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Santa was good to Tarbert Youth Group this year. a01TYG01

Tarbert youth group is looking forward to 2008

LAST year was a busy year for Tarbert Youth Group and things don't look like slowing down in 2008.

Work on an extension to Tarbert village hall which will be devoted to the group is set to begin in January and completed by the autumn. This will provide Tarbert's youth with their own space for the first time and allow services to develop. An after-school club is also planned on the premises.

Last year the group were heavily involved with the Duke of Edinburgh Awards, taking part in a mix of educational and fun activities.

Four youths sailed on board the Alba Venturer with the Ocean Youth Trust in September. For one week, they learned how to navigate, maintain the vessel and sail her from Ullapool to Stornaway. Kellie Gibb, Dale Rae, Ricardo Del Rossi and Fabiano Agosti were stormbound for a night as they travelled the Minch in high seas but earned a bronze award for their efforts.

The group has also been a part of the Tarbert Conservation Initiative, helping clear the grounds of Tarbert Castle and with the skiff building project. Members attended work parties and played an active role in recording and researching the projects. Kellie Gibb, Dale Rae and Lewis Bellshaw received an award for their input.

A recent donation from the Mid Argyll Round Table has added to the resources the youth group has to offer. The funds were spent on games and, in the custom of the season, arrived courtesy of Santa.

Heather Bellshaw, who runs the group, said: 'I've been here four years and things have really moved on.

'People often recoil when they hear the word 'youth' but we get a lot more support in the community now.

'I'd like to thank the Round Table for their very kind donation to the group and to Robert MacPhail for his infinite energy and positivity with the Conservation Initiative.

'We look forward to the continuation of the skiff project in January.

'It's been a fantastic year and we look forward to 2008.'

Technology could transform health care

Lochgilphead doctor proposes video-link clinics with Glasgow Royal Infirmary

NEW technology could transform cardiac treatment in Mid Argyll, according to a Lochgilphead-based doctor.

Dr Adrian Ward has proposed a new outpatient service in the Mid Argyll Community Hospital which is linked to Glasgow's Royal Infirmary by video link.

At present, patients often have to travel to Glasgow to receive specialist care but, if a pilot scheme is successful, it is envisaged that patients will only have to visit the city for angiography — examining blood vessels using x-rays.

Dr Ward put forward the proposal to Argyll and Bute Community Health Partnership arguing that as expertise in telemedicine develops, other services and clinics could use this method such as rheumatology and dermatology.

This could have a huge impact on the services offered to patients within Argyll, he claims.

Based on current activity, it is estimated that six clinic slots per month would be required to carry out diagnostic tests with reports completed by a cardiac physiologist and fed back to the medical consultant and GPs. A trained cardiovascular nurse will facilitate and coordinate the clinic and ensure that all appropriate tests are completed.

It is hoped that the service will lead to reduced waiting times, be more cost-effective and provide more accessible treatment for patients by retaining the service locally.

The project would involve initial start-up costs of £80,096 with additional recurring costs of £920 annually.

However, Dr Ward believes the long-term impact will justify this.

He said: 'It could be argued that by carrying out and reporting investigations locally, workload is being reduced in the cardiology in Glasgow Royal Infirmary as these tests are time consuming.

'Investment in this equipment could support roll-out of this service to include patients from Campbeltown linking up from Mid Argyll.

'This initial investment could have additional benefits in the future for other service which may be able to be delivered locally via telemedicine such as dermatology, for example.'

Prosperity the aim as Inveraray hosts Argyll's first economic summit

From left: Argyll and Bute Council's Head of Development Services George Harper, Chairman of HIE Argyll and the Islands Peter Timms, Council leader Dick Walsh and Jim Mather MSP.

An economic summit took place in Inveraray last month looking at sustainable economic growth in Argyll and Bute.

The summit brought together a wide range of public, private and voluntary sector stakeholders to discuss the opportunities for economic growth in the area, and included a keynote speech from Argyll and Bute MSP Jim Mather, Minister for Enterprise, Energy and Tourism.

Argyll and Bute Council Leader, Councillor Dick Walsh, said: 'The Scottish Government recently published its economic strategy which sets out clear and ambitious targets for sustainable economic growth in Scotland. Argyll and Bute is an area which has significant economic challenges, many related to its narrow economic base and remote, peripheral and island geography.

'However, it is an area with significant potential for growth, with high levels of educational attainment and entrepreneurial activity.

'The conference enabled stakeholders to discuss the constraints facing the economy in Argyll and Bute and map out a positive way forward to achieving growth in the area.

'The Council is responsible for delivering a wide range of services which are very important to the business sector therefore I am delighted that Argyll and Bute Council has worked together with HIE Argyll and the Islands to host this event.'

'This is an important first for Argyll and Bute'

Jim Mather MSP said: 'This is an important first for Argyll and Bute.

'In bringing together many of the private, public and voluntary organisations that help to serve the needs of the local people we are offering them the opportunity to be more effective and to allow them, in turn, to help achieve higher levels of economic growth and prosperity across the constituency.

'This event will hopefully be the start of a new approach and lead to greater cooperation and collaboration in the future which will benefit the people of Argyll and Bute.'

Peter Timms, chairman of HIE Argyll and the Islands, added: 'Argyll and its islands have much to contribute to the Scottish Government's economic ambitions and already have strong operators in the life science, tourism, food and drink sectors.

'To lever the full potential from this very diverse area will require close partnership and co-operation between all of its stakeholders. This event has provided a very useful platform from which we can all go forward towards the common goal of accelerating economic growth in the region.'

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Karen Tweed comes to Crear

CREAR near Kilberry will play host to one of the top piano accordion players in the country this weekend when Karen Tweed performs with her May Monday Band.

May Monday is a collaboration with Finnish pianist Timo Alakotila where they combine folk, classical and jazz styles in a unique fusion.

Karen Tweed has played the accordion since the age of 11, releasing music and performing with The Poozies, The Kathryn Tickell Band and Swap.

Tweed left The Poozies and Swap in 2007 to concentrate on projects such as May Monday. She said: 'I want to do more stuff with young people and try different things. It makes my heart sing when I hear Timo playing. He does classical and jazz as well – it's not just folk. We'll be playing Irish and Scandinanvian music and English folk.'

As well as a hectic recording schedule, Karen has found the time to perform all over the world, in places as disparate as Lesotho, the USA and Hong Kong.

'Lesotho was amazing,' she enthuses. 'The concerts were good but the really interesting thing was going to schools and doing workshops. Normally we'd have about 20 but 200 people turned up. I have never been so inspired. These people have nothing and they're so respectful.'

'I have been to Crear before as a visitor and to perform. I think Argyll's amazing and Crear's a great venue. I could live there all the time. I'm looking forward to it.'

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'Earth house' row rumbles on

ARDFERN hoteliers Andrew and Sarah Stanton, who own the Galley of Lorne, have responded to what they consider unfair criticism in last week's *Advertiser* about a controversial planning application.

Vivian Dobbie has had plans for two 'earth houses' recommended for refusal by Argyll and Bute Council with a local discretionary hearing taking place in January due to the strength of local feeling.

Mrs Dobbie argued last week that people were encouraged to object to the application by the Galley of Lorne who printed forms for this purpose - 128 representations were received objecting to the proposals with only 14 in favour.

Mr Stanton said: 'The forms only came about because people asked us how they should go about objecting. Many objectors also wrote letters. These are their opinions not ours. We are only one voice in 128. There would have been a lot more objections if we'd actively sought them, but this is people coming to us.

'We do not wish to upset the Dobbie family and it is not a personal issue. It would not have mattered who was making the application, our feelings and those of the community would have been exactly the same. Given that Mrs Dobbie is an ex-owner of the inn it is widely believed that if the roles had been reversed she too would have objected, in order to protect the rural nature and one of the best vistas the village has to offer.

'The community council, who represent the whole peninsula, is opposed to it, as are the planners. The planning department have their own minds, their own data and information from many regulatory bodies and have made their decision after looking at all the factors. It is not solely based on the number of objections.

'It's about time people realised that there is an overwhelming feeling in the community that this shouldn't go ahead. This goes far beyond The Galley of Lorne Inn. I don't believe she has done herself any favours either by criticising the planners.'

The hearing will be held on January 16 in Ardfern near the proposed site of the development.

Duke's delight at windfarm approval

Committee reject planning department's advice

THE DUKE of Argyll says he is 'ecstatic' after controversial plans for a wind farm on his estate were narrowly approved.

The Duke's delight came as Argyll and Bute Council approved proposals for a 14-turbine wind farm at Stacain, overlooking Loch Awe – despite its planning department recommending that the plans were turned down and more than 100 letters of objection.

The council's protective services and licensing committee voted seven votes to five in favour of approving the WPR Wind Limited plans at Oban's Corran Halls last week.

The committee was urged to refuse the plans by council head of planning Angus Gilmour who said the wind farm would spoil the landscape of the area and pose too great a risk to golden eagles. The turbines will stand 110 metres tall.

'I am very, very pleased,' the Duke said. 'Argyll Estates is a big employer in the area with 40 employees. We have a lot of skilled workers and it gives us a level of confidence for the future because we don't have that many opportunities.

'We can't live on the eagles being up there. The local joiner down the road is not going to make a living because there are a couple of eagles up the glen. When it comes to the eagles, we have advice that is not in their core area. I know that area very well myself. Eagles are wise, they can shift but I want them to stay there like everybody else.

'The landscape is constantly changing; we will never keep the way it is because nothing stays the same. In 25 years these turbines will be gone.'

At the meeting, Mr Gilmour said: 'I believe this wind farm will have a serious adverse environmental impact. It would be in a sensitive location and I'm very concerned about the impact on the skyline which it will totally dominate.

'It is also the core territory of a pair of golden eagles, one of the most productive areas in Argyll for breeding eagles.'

Mr Gilmour told the committee that Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) had estimated 51 per cent of eagle mortalities if the wind farm was built.

It also emerged that a proposal by the applicants to clear a forest south of the site for the eagles to relocate to had not been received by the Forestry Commission,

'Eagles are notoriously territorial and there is no guarantee they will use this area,' said Mr Gilmour. 'I am not an expert on eagles and that is why SNH are statutory consultees. Argyll's main selling point is its biodiversity and landscape. But these plans are the wrong scale and location.'

A motion to carry the recommendation was proposed by committee chairman Daniel Kelly but Councillor Duncan MacIntyre proposed an amendment approving the application which was seconded by Councillor Elaine Robertson and then carried through.

Pupils at Inveraray Primary School were 'off to see the wizard' in their 'Stars in your Eyes' concert.

A51sta09

Inveraray hosts 'Stars in Your Eyes'

INVERARAY showcased it's talent recently with a 'Stars in Your Eyes' concert to rival anything its television equivalent has to offer.

The performances, held at Inveraray Primary School over two nights, included parents, pupils and community groups covering a bewildering range of material.

Elvis was in the building alongside Judy Garland, the Village People, the Spice Girls and the unusual choice of Crazy Frog – complete with breakdancer.

Amarillo got the crowd going before the break with a lively dance through the crowd by the assembled acts.

After the raffle and snacks, a fun second-half performance ended fittingly with 'Do They Know It's Christmas?', the applause and cheering confirming that the crowd were suitably entertained.

Police files

Kennacraig accident

A vehicle was involved in an accident at Kennacraig on December 30 at 12.30pm.

The driver was taken to the Southern General Hospital and was in a stable condition at the time of going to press.

No other injuries were reported.

There have also been a number of minor road accidents over the Christmas period.

On Christmas Eve at two cars were involved in an incident on School Road, Tarbert; on Christmas Day at a car went off the road at Stonefield; on December 27 a car went into the ditch at Achnabreac; a car went off the road at Ardfern on December 28; two cars were involved in an incident between Inveraray and Dalmally on December 29.

There were no injuries recorded in these incidents and no further reports were made by police.

Stolen phone

A mobile phone was reported stolen on December 27. The phone had been taken the previous evening on a night out in Lochgilphead.

Tarbert woman seeks her fortune underground

A MID ARGYLL woman has just unearthed a new firm – breeding W.O.R.MS.

Janice Cupples from Tarbert has just set up her own wormery with a £3,000 start-up grant from HIE Argyll and the Islands.

Janice's firm is called Waste Obliterating Recycling Munching Specialists (WORMS) and she has already agreed to supply angling shops in the area with worms for bait.

'I bought in 2,000 worms from a breeder in England,' she said.

'You put them in boxes and they work in a four-week cycle laying an egg every couple of weeks. You have got to keep the shed lit and insulated, have it at a good temperature and make sure the soil is moist. I feed them poultry chick feed which is ground down pellets.'

Janice's business is also environmentally friendly as she is selling kits, which come with the worms, to help recycle household waste.

The thought of all those worms in her shed has divided opinion, according to Janice.

'The reaction is usually one of shock and horror! Men are not too bad but most women throw up their hands in horror at the thought of all those worms,' she said.

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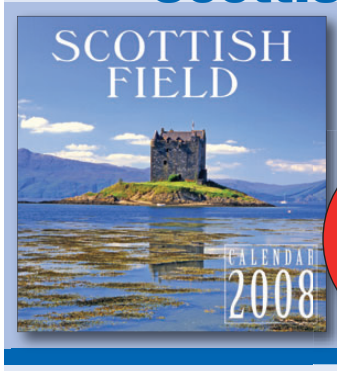

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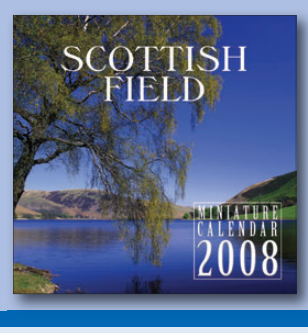

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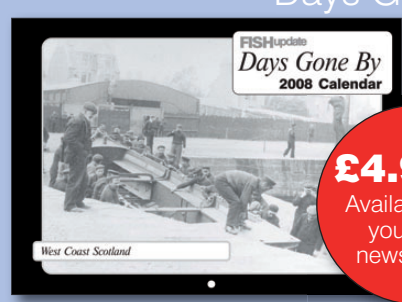

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Craig MacIntyre enjoys jamming with Ardentjohn in his recording studio. a50stu01

Craig's croft sounds just right

SITUATED just off the roadside on the shores off Loch Fyne is Craig MacIntyre's croft.

But this isn't just any croft. This croft comes with its very own comprehensively equipped music rehearsal studio and is aimed at unsigned bands that want to go somewhere to chill out, drink beer and do their music.

Craig, aged 52, opened the four-bedroom house to musicians in July. 'I didn't just want it to be a holiday home', he said.

'The bands that come here have the house exclusively for themselves to rehearse, and the studio comes equipped with drums, amps, PA, microphones, leads and a 16 track digital recording studio.'

And on hand to keep the bands company if they need any, are Craig's pigs, sheep, ducks, hens, chickens and dogs. Craig laughs: 'I cure my own bacon and ham and with our free range eggs you can be guaranteed one of the best breakfasts in Argyll.'

His latest guests at the croft – which he calls Sound Accommodation - were Edinburgh outfit, Ardentjohn, whose debut album 'When the Time Comes' was a huge success. The band describes their music as 'atmospheric indie pop', and sound engineer and producer Graeme Steel reckons Craig's pad is the perfect place for them to deliver their best performances. He said: 'It has been amazing here. On a comfort level it's amazing. Every day the chickens come to say hello at the door and the environment is perfect for coming to and making music. There is a lot of space in the house. We didn't realise how close it was to Inveraray but it's great to have The George Hotel just along the road.

'Craig has all the top quality recording equipment here and we brought all our own kit such as drums, microphones and guitars, and have taken over the whole house.'

Graeme added: 'Working from a recording studio, you can spend your time sitting staring at a wall so for me the views you get from Craig's house are amazing and the atmosphere you work in is so important.

'The band has been so much more relaxed here and that makes them work better.

There's a lot of pressure recording in a studio as it can cost up to £50 an hour whereas Craig just charges bed and breakfast prices.'

The bands that Craig has had staying since July includes Trashcan Sinatras, Jo Mango, Vashti Bunyan, The Tracks and Livewire.

As well as running Sound Accommodation, Craig is a musician in his own right, and also fronts his own band called The Camans. They play locally at functions, private parties and weddings. Craig also forms one half of an acoustic duo, which plays a mix of their own songs, traditional Scottish songs and contemporary music.

For more information, visit www.sound-accommodation.co.uk

Ardentjohn's sound engineer and producer Graeme Steel said Craig's croft is the 'perfect place' a50stu02

Drummer Seth's equipment takes up all Craig's lounge.

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Thought for the week

Well, that's it. 2007 is over and gone and a new year stretches out in front of us – 365 new days, none of them ever lived before.

We have our dreams for 2008, and many of us have our fears.

If we are honest, the loud cheers of 'Happy New Year!' sometimes sound a bit hollow because we all know that happiness is like a butterfly: we enjoy it when it's there but when we try to hold on to it, it dies in our hands. So I'm not just going to wish you a happy new year.

There is a prayer near the beginning of the Bible that means so much more at this time of year, or any time of year. 'The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face towards you and give you peace.' Jesus says, 'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you … Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.' Whatever 2008 has in store for you, may God be with you and may you know his peace.

(Numbers 6:24-26)

Irene Howat

What to do in the garden in January

JANUARY is one of the two months of the year when there is little to be done outside other than enjoy the landscape of your garden and plan from the sitting room window.

Imagining how a bit of extra colour at this time of year would perk up the view and make it more enjoyable. I planted a Crab Apple (malus 'King Crimson') this year for my mum outside the kitchen window, the fruit is still on it and they look like huge orange cherries!

Look for coloured tree trunks and stems and evergreens especially those with a different foliage colour or structure and variegations.

If the weather does allow it, try to get outside and keep tidying up, so that things are ship shape by the time the serious gardening begins again in March.

If you have to walk on the lawn – place boards to walk on to spread your weight and help stop any compaction.

Now is the time to carry out any major construction jobs, ie. Garden pond or water feature or re-landscaping.

Keep the compost heap going with household waste, don't forget though, no food waste and don't forget the Christmas tree, please do try to re-cycle, give back to the earth that which you take out.

Keep gutters clear of dead leaves on the house and the greenhouse and make sure they run easily, and repair any drips and leaks that drip onto a border.

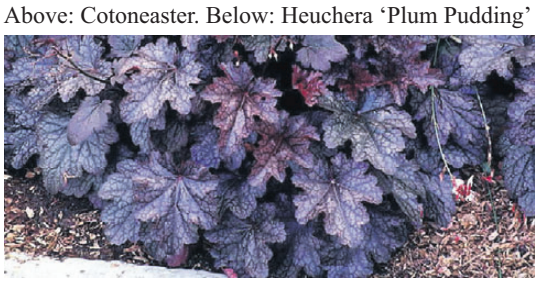
Aim to finish any border re-designing or replanting before any of the spring bulbs come through, and to save walking on new shoots of emerging perennials. During January you should have a clear run between the plants.

I take the opportunity of a dry bright milder day to 'take my secateurs for a walk', now is the ideal time to tidy up shrubs that flower this year on new growth – you have safely until the end of February to prune and tidy up Dogwoods (cornus), buddleia and roses.

Prune wall climbers such as ivy away from window frames and gutters.

January is the time also to do the winter prune of Wisteria, these glorious climbers are one of my favourite 10 plants they will transform a house wall or pergola with a profusion of summer colour.

Above: Cotoneaster. Below: Heuchera 'Plum Pudding'



To achieve this show it needs a good winter prune, last summer you should have cut long wispy side shoot growth back to about 10" from the main framework, these shoots should now be cut back even further to just a bud or two from their base, leaving them about 2" long.

Tie in any new shoots to supporting wires and structure to extend the framework.

If there is digging do be done, now is the ideal time to bite the bullet and get it done, the winter frosts will break it down and make it much more attractive to little plants in the spring. If it is available, a good layer of farmyard manure over the top will also break down into the soil over the winter. Don't use fresh smelly manure, it is too rich and acid, if you can get it use well matured rotted manure.

Plants to look out for to give you winter colour.
Viburnum farreri with pink flowers and an intense fragrance.
Cotoneaster salicifolius 'Rothschildianus' evergreen with yellow fruits.
Helleborus x hybridus 'Ashwood Garden hybrids' to give you sumptuous shades of winter colour.
Erica carnea ' King George' bright pink flower.
Heuchera 'Plum Pudding'
And of course the winter bulbs;
Cyclamen coum, crocus tommasinianus, snowdrops (galanthus), and chionodoxa forbesii (Glory of the Snow).

Above: Erica carnea King George

Those were the days

25 Years Ago

New Lochgilphead Community Council could emerge

HOPES for a revived Lochgilphead Community Council have been raised this week with news of a new scheme for the establishment of community councils in Argyll and Bute.

The council has now approved the new scheme, replacing the existing systems operated by the former district councils of Argyll and Bute and Dumbarton, which were introduced more than 20 years ago.

Council leader Dick Walsh said: 'This is an exciting opportunity and forum and for local communities to co-ordinate and express their views to both Argyll and Council and other public authorities on issues which affect them.

'The council is particularly keen to encourage as much local participation as possible in both the numbers wishing to stand for the election to the new bodies, as well as in communities supporting their new community councils once they have been established.'

The expected timetable in bringing the new community councils into being will see nominations to stand for election being sought late this month. It's expected that the whole election process will be completed by early April, with the new community councils establishing themselves shortly afterwards.

Sandy Herbert, who was formerly secretary of the Lochgilphead Community Council, said would not be getting involved in a new set up. 'I think it would be interesting to see what would happen, though,' he said.

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2007: Review of the

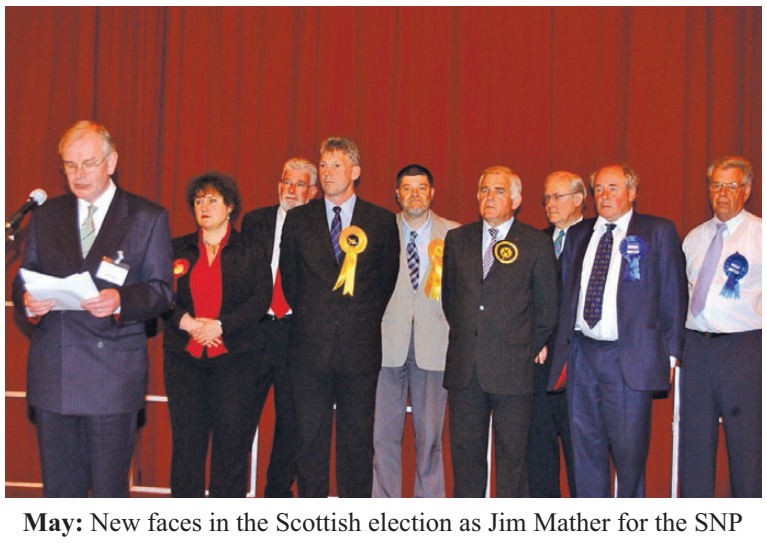
2007 was a busy year for Mid Argyll. Alongside the traditional favourites like Tarbert Music Festival, the local Mod, the Scottish Series and all the gala days, we've seen a major three-day music festival come to Inveraray, the spectacular installation and theatre production, a royal visit and the inaugural Crinan Classics Festival. In addition, a general election has seen a change in political control of the area, some wind farm applications have gone through and some haven't. And, predictably, there have been problems with the A83. *The Argyllshire Advertiser* takes you through the year in pictures.

January: Hector Stewart, James Turner and Sean D'Arcy find a valuable bust by an Italian sculptor on the Kintyre coastline while diving for otter shells. A04scu02.

February: Barney McNeill from Tarbert launches a campaign to get treatment for Ataxia, a hereditary disease affecting more than 30 members of his family. The community rallied round and by the end of the year Barney had been to China for treatment and progress was hopeful. A06bar02

April: Princess Anne talks to staff as she visits the Mid Argyll Community Hospital and Integrated Care Centre and Dochas Gallery for their official openings. A01ann01

March: Lochgilphead's answer to the Bash Street Kids at the former Sports Centre. The primary one children had just completed a football training course. A10soc01



May: New faces in the Scottish election as Jim Mather for the SNP takes Argyll and Bute from Liberal Democrat George Lyon. A19ele01

June: Pictured right is the end of the school year and sports day. Lochgilphead Primary School pupils display their winning stickers after a fun day at the Ropework Park. A24lps06

year in Mid Argyll

August: The sun was shining on Ardrishaig Gala Day this year. Caitlin Epsworth, Elizabeth MacLean and Lesley Taylor smiled for the cameras with clown Pat McGinlay. a31ard07

July: Young Ella MacNab from Tarbert at the town's seafood festival, dressed to impress in her 'angel' outfit. A28sea06

September: The grounds of Inveraray Castle were transformed by the Connect Festival which made its debut in 2007. Seasick Steve, Black Dog, Bjork and the Jesus and Mary Chain were some of the acts to wow the crowds over the weekend. a01con01

November: The saga of the A83 landslide begins another chapter with the Rest and Be Thankful closed for weeks. a44lan09

October: Coisir Og Dhail Riata won the Tom Crawford Trophy for choral singing at the Mod. a42mod01

December: Tarbert Sunday School's nativity, which included an informal discussion about the meaning of Christmas and a traditional nativity. a01nat01

Jamie McLean, a dairy farmer of highest repute

THE people of Kintyre have lost one of its most respected citizens.

Jamie McLean was born on the February 24, 1939 at Kilmaho, where he lived and farmed all his life.

His lifelong work was as a dairy farmer of the highest repute. He was at his happiest among his livestock, whether it was his highly productive dairy herd or his flock of Blackface and Leicester sheep.

When he left school, he went back to the family farm, where the McLeans had farmed prior to 1750.

He was a prominent member of Campbeltown Young Farmers Club being chairman in 1959; the secretary that year was Marilyn McGougan, who became his wife in 1962.

Jamie recognised the value of co-operation and was a keen NFU man, a Kintyre committee member for many years, he served as Area President from 1986 to 1988.

A founder member of the active Holstein Friesian Club, his herd was always among the prize winners. He was chairman in 1992 and 1993.

Jamie always saw the good in people, was a very kind, obliging person, the life and soul of any party.

He could entertain people anywhere especially on the Annual Holstein Friesian trips where much of the evening's entertainment was supplied by him in a way only he could. His Burns' *Toast to The Lassies* will never be surpassed in Kintyre.

His passing is a sad loss to all the many people of Campbeltown and the farming community.

For me, it was a privilege to know Jamie McLean.

He is survived by his wife, Marilyn and his six children Helen, Catriona, Mhairi, James, Andrew and Ailsa.

RM

Islay farmers raise a toast with Bruichladdich Distillery's Duncan McGillivray, Neil MacTaggart and Mark Reynier.

'Creamier' barley grown on Islay

ISLAY farmers have been watching with interest at how their own barley has been turned into whisky at an island distillery.

The farmers visited Bruichladdich Distillery to observe the ancient alchemy of distillation, which transfers barley into single malt whisky.

Mark French, Alastair Torrance, Gilby McCormick, James Brown, Ian McKerrell, Ian Torrance and Jim Logan watched as the first spirit made from their own barley last summer come off the stills.

Islay's Gulf-stream climate and long daylight hours make it ideal land for growing barley but many farmers had abandoned growing the crop because of low prices until Bruichladdich tried to reverse the trend.

Distillery manager Duncan McGillivray said: 'The spirit from Islay grown barley has an identity all of its own and it seems creamier than barley grown on the east coast.

'Since 2001 we have been persuading farmers to grow directly for us so we know exactly which field it comes from and how it has been grown. We are supplied by 16 farms now; six from Islay and 10 from the mainland.'

'Tracing it from the field to the barrel gives us maximum flavour individuality. As with wine each origin has its own subtle identity due to the variety, soil, exposure and technique. The farmers were competitive about whose spirit was the best.'

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First nursery trials of the season

THE FIRST Nursery Trials of the season took place at Clochkeil Farm on Saturday December 22.

With a total of 13 young dogs from as far away as Lochaber the trial was judged by Neil McEachran from Dunoon.

1 J Barr, Campbeltown, with Jaff 90pts; 2 I McConnell, Loch Eil, with Swift 72pts; 3 J Mclachlan, Spean Bridge, with June 69pts (time); 4 P Clark, Ronachan, with Bet 69pts; 5 A McCuish, Skipness, with Garry 64pts: 6 L Clark, Tarbert, with Mirk 59pts. Class 2: 1 J Casey, Campbeltown, with Ben 91pts (time); 2 A McCuish, Skipness, with Moss 91pts; 3 J McLachlan, Spean Bridge, with Taff 82pts.

The second Nursery Trial will be held at Skipness on Saturday January 5.

Crofters meet minister

THE completion of a map register of crofts, and the proposed Road Equivalent Tariff (RET) trial, were the main items on the agenda at a recent meeting of the Scottish Crofting Foundation (SCF), with environment minister Michael Russell MSP.

Chairman Norman Leask said discussion had taken place on the possibility of completing a map based register of crofts and common grazing.

On RET, Mr Leask said: 'It seems to me that since the EU has a mechanism for levelling the playing field for the peripheries, i.e. the Less Favoured Area Support Scheme, we must look seriously this time at how the scheme can support outlying areas and islands.'

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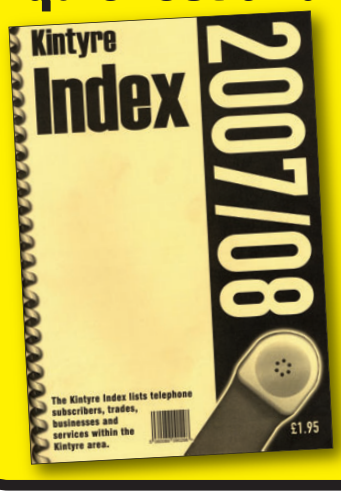

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Patersons, Carradale
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Glenbarr Stores
Tayinloan Stores
Woods Newsagents, Tarbert
Knap Newsagents, Tarbert

Panto time in Tarbert

TARBERT Academy's celebrated the end of term with the staff and pupils joining in a pantomime.

They staged their own version of Snow White at school. Written and produced by Judith Schafer, the panto was enjoyed by a wide audience as part of the school's scheme for promoting positive behaviour.

LEFT: Lillias MacAlister, Allanna Brough and May Taylor as fairies. BELOW LEFT: Jim Innes and Melissa James as the Woodsman and the Wicked Queen. TOP RIGHT: Head Girl, Katie Evamy, as Snow White. BELOW RIGHT: Fiona Mears as The Mirror. BELOW: Prince Charming, head boy, Calum MacDonald and the kiss which revived Snow White.

Brass Concert

Campbeltown Brass' annual Christmas concert at the town's community centre was a sell out as usual, amongst those who performed were the young, novice players Andy's Army (above) and the Brass Quintet (below). c51brs01&02

Tayinloan Drama Group held its debut performance before Christmas with a Variety Night at the village hall. Chairman Ryan Lowe assembled a talented cast who sang, danced and played their way to success and left their audience calling for more. Seen here are Alan McDonald and the younger cast members. c01tay01

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THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

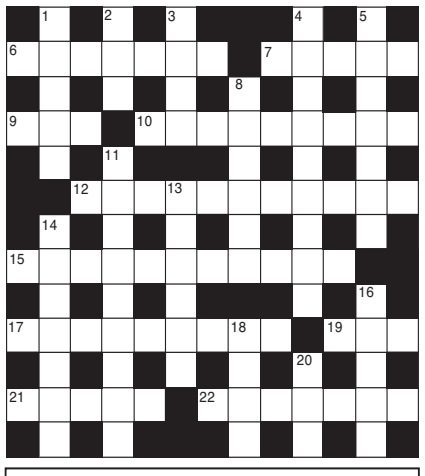
FRED CLAUSE Fred Claus has lived his entire life in his brother's very large shadow. Fred tried, but could hardly live up to the example set by the younger Nicholas, who was just a perfect, well, saint. True to form, Nicholas (a.k.a Santa Claus) grew up to be the model of giving, while Fred became the polar opposite: A great family film one not to be missed

ACROSS

6. European republic whose capital is Tirana (7)
7. Island which is the largest and most northerly of the Philippines (5)
9. Miss Thurman, Poison Ivy in the film Batman and Robin (3)
10. Spanish seaport, seat of the Republican government during the Civil War (9)
12. Orazio, Court Painter to Charles I of England whose works include The Flight into Egypt (11)
15. 1704 book by Jonathan Swift (1,4,2,1,3)
17. Shark such as Lamna nasus, also called a mackerel shark (9)
19. The Roman goddess of peace (3)
21. John, film composer associated with the James Bond series (5)
22. See 5 Down.

QUICK CLUES ACROSS

6. Door-keeper (7)
7. Ghastly (5)
9. Falsehood (3)
10. Subordinate (9)
12. Accomplice (11)
15. Opprobrious (11)
17. Great plenty (9)
19. Pledge (3)
21. Skulk (5)
22. Reveal (7)



DOWN

1. Gustav, Vienna-born painter who died in 1918 (5)
2. Sir —, the steward of King Arthur in Arthurian legend (3)
3. One of the three ships commanded by Columbus in 1492 (4)
4. Type of U.S. music hall devised by Michael Leavitt whose stars included Gypsy Rose Lee (9)
5, and 22 Across. Biblical character beheaded by Herod (4,3,7)
8. Sea nymph in Greek mythology who guarded the Straits of Messina with Charybdis (6)
11. Evergreen plant with showy flowers, also called the Christmas Rose (9)
13. The part of the human body enclosed by the ribs (6)
14. The former Turkish empire in Europe, Asia and Africa which lasted from the late 13c until the end of World War I (7)
16. Tree of tropical America whose light wood is used for making rafts (5)
18. Edward, poet who authored The Jumblies (4)
20. Seventh letter in the Greek alphabet (3)

QUICK CLUES DOWN

1. Sound (5)
2. Feeder (3)
3. Suffrage (4)
4. Bloodthirsty (9)
5. Nobleness (7)
8. Interfere (6)
11. Agreeable (9)
13. Uproar (6)
14. Disperse (7)
16. Uneven (5)
18. Manger (4)
20. Protrude (3)

SOLUTIONS TO LAST WEEK

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE - Across: 7 Earthly Powers; 8 Stronger; 9 Baez; 10 Plenty; 12 Duarte; 14 Del Rio; 16 Sawyer; 18 Ulna; 20 Europium; 22 The Two Sisters.

Down: 1 Bastille; 2 St. John; 3 Slug; 4 Sporades; 5 Swabia; 6 Tree; 11 Yeomen of; 13 The Guard; 15 Rialto; 17 Wapiti; 19 Lahr; 21 Rail.

QUICK - Across: 7 Controversial; 8 Repartee; 9 Ever; 10 Behalf; 12 Impose; 14 Assume; 16 Troupe; 18 News; 20 Dilatory; 22 Inconsiderate.

Down: 1 Hopeless; 2 Strata; 3 Fort; 4 Derelict; 5 Asleep; 6 Late; 11 Fiendish; 13 Separate; 15 Upshot; 17 Outcry; 19 Erne; 21 Lido.

Community Noticeboard

An Comunn Gaidhealach Meur Loch Fin Ceilidh na Calluin
Friday 11th January 2008
Argyll Hotel, Lochgilphead
7.30pm
Taynuilt Gaelic Choir
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Haggis Supper
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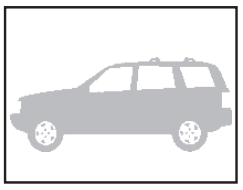

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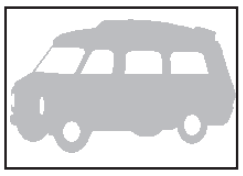

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SLK 55 AMG with new steering and even more striking appearance

Fine-tuning and even more agility for the AMG eight-cylinder roadster

The SLK 55 AMG is now even more dynamic: a new front apron and dark-tinted headlamps give this unique eight-cylinder roadster an even more athletic look even at a standstill. The handling dynamics of the SLK 55 AMG have also been sharpened. For the first time the car features the new direct steering with variable servo assistance, which makes the 360 hp two-seater even more agile and responsive. The SLK 55 AMG is also the only car in its class to feature a V8 engine, while the improved AMG SPEEDSHIFT 7G-TRONIC transmission now offers even faster gearchanges.

The appearance of the sporty roadster now reinforces the car's claim to special status even more emphatically. The redesigned front apron with a more pronounced arrow-shape, the modified Mercedes star, enlarged air dams and a black-painted transverse fin on the lower section ensure a distinctly masculine aura. Large, round foglamps with chrome surrounds are now positioned further outwards, enhancing the impression of width. The hot air from the integral engine oil cooler is vented via side outlets in the front apron. The specific AMG bodystyling also includes AMG side skirts, the muscular AMG rear apron with a black insert and the AMG spoiler lip.

New features also include dark-tinted projection-beam headlamps and larger exterior mirrors for better rearward visibility. LED indicator repeaters in an arrow design ensure more safety. Even more striking than before are the new 18-inch AMG light-alloy wheels in a multi-spoke design. Painted in titanium grey and with a high-sheen star, these provide interesting contrasts when viewed from the side. With a width of 7.5 and 8.5 inches respectively, the AMG light-alloy wheels are fitted with size 225/40 (front) and 245/35 (rear) tyres. New, high-sheen 18-inch AMG light-alloy wheels in a twin-spoke design are also available in the same sizes on request. Outstanding deceleration values are ensured by the AMG high-performance braking system with internally ventilated brake discs all-round. The front brakes have perforated discs of size 345 x 30 mm; 300 x 22 mm discs are fitted at the rear.

Newly developed direct steering with variable servo assistance
The all-new direct steering system with variable servo assistance makes for first-class handling dynamics, and makes the SLK 55 AMG even more agile. A key component of this direct steering is the newly designed steering rack. This allows a ratio spread from 15.8:1 to 11.5:1 – which the driver experiences as more responsiveness at around five degrees or more from the centred position. Variable servo assistance makes the roadster particularly agile and lively on winding roads, as the driver has less to do than before – only 2.16 turns of the wheel are required from lock to lock. This also produces considerable comfort advantages when manoeuvring at slow speeds.

The driver of the SLK 55 AMG also benefits from this outstanding controllability during high-speed manoeuvres such as the VDA lane-change test, as his hands no longer need to be repositioned on the wheel. The AMG Roadster also sets standards when it comes to straight-line stability at high speed – this is where the less direct steering configuration in the centred position has a positive effect. This is supported by the already familiar speed-sensitive servo function: the servo assistance decreases as the speed increases, which improves both handling and driving safety.

The striking bonnet with its characteristic longitudinal fins conceals the 5.5-litre AMG eight-cylinder engine, which has an output of 360 hp and develops 510 Nm of torque – figures which remain unrivalled in this segment. Enormous torque, immediate responsiveness and the typical AMG V8 sound characterise the driving experience.

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If you do not hear from us within four weeks of the closing date, you may consider, on this occasion, you have been unsuccessful.

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Lorna McDonald, Argyll College,
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E mail: lorna.mcdonald@argyllcollege.ac.uk
Fax: 01631 559519

Interviews will be held in Lochgilphead on Thursday 17th January 2008

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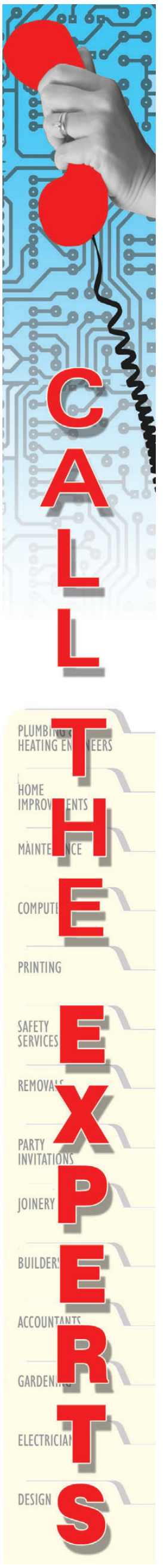

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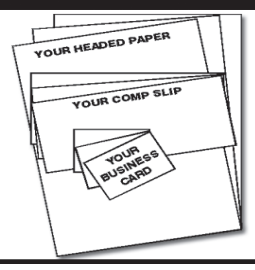

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Call into one of our four West Highland sales offices with your advert and one of our sales team will take your details.
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PLEASE NOTE: DEADLINE MONDAY 4.00pm

TO ADVERTISERS -
- Only 1 item per coupon
- No cars or parts
- No boats or parts
- No livestock
- No business ads or traders
- All adverts will appear space permitting
- All advertisements must be on a valid coupon
- Coupon must be from the previous weeks newspaper

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FORT WILLIAM : The Oban Times, Mamore House, The Parade, Fort William PH33 6BA
CAMPBELTOWN : The Campbeltown Courier, Courier Centre, Main & Longrow South, Campbeltown, Argyll PA28 6AE
LOCHGILPHEAD : Argyllshire Advertiser, Argyll Street, Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8NB

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BY POST - Fill in the booking form below and send it with your booking fee and details to our Oban office.

BY PHONE - Call 01631 568000 and ask for "Private Classifieds".

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TO ADVERTISERS
- No trade advertisers in private sales
- All boats, cars & trailers must appear in Drive Times (see coupon on motors page for details

Pay by cash, cheque, Postal Order, or Credit Card payable to "The Oban Times Ltd"

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Name .....
Address.....
Postcode.....Tel.....

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LOCHGILPHEAD : Argyllshire Advertiser, Argyll Street, Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8NB

TEXT FOR THE WEEK

'Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Saviour' (Titus 1:4).

ENGAGEMENTS

BRODIE –

McALISTER - Both families are delighted to announce the engagement on Saturday, December 22, 2007, of Paul, younger son of Kenneth and Alison Brodie to Karen, only daughter of Ian and Mary McAlister.

DEATHS

FITZPATRICK - Suddenly and tragically at the Mid Argyll Hospital, Lochgilphead on December 26, 2007, Terry Fitzpatrick, aged 51 years, of 20 MacDonald Terrace, Lochgilphead. Beloved and adored husband of Viv and much loved son of Terry (Snr) and the late Mabel. Father to Michelle. Step-father to Clair, Nicola and Lynne and grandpa of Stevie, Joseph, Rebecca, Natasha, Joshua, Jake and Buba Logan. A dear brother, work colleague and friend to many. Funeral service was held in Lochgilphead Parish Church on Monday, December 31, 2007, followed by interment at Achnabreac Cemetery.

GATT – Peacefully at the Campbeltown Hospital, on December 30, 2007, Margaret McCuish in her 59th year, 16 Albyn Avenue, Campbeltown, dearly loved mother of Edward, Kareen and David and a much loved granny of Kareen, Caerla, Steffan and Dhyllon. Service in the Highland Parish Church Campbeltown on Friday, January 4, 2008, at 1.00 pm. Funeral thereafter to Kilkerran Cemetery. Friends please accept this intimation and invitation. Family flowers only please. A retiral collection will be held in the church in aid of the Acute Ward, Campbeltown Hospital.

MACFARLANE - Peacefully at the Lynne of Lorne Nursing Home, Benderloch on December 26, 2007, Margaret MacFarlane in her 97th year, of 47 Highbank Park, Lochgilphead. Beloved wife of the late Peter and loving mother of Celia and much loved Auntie. A dear neighbour and friend to many. Funeral service was held at Achnabreac Cemetery on Friday, December 28, 2007.

MCARTHUR – Peacefully at the Campbeltown Hospital on December 30, 2007, Mary Luke Graham in her 79th year, 7 Front Row, Drumlemble, dearly beloved wife of the late Donald McArthur, much loved mother of David, Mary, Catherine and the late Donald, a dearly loved granny and great granny and a loving sister of Jessie. Service in the Lorne and Lowland Parish Church on Saturday, January 5, 2008 at 1.00 pm. Funeral thereafter to Kilkerran Cemetery. Friends please accept this intimation and invitation. Family flowers only please. A retiral collection will be held in the church in aid of the MacMillan Nurses and Cancer Palliative Care Services, Campbeltown.

PYLE – Peacefully, at the Western Infirmary, Glasgow, on December 30, 2007, Edward Kenneth Pyle, in his 84th year, Cardhu, Kilkerran Road, Campbeltown, dearly beloved husband of Catherine McMaster and a much loved father, grandfather and great-grandfather. Service in St Kieran's R.C. Church on Friday, January 4, 2008 at 10.00 am. Funeral thereafter to Kilkerran Cemetery. Friends please accept this intimation and invitation.

RIOCH - Peacefully at the Lorn and Islands District General Hospital, Oban, after a short illness on December 27, 2007, James Gordon Rioch (Jimmy) in his 89th year, 31 Davaar Avenue, Campbeltown, beloved husband of the late Etta Reppke and the late Mollie Pryde, most loving father of Catherine Anne, dear father-in-law of Calum and proud and devoted grandpa of Rhona and Aileen.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CAMPBELL - Bella and family would like to thank most sincerely all relatives, friends and neighbours for their kind expressions of sympathy, flowers, letters and cards following Gilbert's death. Special thanks are due to all local doctors and nurses, in particular Sister Wardrop and all staff in the Bengullion Ward for the unstinting care and kindness Gilbert received during his stay there. We are also grateful to Rev Michael Lind for comforting and uplifting services at both Church and graveside, Alasdair Blair for professional funeral arrangements and Argyll Hotel, Campbeltown for catering. The retiring collection realised the sum of £589 in aid of Bengullion Ward for which we wish to extend our thanks.

MACFARLANE - Celia would like to thank all who attended the graveside service for her Mum, Margaret. Your presence was much appreciated. Special thanks to Rev Hilda Smith for a lovely service and to all who have offered their sympathy and words of support at this sad time.

IN MEMORIAMS

McKINLAY - In loving memory of Barbara (nee Paterson) who died January 4, 2004.
We will never cease to miss you
As the years may come and go
You will live with us forever
Because we love you so
As long as we have memories
As long as we have tears
You will never be forgotten
Not in a million years
Loved and remembered every day.
- Your husband William and all the family.

McMILLAN - In loving memory of my dear husband William (Bill), who died January 5, 2000.
God saw you getting tired
When a cure was not to be
He closed his arms around you
And whispered come to me
So keep your arms around him Lord
And give him special care
Make up for all he suffered
And all that seemed unfair.
- From his wife Mary, sons Robert and Laurence and all the family at home and away.

ROBERTSON - In loving memory of Davie, a dear dad and father-in-law who died January 4, 2007.
A loving heart stopped beating
As we watched you slip away
Our hearts were truly broken
As you fought so hard to stay
God saw you were so tired
The cure was not to be
He put his arms around you
And whispered come to me.
Forever in our thoughts
- Lynn and James.

TAYLOR - In loving memory of Tom, dear husband, father and grandpa who died December 30, 1998.
Time changes many things but love and memory ever clings.
- Mary and family.

ECCLESIASTICAL NOTICES

Argyll Street, Campbeltown
(A Province of the Anglican Communion)
Scottish Charity No SC 023277
Sunday 6th January 2008
The Epiphany
8.30am Holy Communion
10.45am Morning Prayer
Details of Church Services are on the door
Enquiries to
Revd A J Williamson
Telephone **01586 551478**

LIVING STONES CHRISTIAN CENTRE KILMARTIN
Sunday 6 January 2008
11.00am
Worship Service for all ages
followed by light lunch
Speaker: Graham McLean
Thursday 10 January 2008
7.30pm
Praise, worship & sharing
All Welcome
"Come and see"

ARDRISHAIG AND SOUTH KNAPDALE PARISHES
Sunday 6th January
Ardrishaig at 11:00am
Achahoish at 12:30pm

LOCHGILPHEAD PARISH CHURCH
Sunday 6th January 2008
Service at 11am
Rev Hilda Smith.
All Welcome

CAMPBELTOWN FULL GOSPEL CHURCH

Sunday Worship Service
Aqualibrium Conference Room
11 a.m.
Mid Week Bible Study & Prayer
Enquiries to
Rev. D. Stuart McLean
Telephone **01586 551016**
Everyone very welcome

Highland Parish Church

Sunday 6th January 2008
11.15am Morning Worship
Rev Catriona Hood
Creche (Church for 0-3yrs)
No FunDay Club
(resumes Sun 13th)
No Evening service
Monday 7th January
7.30pm Guild – Kirk St Hall
Tuesday 8th January
Badminton Club
6.30pm – 7.45pm:P1 – P5
7.45pm – 9.00pm:P6 upwards
Rev Michael J Lind
Everyone very welcome

LORNE AND LOWLAND PARISH CHURCH
SUNDAY 6TH JANUARY 2008
Morning Worship 11.15am
Rev Philip Burroughs
Rev.Dr Kirsty-Ann Burroughs
Tuesday 8 January 2008
9.45am Mothers & toddlers
Thursday 10 January 2008
7.30 Choir Practice
Friday 11th January 2008
12.15pm Lunch Club

THE SALVATION ARMY
Burnside Street
Campbeltown
Sunday Worship
10.30am and 6.30pm
Tuesday
Over 60's Luncheon Club -12.30pm
Thursday 11.30am
Meat n'Eat Café
New to you Stall
Bible Study 7pm
Major Dolores Thomson

GLASSARY KILMARTIN AND FORD PARISH CHURCH
Sunday 6th January 2008
Glassary 10am
Please note time change
Preacher John Morrison
All most welcome

ST COLUMBAS POLTALLOCH
9am Eucharist
CHRIST CHURCH LOCHGILPHEAD
11am Eucharist

LOCHGILPHEAD BAPTIST CHURCH
All Welcome
Pastor Rev Derek Gibson
Sunday 6th January 2008
with communion
11.00am Morning Service
Evening Service 6.30pm
Monday - Ladies Meeting 2.30pm
Mrs Heather Allan
Tarbert
Jumpstart Group
Friday 10.00 - 11.30am
Come along and join us
Friday 11th January 2008
6.30pm - 8.00pm
'The Edge' Kids Club
Christmas Party
5yrs to 11yrs
All welcome

SPRINGBANK EVANGELICAL CHURCH

75 Longrow, Campbeltown
Sunday Services
10.a.m Breaking of Bread
10.45a.m. Coffee
11.15.a.m ..... All age service
All Welcome
For details of the bible studies, fellowship group & other enquiries
Please contact the church office
01586 551200
www.springbankchurch.co.uk
Pastor: **Chris Holden**
For **Furniture Recycling Project** call **01586 551547**

NORTH KNAPDALE PARISH CHURCH
Morning Worship
Sunday 6th January 2008
Inverlussa Church 11.30am
(please note new worship time)
Worship led by John Morrison
All welcome
Enquiries **01546 606926**
www.argyllcommunities.org/NKNAPDALECOFS

THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND CUMLODDEN LOCHFYNESIDE AND LOCHGAIR
Sunday 6th January 2008
Your God will be with you wherever you go
(Joshua 1:9)
CUMLODDEN (Furnace) 10.30 am
LOCHFYNESIDE (Minard) 12 noon
LOCHGAIR 3 pm
Rev. Roderick MacLeod
Ceud mile fàilte
ALL WELCOME
Cumlodden & Lochfyneside Guild
Wednesday 9th January
Cumlodden Church Hall
2.30 pm
NOTE CHANGE OF DATE

TARBERT LINKED WITH KILBERRY PARISH CHURCH
Sunday 6th January 2008
Tarbert Church 11.30am
Margaret Sinclair
Interim Moderator
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Everyone very welcome

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Association president hits back

Shinty

CAMANACHD Association president John Mackenzie has publically defended the organisation following the resignation of two of its members.

In his Christmas and New Year message to the clubs and members he criticised those who were 'attacking' the association and its board. His words came in the same week the association recruited David MacMaster of Strathpeffer, who will take over the responsibility for fixtures and competitions on Tuesday.

He will become competitions facilitator until a competitions director is chosen at the association's annual meeting on April 25.

Mr MacMaster replaces Richard Gall on the board following the resignations of Mr Gall and Allan MacLeod, manager of competition and rules.

Mr Mackenzie said: 'What has happened over the last two weeks has been extremely unfortunate for shinty and the individuals concerned.

'The association is strong enough as an organisation to survive this situation and I know that a great deal of hard work is being done to ensure that everything is in place for moving ahead.

'I am at the same time disappointed with the way in which attacks on the association and its board members are being personalised by people who cannot possibly be in the possession of the full picture.

'The past year has been an extremely challenging one and yet there have been plenty of moments where shinty showed itself at its best. Nothing that has happened in the last ten days will be allowed to detract from that.'

Camanachd Association president John Mackenzie

Lotto draws

DUE TO festive printing deadlines, the lottery numbers are a week behind this week. In Kilmory Camanachd Club's draw, the numbers were 9, 12 and 18. There were no winners with a jackpot this week of £800.

Inveraray Shinty Club's numbers were 5, 9 and 14. No winners were found with a jackpot of £300 this week.

Tarbert aim to bounce back

Football

TARBERT are due to play a league match at home to Cambria B tomorrow, Saturday, January 5.

The West Loch Shores/Islay Frigate Hotel-sponsored side are hoping to bounce back from their derby defeat to Red Star by winning their first game of the new year.

Kick-off is at Cil Andreis at 2pm.

The referee will be David Mitchell from Oban.

MacAulay makes it a hat-trick of victories

Golf

FOR THE third straight week Alec MacAulay was victorious in Lochgilphead Golf Club's Winter League.

He has climbed up to third place overall in the league and is a very good bet to retain his trophy.

In second place was Kenneth MacAulay who, as mentioned last week, always plays well when the conditions are difficult.

Jim Hunter, who had been practising his game non-stop in the Canary Islands, did not like the frosty conditions during the first nine holes. However, on the back nine he scored two eagles and two birdies to finish in third place.

Ross Sinclair has been playing so consistently well that his seven points for fourth place were forfeited using a format designed by himself enabling his nemesis Eric Capocci who was fifth, to move closer to him at the top of the leader board. Iain MacInnes has not played much this winter but a solid back nine holes put him in sixth position on a countback. The years go by but some people just get better with age. Tommy Angus is playing like a teenager who actually does their homework and passed any test the tough Lochgilphead course set him.

Robbie Wilson was eighth again on the count back and would have been further up the leaderboard if it had not been for a pulled tee shot at the fourth.

David Sinclair was striking the ball well but yet again his putting did not have the X-Factor. He will need some miracles to come true or he will be playing in the duffers derby with John Downie. The last point went to Tom Campbell who had a great first nine holes but tired on the back nine.

Results: 10 A.Macaulay, 9 K.MacAulay, 8 J.Hunter, 7 R.Sinclair, 6 E.Capocci, 5 I.MacInnes, 4 T.Angus, 3 R.Wilson, 2 D.Sinclair, 1 T.Campbell. League Positions (week 12 out of 20): 73 R.Sinclair, 62 E.Capocci, 56 A.MacAulay, 52 K.Cowan, 44 T.Angus, 36 K.Macaulay, 34 T.Campbell, 34 D.Carmichael, 31 H.Strachan.

WIN £1000 JACKPOT

Spot The BALL Competition

All you have to do

We have removed the football 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 10 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 £250 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.

Entry will be void if crosses overlap. 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 (note not coin) per 10 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to reach "Spot the Ball" Competition, The Campbeltown Courier, Courier Centre, Main & Longrow South, Campbeltown, Argyll PA28 6AE by **4pm on** Tuesday. You may hand it into The Courier Centre, Main & Longrow South, Campbeltown 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 will be 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 persons otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.

LAST WEEK'S BALL WAS HERE. . .

This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:
C & D Mactaggart Girls, Castlehill, Campbeltown and
C Mathieson, Torchoillean, Campbeltown

I enclose £1 (note) for 10 crosses (tick box) ❑ The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 10, 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. Ten crosses may be put on this coupon for £1. Crosses must not overlap

Name_____

Address_____

_____ Tel No._____

Send to **'Spot the Ball' Competition, Campbeltown Courier, Courier Centre, Main & Longrow South, Campbeltown, Argyll PA28 6AE**

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Argyll squads selected

Mid Argyll has strong representation in older age groups

Athletics

AFTER a successful Argyll Sports Hall Athletics Final, held at Atlantis Leisure in Oban on December 15, four teams have now been selected to represent Argyll at the South of Scotland Final.

The final will be held at Meadowbank Stadium in Edinburgh on Saturday, January 26.

Successful teams at the south Final will progress to the Scottish final in Dundee on Sunday, March 2.

The provisional team selections are as follows:

Under 15 Boys - Iain McDowall, Craig Tomison, David Black and Andrew McDowall [all Tobermory High School], Colin Campbell and Nicol Ferguson [Lochgilphead High School], Gary Turner of Campbeltown Grammar.

Under 15 Girls – Eilidh Campbell [Lochgilphead High School], Lisa MacKenzie [Oban High School], Nicola Paterson, Nicole Anderson and Ruth Semple [all Campbeltown Grammar], Katrina and Georgina Durie of Tobermory High School.

Under 13 Boys – Stuart Tomison, Rory Tait, Kyle MacLean, Ciaran Whyte [all Tobermory High School], Cullen McClymont [Salen Primary], Cameron MacLean, Angus Sinclair, Roheel Arshad [all Oban High School], Craig Lamont and Grant Jackson [Campbeltown Grammar], Toby Corner {Lochgilphead High School], Duncan MacLean [Achaleven Primary].

Under 13 Girls – Kerri Robertson, Kathryn Howell and Leslie Hume [all Campbeltown Grammar], Amanda O'Donnell and Claire Brown [Tobermory High], Anmol Arshad, Kelly Lamont , Lauren Cameron and Alison Mailey [all Oban High], Sian Henderson [Salen Primary], Rachael O'May [Castlehill Primary] and Ida Berge [Park Primary].

Team members will be advised of the travel arrangements by letter through their schools in early January.

For more information on the south regional final contact Bill MacCallum on 01546 602664.

Pictured are the Red Star players who played in the Argyll and Bute Cup, the last time Star played in Oban.

Waterlogged pitch cancels Red Star match

Host team disappointed at decision to close all-weather astroturf

Football

THE friendly match between Oban Saints and Lochgilphead Red Star, due to be played at Mossfield or Glencruitten in Oban last Saturday, had to be called off due to the heavy rain which left the playing surface waterlogged.

The hosts had originally planned to play the game on the new Oban Community Pitch at Oban High School, to make sure the fixture would go ahead, but unfortunately a decision was made to close the pitch over the Christmas and New Year holiday period and it does not reopen again until the school goes back on January 7.

Saints secretary David Buchanan said: 'It was very frustrating that we had to call the game off when the grass pitches in the town were unplayable knowing that the Community Pitch would have been in perfect condition and the game would definitely have gone ahead.'

Red Star will hope to continue their good form into the New Year as they push for promotion.

Drimsynie Ice Rink

Curling league final standings

Curling

Monday

	P	Pts
Team Cluny	5	8
Dun. Ladies 2	6	7
Fyne Team	5	6
Dun Ladies 1	5	6
Oban	5	6
Upper Cowal	5	4
Stra'lachlan	6	3
Mike the Knife	5	2

Tuesday

	P	Pts
Drim. Const.	6	12
Drim Office	6	10
Sandbank	5	6
Ben. Kilmun 1	6	6
Tighnabruaich	4	4
Dun. Argyll 1	6	4
Lochgoil	5	1
Ben. Kilmun 2	6	1

Thursday

	P	Pts
Big Deal	6	11
Tighnabruaich	6	11
Arrochar	4	4
Cairndow	6	4
Dun Argyll 2	5	2
Glen Orchy	5	0

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