission ratio, the sixth gear allows optimum fuel economy, even at high speeds.

The MINI One will be available to customers with the option of a six-speed automatic transmission. A key feature is the Steptronic function, which allows the driver to shift gears in sequence using the gear lever or the standard-fit paddles on the steering wheel. For keener drivers, a Sports Button is available as an option for even shorter gearshift times and faster throttle response.

Design highlights

Features including a black finish to the car's radiator grille bars, door mirrors and tailgate handle are exclusive to the MINI One. The new MINI Cooper D's sporting prowess is underlined by the addition of a pronounced power dome on the car's bonnet. A discernibly larger air intake than on other MINI models features on the Cooper D, as does a crossbar in body colour on the lower intake.

Chassis and suspension

The go-kart driving experience is enhanced in the new MINI One and Cooper D through a new suspension set-up, as introduced on the MINI Cooper and Cooper S. MINI is the only car in its segment to be fitted with a central-arm rear axle featuring elaborate kinematics for optimum tyre-to-road contact.

Electrical Power Assisted Steering (EPAS) incorporating modern mechanical control gives the driver increased precision feedback. Variable power assistance dependent on speed ensures MINI drivers are guaranteed an involving drive every time they step into the car.

The new MINI Cooper and Cooper S went on sale in the UK on 18 November 2006. By the end of the year, close to 7,000 orders were taken for the new models. With sales looking strong into the New Year and the launch of the new MINI Convertible Sidewalk taking place in the spring, MINI is set for another great year at home on British roads.

NEW CAR INDEX

BMW Calterdon Ltd, Harbour Road, Inverness, Tel. 01463 236566

RENAULT W.D Semple, Inveraray & Lochgilphead, Tel. 01499 302150

FIAT Hazelbank Motors, Lynn Road, Oban, Tel. 01631 566476

SUBARU S & S Services, Old Bridge Road, Heathfield, Ayr, Tel. 01292 880080/880440

HONDA Helensburgh Honda, 135 East Clyde Street, Helensburgh, Tel. 01436 675777 www.helensburghhonda.co.uk

TOYOTA Helensburgh Toyota, 5 John Street, Helensburgh, Tel. 01436 672779, www.toyota.co.uk/helensburgh

ISUZU 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

MINI Calterdon Ltd, Harbour Road, Inverness, Tel. 01463 236567

VOLVO Strathmore, Dunkeld Road, Perth, Tel. 01738 622156, www.strathmoreonline.co.uk

FORD Ben Nevis Motors, North Road, Fort William, Tel. 01397 700110

MAZDA Struan Motors, A85 Crieff Road, Perth, Tel : 01738 445566, www.struans.co.uk/mazda

PEUGEOT Struan Motors, A85 Crieff Road, Perth, Tel : 01738 632222, www.struans.co.uk/peugeot

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RECRUITMENT

ALCAN

Alcan is a multinational, market-driven company and a global leader in aluminium and packaging. With world-class operations in primary aluminium, fabricated aluminium as well as flexible and specialty packaging, aerospace applications, bauxite mining and alumina processing. Alcan employs approximately 70,000 people and has operating facilities in 55 countries and regions.

The UK Primary Metal Smelters comprise of Lynemouth in Northumberland and Lochaber in the Scottish Highlands. They are key strategic sites supplying the European market employing over 600 people between them and have enjoyed significant capital investment in recent years. To strengthen our organisation we are now seeking to recruit a:-

CI Leader/Black Belt

Alcan operates a corporate CI programme based on Lean Six Sigma principles with the aim of Maximising Value by improving business performance. The role of the Black Belt is to conduct improvement projects utilizing cross functional teams to deliver significant business benefits. You will also coach Green Belts in managing their projects. With excellent interpersonal skills you will have the tenacity and drive to ensure that projects are successfully delivered.

Reporting to the Business Performance Director, you will ideally be degree qualified in a technical discipline, have experience in a continuous process industry, and be able to demonstrate leadership skills. A working knowledge of CI tools is preferred, although full training in Lean Six Sigma methodology leading to Black Belt certification will be provided.

This position will primarily be based in the Lochaber Smelter but the remit for this position also potentially includes the Lynemouth Smelter. We offer a competitive salary package including pension scheme and an opportunity to develop in a progressive organisation.

Applications should be in the form of a CV and covering letter addressed to: Xanthe Campbell-Wonders, Human Resources Department, Alcan Smelting & Power UK, Lynemouth Smelter, ASHINGTON NE63 9YH

Women, Men, Different, Equal — Equal Opportunities Commission

Closing date: Friday 2nd February 2007

Investor in People

OFFICE STAFF

HIGHLAND HERITAGE COACH TOURS LIMITED
require
RESERVATIONS STAFF
for their busy administration office
Keyboard skills and pleasant telephone manner essential
Training will be given, full-time position, must be flexible
Shift work includes weekends and evenings, live-in or out

Please apply in writing with a current CV to
Mrs Jackie Colman, Highland Heritage Ltd,
Central Administration Office, Dalmally, Argyll, PA33 1AY
Telephone 01838 200 393

NEIGHBOURHOOD NETWORKS

Require a Community Living Worker for Mid Argyll

Salary: £6180 for a flexible 12 hour week
5% Employer Contributory Pension

- **Are you resourceful, supportive, flexible and willing to learn?**
- **Do you know your community well and are eager to support people living independent lives?**
- **Do you have a sense of humour and sensitivity?**
- **Can you cope in an ever changing environment?**

Then you may be the person we are looking for!

Neighbourhood Networks seeks to employ a person living in Mid Argyll who holds strong community links, or is keen to develop them. The successful applicant will work flexibly for 12 hours a week supporting a group of adults with learning disabilities that live in Mid Argyll. You will be based at home and be willing to work evenings, some weekend hours as well as during the day. Depending on where you live you may need to use your own car for work. Your work will be self-directed, but you will be fully supported by the Argyll Network Manager.

If you are the person we are looking for, please call Becs (07734030818) or Una (0141 314 0027) for an informal chat and an application pack.

Closing Date: Friday 2.2.07

Neighbourhood Networks is an Equal Opportunities employer. Successful application will be preceded by Disclosure Scotland and personal reference checks.

Registered Charity No. SCO28984

JOHN MUIR TRUST

An exciting opportunity has arisen with Britain's leading wild land charity for 4 highly motivated individuals, with a commitment to wild places and the conservation of UK BAP species and habitats.

Wildland Conservers/ Rangers
(3 posts) £20,000 per annum

You will be responsible for undertaking fieldwork relating to the conservation of UK BAP species and habitats.

Biodiversity Officer
p/t £13,200 (£22,000 pro rata)

You will be responsible for collating, evaluating and disseminating ecological data provided by the 3 Wildland Conservers/Rangers. The data will predominately relate to UK BAP species and habitats present on JMT land.

All posts 3 year fixed term
Closing date for applications: 12th February 2007.
Job description and details:
www.jmt.org or contact
Linda Coupar, John Muir Trust, Tower House, Station Road, Pitlochry PH16 5AN.
Tel 01796 470080. linda@jmt.org

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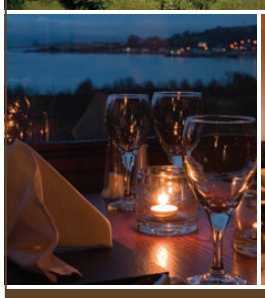
RECRUITMENT

CRERAR HOTELS



GENERAL MANAGER
ISLE OF MULL HOTEL

Crerar Hotels are looking for an exceptional General Manager of our Mull Hotel, Craignure Bay, Mull.

The Isle of Mull Hotel comprises 86 bedrooms and a 120 cover restaurant with panoramic views of the sound of Mull. Conference facilities and a new Leisure Club/Spa are currently under construction with completion due Winter 2007. Further development plans include a woodland lodge hamlet (planning permission applied).

We need a very special person who will take ownership of the business and must possess:
- Previous general management experience of a four star hotel – preferably with leisure
- Strong commercial awareness
- A proven track record in sales and marketing
- High standards of service and presentation
- Good man management skills
- An ability to work to deadlines

Substantial Salary and incentives as well as a benefits package including a newly built family home, a Jaguar company car, pension, healthcover for employee and immediate dependants and six weeks holiday per annum are available. The island has an excellent choice of primary schools and a high achieving secondary school.

AA ★★★

Please respond by 25th January 2007, in the first instance to:
John Wilson, Director – Operations
1 Queen Charlotte Lane, Edinburgh EH6 6BL

WWW.CRERARHOTELS.COM

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

"Ignore this one. They like you to make a difference."

Customer Representatives
Oban, £11,837 – £14,796
Full & Part-time
Total benefits package
worth up to £19,500

Do you get a kick out of making someone's day?

At Nationwide, we're different from the banks. We don't need to make money for shareholders because we don't have any. All we have to do is make our customers better off. That in itself is a pretty fantastic feeling. But here in Oban it's even better. We're part of the community so when you work for us, you get the chance to really make a difference to our customers and build long term relationships with them. Which is why we're looking for some pretty fantastic people, who'd like to feel part of something this good and who love helping people. But more than that: we'll also want you to feel totally comfortable asking our customers about their finances and to have a real talent for converting leads into sales. If this sounds like you, you'll get plenty in return: a competitive starting salary, 24 days' holiday, pension and a choice of other benefits including healthcare and childcare vouchers. Plus all the help, comprehensive training and support you'd expect from one of the UK's top three best big employers.

To apply, call Retail Recruitment on 0800 169 0100 (Monday – Friday, 9am-6pm) Alternatively, please visit www.nationwide.co.uk/careers
CVs are not required at this stage. Please quote ref: KCR/20032/AD (Full-time) or KCR/20087/AD (Part-time).
Closing date: 2nd February 2007.

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Receptionist Required

To join a busy, friendly team three days a week, including one week end per month

Phone 01852 200333 or email:Melharbour@aol.com

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LOOKING FOR NEW STAFF?

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www.obantimes.co.uk

Saturday Housekeeper

Rowanbank is a 5 star self-catering 4/5 bedroomed cottage in Kilchrenan and we are looking for an exceptional housekeeper to work alongside our Assistant Housekeeper.

We are looking for someone with previous experience in cleaning this type of property. Reliability, punctuality and flexibility are essential as you may be asked to do extra hours from time to time.

Normal hours of work are 10am - 4pm on Saturdays and you should be available to work those hours every Saturday as required. The hourly rate of pay for this job is £10 + £30 laundry allowance per change over.

For further information please contact Mrs Jacki McBride 01908 616559

ORMSARY, ARGYLL HEAD GARDENER

required for traditional walled and woodland gardens at this renowned self-sufficient seaside estate.
The successful applicant will be a vocational gardener and plantsman, preferably with experience of glass and vines, and used to country life and working on their own.
Seasonal assistance, good salary (pension scheme), adjoining family house with conservatory provided.
New primary school on estate.

Apply in writing to
Sir William Lithgow, Ormsary Estate, PO Box 7, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8JH

HIGHLAND FUELS

TANKER DRIVER
Connel Depot
(Remuneration circa £25,000 p.a.)

Highland Fuels Ltd is seeking to recruit a tanker driver operating from our Connel depot.

The successful applicant will hold a minimum LGV C Class licence, and an ADR certificate for flammable liquids in tanks.

The successful candidate must demonstrate initiative and be customer orientated. This position has excellent working conditions and future opportunities.

This is a full-time position working dayshift, Monday - Friday.

Please telephone for an application form on **01463 245817** or post your curriculum vitae with covering letter to **Alistair McIntosh, Highland Fuels Limited, Affric House, Beechwood Park, Inverness, IV2 3BW**
or E-mail to **ops@highlandfuels.co.uk**
Closing date for applications is
Friday, 26th January 2007.

PAN FISH

Pan Fish Scotland Limited, part of the world's largest aquaculture group and one of the leading salmon producers in Scotland, now has vacancies for senior fish farm workers at our sites in Loch Fyne, Argyll.

SITE MANAGER
(Ref. SRLFSM1)

SENIOR MARINE OPERATIVE(S)
(Ref. SRLFSMO1)

Candidates will be self-motivated and be experienced in leading small teams in an often changing and challenging environment.

Preference will be given to those applicants who can offer previous aquaculture or other relevant marine experience. In return the company can offer extensive training as well as a comprehensive pay and benefits package. A full, clean driving licence is also essential.

To apply, please write enclosing an up-to-date CV to
Mr R. Ferguson, Health and Safety Manager, Pan Fish Scotland Limited, Ardkinglas, Cairndow, Argyll, PA26 8BH.
Closing date for applications: **January 27, 2007.**

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360º Excavator Plant Operators
Good rate of pay and working conditions
Please telephone
01546 603593
during office working hours

Education, Culture & Sport
Leisure Attendant
Lochaber Leisure Centre, £6.25 per hr, 37 hrs per wk

We are looking for a self-motivated individual who is friendly, helpful and flexible in the approach to working hours. Duties of the post will include poolside life guarding, coaching/teaching, general cleaning, and reception duties. Good communication skills and a general understanding of customer care are essential. Ideally you should have RLSS National Pool Lifeguarding Qualification although this is not essential as full training will be given to the level required to pass the course. Coaching/teaching qualifications will be considered an advantage, but again not essential.

Informal enquiries to Graham Brookes, tel (01397) 707254.

Application forms quoting Ref: L/02/07, are available from our website or by telephoning (01397) 707220.

Closing date: 2 February 2007

www.highland.gov.uk

The Highland Council
Comhairle na Gaidhealtachd
SERVING The Highland Community

marineharvest

Mechanical and Electrical Engineers

Marine Harvest are looking to expand their Engineering Team and currently have vacancies for experienced and self-motivated Mechanical and Electrical Engineers.

Applicants should possess practical knowledge of computerised processing systems and in addition possess a sound electrical or mechanical background. A working knowledge and experience of processing plant/equipment is desirable but not essential as full training will be given. Strong interpersonal, communication and analytical skills are also some of the attributes required for this post.

Successful applicants will be expected to work on a rotating shift basis and in return, Marine Harvest will offer a competitive salary and benefits package.

If you wish to be considered for one of these posts, please apply in writing with full career history to: Vicky Ferguson, Human Resources Manager, Marine Harvest, Business Resource Centre, Blar Mhor Industrial Estate, Fort William PH33 7PT no later than Friday 2nd February 2007.

1

ARE YOU THE PERSON WE ARE LOOKING FOR?
Duncholgan Playgroup

As a result of Scottish Executive Grant Funding we seek to appoint:

1 Learning Support Worker, for 10 hours per week at £6.50 per hour, 52 weeks p.a. (to encourage full use of new facilities by adults and children)
1 After School Club Leader, for 9 hours per week, at £6.25 per hour, 45 weeks p.a.
1 After School Club Assistant, for 9 hours per week, at £5.50 per hour, 45 weeks p.a. (to set up and run after school activities on the Duncholgan Travellers Site, three afternoons per week).

For full details and application form contact:
Jean Hodgeson 01546 603465

Messrs D J Campbell & Son
Achnashelloch Farm, Lochgilphead

require Van Driver
for milk round delivery
in the Lochgilphead/Ardrishaig area.

Early morning start.

Enquiries please telephone 01546 605273

CAN YOU SPARE A DAY A WEEK?
DO YOU LIKE MEETING PEOPLE?
ARE YOU IN THE CAMPBELTOWN/KINTYRE AREA?

FISHERMEN'S MISSION

If you answered yes to all of these questions, you could earn **£2,000 p.a.** + expenses as an ***Auxiliary Superintendent*** for the Royal National Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen (known as the FISHERMEN'S MISSION) – the national charity which supports UK fishermen and their families. Successful candidates will have a strong Christian faith, be in good standing with their local church, and have the ability to conduct welfare and pastoral visits to our fishermen and their families. Uniform and full training will be provided.
For an application pack, please telephone 01489 566915 or email Julia@rnmdsf.org.uk

1

Highlands & Islands ENTERPRISE — careers scotland

Cleaner for Careers Scotland Centre
£5.41 per hour (7 hours per week, outwith office hours)

The Highlands and Islands Enterprise network is one of Europe's most consistently successful development agencies and an award-winning UK employer. We're proud of our culture and history and we're determined to help shape a bright future for the people, businesses and communities in this unique part of the world.

You will help to keep the Careers Scotland Centre in Oban clean, tidy and welcoming. Your duties will include vacuuming carpets, cleaning floors, polishing furniture and windows. You will also empty bins, clean kitchen and washroom areas. Honest and reliable, you will observe all confidentiality and security requirements, be able to establish a work routine and work with the minimum of supervision.

Visit our website to find out more about what we do and explore the diverse network of services we provide. And to apply, email **recruitment@hient.co.uk** or call **01463 244289** for an application pack, quoting Ref. 2006-147.

Closing date – 26 January 2007.

www.hie.co.uk/job-vacancies.html

PERSONAL ASSISTANT/ SECRETARY

- Are you motivated, reliable, accurate and ready for a challenge?
- Do you wish to develop your own projects and enjoy a variety of work and contribute your talents?
- Would you like to be well rewarded, enjoy private health care and a real sense of responsibility?

Please send your CV and any relevant information to:
J R Dixon Esq
Land Management Consultant
Barfad Farm Office
School Road
TARBERT PA29 6UL
Email: jrobindixon@hotmail.com

1

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RECRUITMENT

SUBSCRIPTIONS ASSISTANT
OBAN

Due to internal promotion a new full-time post has been created within the Accounts Department of The Oban Times.

Working within our Oban office you would assist with the administration of our subscriptions database of approx. 15,000 subscribers covering all our publications. You would service our existing subscribers as well as dealing with enquires from potential new subscribers and ensure that strict deadlines are met for distribution of newspapers and magazines. Although training will be given the successful candidate must be able to work in an organised manner and be meticulous in attending to detail when keying information. The ideal candidate would have experience in dealing with the general public and businesses and have a pleasant and courteous telephone manner. Other duties may also be required to be carried out.

A full driving licence is essential.

We offer a competitive salary, pleasant working conditions in open-plan office, generous holiday entitlement, company pension, life and medical insurance.

To apply for this career opportunity, please email: personnel@obantimes.co.uk

The Oban Times & West Highland Times

CHOICES CARE
SUPPORTED LIVING SUPERVISOR / SUPPORT WORKERS – OBAN

CHOICES CARE has been providing the best in community care services for over 11 years. As a leading employer in the care field we offer competitive pay and benefit packages along with opportunities for career development.

- ✔ Are you passionate about people's rights to make choices?
- ✔ Do you think you could support a vulnerable adult to improve their life?
- ✔ Are you looking for a challenge and an opportunity to get qualifications?

We are currently recruiting for a Supported Living Supervisor in the Oban area. The role would be split, fifty percent dedicated to care and support and fifty percent supernumerary to deal with supervisory duties. Experience of working in a care setting is essential.

We are also recruiting Support Workers to join our bank list.

For further information or for an application pack please contact Head Office on 01506 409999 quoting reference SWO069. The closing date is Wednesday 31st January 2007.

CHOICES CARE is an equal opportunities employer. 1

WEST HIGHLAND HOUSING ASSOCIATION Ltd

TECHNICAL SERVICES OFFICER
£23,979 - £26,378 [EVH GRADE 7]

West Highland Housing Association Ltd is a charitable housing association based in Oban. The organisation has an excellent reputation for delivering high quality affordable and innovative housing in the area.

In the coming years we wish to increase availability of affordable housing either for rent or for low cost home ownership. We have recently restructured to reflect our ambitious objectives and are now seeking to appoint a Technical Services Officer. This is a terrifically challenging opportunity for someone who has a strong technical background in the construction area particularly in relation to dealing with costs and co-ordination of projects. We are looking for someone who can demonstrate:

- Experience of both the public and private sector
- Develop a comprehensive investment programme for the Association's housing stock to ensure compliance with the Housing Quality Standard.
- Work with partners, in particular, Communities Scotland to develop, co-ordinate and deliver a programme of investment and ongoing maintenance.
- Develop a value for money framework for Technical Services.
- Understanding of risk issues in relation to Technical Services
- Knowledge of funding environment(s)
- Knowledge of networking and influencing particularly in rural areas
- Practical experience of cost in the construction industry
- Good people skills including the ability to listen and build rapport with lay committee members
- Excellent communication and negotiation skills.

Alongside this you will have a proven background of relevant skills, experience, success and IT competence.

Application forms for this post should be returned by 9th February 2007 and interviews are likely to be held in Oban week commencing 19th February 2007.

TIREE DEVELOPMENT OFFICER
PART –TIME POST [15 -20 hours per week]
EVH GRADE 6 £20,432 - £22,383 [PRO-RATA]

In the coming years we wish to develop strong links with the communities we serve. In conjunction with Communities Scotland and the Crofters Commission we are seeking to appoint a part-time Development Officer, based on Tiree, for a fixed term of 1 year to April 2008. We are looking for someone who will:-

- Co-ordinate the various aspects of the housing programme;
- Work with the Tiree Development Trust, the Tiree Community and other Initiative at the Edge areas to promote the role of housing and the options available;
- Develop and maintain good working relationships with staff, organisations and agencies operating in Tiree and other Initiative at the Edge areas;
- Identify, support and co-ordinate the initiative to bring empty properties back into housing use;
- Provide and disseminate Comprehensive information on all aspects of housing support/developments;
- Work with local agencies and organisations to develop and run a programme of awareness raising events;
- Support the local organisations and West Highland Housing Association in planning and delivering affordable housing on Tiree and other Initiative at the Edge Areas;
- Specifically work on the opportunities for service developments linked to specific types of housing particularly for the elderly;
- Collect data on the various aspects of the initiative;
- Undertake evening and weekend work where required

Alongside this you will have a proven background of relevant skills, experience, success and IT competence.

Application forms should be returned by the 16th February and interviews are likely to be held on Tiree week commencing 5th March.

Gregor Cameron, Project Director of West Highland Housing Association will be delighted to talk to anyone interested in these posts about the organisation, the challenges and opportunities related to these posts. gregor@westhighlandha.co.uk. Telephone: 01631 566451

In return we offer excellent EVH Terms and Conditions of Employment including a Final Salary Scheme.

These posts are subject to Enhancement Disclosure Checks

Application forms are available from West Highland Housing Association by telephoning 01631 566451 or by emailing mail@westhighlandha.co.uk

West Highland Housing Association is a registered charity SC017357 and aims to be an Equal Opportunities Employer

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2 P/T RETAIL SALES ADVISOR
(1 temporary position)
20 hours per week

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Salary up to £13,000 (OTE) Pro rata

To apply, please call our recruitment team on 01738 456833 to request an application form, quoting reference RE/07/02.

Closing date for applications is Friday, 26 January 2007.

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Argyll Bute COUNCIL

To find out more about living and working in argyll & bute visit us @ www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

We are an Equal Opportunities Employer
A 'no smoking' policy is operated

Clerical Assistant (Job Share)

14 hours per week
£10,194 – £14,577 pro rata
Lochgilphead

Local Government needs Clerical Assistants in all sorts of areas. Typing, word-processing, dealing with the public, maintaining computer systems - these and a host of other vital jobs are carried out by our Clerical Assistants within Legal and Protective Services.

You must possess a minimum of 3 Standard Grades (Level 1, 2 or 3) to include English and Secretarial Studies or equivalent qualifications/experience.

You will demonstrate a willingness to learn and work hard. Office experience is essential. **Ref: CPL22013.**

For a recruitment pack call 01546 604029/604034.

Closing date 26 January 2007.

The Council is currently undergoing a Job Evaluation process. Further details are available with the application pack for posts covered by the Job Evaluation process.

The Council welcomes applications from New Deal Applicants.

DRIVER/COURIER

HIGHLAND HERITAGE LIMITED

require driver/courier
PCV essential, minimum age 25, live-in or out
Based in Tyndrum/Dalmally area
Uniform and training provided

Apply in writing with CV to
Mrs Colman, Highland Heritage Coach Tours,
Dalmally, Argyll, Scotland, PA33 1AY
Telephone 01838 200 393

Scottish Milk Products Limited
Campbeltown Creamery

Administration Assistant
(Full -Time)

Scottish Milk Products is a subsidiary of First Milk Limited. At Campbeltown we process the milk into quality cheeses for niche markets. We are looking for a responsible person to undertake a wide variety of administration tasks in our main office. Duties to include telephone answering, dealing with customers, purchase ordering and stock control systems. You must be computer literate, have some knowledge of Microsoft Word and Excel and be able to work unsupervised. Full training will be provided.

Please apply in writing, enclosing CV to Angela McMillan, Scottish Milk Products Limited, Campbeltown Creamery, Witchburn Road, Campbeltown, PA28 6JU or phone 01586 552244 for further information.

Closing date for applications is Friday 26th January 2007. 1

SEA LIFE SURVEYS
whalewatching | consultancy | research | education

2 positions available for growing boat cruise business:

1. **Book Keeper Required** - we require a suitably qualified and experienced person to book keep the accounts on a year round basis. More details on request.
2. **Seasonal Skipper Required** - we are looking for a seasonal skipper to help run our wildlife and whale watching boat trips from Tobermory, Isle of Mull for summer 2007.

Must have minimum boatmasters Grade 2

Pay negotiable according to experience.

Please send CV to:
Sea Life Surveys
Ledaig
Tobermory
Isle of Mull
PA75 6QL
01688 302 916

Tides

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, January 18, 2007** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am				pm			
Thur	05.16	3.7	11.23	1.3	17.33	3.7	23.41	1.1
Fri	05.56	3.9	12.08	1.0	18.10	3.8	** **	* *
Sat	00.19	0.9	06.33	4.0	12.50	0.9	18.44	3.8
Sun	00.59	0.7	07.10	4.1	13.31	0.8	19.19	3.8
Mon	01.39	0.6	07.48	4.1	14.12	0.8	19.56	3.7
Tues	02.21	0.6	08.27	4.0	14.53	0.9	20.35	3.6
Wed	03.05	0.8	09.10	3.8	15.38	1.1	21.17	3.4

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrishaig	-5.35	Lochboisdale	+0.30
Campbeltown	-5.30	Mallaig	+0.25
Crinan	-0.47	Portree	+0.55
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Tobermory	+0.16
		Dover	+5.30

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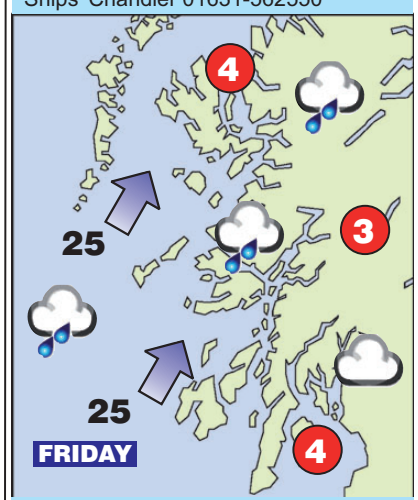
NANCY BLACK
Ships' Chandler 01631-562550



the weather

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NANCY BLACK Ships' Chandler

Thursday
Will be cloudy or overcast with some light rain or sleet at times, especially in the later part of the day Winds will be moderate and variable in direction.
Temperatures 4ºC to 5ºC

Friday
Will be cloudy with further rain and sleet at times. Winds will be a fresh to strong south-westerly
Temperatures 0ºC to 4ºC.

Weekend Outlook
Generally cloudy or overcast with brief sunny spells and wintry showers. Winds westerly or south-westerly
Temperatures 0ºC to 7ºC.

Ferry Crossings/Sea States
Oban to Barra/South Uist - Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree -Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay - Moderate

Sponsored by **NANCY BLACK**
Ships' Chandler 01631-562550

Argyll & Bute CHP — NHS Highland

Argyll & Bute Hospital
Mental Health Services
Cowal Ward

Nursing Assistant – Band 2

1 Year Fixed Term Contract, 37.5 hours per week
£12,177 - £15,107 **Ref: 06ab/212**

For this post, based in the dementia assessment unit, good verbal and written communication skills are essential. Experience of working with the elderly would be an advantage.

Informal enquiries to John Barnett, Clinical Nurse Manager – Tel: 01546 604926.

Mid Argyll Community Hospital & Integrated Care Centre

Nursing Assistant – Band 2

Fixed Term until 31 July 2007, 37.5 hours per week
£12,177 - £15,107 **Ref: 07ab/005**

To provide maternity leave cover in Knapdale Ward (Dementia Care), you will assist in the overall provision of best quality nursing care whilst under direct and indirect supervision and support from qualified nursing staff.

You should have a caring and considerate personality, with a common sense approach to working with vulnerable others, along with good verbal and written communication skills.

Mid Argyll, Kintyre & Islay Localities

Bank Nurses **Ref: 07ab/006**

***£11,148 - £13,022 pro-rata – Grade A (Unqualified)**
***£17,610 - £19,437/£18,818 - £22,725 pro-rata – Grade D/E (Qualified)**

We require bank staff, qualified and unqualified to cover Mid Argyll Community Hospital and Integrated Care Centre, Campbeltown Hospital and Islay Hospital. Grade per experience.

On requesting a job application pack please indicate whether your are applying for qualified or unqualified position.

Application packs for all posts are available from HR Department, NHS Highland, Argyll & Bute CHP, Aros, Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8LB – Tel: 01546 606788 (24 hour answering service) or by emailing recruitment.ab@nhs.net quoting the relevant reference number.

Closing date for all posts: Friday 2 February 2007.

***Subject to "Agenda for Change" review.**

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to assist elderly lady

Pay according to experience

Hours negotiable

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07867 893 325

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DOMESTIC HELP

required for elderly gentleman
ARDRISHAIG AREA
One hour per day in afternoon
Apply in writing to
Box No. 102
Argyllshire Advertiser
Lochgilphead

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To apply, please call our recruitment team on 01738 456833 to request an application form, quoting reference RE/07/04.

Closing date for applications is Friday, 2 February 2007.

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- Company pension scheme
- Share incentive scheme

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BABY EQUIPMENT

BUMBO SEAT, blue, for 4-14 month old baby, £12. Telephone 01852 500363.

E.L.C. PUDDING club pram activity, 4 animals with different sounds, cost £10 new will accept £5. Telephone 01499 302041.

MOSES BASKET, stand and two covers, £15. Telephone 01852 500363.

PACKET OF 7 bibs, hooded towel, hooded towel with washmit, all brand new, never used, £6. Telephone 01499 302041.

TOMMEE TIPPEE cold water/microwave steriliser with all accessories (bottles, tweezers and brush), as new, £15. Telephone 01499 302041.

TOMY FRONT position baby carrier, 0-12 months, £6. Telephone 01852 500363.

BATHROOM FITTINGS

BATH, GRP, light grey, length 1680mm, width 690mm, drilled for 2 taps, waste and overflow, never used, £40. Free delivery possible to many areas. Telephone 01967 421284.

CAST IRON free standing enamel bath, good condition, £49. Telephone 01852 200346 or 07712 051905.

TWO CHROMIUM plated electrically heated towel rails, £12 each. Telephone 01546 603820.

BICYCLES

BOYS FIRST bicycle, blue and yellow, stabilisers, helmet, £15. Telephone 01631 710095 after 6pm.

LADIES AND gents bicycles, £15 each. Telephone 01546 602272.

CAMERA EQUIPMENT

PANASONIC SVHS camera with case, charger, and batteries with SVHS VCR and camera tripod. In great working condition, complete kit, £95 ono. Telephone 07774 142659.²

CAR ACCESSORIES

DOG CAGE, front and side door, 64cm h x 90cm w x 72cm deep, folds flat, hardly used, £40. Telephone 01880 820635.

DOG GUARD, fabricated steel mesh for Subaru Forester 1997 to 2002, £30. Telephone 01855 811879.

MITSUBISHI L200 engine and gearbox, 37,000m. o/o, £500. Telephone 01879 220555.

PEUGEOT ROOF bars for 406, used once, as new, cost £65 for sale, £30. Telephone 01866 822722.

SET OF 4, 17" 5 spoke mangles Alloy Wheels, with tyres, only 6 months old, in great condition 5 Stud, £400 ono. Telephone 07717 828762.

CAR PARTS UNDER £250

SAAB 900S 2.0 16v saloon, F reg, red, 97,000 miles, MOT July, good clean car, £175. Telephone 07887 513286.

CLOTHING

LADIES BROWN wax jacket, size M, worn once, cost £80, sell £35 ono. Telephone 01852 500363.

DOMESTIC APPLIANCES

CHEST FREEZER, Scandinova make, external dimensions 4'x 2' x 2'9" high with four interior baskets, surplus to requirements, free delivery local areas possible, £45 ono. Telephone 01967 421284.

CREDA NATURAL gas cooker (white), hardly used, £45. Telephone 01631 565187.

FREE STANDING 4 ring Stoves New Home electric cooker, £49. Telephone 07768 657240.

HOTPOINT HALOGEN double oven cooker (white), perfect working order, bargain at £25. Telephone 01631 710599.

HOTPOINT SLIMLINE 8215 fridge, £30. Telephone 07768 657240.

SALTON HARMONY 4 slice toaster, as new, still in packing, £12. Telephone 01546 602391.

DOMESTIC PETS

BRITTANY SPANIELS, 8 weeks old, parents kennel club registered, working, can be seen, orange and white, four dogs, one bitch, £450 and £400. Telephone 01866 844238.

JACK RUSSELL puppies good with their character, various colours, well handled, £150. Telephone 01879 230374.²

REGISTERED COLLIE pups, off good working parents. Telephone Andrew Ronald on 01586 552917.

FIREARMS

REMINGTON .22-250 calibre rifle, Model 700 VS SF, Synthetic Stock, 26" stainless steel fluted barrel, Tasco 3-9 x 50 scope, F.A.C. holders only, £500 or nearest offer. Telephone 01631 720428.²

FOOTWEAR

DERWENT MUCK boot, black, ladies size 7, as new, cost £60, sell £25 ono. Telephone 01852 500363.

FURNITURE

BEDSIDE CABINET, light wood effect and white veneer with drawer,15½"w x 15½"d x 23¼" h, £10. Telephone 01855 811879.2

COMPUTER DESK, good condition, £15. Telephone 01631 564263.

DARK WOOD livingroom unit, two pieces, excellent condition, £40, (can deliver). Telephone 01631 566064.

6 DINING CHAIRS, pine, brown velour seats, 2 carvers, £48. Telephone 01880 740635.

DOUBLE FUTON, foam mattress, multi colour, good condition, £49.99. Telephone 01631 565187.-

ENTERTAINMENT UNIT, wooden with glass doors, vgc, £15. Telephone 07790 461574.

FOLDING MASSAGE/ treatment table, 73L x 27W x 25 inches H, £100. Telephone 01546 886315.

GREEN LEATHER 3 seater settee and 2 chairs, vgc, cost £3000 new, £425 Telephone 01866 822297.

IKEA SINGLE wardrobe, colour beech, perfect condition, £25. Telephone 01631 565187.

MAHOGANY DINING room table, 8 chairs and display unit, pristine condition, £200. Telephone 01546 602601.

OLD OAK wardrobe, fine condition, free to good home. Telephone 07748 994834.

PINE DINING table, 6' extends to 8', seats 8-10, £49.99. Telephone 01880 740635.

ROUND TABLE (teak top) metal frame, 2ft 6ins diameter with two matching chairs, £15. Telephone 01546 602272.

3 SEATER BED settee, dusky pink, £35. Possible delivery. Telephone 01880 730344.

SINGLE DIVAN bed Memory foam mattress, no drawers, no headboard, nearly new, very good condition, £150. Telephone 01631 565615.

SINGLE FOLDING bed, in good condition, used twice, £49.99. Telephone 01546 602391.

TABLE AND four chairs, good condition, £40 ono. Telephone 07867 666332.

THREE PIECE suite, wine burgundy colour, good condition, suit first timers moving into new house, £80 ovno. Telephone 01631 569784.

VICTORIAN ROSEWOOD dresser o/o, £300.Telephone 01879 220555.

HEATING

ELECTRIC COAL effect fire, complete with surround and inset, vgc, £49.99. Telephone 07790 461574.

HALOGEN HEATER with 3 settings, as new, £12. Telephone 01546 602391.

HOME ENTERTAINMENT

PORTABLE CD/STEREO radio cassette recorder, £10. Telephone 01631 563832.

SONY STEREO sound system, cd, tapes and radio player, complete with 14" x 12" speakers, £49.99. Telephone 01631 562930.

HOME FURNISHINGS

EXTENDING FIREGUARD, £5. Telephone 01631 566793 (after 6pm).

RUG, 9 x 6 dark green with cream/wine border, acrylic, good condition, £49.99 ono. Telephone 07749 754660.

TRIDLE OVAL dressing table mirror, cream and gold, £5. Telephone 01631 740214.

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 2007.

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 2007.

MISCELLANEOUS

ELECTRIC ADDING machine, £3. Telephone 01631 566793 (after 6pm).

PORTABLE ELECTRIC typewriter, £5. Telephone 01631 566793 (after 6pm).

MOBILITY

LIGHTWEIGHT 4 wheeled walking aid, brakes, seat, storage, £40, can deliver to Oban. Telephone 01855 811661.

METAL ADJUSTABLE stick, £5. Telephone 01855 811661.

REVO MOBILITY scooter, had little use, new condition, £480. Telephone 01567 820532.

UNISCAN WALKER with seat, shopping bag and pressure brakes, £30. Telephone 01586 830696.

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

HOHNER COUNTRYMAN electro acoustic guitar, blue, good condition, built in pick-up with tone and volume, ideal beginner/intermediate guitar, £40. Telephone 07900 048362.

PIANO ACCORDION 5 coupler 72 bass, new condition, never played, £250. Telephone 07857 603493.

WESTFIELD ELECTRO acoustic guiter, blue, good condition, built in pre-amp with 3 band EQ, ideal beginner/intermediate guitar, £40. Telephone 07900 048362.

PRINTERS AND STATIONERY

WRITING PAPER & Envelopes - Personalised and matching contact Krisp Printing & Stationery, Burnbank, Campbeltown. Telephone 01586 554975.

CHANGED ADDRESS? - Self Adhesive labels to inform your family and friends of your new address. (500 labels from £11.50). Contact Krisp Printing & Stationery, Burnbank, Campbeltown. Telephone 01586 554975.

SEWING MACHINE

ELECTRIC SINGER 514 sewing machine with light, good condition, £49.99. Telephone 01631 565237 or 07776 251218.

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SET OF Wilson golf clubs with bag, £49.99 ono. Telephone 01546 603081.

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CAPSTAN ROPE WINCH, powered by two stroke engine. Safe pull load up to one and a half tons, in very good condition, lightly used. Operating instructions and operator's manual available. Cost new £750 accept, £500. Contact Fort William 01397 702370 or 07879 651851.

PERSONALS

LOOK WHO'S 21

JOAN DRUMMOND

I'd just like to say a huge thank you to all who turned up at a surprise party in the Argyllshire Gathering Hall on Saturday, January 6, to celebrate my umpteenth birthday. To my family who came from far and near, friends old and new. Thank you all for the many cards, gifts, tokens and beautiful flowers. To all my girls for organising the night, well done, you did a fantastic job. Fort William Ceilidh Band for great music and bar staff for a great job. Well done. Hope you all enjoyed it as much as I did.
Love and thanks to all.
J D.

Ian MacFadyen, Port Appin thanks Dr Iain and Dr Mary, Port Appin Surgery also everyone who visited, sent cards and gifts during my recent stay in Oban and Lorn DGH and Glasgow Royal Infirmary. Thanks to the Drs in both hospitals and the wonderful nurses. Thanks to Rev Liz Gibson for visits and Father Paul for spiritual help and comfort.
Moran Tang Uli

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BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS

THE OBAN TIMES & West Highland Times

THE REGIONAL NEWSPAPER FOR THE WEST HIGHLANDS, ISLANDS AND ARGYLL

The Oban Times

The Oban Times is the best-selling weekly newspaper in the Highlands and is distributed via 1742 newsagents every week

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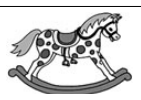
BIRTHS



FRANCE - Darren and Ailsa are delighted to announce the birth of their son Fergus Ian, born on December 19, 2006, a brother for Finlay. Special thanks to all at Queen Mothers Hospital and Oban Maternity Unit.

McQUADE – David and Julie (née Graham) are delighted to announce the birth of their son Finlay David on January 4, 2007, at Stirling Royal Infirmary, first grandchild for David and Betty, Columba Villa, Oban, and David and Jacqui, Cumbernauld. Thanking all maternity staff with special thanks to the NICU team.

TUFTIN–Ben and Angela are delighted to announce the arrival of their son Benjamin, a wee brother for Joseph, on January 8, 2007. Thanking midwives and ambulance staff at Mid Argyll Hospital and staff at R.A.H.Paisley.

VAUGHAN – Ian and Lynda are pleased to announce the arrival of their daughter Cerys Elizabeth, on January 13, 2007, a sister for Owen and granddaughter for Jack and Sheila Tollan, North Connel, and Charles and Janice Vaughan, Coppull.

ENGAGEMENTS

BRYARS - CAMPBELL – Nicole is delighted to announce the engagement of her daddy, Darin, to Cheryl on Christmas Eve.

JORDAN - SKEATES - Both families are delighted to announce the engagement of Colin, son of Neil and Linda, Duncairn, North Connel, to Verity, daughter of John and Denise, Streatham, London.

MACLEAN – HARRISON – Both families are delighted to announce the engagement on December 25, 2006, James, son of Donald and Margaret, Dunbeg, to Jacqueline, daughter of Jim and Kay, Oban.

RODGER – MACLENNAN – Both families are delighted to announce the engagement of Karen, daughter of Elaine and the late Derek Rodger, Lochawe to Fraser, son of Donald and Christine Taynuilt.

WALKER - CLOWES - Both families are delighted to announce the engagement on December 24, 2006, of Margaret Teresa Walker, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Angus Walker, Balloch, Dunbartonshire, to Justin Clowes, only son of Mr and Mrs Nigel Clowes, Norwich, Norfolk.

DEATHS

GARGAN – Suddenly after a short illness in Blackpool, Angus, husband of the late Lilian, a much loved step-father of Hector, William and Lynne and a devoted grandfather. Funeral to be arranged in Oban.

HALSTEAD - Peacefully at The Lorn and Islands District General Hospital, Oban, on January 12, 2007 in her 84th year, Olive, beloved wife of William Derek, dear mother of Tony, Mark and Peter and a loving grandmother.

MACDONALD - Peacefully on January 5, 2007, while in the devoted care of the staff at Tigh-na-Rudha Home, Isle of Tiree, Katina, beloved wife of the late Lachie MacDonald, 5 Main Street, Arinagour, Isle of Coll. Funeral took place on Tuesday, January 9, 2007 at Hylipol Church, thereafter to Soraby Cemetery.

MACIVER - Suddenly but peacefully at home aged 71 years, Duncan MacIver, Dunard House, Tobermory, Isle of Mull. Dearly loved husband of Bunty, father of Kevin and Lynsey, granpa to James and Duncan, brother to Chrissie and Colin. Very sadly missed by all the family. Funeral service to be held at Tobermory Parish Church on Thursday January 18, at 2pm, then to Tobermory Top Cemetery.

MACKAY - Peacefully after a long illness borne bravely, at the Mid Argyll Hospital on January 15, 2007, William McKellar Mackay, in his 82nd year of 13 Columba Court, Ardrishaig and formerly of Tarbert (ex Mundell's driver). Beloved husband of the late Sarah Graham Hamilton and loving father of William, Robert and Archie. Much loved grandpa and great-grandpa and a dear father-in-law. Cherished brother of Agnes. Treasured uncle to all the family. A good neighbour, friend and work colleague to many. Funeral service will be held in Tarbert Parish Church on Friday, January 19, at 1.30pm, thereafter to Carrick Cemetery. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, to Glenaray Ward, Mid Argyll Hospital.

MACLEOD - Christina (Chris) passed away peacefully at home on Wednesday, January 10, 2007, after a long and courageous illness. She will be sadly missed by Donald, sons George, Craig and daughter Sian, as well as all her sisters, other family and friends. May she Rest In Peace. She was a wonderful person.

MILLER - Peacefully at ARI on Thursday, January 11, 2007, Hugh Watson, aged 88 years, husband of the late Marjorie, beloved dad of Zandra and Suzy, a loving grandpa, brother and father-in-law. Sadly missed by all. Service in Aberdeen Crematorium, Hazlehead (West Chapel) on Wednesday, January 24 at 11.45am, to which all friends are respectfully invited. Family flowers only please.

PEARSON - Peacefully at Argyll and Bute Hospital, Lochgilphead, on Wednesday, January 10, 2007, in her 73rd year, Margaret Hallam Pearson, dear wife of John, much loved mother of Susan and Jan, loving grandma of Nicholas and great-grandma of Georgia. Sadly Missed.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

BEITH - The family of the late Norris D. Beith, would like to thank all friends who attended the funeral. Thanks to Rev Andrew Campbell for his comforting service and to Catriona of Hamish Hoey & Son for their efficiency. Special thanks to the ambulance crew and the doctors and nurses of Ward B, Lorn and Islands District General Hospital, Oban, for their kindness and skill. Extra special thanks to Ian, Sean and Jim for their loving care of Norris. Thanks must also go to the Manager and staff of the Victoria Park Hotel for their attentive service. The retiring collection for Clic-Sargent Fund raised £187.30.

BLACK - Bertie would like to thank relatives, friends and neighbours for their kind expressions of sympathy in his recent loss. Grateful thanks to Earn Ward at Perth Royal Infirmary for all their care of Irene, Rev Marc Bircham for his comforting service and James and Kathleen of James Carcary Funeral Directors for their courteous and respectful attention.

HENDERSON – Following the sad loss of Brownlie on December 24, 2006, June and family wish to thank relatives, friends and neighbours for their kind support and for all the cards, letters and flowers. Particular thanks to Liz Gibson, Maureen Arthur, Norman Nicholson and Ian Smyth for making the service so 'special'.

MILES – Fiona and Roddy of the late Ellen Miles, wish to thank relatives, friends and neighbours for their kind expressions of sympathy both personally and by letter, during their sad bereavement. Very special thanks for the care and compassion shown to our mother by Dr Roy and all at High Street Surgery, and by the staff of the Belford Hospital. Thanks also to Rev Alexander Guiness for his comforting service, to Mike McFall for his efficient funeral arrangements and to the Moorings Hotel for catering.

WALLACE - Paul, on behalf of his brothers and family would like to express his sincere thanks to all relatives, friends and neighbours for messages of sympathy, support and their presence at his mother May's funeral. Thanks to Mr John Fraser and Mr Mike McFall for their services and special thanks to Susan MacLellan. He would also like to thank all May's good friends for their endless support to her. May was a very special lady who will always be remembered with love and affection.

YOUNG - Donald (Fort William). Ella Young and family would like to thank all relatives and friends for the kind expressions of sympathy by cards, phone calls and flowers following the sad loss of Donald. Special thank you to John Fraser for his personal comforting words at the funeral and to Michael McFall and his staff for their sensitive efficient arrangements. Thanks also to C.C.U. at Edinburgh Royal Infirmary and the Medical Ward in the Belford Hospital. The sum of £450 was raised at church for the Medical Ward, Belford Hospital. Thank you.

IN MEMORIAM

BARRIE - In ever loving memory of our beloved mother, Dorothy (née MacBeth), who passed away January 19, 1961. RIP.
Time and tidy moves on
To remember always
A mother so warm and true.
Dearly missed.
- Wendy, Matthew and Clelland.

BRIGHTMORE - In loving memory of Mary, who died January 21, 2000.
Forever in our hearts
Always in our thoughts.
- From Eric, Catherine, John, Clair and John.

CAMERON - In loving memory of a much loved husband and father, James, (Jimmy), who passed away suddenly on January 21, 1999.
We cannot bring the old days back
Your smiles we cannot see
We treasure now the memories
Of days that used to be.
- Mary, Gordon and Hazel.

CAMPBELL - Treasured memories of our dear mother and gran, Marion, who died January 17, 1997.
No one can truly measure a mothers special love
God bless we love you always.
Guide us from above.
- Lorne and Kathie, and Alisdair and Christine.
Loved always.
- Kirsteen and Harry.

CLARK - In loving memory of Barbara, dear sister, sister-in-law and aunt, passed away suddenly January 21, 2006.
Sadly missed along life's way
Quietly remembered every day.
- Betty, Rab and family.

CRAWFORD - In memory of Jessie, died January 20, 1995, dear wife, mother and gran.
Sadly missed.
- Eddie and family.

KENNEDY - To our beloved dad and grandpa, Sandy.
The flowers we place upon your grave
May wither and decay
But our love for you
Who sleeps beneath
Will never fade away.
Love and miss you.
- Your loving family.

KIRKPATRICK - In loving memory of a dear wife and loving mother, Rachel McInnes, who died on January 21, 1974. Also our two sons, Billy died September 11, 1990 and John, died on July 1, 1996.
Treasured memories.
- J. Kirkpatrick and family.

MACKINNON - In loving memory of Donald (wee Dan), loving husband, father and grandfather who passed away January 19, 2006. R.I.P.
Forever in our thoughts.
- Jean and Family.

MACKINNON - In loving memory of a dear dad and grandfather who passed away on January 19, 2004, also remembering loved ones gone before and after.
Forever in our thoughts
- Inserted by Margaret, Campbell, Fiona and Grant.

MACRAE - Precious memories of Len, a loving husband, dad and grampa, who passed away January 18, 2003.
Always in our hearts
- Kate and families xxx

McDONALD - In loving memory of our dearly loved mother, Mary, died January 19, 2002.
We think of you as we always do and treasure the memories we have of you.
Also our dear father Duncan, died February 17, 1997.
Loved and remembered everyday.
Our dear aunt Cathie, died December 24, 2005.
Always in our thoughts.
- Irene, Ronald, David and Mhairi, Craighouse, Isle of Jura.

McGRADIE - In loving memory of a dear mum and grandmother, Isobelle McGradie, passed away 10 years on January 21, 1997, wife of the late James McGradie.
Missed dearly.
- Irene, Donald, Lorna, David and Vicky.

MAITLAND - In loving memory of Ishbel, who died January 21, 2006. A loving mum, nannie and great-nannie. Also (Bert) Robert J. who died February 15, 1998, a devoted dad, pappy and great-pappy.
Everyday we remember
The memories will never fade
God bless, and love forever.
- Ian, Lynn, Nicole and Kristofer xxxx

MAITLAND - Cherished memories of Ishbel. A devoted mum, mother-in-law and nannie, who died January 21, 2006, also Robert J. (Bert), a loving dad, father-in-law and pappy, who died February 15, 1998.
A bouquet of roses just for you
Sprinkled with teardrops instead of dew
Placed in the middle a forget-me-not
To show you both we have not forgot.
- Fiona, Alistair and Martin xxx

PEARSON - Treasured memories of our precious son Jamie, tragically taken from us on January 24, 1996, aged 27.
You left a place no one can fill
We miss you now and always will.
Loved and remembered every day.
- Mum and Dad xx
Jamie, a loving brother, brother-in-law and uncle.
In our thoughts every day.
- Audrey and Gregor.
We love you and miss you Uncle Jamie.
- Gemma and Ashleigh xxxx

POTTER - 6th Anniversary of our dear daughter and sister Jennifer Jane, tragically killed on January 20, 2001.
Missed so much.
- Mum, Dad, Coogie, Carla, Carol, Mark,Tommy, Chrys, Conor and Cavan xxx

POTTER – Treasured memories of my dear granddaughter, Jennifer Jane, died tragically on January 20, 2001.
- Sadly missed by Nana.

POTTER - Special memories of Jennifer, who died, tragically, on January 20, 2001.
- Stephen, Kirsty, Findlay and Susannah.

POTTER - Remembering Jennifer, who died so tragically on January 20, 2001.
- Aunty Irene and all the family in Glasgow.

SCOTT - In memory of my dear mother, Mary Jane, who died January 20, 2006.
No tears, no words, no verse can say
How much I miss you every day
- Ann.
Remembering a much loved sister and aunt.
- Alasdair, Fiona and families, Kilchoan and Strontian.

SHAW - In loving memory of Angus Shaw, who passed away on January 17, 2004.
Always in our thoughts.
- Etta, Gordon, Elizabeth, Niven and Robyn.

TURNBULL - Treasured memories of my darling husband Ian (Dell), dearest dad and granpa, died January 20, 2003.
Loved and remembered always.
- Mary and family.

Muckairn Church Guild

MUCKAIRN Church Guild members met in the Church on Monday afternoon, January 8.

With Stella Huntingford in the chair, it continued the theme 'Lets live, body, mind and soul' - this year 'Honouring the body'.

The meeting began with the singing of 'All people that on Earth do dwell', then a reading from Genesis, chapter one, on God creating us in his own image.

Rev Margaret Millar then led a reflection on this year's topic 'The Body' starting with experiences of childbirth, then earliest memories, continuing with experiences of childhood and physical development, attitudes of others and the influence of others on ourselves, upbringing, peer-pressure and the media all put pressure on young impressionable people and can result in low self-image, leading to drastic, sometimes even fatal reactions.

We must not be judgemental and always remember that God sees into the heart. Everyone contributed to the reflections and discussion and Nan Inkster gave Margaret Millar a warm vote of thanks.

Tea followed the singing of 'The Church is wherever God's people are praising' and the blessing.

The next meeting will be on Monday February 5 when Audrey Campbell will lead the Guild in gentle exercises.

ECCLESIASTICAL NOTICES

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH ANGLICAN COMMUNION
Sunday 21 January 2007
Epiphany 3
St John's Cathedral, Oban
Holy Communion 0800
Sung Eucharist 1015
Sunday School and Creche
Loop System
Large Print Hymn Books
All welcome
Norman MacCallum, Provost
☎(01631) 562323
St James, Ardbrecknish, Cladich
Holy Eucharist 1500
St Columba, Gruline, Mull
Holy Eucharist 1100
St Columba, Bishop's House, Iona
Holy Eucharist 1000

LORN CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
Sunday, 11 a.m.
St Moluag's Centre
Croft Avenue
Oban
All welcome
Telephone
07876 735 794

ASSOCIATED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, OBAN
Campbell Street Church
Sunday 21 January 2007
11 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.
Phone-In *'WorshipLink'* available
Wednesday 24 January 2007
7.30 p.m.
Prayer and Bible Ministry
Rev. Archie McPhail MA, MTh
☎(01631) 567076
All welcome

DESTINY CHURCH
OBAN
Sunday 21 January
OBAN HIGH SCHOOL
11 a.m.
End to Namby Pamby Insipid Christianity Part 2
Everyone invited
Speaker
Andrew McCulloch
Telephone:
01631 564283
www.destiny-church.com

Nevis Centre hosts Faith Mission meal

The Nevis Centre played host to the Faith Mission Fellowship Meal last Friday January 12. Over 260 people turned out which included representatives from 12 churches from the Lochaber area. Organiser John MacDonald said: 'It was a really wonderful evening. The weather and the flu did keep some people away but it was very encouraging. Full marks to the staff from the Nevis Centre, they did an absolutely first class job. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed it.' After the meal guests were entertained by a program which included singing, duets, music and a final speech from Faith Mission Superintendent Donnie McLeod.

Campbeltown talks about suicide

PEOPLE from Campbeltown are being encouraged to learn how to talk others about suicide.

A two-day course called Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) is available to people from all walks of life to learn how to recognise the signs of someone thinking about suicide, how to talk to them about it and how to get further help.

The course has been running across Argyll and Bute for two years and there is still a high demand for it.

Project worker Marie Park said; 'We have already run a number of successful courses in Campbeltown but there are still many people who want to learn what to do when someone they care about or someone they work with is thinking about suicide. This course is like first aid for suicide-and just like ordinary first aid which any member of the public can learn, we believe ASIST gives anyone skills to help someone at risk of suicide.'

Choose Life is the national campaign working with community groups and individuals in Argyll and Bute to raise awareness of the issue.

Shock at Tiree teacher's death

STAFF and pupils at Tiree High and Primary School have been mourning the death of colleague and teacher Stewart McLean.

The computing teacher, ICT co-ordinator and Principal Teacher of Enterprise died suddenly on Sunday, January 7, aged 49, and although he had been ill last year, he was back at work.

Although Mr McLean, who was married with three children, came to teaching later in life, he had been at Tiree High School since 1998.

He was subject leader for computing in Argyll and Bute, co-ordinating the work of computing departments in the area's 10 high schools.

He helped one Young Enterprise team at the school produce a Gaelic spellchecker, thought to be one of the first of its kind, was involved in Argyll and Bute Scottish Schools Digital Network and was always thinking up fund-raising ideas for the school.

Head teacher at Tiree High School Myra McArthur said: 'The school has received expressions of sympathy from many of Stewart's colleagues in other schools.

'Like us, they will miss Stewart for his sharp wit, companionship and generosity of spirit, in addition to his substantial support and influence in the information technology field.'

A spokesperson for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'We were shocked and sadden to hear of the sudden death of Stewart McLean. We are very sorry to have lost such a valued colleague and extend our thoughts and sympathy to Stewart's family.'

Stewart McLean

On Sunday January 7, Tiree Secondary School suffered a great loss with the untimely death of Mr Stewart McLean, Principal Teacher of Enterprise and teacher of computing.

Stewart was a very popular member of staff, with pupils and colleagues alike. He had a deep knowledge of the world of information technology, not only in operating software but also in the inner workings of the hardware, and could often be found delving into the deep recesses of computers. Stewart was always in great demand, continually being asked for advice by staff as well as pupils and answering our queries with grace and good humour. He provided basic training in ICT skills when computers were being introduced to the classroom, ensuring that all members of staff attained a basic level of competence qualification. Stewart enjoyed passing on his skills and expertise and happily agreed to help deliver training to members of the community during the set up of the digital community.

In his position as Principal Teacher of Enterprise, Stewart was always looking for new opportunities to allow pupils to develop their skills. He worked closely with the young people, allowing them to carry forward their plans, while retaining a guiding hand. Stewart was the key person at the centre of organising the Careers Fair, Pudsey's Party, Christmas dances and many other school events. Members of staff were well used to strange requests from Stewart as he planned his latest fund-raising activity with the pupils and sometimes wondered what use would be made of the old photographs or information about our early career aspirations that had been requested. Stewart always handled events in a light hearted but respectful way creating activities which were fun for everyone and enabled the school to make substantial charitable donations.

Many young people will remember fondly the school trips and excursions in which they took part and will appreciate the time and effort Stewart contributed to the organisation of these events. He cajoled and persuaded staff to support the trips in order to provide young people with some very valuable experiences and regularly made suggestions about some new and novel way to help fund them.

Stewart McLean always wanted the best possible school experience for Tiree High School pupils and was enthusiastic about the forthcoming digital schools network. He was subject leader for computing in Argyll and Bute and had recently presented his ideas to Principal Teachers of computing across the authority in order to introduce the digital network to all schools. The school has received expressions of sympathy from many of Stewart's colleagues in other schools. Like us, they will miss Stewart for his sharp wit, companionship and generosity of spirit in addition to his substantial support and influence in the information technology field.

Myra McArthur

Counselling service gains funds from Scottish Co-op

LORN Counselling Service has updated its computer and improved its service thanks to a £350 donation from the Scottish Co-operative Community Fund.

The service offers counselling to people in the North Argyll and islands area but relies on donations it receives from charitable trusts and individuals to continue.

Counsellors help people to decide about how they want their lives to be and how to do things differently if that is what they need.

It offers those who are struggling with emotional pain or mental health difficulties space to think through and explore their issues with support from a qualified counsellor.

Lochawe remembers author Harry Horse

RESIDENTS of Lochawe village were shocked by the news of the death of illustrator and children's author Harry Horse and his wife Mandy last week.

Harry, whose real name was Richard Horne, and his wife lived in the Argyll village for a couple of years before moving to the Shetland isle of Burra to be near Mandy's family.

It was there last week that the couple appear to have engaged in a suicide pact when Mandy's two year battle with Multiple Sclerosis became unbearable.

Davy MacLeod stayed next door to the couple in Lochawe

'They kept themselves to themselves but they seemed very nice. It's terrible what happened,' he said.

The couple first met when Harry's Cajun band Swamptrash played in the Shetlands in the late 1980s, falling quickly in love with each other.

The band split up and Harry became more famous for his delicate children's books and irascible political cartoons for the *Sunday Herald* and the *New Yorker*.

His 1992 book, *The Last Polar Bears*, was made into an animated TV film and his 2003 book, *Little Rabbit Lost*, won the Scottish Arts Council's children's book of the year award.

He was also involved in designing computer games.

Avril Watson encountered Harry during their time in the village: 'I knew him a little and was a fan of his work.

'I tried to get him involved in the drama club and he said I was a dangerous woman! I think I was being a little persistent and he was very busy. He was a nice man and very talented.'

CHARITY DONATIONS

Oban Hospice
CARING FOR THE FUTURE
Donations always gratefully accepted
Please contact
David Mudie (Treasurer)
Oban Hospice Ltd
The Croft
Kilmore

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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

Macmillan cancer relief
Working towards a time when every person in Scotland has equal and ready access to the best information, treatment and care for cancer
Macmillan Cancer Relief
79-81 Lauderdale Gardens
Hyndland, Glasgow, G12 9QU
Freephone 0808 100 6000
In memory of Dawn Joyce

FOR THE BLIND CHILDREN OF SCOTLAND'S ACADEMIC TUITION AT THE ROYAL SCHOOL IN EDINBURGH
Please give your financial support by donation, deed of covenant or legacy
Please send to **Appeals Department, Highland Arts Effort, Royal Blind Asylum School, P.O. Box 500, Gillespie Crescent, Edinburgh, EH10 4HZ**

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Oban sink Loch Lomond

Oban Lorne 5
Loch Lomond 0

Rugby

OBAN Lorne edged ahead of Loch Lomond in the league after this tight match, which was played in atrocious weather conditions at Havoc Park in Dumbarton.

The referee had a difficult job to keep the match safe and flowing and did a great job in the circumstances, with only one player leaving the park, the Lomond hooker – showing signs of hypothermia!

Oban scored after 15 minutes when a quick tap penalty was moved through Wilson, Thwaites and finally into the hands of Del Robertson who scored his third try in as many games, an excellent ratio for any player but especially a front row.

Wright missed the conversion from wide out into a wind gusting at 70 miles an hour.

Kicking became almost pointless as a tactic with the ball being blown straight across the pitch so Oban changed the tactics to keep the ball up the jumper late in the first half. Beyond 12 no one was getting any ball at all and wingers had the option of watching the game from afar or coming into the pack to lend some extra weight.

Despite the fact that the ball could not be moved wide or kicked with any real purpose Oban did keep Loch Lomond pinned in their own half showing great determination up front. This led to several penalty attempts from in front of the posts.

The first hit the left cross bar, the second hit the right cross bar and minutes later Thwaites hit the underside of the cross bar adding to the farcical nature of the game.

Lomond did not look like scoring and both teams were probably grateful for the full time whistle – Oban because it signalled their first away win of the season and Loch Lomond because they could get in out of the cold.

The result means Oban jump from eigth in the league to fifth after Cumnock called off their game and the other team Clydebank, who are one point ahead in the league, lost 34 nil to Waysiders Drumpellier.

Now all Oban need to do is beat the other teams around them in points difference and they could finish in the top half of the league.

This Saturday Oban play their in the National Bowl Cup against Mackie Academy FP, from Stonehaven. A win against Mackie would put Oban three games away from the final at Murrayfield. Support is very welcome at Glencruitten at 2.30pm but the match could be switched to Connel if weather conditions are poor.

Oban Team: R, McQueen. P, Brentbach, D, Robertson. D, Van Zyl. A, McDougall. C, Louw (C) S. Berger. M, Downie E, Wilson. C. Thwaites. M, McQueen. A. Lasse. R. McDonald. C, McDonald. R, Wright.

West League Division 1

	P	Pts
Marr	12	51
Waysiders	10	42
GHK	12	39
Strathendrick	11	33
Oban Lorne	**11**	**22**
Cumnock	9	19
Clydebank	14	19
Loch Lomond	13	12
Uddingston	11	7

Oban Saints young footballers get ready to answer questions at the Murray Park press room. t03foo1d

Oban youngsters train at Murray Park

YOUNG footballers from Oban have returned to the town after showing off their skills at Rangers' luxurious training complex Murray Park.

The boys who make up the Oban Saints under-12 and under-11s development squad played a match on the indoor pitch at Murray Park last Saturday.

Rangers youth coach Jim Mullen watched the match and said he was impressed how the boys tried to play football at all times.

Defender Stuart Alexander, who had been singled out at a Rangers community coaching day in Glasgow two weeks ago, again caught the eye along with winger Ruari Jesperson and midfielder David Beaton. The trio have been invited back to Murray Park in two weeks so Jim can have a closer look at them.

After the match the boys watched the Rangers under-11s play before they were given a guided tour of Murray Park which cost the club £14million to build and was opened in 2001.

The trip was organised through the Ryan MacPhail Memorial Trust and the coaches and the players would like to thank the trust for a memorable day.

Fifty tackle first Ben Lora race

Rugby

AFTER the success of the first ever Ben Lora Race which was held at the end of last year, organisers of the race are hoping for more entries this year.

Fifty runners turned out for the inaugural Ben Lora Race which was organised by Oban Athletics Club, although the race is also part of the Lochaber Athletics Club winter league.

The challenging route to the 1,011ft summit was made even more difficult with high rainfall turning the upper part into little more than a bog.

With a break in the high winds, the race went ahead in conditions still less than perfect.

The top three were Lochaber AC runners with twice Ben Nevis race winner Colin Donnelly taking an early lead, closely followed by Ruari Watt.

Donnelly maintained his lead, winning with an impressive time of 27 minutes, 32 seconds only three seconds ahead of Watt.

Organisers thanked the Forestry Commission for permission to run the race.

Bowls winners

Bowls

The Lorn Singles and Doubles Championships were held at Cairnbaan.

The winner of the singles was Neil McCorkindale of Kilmore, while the Benderloch pair of Lachie Strathern and James Ferguson won the doubles.

Lorn Carpet Bowls League

	P	Pts
Kilmore	6	43
Benderloch	5	28
Cairnbaan	5	27
Easdale	5	21
North Connel	6	17
Connel	4	6
Taynuilt	5	2

Lochaber effort praised

Garioch 79
Lochaber 7

Rugby

LOCHABER'S young side were on the wrong end of a 79-7 beating at Garioch despite taking the lead.

It was a young, inexperienced side that made the long trip to Inverurie where they lost heavily but the Lochaber coaches were not downhearted because it is only by playing matches that these young players gain experience and move forward.

Lochaber started strongly and were rewarded with a try within the first minute. Gary Hendrie's drop goal attempt ricocheted off the posts behind the try line where it was dropped by a Garioch player and pounced upon by Lochaber's scrum-half Blair Macraild. David Maclean made the conversion kick to give the visitors a 0-7 lead.

Garioch fought their way back to score at the other end five minutes later and took the lead with a second try with twenty minutes gone. Up to half-time the visitors managed to keep the score-line respectable helped by Gary Hendrie's clearance kicks and messrs Knowles and Harvey 'in your face' defence in midfield.

Garioch used the strengthening wind to peg back Lochaber in the second half and, although the back three of Martin Ellis, Donnie MacDonald and Kenny Rigg stood up well under the high ball, Lochaber remained stuck in their own territory for most of the half.

Garioch always seemed to be able to work an overlap out wide and had plenty of support players eager to finish of the try.

The Alexandra Hotel is hosting Lochaber RFC's annual dinner dance this Saturday night. There is no match scheduled for that afternoon and the next home game is against Moray on 27 January.

Lochaber squad: R Morgan, R Mackay, A Sutherland, A Garrick, D Maclean, S Whitaker, A Gorthy, D Macfarlane, B Macraild, G Hendrie, M Ellis, B Knowles, D Harvey, K Rigg, D Macdonald, K MacInnes, W Hawkswell.

Argyll's finest take centre court

Badminton

THE 2007 Argyll Junior Badminton Championships saw youngsters from all over the area compete over two days at the Mid Argyll Sports Centre in Lochgilphead.

The first final of the day saw Rebecca Olej of Cowal beat Georgia Hepburn from Mid Argyll 15-0, 15-5 to deservedly take the girls' under-12 title.

The games in the boys' singles were very keenly contested with Alistair MacVicar of Mid Argyll beating Lorn's Gregor Brydon 15-13, 15-13 after a thoroughly entertaining and exciting match.

Lorna Young and Georgia Hepburn from Mid Argyll claimed the girls' doubles title, 15-5, 15-12, proving to too strong for Rachel MacPhail and Nicola Blackstock, despite a spirited performance from the Kintyre girls. In the boys' doubles section Calum Hooper and Nils Anderson of Kintyre beat Alistair MacVicar and Connor Boyd from Mid Argyll to clinch the last final of a splendid day's badminton.

More than 100 competitors took part in the under-14 and under-17 championships. The first final of the day was the under-14 girls' singles championship which was won with an outstanding display by the youngster from Cowal, Rebecca Olej, who beat Fiona Galbraith, 15-12, 7-15, 15-11.

The under-14 boys' singles championship was won by Alexander MacDonald, who showed great determination to pull back from one set down to win 14-15, 15-8, 15-8 against Craig Anderson of Cowal.

Kintyre couple Louise Mitchell and Fiona Galbraith beat Jennifer Littleson from Tarbert and Rebecca Olej from Cowal to clinch the under-14 girls' doubles championship.

Mid Argyll duo Alexander Macdonald and Ben Boss won the the under-14 boys championship title. The mixed doubles under-14 title was won by Robbie Dudley and Louise Mitchell from Kintyre.

The under-17 girls singles saw Kintyre's Sarah Muir beat Stephanie Mitchell, also Kintyre in an exciting three-setter.

In the boys under-17s singles competition, Stuart Dunlop from Mid Argyll lost to Dennis McGarrie, 15-11, 15-07.

The under 17s girls doubles competition was a final between Sarah Muir and Lorna Armour of Kintyre against Lyndsey Derret and Laura McKissock of Cowal, this final was won by Sarah and Lorna.

The boys under 17s was won by Kevin Johannsonand and Thomas Coughlin, making them the first Islay winners in the competition's history.

John Kennedy and Lynne Frame from Mid Argyll came from one set down against Andrew McLean and Lyndsey Derrett of Cowal to clinch the last competition of an enthralling 2007 championship.

Councillor Donnie MacMillan presented all the trophies and medals to the finalists. Co-organisers Sharon MacKechnie and Graham Gillies thanked competitors, parents, helpers and Mr MacMillan.

Bossard continues winning streak

Mountain bikes

MORE than 30 riders competed at Invergarry for Round Four of the West Highland Wheelers Winter Mountain Bike League.

Mike Bossard continued his recent winning form to come in ahead of Graham Neagle and Ben Thompson. Kate Tuer won the ladies race followed by Colleen Foggo, Nix Forster and Hannah Barnes.

The seven-mile course was set out by John Thompson and conditions were wet, cold and slippy leading to several thrills and spills. The next league race will be on February 4 at Leanachan Forest starting from the Nevis Range car park at 11am.

For more details contact Off Beat Bikes on 01397 704008.

Invergarry results; 1 Mike Bossard 44.31; 2 Graham Neagle 45.46; 3 Ben Thompson 46.55.

John on target

Archery

OBAN'S John Bichard achieved the highest score for a local archer and came third overall in the Portsmouth round held at Atlantis Leisure.

Kyle Dods came fifth overall while Steve Walton came second in his barebow class. The Oban archers are now looking forward to the remainder of the indoor season and the outdoor season which is fast approaching.

Midnight League football for Oban's teenagers

Rugby

THE BANK of Scotland, in partnership with Argyll and Bute Council, the SFA and Strathclyde Police will be running a 'Midnight Leagues' programme at Atlantis Leisure starting on Friday 26th January from 7pm till 9pm. The games are free for boys and girls from 12-18 years. For further information please telephone Argyll and Bute Football Development Officer Dylan Kerr on 01369 703214 or contact Atlantis.

Saints game off

Oban Saints versus Gartcosh United was postponed last-weekend. Saints' next game is a Scottish Amateur Cup match this Saturday against Garrowhill Thistle. Kick off 2pm at Mossfield.

Spot The SHINTY BALL Competition

WIN £750

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE...

All you have to do

We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph opposite. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1.

If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.

The game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void. Prizes will be shared between those submitting correct entries.

If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

Easy to enter

Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to reach "Spot the Shinty Ball" Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB **by 2 pm on Tuesday 28th December.**

You may hand it into **The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban** by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

Competition Rules

No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery.

The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.

In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company.

The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time.

Employees of The Oban Times Limited, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.

This week's winners who each receive £25 are: Colin Armour, 19 Drumfin Gardens, Tobermory and David Laird, 7 Mull Terrace, Oban

I enclose £1 (note) for 20 crosses (tick box) ❑ The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules.

How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1.

Name_____

Address_____

_____ Tel No._____

Send to **'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB**