

# The Oban Times

## & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Established 1861 No 7878

Thursday, February 21, 2008

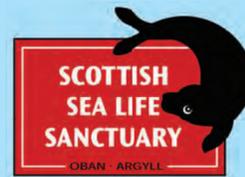
www.obantimes.co.uk

67 pence



### EXCLUSIVE

## Scottish Sea Life Sanctuary boost for local residents



### Hope in council dispute

HOPES grew this week that a compromise will soon be reached between Argyll and Bute Council and staff.

Around 1,500 Argyll and Bute Council workers struck for three days recently over disputes concerning pay restructuring and conditions.

The industrial action caused chaos when icy roads were left with grit and lifeline ferry services came to a halt.

However, the strike action was suspended last Thursday.

Unison's Donald Brown said this week that members are feeling positive about the outcome of recent talks, adding: 'We will ballot members within the next couple of weeks to see if the conditions tabled by the council are going to be acceptable.'

'We are trying to organise various meetings with council departments to discuss matters further. It doesn't seem to me that the council will give much more than they are offering now.'

### Man, 81, in bike crash

AN 81-YEAR-OLD North Connell man had a lucky escape after crashing his motorbike.

The accident took place at Invercreran roundabout, near Appin, around 12.35pm on Sunday.

Police and an ambulance attended the scene and the man was taken to Oban, Lorn and the Islands District General Hospital where it emerged he had not suffered serious injuries.



Disgruntled Luining ferrymen Tony Gannon, Alasdair MacFadyen and John Connell. 1081ui01

## Ferrymen left with sinking feeling over pay and holidays

THREE Luining ferrymen claim they have been left high and dry by Argyll and Bute Council which has classed them as 'part-time' workers.

John Connell, Alasdair MacFadyen and Tony Gannon learned this week that their annual leave is to be cut from 28 days to 12 days plus public holidays.

It comes on the back of single status pay proposals which will see them thousands of pounds out of pocket.

The ferrymen, who are all trained skippers of the *Belnahua* which crosses the Cuan Sound between the mainland and Luining, say the procedure for determining their pay and conditions has been 'completely ignored'.

Mr Connell and Mr MacFadyen live in tied houses on Seil while Mr Gannon stays on Luining.

Mr Connell said: 'We were to do a self-assessment about our jobs

Report by HUGH ROSS

last year and then speak to a senior manager about it. It is a scoring system where you grade your job and are supposed to come to a mutual agreement with the manager. If not it would go to a third party. But nobody from the council has been to see me at all. The first we knew about it was when the rotas arrived on Monday morning.

'Because we work a shift system we work a three-day week but that is not a normal nine to five job. We work 41 hours a week but the council is classing us as being part-time.'

Mr MacFadyen says that skippers working in the Shetland Isles have been credited with 100 more points in their self-assessments by its local authority - doing the same job carried out by Argyll skippers. 'We are not looking for astronomical wages

but fair pay and conditions,' he said.

Mr Gannon said: 'The council is not following its own process. It has decided what it wants to achieve and is set to carry it out so in the meantime we have to work with the new pay and conditions.'

Neil Brown, the council's area roads engineer, said: 'Their working days are slightly irregular but the Cuan ferrymen are not working the number of days you would normally expect a full-time worker to do.'

'We didn't have every ferry worker evaluated; it was just a sample of the workforce. If we were to evaluate every council worker we'd still be doing it in 20 years' time. Two different ferrymen were evaluated in this instance.'

Employment tribunals for council workers disputing their new pay and working conditions are expected to be held later this year.

## Village split over 250-job development

Report by JACKIE GRANT

A VILLAGE is split over plans for a development that could create 250 highly-skilled jobs.

Proposals have been lodged by Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) Argyll and the Islands to create a multi-million pound marine science park in Dunbeg, adjacent to the successful Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) laboratory.

The new development could bring 250 high quality marine science research and development jobs over the next decade. SAMS, which supports 140 jobs, has developed a worldwide reputation since it was established.

However, resistance is growing among villagers to the plans. Objectors have leafleted residents warning that the proposals would be detrimental to the neighbourhood, with the loss of key open space and a dramatic increase in traffic.

Opponents also say the proposed site, at Dunstaffnage Mains Farm, is the only green space for the community to hold events such as the Dunstaffnage Music Festival.

### Dunbeg marine science park plan meets opposition

At the meeting held in Dunbeg Primary School last week, village resident Ruth Moodie, said: 'It is a resource that we won't be able to replace. Losing it would have a detrimental impact on the neighbourhood's rural appearance.'

Diane Waddell, senior project manager for HIE Argyll and the Islands Enterprise, told the meeting that planning consent would allow HIE to buy the field, carry out a full economic study and take forward design proposals.

Despite assuring villagers that access to the public beach would be maintained, many locals raised concerns regarding road safety and the ability of the existing road infrastructure to cope with increased traffic.

A Traffic Impact Assessment in connection with the proposals is under way, but the only road that leads to the development zone is Kirk Road - described by residents as 'dangerous'.

One woman said: 'That road has

to be sorted. It is getting impossible for mums with pushchairs and children on bikes, especially in the summer. The traffic will increase further when work on the development begins.'

Kirk Road residents recently received a copy of plans for a new access road, part of which was shown to go through the village football pitch.

However, claims that the pitch had been gifted to village and could not be used without residents' permission were dismissed by Argyll and Bute Council this week when it confirmed it owned that piece of land.

Residents at the meeting also voiced their concern that they were being asked to approve the proposed development despite HIE being vague about the plans.

Dunbeg Community Council chairwoman, Gwyneth Neil, said she believed the community stands to gain a lot if the development goes ahead.

Community councillor Alec Cameron, who has lived in Dunbeg for 50 years, also believes the new addition to SAMS would benefit the village. 'Although the finished development would attract high-profile jobs, there is likely to be the opportunity of employment for other workers while it is being built. I would be very happy to see some of the unemployed in the village get work.'

He claimed the main objectors to the development appeared to be 'white settlers' who were relatively new to the village.



A draft plan shows the new proposed development, left in blue, adjacent to the existing SAMS laboratory.



### Spring Weddings

For Beautiful Brides

The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES  
Wedding Feature  
on THURSDAY  
February 28th

Don't let your business miss out on this wonderful opportunity to advertise your products and services

Tel: 01631 568000

## Argyll Hotel put up for auction

A FRESHLY-painted Oban hotel and a former nunnery are to come under the hammer in the town's first property auction in more than 30 years.

The Argyll Hotel, which was at the centre of a bizarre painting row between the local authority and owner Thomas Rothschild, will be sold in April.

Mr Rothschild was ordered by Argyll and Bute Council and the Scottish government to whitewash the dilapidated building after it was described as an 'eyesore' in the town.

He finally whitewashed the hotel last December after a year-long stand-off.

But Mr Rothschild has now put forward the

hotel for sale in the auction being held by DM MacKinnon Estates. It has planning consent for a conversion into flats or as public bar and restaurant.

The former Carmelite Monastery behind the old Rockfield school building is also up for sale. The nunnery closed seven years ago as only four nuns were left and is now being offered for sale by its owner with planning permission for a conversion into five luxury flats.

Paul Nicoll of DM MacKinnon told *The Oban Times* that the property auction is believed to be the first in the town since 1975.

'We have had a lot of interest in the auction,' he said. 'It is a good way of getting the best value

for what is being sold or bought. It will be down to the highest bidder on the day. We felt it was a good idea for people wanting to sell property or land and it can also be for any unusual buildings they own.'

'We are hoping to hold property auctions every four months or so following the first one.'

Around 100 people are expected to attend the auction at Oban's Caledonian Hotel on April 25.

There is still time to register lots with a full catalogue of the auction to be published next month. The auction co-ordinator Jacqui Wilson is also able to provide details of the planning consents which come with the Argyll Hotel and other lots.

Book your table on the pier  
When your birthday's getting near  
Piazza's where to celebrate  
On your most important date

North Pier, Oban Tel 01631 563628  
www.piazzaoban.com

The Isles of Glencoe Hotel & Leisure Club  
**FANTASTIC FEBRUARY SALE**  
20 Leisure Memberships  
only £10 per month\*

Tired all the time?  
Whether you need to kick-start your energy levels or want to boost your immune system, we can give you a head start.

ASK TO TALK TO LORNA AT RECEPTION OR CALL  
**01855 811 602**

\*Subject to availability and for new members only. Offer ends February 29, 2008.

## Rescue helicopters scrambled three times

RESCUE helicopters from HMS Gannet in Prestwick were scrambled three times over 36 hours at the weekend to airlift climbers off Ben Nevis.

In the first incident just after midday on Friday, a lone climber got stuck in Gardyloo Gully on the north face and called for help. Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team lowered the climber 300 metres to the glen floor, from where he was airlifted to Belford Hospital, Fort William. He was released without treatment. Then at 4.30pm police at Fort William were notified that a man in a party of three had fallen above the zig-zags on the tourist track up Ben Nevis. The man was airlifted off the mountain and taken to Belford Hospital for treatment to a leg injury.

On Saturday two climbers made a navigational error coming off the summit in poor visibility and ended up lost in the dangerous Five Finger Gully. Four members of Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team were helicoptered up the mountain to begin the search, while five others followed on foot. The climbers were equipped with whistles but because of the terrain the team spent most of the night trying to find them. The climbers were in good spirits when found, and walked off the mountain.

Meanwhile, a woman member of a climbing party of 14 from Edinburgh was airlifted from Coire Odhar, Glen Etive, on Sunday afternoon after falling 50 metres down a gully.

Glencoe Rescue Team attended the casualty and a helicopter from HMS Gannet took her to Belford Hospital, where she was treated for her injuries.



## Glencoe Massacre remembered

CLAN Donald representatives David J MacDonald, Kirkcaldy, Ray MacDonald, Alaska, Steven MacDonald, Kirkcaldy, David MacDonald, Skye, and president Norman H MacDonald stand in solemn silence at the Celtic Cross Monument in Glencoe last week.

Around 80 MacDonalds from across the world assembled to commemorate the 316th anniversary of The Massacre of Glencoe, when

on February 13 1692 King William's troops murdered dozens of MacLan MacDonalds and dozens of fleeing women and children died of exposure.

Glencoe Primary School children mingled with clan members to hear Rev Canon Dr Emsley Nimmo and John MacFarlane from Taynuilt lead an open air midday service in Gaelic and English.

Full story, page 7. #07glenc01

# Widow's promise to keep helping transplant unit

Exclusive

By STEPHEN NORRIS

THE WIDOW of Lochaber's second heart transplant patient has vowed to continue fund-raising for the hospital unit that gave her husband a new life.

Hazel White, of Upper Achintore, Fort William, lost her husband Russell earlier this month, nine years and three months after he received a new heart at the Royal Infirmary in Glasgow.

Russell, aged 58, died suddenly on February 5 after suffering a heart attack at the family home in Ross Place while waiting to have a leaking valve in his heart repaired.

Since Russell's transplant in November 1998, the couple raised an estimated £7,000 for the Royal's transplant unit, holding monthly car boot sales first at the Nevis centre, then latterly in Caol Community Centre.

Now Hazel, 53, has courageously decided to carry on campaigning for the unit that gave Russell almost 10 years of extra life.

She told *The Oban Times*: 'Russell was just over the moon about getting his new heart, he could not believe he had been given a second chance. He never moaned, never groaned about it, and was very appreciative about the family who had given him his new heart. He was just waiting to have a valve replaced, but he did not make it. He had a massive heart attack out of the blue. He had nine years and three months extra in this life that I don't



Hazel and daughter Corale with a picture of Russell and his eldest granddaughter, Sophie. #08tra01

think he would have had if he had not got a donor, and two grand kids that he would never have seen either.

'So now I'm going to get back into the fund-raising, full swing. I'm going to do an abseil in August with my friend off Ardnamurchan lighthouse. I'm also going to start the car boot sales again in April.

'I'm going to go out there and get more money raised for the new hospital. They are moving the whole transplant unit to the Jubilee Hospital in Clydebank.'

Hazel is still struggling to come to terms with losing her husband, whose funeral was in Duncansburgh Parish Church last Thursday. But she feels Russell, a former machine operator and supervisor at BSW's sawmill in Corpach, would want her to continue fund-raising.

She said: 'Russell would

have wanted me to carry on. He will be looking down on me to make sure I do. He will be looking down saying 'you've not tied that car boot sale sign up right', I know he will.

'He had been given a second chance at life and he took it to like a duck to water, making up quiz sheets and going round all the offices and everyone he knew with them.

'We started fund-raising for the Royal right away after his transplant, and did that until last year.'

Russell leaves behind Hazel, two daughters, Lyana and Corale, and two grandchildren, six year-old Sophie and three year-old Erin.

His transplant meant he could watch his granddaughters growing up, but tragically did not live long enough to see Corale's wedding, which is planned for July 26.

Hazel added: 'I'm doing this partly in memory of Russell and partly because I feel I need to do it. I like helping people and there's always someone out there who needs something.

'I would say to families, please keep donating, and to everyone, get a donor card. It must be hell when a surgeon comes to you and says your loved one is not going to recover and we need your permission to use his organs. Your first reaction is don't touch that body.

'But I have seen families six or seven months down the line and they said 'we wish we had donated.'

## Community reception before GP interviews

THE GROUP set up to find a GP to replace Dr Maris Buchanan at 'The Pines' in Acharacle is to hold a 'community reception' in early April the evening before interviewing candidates for the post.

A meeting of the group last week agreed the community would be represented on the selection panel by the chairpersons of West Ardnamurchan, Sunart and Acharacle community councils.

Information packs will be sent out to candidates interested in the post, which will be advertised widely.

## Turbines get go ahead

COMMUNITY-OWNED North Harris Estate has been given the go ahead to build three wind turbines under Clisham, the highest hill in the Western Isles.

Comhairle nan Eilean granted permission to The North Harris Trust on Monday for the three 86-metre turbines at Monan, three miles north west of Tarbert.

Local people now hope to go on to emulate Gigha's success in harnessing renewable energy to regenerate the local economy.

David Cameron, spokesperson for the North Harris Trust, which represents 700 residents said: 'We are over the moon to hear that this development now has full planning permission.

'This renewable energy project will substantially reduce our carbon emissions and it will help North Harris re-establish itself as a thriving, vibrant community.

'Community-scale renewable developments are not just a nice green idea. They open the possibility of re-invigorating communities

where development options are few or non-existent.'

Backers of the community bid, The John Muir Trust (JMT), welcomed the decision.

JMT's partnership manager Mick Blunt said: 'Turbines of this size are never going to be invisible, but their visual impact will be nothing like that of the huge schemes proposed for the neighbouring island of Lewis - and all the profits from the North Harris project will return to the local community. We believe that the modest impact of this development is a price worth paying to help the survival of the community that lives and works in this magnificent area.'

The North Harris Trust aims to use the funds raised from the wind development to encourage new businesses to set up in the area and to address the area's chronic employment and housing problems. Gigha turned its fortunes around in 2004 when its turbines came on stream to produce around two thirds of the island's electricity needs.

## Coastguard in helicopter exercise

OBAN Coastguard took part in a training exercise at the weekend with one of the Stornoway-based Coastguard helicopters.

The Sikorsky S-92 type helicopter flew from its Isle of Lewis base to Oban Airport and was 'on scene' at North Connel in under 40 minutes, where it and its four-man crew were joined by the Oban Coastguard team led by sector manager Kenneth Devine.

After a guided tour of the helicopter, which has an increased operational range and speed plus a variety of hi-tech improvements such as forward-looking infra red and low light cameras, coastguard team members went through a series of training procedures relating to the use of the aircraft and then flew with the crew to various points within the area to experience how the aircraft handled.

The helicopter then moved off-shore to take part in a simulated evacuation by high-speed winch from Oban lifeboat in Loch Linnhe before returning to base.



Members of Oban Coastguard, with sector manager Kenny Devine, centre, and the Sikorsky S-92 helicopter. #08hel01

## New homes to be affordable

BUILDING work is likely to start in May on the next phase of Oban's Glenshellach housing development.

Homebuilders M&K MacLeod has submitted a planning application for the next 80 houses to go up on the £3.5 million development at Glengallan Road, 56 of which are to be affordable.

The affordable part of the development is being built for West Highland Housing Association.

Ranging from one-bed to three-bed and detached to semi-detached.

It is hoped the development will include Homestake houses, where young people, first-time buyers and those on lower incomes have the chance to buy upwards of 51 per cent of the property.

A spokeswoman for M&K MacLeod told *The Oban Times* this week: 'The Homestake scheme is a great way for getting younger people into home ownership.'

## Fury over 20 per cent increase in ferry fares

By ROY BARFORD

ARDNAMURCHAN community councils say they will 'do whatever it takes' to reverse the Highland Council's decision to increase Corran Ferry fares by 20 per cent from April 1.

Three major haulage companies and Shiel Buses are now likely to boycott the ferry and use the 15-mile single-track detour on the A861.

The community council chairpersons of Ardgour, Acharacle, Morvern, Sunart and West Ardnamurchan are discussing possible avenues to prevent the increase, which they believe will have a massive negative effect on the 2,500 people living and working on the peninsula.

Ardgour chairman David Corrigan said Ardnamurchan communities were particularly angry they weren't consulted prior to the decision, taken last Thursday and that many Ardnamurchan families had two cars using the ferry every day.

'These families will therefore be spending



Community council chairpersons, left to right: David Corrigan, Ardgour; Jim Bolton, Morvern; Joan Madden, Sunart, and Donald MacGillivray of Shiel Buses are strongly opposing the increase in Corran Ferry fares. #08cor01

around £350 more each year just on ferry tickets,' he told *The Oban Times*. 'Fish farms are going to have to pay more for their feed and

building supplies are going to become a lot more expensive, just to give two examples.'

Mr Corrigan said Ferguson Transport, TSB Mull and Boyd Brothers, have informed him of their intentions to boycott the ferry from April.

In response to residents' concerns about more lorries on the A861, Chief Inspector John Chisholm of Fort William Police Station said it was the haulage companies' prerogative to decide their routes. If the increase goes ahead, a book of 30 tickets will increase to £49.20 from £41 and a return trip will go up to £12.50 from £10.20.

Donald MacGillivray of Shiel Buses said he would also be forced to use the A861 detour.

Highland Council has argued the 20 per cent increase meant it would only just break even on the ferry service, after spiralling fuel prices over the last five years. Councillor Michael Foxley, who opposed the increase, said ferry operating times should also be increased by 20 per cent.

## Cash boost for college trust

THE HIGHLAND Fund has given £200,000 to Sabhal Mòr Ostaig College in Skye towards its new development trust.

The award came after the college presentation to HF judges bid won the day against other potential recipients.

The new trust fund will help provide more bursaries and support additional students at the college.

In honour of the major contribution, the college development trust will name an endowment fund, The Highland Fund.

Murdo Morrison, chairman of the Highland Fund, said: 'This contribution is only the start. Over the course of the next year, we plan to encourage others to make financial donations while making a further contribution ourselves.

'We do hope other organisations and individuals will add their financial support to this wonderful idea.

'Hopefully Sabhal Mòr Ostaig will act as a beacon for the economic future of the Highlands and Islands.'



Iain Macaskill, trustee SMO, principal of SMO Professor Norman Gillies, and Murdo Morrison, chairman, The Highland Fund.

**HOLIDAY**  
West Highland FREE  
Your holiday starts here... Discover the West Highlands!

The essential guide for a great holiday in the West Highlands & Islands.

To advertise in Holiday West Highland telephone Sally Davies on **01631 568000**

**FREE**  
Graphic Design

LET US HELP YOU MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR ADVERT, WHEN YOU ADVERTISE YOUR COMPANY IN

The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Tel: 01631 568000  
www.obantimes.co.uk



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

# Welcome freeze in Argyll and Highlands

COUNCIL tax payers will benefit from a freeze in rates as Argyll and Bute and the Highlands.

- Council will not cut teacher numbers
- Mull road project put on hold

Additional investment of £26 million will be allocated for roads and £17 million to the school estate in a unique budget which gained support from the entire Argyll and Bute Council last week.

A further £1 million has been put towards care for the elderly and £1 million for street lighting. Councillors also agreed to £10 million going to support town centre and waterfront projects in the five main towns in Argyll.

Council leader Dick Walsh said: 'Our budget continues the investment in the people of Argyll and Bute, for the young in terms of education, for the elderly and disadvantaged in terms of services such as social work, for providing a range of leisure and recreational activities and for providing appropriate infrastructure and support to enable our economy to grow.'

Councillor Gary Mulvaney, leader of the Argyll and Bute Conservative group, said: 'This budget has a real focus on service delivery and on the bread and butter issues that matter to people. The additional monies into care of the elderly, roads and transportation and school estates, will help to deliver better service for the people of Argyll and Bute.'

'It's about delivering for our communities and this budget shows what

we can do if we all work together.' It was not all good news, however, as work on the Tobermory-Salen road on Mull has been put on hold. Councillors are hoping for additional funding from central government to proceed with this project.

Mull councillor Mary-Jean Devon said: 'I'm extremely disappointed that a few large projects have disappeared such as the Mull road. Councillor Mulvaney said we are getting back to bread and butter projects but this may literally be taking bread and butter away from people.'

Councillor Ellen Morton, leader of the Argyll and Bute Liberal Democrat group, supported the budget but also acknowledged the work ahead: 'This budget is what local people want and what local people deserve. We still face testing times ahead of us. The budget relies on the delivery of efficiency savings and that's not always an easy task. We need to take on large projects like the Mull road and it's not clear how we can do that.'

Opportunity Kintyre and Here We Are in Cairndow are also to see their funding removed. Council leader Dick Walsh said he would

be looking for alternative funding sources to support these initiatives. Although there will be additional funding for modernising schools, it is clear that there may be some risk of closures in the years ahead. Meetings will be held to discuss possible options in the next few months with an outcome expected in the summer.

With the council fixing a budget for the next three years, most of the funding will come through a mix of capital funds from central government and a raft of efficiency savings. The council plan to dip into their reserves in the first year and pay the money back over the following two years.

Convener Billy Petrie said: 'It's unique that a budget has gone through united. Argyll united.'

Argyll MSP Jamie McGrigor said this week: 'I share the concerns of many of my constituents that we are facing another period of uncertainty for rural primary schools in Argyll.'

Highland Council has agreed to freeze council tax at last year's levels and has shelved plans to cut primary teaching posts.

The Independent/Scottish National Party administration piloted its £568.9 million budget through full council last Thursday and decided not to force through a controversial proposal to cut teacher numbers in some smaller schools.

The council had been considering removing 0.5 full-time equivalent teacher entitlements from school with rolls between 16 and 19, and between 44 and 47, but decided to find savings elsewhere.

The additional 0.5 full-time equivalent has significantly improved pupil-teacher ratios in the smallest primary schools since its introduction.

Councillor Jean Urquhart, vice-convenor and chairman of the budget working group, said: 'Freezing the council tax meets the expectations of the Scottish government and is good news for the people of the Highlands.'

'Within a very tight settlement from central government, we have managed to balance the budget to allow for growth in priority areas and front-line services and to make the way we do business more efficient.'

Council rents will go up by an average of £3.09 per week, taking the average rent to £61.38, paid over 48 weeks.

OBAN Charities Day Street Fair and Parade will take place on Saturday June 7.

This event, organised as always by Lorn Lions Club, attracts widespread support and is popular with both townspeople and visitors.

Application forms for a stall are now available from the secretary who can be contacted on Oban 562762.

In past years many small charities have found this to be an excellent opportunity to raise funds. This year a number of floats are expected to participate in the parade.

The club's next event will be an Easter Egg Hunt at Ganavan Sands, details of which will be available shortly.

AT A RECENT evening meeting in the Regent Hotel, Oban Rotary Club members were intrigued to see how much the town has changed over the past 150 years, thanks to a slide presentation by Bob McCulloch which showed Oban from the 1850s up to the present day.

At first the town changed slowly but with the coming of the railway, development raced ahead. The screening showed how much of the bay had been swallowed up, firstly by the railway, then the railway pier and the station. This encroachment continues today with the addition of a second link span. The size of the fishing fleet in earlier years amazed everyone as steam-driven trawlers were replaced by the motor fishing vessels of the '50s. Today the fleet is a fraction of what it was in the past. It was sometimes difficult to place scenes because the town has been built up so much with the putting green and parks along the esplanade, for example, being superceded by roads and car parks.

Rotarian Frank Walton said: 'Bob's research into what the town was like and where streets and buildings were located has resulted in a huge pool of information which, in coming years, will provide historical data that otherwise might have been lost.'

A vote of thanks was proposed by David Pender.

THE REGENT Hotel was also the venue on Monday of last week for a strong turnout of members of Oban Photographic Club.

The evening was devoted to the in-house judging of almost 50 entries in the Argyll Trophy, a cup donated by club secretary Katie Weir of North Ledaig Caravan Site.

In the end the most mounted print was pitted against the top digital entry with the accolade finally going to Bob McCulloch with a digitally coloured image entitled 'Frost'.

He also received a voucher donated by Walton's Camera Centre.

YET ANOTHER large attendance crowded the Argyllshire Gathering Halls on Thursday February 7 for Oban Accordion and Fiddle Club's monthly club night.

There was a warm welcome for everyone from chairman Michael Garvin before a trio consisting of Hector

MacFadyen, Oban, on accordion, Michael Garvin on second box and Archie Cameron, Oban, on drums, opened the programme.

Other talented local artists who made a tuneful contribution included accordionists Ross MacNiven, Craig MacFadyen, Scott Sinclair and Johnny Fisher, the latter on his three-row button-key accordion, with, on drums, David Cameron and Fraser MacInnes. Blending in on fiddle was Joanie McLachlan.

The evening's guest artists were the renowned Ryan McGlynn Trio with Ryan from Lochgilphead on lead accordion, his brother Kevin McGlynn, Oban, on drums, and Archie John MacVicar, Achnamara, on second box.

All too soon an evening of outstanding traditional music came to an end. A comprehensive vote of thanks was proposed by Michael Garvin. Guest artists at the next club night, to be held in the same venue on Thursday March 6, will be Nicol McLaren and the Glenraig Scottish Dance Band.

FOR THE Oban Sea Cadet Unit, revived last March having been disbanded more than 40 years ago, Thursday February 28 will be a date which could shape its future.

For it will be the day on which the unit will receive its final inspection, a scrutiny which will determine whether it can become a fully-fledged stand-alone unit. This will take place in the unit's quarters in Tweeddale Street, and will be undertaken by a senior sea cadet officer.

Since its revival, the unit has functioned as an embryo unit under the umbrella of Lochaber. Its current strength is 14 cadets, five of them girls, who meet every Thursday in the Cadet Halls in Tweeddale Street from 7pm until 9pm where they enjoy a lively programme of activities. This recently included an introduction to kayaking. The commanding officer is Sub-Lieutenant MacCuish, Oban, an experienced merchant navy officer and currently a chief officer with Caledonian MacBrayne. The administrative officer is Jayne Powers, Oban, a librarian at Oban High School, who emphasised: 'We are always ready to welcome new members.'

The sea cadets were first formed in 1854 to address the needs of disadvantaged boys orphaned by the Crimean War. Anyone interested should contact Jane Power on 01631 563493.

AN ALL-STAR line-up will take to the stage at the Leap Year Ceilidh and Dance in the Royal Hotel, Oban, on Friday February 29, starting at 7.30pm.

Artists featured will include Hector MacFadyen and his Band, soloist Mary Catherine MacNeill, fiddle ace Maurice Duncan, duettists Rosie Stevenson and Peter Sinclair and piper Euan Dewar. Fear-an-Taighe will be Duncan Forgive. Tickets are £10 and will include a Stovie Supper. Profits will go to Macmillan Cancer Support.

## Motorist charged over accident

AN OBAN man has been reported to the procurator fiscal in relation to various road traffic offences after a one-car road accident last weekend.

The vehicle carrying four people left the road at 7am on Saturday, near to Pennyfuir Farm house.

All of the occupants of the car attended at Oban, Lorn and the Islands District General Hospital where one man was found to have sustained minor injuries in the crash.

Sergeant Neil Owen of Oban police this week warned young drivers they are putting themselves and others at risk by ignoring road conditions and speed restrictions. He added: 'There is a high level of road accidents at that spot and it appears that most accidents involve younger drivers with powerful cars. They tend to drive far too fast and don't seem to be aware of the injury that can cause to themselves and others.'



Four people were in this car which overturned near Pennyfuir Farm on the outskirts of Oban. (08car01)

## Youth found guilty of assaulting police officer

AN OBAN youth who assaulted a police officer has been fined a total of £500.

Mark Thomas Penrose, aged 18, of 5a Knipoch Place, denied assaulting a police officer, resisting arrest and disorderly conduct in the early hours of October 6 last year.

He claimed he was attacked by the officer and thrown to the ground for no reason in the town's Station Square last October.

Co-accused David Graham Ritz, aged 19, of Kerrera Lodge, Oban, also denied attempting to rescue Penrose from police custody by seizing hold of a police officer who was trying to arrest him.

However Sheriff Douglas Small said he 'had not the slightest hesitation' in finding Penrose guilty after a trial at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday.

Police constable Daryll Burnside, an officer safety instructor with Strathclyde Police for the past 10 years, told the court that Penrose had come to his attention because he appeared to be under the influence of alcohol and had caused a car to stop in Argyll Square, Oban, while he was crossing the road.

PC Burnside told that court that he and PC Andrew Barren had approached Penrose and Ritz in Station Square and had been told by Penrose that he was 17 years old.

The constable said that Penrose had sworn at them when asked where he had been drinking, had been warned about his behaviour, and then swore again.

PC Burnside said: 'It was decided that he should be arrested. I took hold of his arm. He began to struggle. To gain better control of him I pushed him against the police van to pin him there. We struggled and fell on to the road. I fell on top of him. I got him in a bear hug to stop him getting away.'

While attempting to get Penrose to his feet to handcuff him PC Burnside said that he was hit in the eye by Penrose's hand, knocking out a contact lens. Both officers then pinned Penrose to the ground.

PC Andrew Barren gave evidence that while PC Burnside was trying to arrest Penrose Ritz was approaching him shouting that Penrose had done nothing wrong.

PC Barren said: 'I felt Mr Ritz take hold of my arm and attempt to pull

me away. He was trying to release my grip. I pushed him away but he approached again and PC Burnside had to push him away with two hands.'

By this time other police officers had arrived and Penrose was taken to Oban Police Station where he continued to shout and swear.

Giving evidence Penrose said he and Ritz were standing at a bus stop in Station Square when he saw a police van stop behind them. He said: 'I was pulled to the ground and my face hit the ground. I thought it was somebody coming up to me, I didn't think it was a police officer. That's why in self defence I swung back with my elbow. I don't recall any discussion with the police officers beforehand.'

Finding both guilty, Sheriff Small said: 'There is a stark contrast between the evidence of the police and that of Mr Penrose and Mr Ritz. I have not the slightest hesitation in rejecting the evidence of Mr Penrose and Mr Ritz and accordingly find both guilty as libelled.'

Penrose, a labourer, was fined a total of £500 while Ritz, who is unemployed, was fined £100.

## SAMS director moves to America

THE DIRECTOR of the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) has left this week after 12 years in helm to move to America.

Professor Graham Shimmield became director in 1996 and there is now 140 staff employed at the centre in Dunstaffnage, near Oban, with turnover of £10million a year. SAMS acting director Dr Ken Jones

said: 'Graham has been an incredible asset, hard-working, immensely competent.' Professor Shimmield is to become the executive director of the Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences in Maine.

SAMS' Dr Axel Miller added: 'The staff had huge respect for Graham. He broadened and improved our research portfolio by attracting scientists from all over the world.'



Professor Shimmield

## Soldiers charged over plot to steal weapons

THREE soldiers serving with the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders have been charged in connection with an alleged plot to steal weapons in England to supply people in the Strathclyde area.

Colour Sergeant Garry Graham, aged 36, from Kilmarnock and Kieran Campbell, aged 27, from Strathclyde, appeared at Folkestone Magistrates Court charged with possession of explosives for unlawful purposes.

They were remanded in custody and are set to appear at Canterbury Crown Court on March 3.

Lance Corporal Martin Fitzsimmons, aged 27, and a civilian, Christopher Logan, aged 20, appeared at Glasgow Sheriff Court charged with possession of a firearm without a firearms certificate.

Both men made no plea or declaration and were remanded in custody. They are due to appear again in court on February 26.

The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, now the 5th Battalion Royal Regiment of Scotland are based in Canterbury and Strathclyde Police said the arrests were part of a joint operation with Kent Police.

## Hill fall woman rescued

A 35-YEAR-OLD woman who was a member of a walking party, fell 30 metres to the ground during an expedition at Alltcorrie, Glen Etive around 2.15pm on Sunday.

The woman was removed by Naval helicopter to the Bedford Hospital in Fort William and it is believed her injuries were not severe.

## Drink driving charge

A LOCHGILPHEAD man was arrested for allegedly drink driving while disqualified in the Oban area around 1.45am on Sunday. A report has been submitted to the procurator fiscal.

- Do you have a story? Call The Oban Times newsdesk on 01631-568060

## Honour for pair

LOCHABER and South Uist are to be represented in director of the year awards.

Jamie Smith, managing director of Kinlochleven's Ice Factor, and Angus MacMillan, director of Sealladh Na Beinne Moire, have both been nominated for the award and are up against nine of their peers.

The annual awards are organised by the Institute of Directors Scotland and the winner will be announced on March 6.

Oban's Trinity hairdressing and beauty salon boasts several highly trained professionals.

Nicola Siddall has recently joined the beauty salon bringing with her 20 years beauty therapy experience.

Qualified in all treatments including electrolysis and broken capillaries, collagen facials, dermalogica facials, body massage, fake bake, Indian head massage, photographic make-up, waxing, manicures, pedicures etc.

Nicola will be happy to advise anyone who visits the salon.

**The Perfect Gift for Mother's Day**

Gift Vouchers for hairdressing or beauty treatments.

**Special Introductory Offer**

**20% Off**

Treatments with this voucher until 8th March 2008

3, High Street, Oban. Tel : 01631 566696  
 Mon - Wed 9.00 - 6.00 Thur - Fri 9.00 - 9.00 Sat 9.00 - 5.00

## Alarm over AA website warning on A83

THE Automobile Association (AA) is to consider changing a traffic report on its website which businesses in Argyll say suggests there is a further danger of landslides on the A83 near Arrochar.

Following a major landslide at the Rest and Be Thankful last October the road at that location has been reduced to a single lane, however the AA website contains a warning of a danger of landslides on the A83.

Drew MacFarlane-Slack, of the Scottish Rural Property and Business Association, said: 'We feel that this description of the situation at the temporary traffic lights may be unduly alarming and ask that Scotland Transerv advise the AA whether this description accurately reflects existing and immediate risks on the A83. If it does not then we would recommend that Scotland Transerv request that the AA remove references to 'danger of landslips' which are further impacting on journey decisions and the viability of local businesses.'

An AA spokesman said: 'It is something we are looking into. The traffic reports are in standard format but we will review the situation and if it does need to be changed it will be.'

## Ceilidh raises hospice cash

BIG-HEARTED residents raised £400 for the Highland Hospice last Friday at a ceilidh in Spean Bridge Primary School.

Children and tutors from Cothroman Beul Aithriseach, a music tuition group giving local children tuition on the accordion, guitar, fiddle and chanter/bagpipes, provided the entertainment.

Other local children also played, as did Glen Mor Pipe Band, recently formed with the aim of taking part in national competitions.

Teas, home-baking, supplied by members of the Parent Teacher Association and the school, and a raffle boosted funds.

Glen Mor Pipe Band secretary Jean Stevenson said: 'A huge thanks goes to all the donors from the local community who helped set up the music classes and which also helped the pipe band to get started.'

'We'd also like to thank Highland 2007, Awards for All and Corour Estate, which have all been of great assistance to both groups.'

## Staff praised for meeting waiting times

NHS STAFF in Lochaber and across the Highlands have been praised for meeting national waiting times.

NHS Highland says its figures show 18-week waiting time guarantees were met in the last quarter of last year and patients are benefiting from quicker appointments for consultant-led clinics, diagnostic tests and surgical procedures.

Theresa James, locality manager for Lochaber, said: 'All the staff in Belford Hospital, Fort William, have worked tremendously hard over the past year to achieve the success rate in meeting all of our waiting time targets including the 18 week maximum wait for outpatient appointments, surgical admissions and the nine week target for some diagnostic tests including ultrascan and radiography.'

'I would like to pay tribute to our highly valued consultants who have enabled us to achieve this, but also other clinical, administration and secretarial staff who have supported this.'

The news comes as the government sets out a new plan to speed up treatment even further by 2011.

# Dismay as young vandals strike again in Kinlochleven

VANDALISM continues to plague Kinlochleven, with three incidents during the weekend continuing the trend that has seen the town feature regularly in weekly Northern Constabulary crime updates.

Last Friday night, a window was smashed at the Post Office, a pane of glass broken at the bus shelter on Wades Road and a Volkswagen Touran car was vandalised where it was parked at Gordon Square.

A Post Office spokesperson said six of the store's windows had been broken in the last two weeks.

'I don't know what these people are using to break the windows, but they really are breaking them properly,' he said.

The Post Office spokesman added insurance premiums were so high and these incidents were occurring so frequently, it was no longer worth making claims.

He said it was believed the culprits of Friday's sabotage were seen taking the last bus to Ballachulish.

Chief Inspector John Chisholm of Fort William

Police Station said Glencoe Police were following several leads, but no arrests had yet been made.

'A group of youngsters appear to be responsible and charges will be made when they are apprehended,' he said.

Kinlochleven Police Station was closed in November last year and the nearest station is Glencoe, seven miles away.

The Post Office spokesman said, however, the vandalism was just as bad even when Kinlochleven

Police Station was in operation. 'It just wasn't manned properly,' he said.

Chief Inspector Chisholm said there was no chance of Kinlochleven Police Station being re-opened. A recent Highland-wide Northern Constabulary survey revealed that in most areas people were less worried about crimes like vandalism than before. 'There were actually slight reductions in concerns over vandalism, young people on the street and solvent abuse,' a statement read.



Cabinet secretary Fiona Hyslop enjoys a coffee before her conference address with principal Laurence Young and Councillor Michael Foxley. f07f6n001

## Lochaber can deliver on better life-long learning and jobs

LOCHABER is well placed to improve local learning and employment opportunities.

That was the message from cabinet secretary for education and lifelong learning Fiona Hyslop on Friday, on her visit to Lochaber College UHI in Fort William to address the annual conference of the Highlands and Islands Learning Centre Network.

Ms Hyslop stressed the role of learning centres in delivering the new Scottish skills strategy at the computer-based conference, hosted by the Highlands and Islands learning centre strategy group.

She was joined by Damien Yeates, chief executive of learndirect scotland, and Laurence Young, principal of Lochaber College UHI, and more than

90 delegates in locations across Scotland. Ms Hyslop said: 'We want to create more quality lifelong learning opportunities and improve access for people in the Highlands and Islands.'

'Learning centres have an important role to play - by providing access to learning and training they are helping individuals to realise their potential and contributing to a stronger economy.'

'The learning centre strategy group is an excellent example of learning centres and partner agencies working together and playing a key role in widening access to training, learning, guidance and employability-related activities.'

Mr Young said: 'Having argued passionately for years on the value of rural learning centres, it has been really

encouraging to read the government's skills strategy to see how well they are placed to respond meaningfully to the call to action. Rural centres have the potential to provide such a powerful delivery mechanism for skills enhancement across the Highlands.'

'We are looking forward to hearing first-hand from the minister her ideas on how this fragile network moves to sustainability and ensures financial survival.'

The conference came about through Highlands and Islands Enterprise's Learningworks project at www.hie.co.uk/learningworks/learn-centre-zone.html. The project shares information, and gives access to learning, to business enterprises of all sizes across the region.

# Warning on fares and food Fuel duty price rise fears

THE GOVERNMENT plans to rake in another two pence a litre in fuel duty from April 1 - and Lochaber and island operators are warning increases in fares and food prices are sure to follow.

Fuel at the pumps is already up 13 per cent on last year after oil prices hit record highs, and fears are growing that chancellor Alastair Darling's latest tax grab will hit the West Highlands disproportionately hard.

Donald MacGillivray of Shiel Buses, whose Acharacle-based company serves various routes including Acharacle to Mallaig and Lochaline and Kilchoan to Fort William, said the fuel increase would be a serious blow to Highland transport companies.

Mr MacGillivray said Shiel had a five-year contract with several schools, which only began last year, and was not allowed to increase its charges without consent from the Highland Council.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'Of course we're going to have to look at increasing our fares.'

'We've been dealt a serious double blow by the proposal to increase the ferry tariff and the fuel price increase as well.'

'In these remote areas, we have to cover a lot more mileage than transport companies in the cities.'

John Gilbertson, who owns Isle of Skye Seafood, supplies markets all around the UK.

He said the increased fuel price would have a huge effect on business, and many fish producers in the region would be experiencing similar problems, given the cost of running boats would also now increase.

'Unfortunately we have to use the road system to distribute our produce, either we deliver ourselves or we use carrier companies, and either way, it's going to become a lot more expensive from April,' he said.

In Mallaig, fuel prices are already higher than Fort William because volume sales are lower and distribution costs higher.

Manager at Johnston Bros Donald MacDonald told *The Oban Times* suppliers were now demanding much bigger orders to justify the cost of delivering to Mallaig.

His petrol was already 109.5 pence, diesel 114.9, and would have to go up by around 2.5 pence to cover costs if duty goes up.

He said: 'It's very difficult here. It's okay for the bigger stations with big volume sales. They can buy in their fuel daily while we just buy it in once a fortnight.'

'Also the minimum order for carriage paid goods has gone up from £200 to £800, so you either have to buy in more stock, which you don't want to, or pay extra.'

Chancellor Darling will announce whether he will impose the extra two pence duty in his Budget speech next month.

## Ballachulish bins taken away Litter louts force council action

LITTER louts have forced Highland Council to take away three community wheelie bins at Ballachulish.

The local community council has been warning for months that unless a messy minority cleaned up their act, the commercial-size bins would go.

But last weekend piles of rubbish were dumped next to the already overflowing bins at the East Pier, prompting Ballachulish Community Council to tell Highland Council to take them away.

The council agreed, and emptied the wheelie bins for the last time yesterday ahead of removing them for good tomorrow (Friday).

Community council secretary Robin MacLaren told *The Oban Times*: 'Over the

weekend, some people left the place in a dreadful state. The bins were overflowing and there was all sorts of rubbish lying about.'

'The council emptied the bins this morning [Monday] and are having to come back tomorrow to clear up the surplus mess that is lying around.'

'These bins at the pier are being emptied three times a week, but people are abusing the whole thing.'

'It's a shame for the people that are using them responsibly. These are not passers-by that are doing this, the culprits are definitely local.'

'It will definitely clean up the village, but my worry is they will just go and dump their rubbish somewhere else.'



Rubbish piles up at the community bins in Ballachulish.

## Conservative candidate chosen

THE GRANDSON of the late Sir Donald Cameron of Lochiel has been selected as Scottish Conservative and Unionist candidate to fight the Ross, Skye and Lochaber seat at the next Westminster election.

Donald Cameron, aged 31, an Edinburgh advocate, was selected at Strathpeffer Community Centre last Friday at a meeting of local Conservatives.

Constituency association chairman John Hodgson said: 'Donald, together with members of the campaign committee, will be seeking to raise the Conservative profile within this constituency.'

Mr Cameron's father, Donald Angus Cameron, is the current Lord Lieutenant for Inverness-shire.

# Scottish Calendars

## ON SALE NOW

<h3>Scottish Field</h3> <p>Large</p> <p>£6.25 R.R.P.</p> <p>Available from your local newsagents</p>	<h3>Scottish Field</h3> <p>Small</p> <p>£4.25 R.R.P.</p> <p>Available from your local newsagents</p>
<h3>Oban Times</h3> <p>West Highland</p> <p>£4.95 R.R.P.</p> <p>Available from your local newsagents</p>	<h3>Local Fishing Ports</h3> <p>Days Gone By</p> <p>£4.99 R.R.P.</p> <p>Available from your local newsagents</p>

Tel: 01631 568000 PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll  
Order online at [www.scottishcalendars.co.uk](http://www.scottishcalendars.co.uk)



Hector Falconer from Strontian, inset, and the £200 car in which he hopes to cover 10,000 miles en route to Mongolia. f08pan01/02

## Strontian student's Mongolia mission

IT'S A long way to Mongolia no matter how you get there.

But one Ardnamurchan student is pinning his hopes on a beat-up Fiat Panda taking him 10,000 miles from London to the country's capital, Ulaan Baatar.

Hector Falconer, from Strontian, will be setting out on his road trip in July with pal Andrew Gray from Cheshire in a battered 1988 999cc model, which Hector bought last week for £200. Hector, aged 20, aims to raise money for Mercy

Corps Mongolia, which campaigns to protect traditional ways of life and Hopes of Homes, which aims to get children out of institutions in Eastern Europe.

During the marathon journey, expected to take around a month, participants will have to carry out their own repairs en route. That does not bother Hector, who is reading international relations at Birmingham University. 'We travel in convoy and will help each other out if we break down,' he told *The Oban Times*.



Left to right, Cupids Geum Chrystal, Rachel Corrigan, Kate Bracken and Lynsey MacGillivray.

## Romance alive at Lochaber High School

THE ROMANCE of St Valentine's Day is not yet lost - in Lochaber High School at least!

Four sixth-year pupils dressed as Cupids to deliver cards and roses they had made themselves and visited the High Street to sell cards to members of the public.

The girls raised £150, which will be split between the library fund and Lochaber high's sixth year trip to London later this month.

## Man who punched ex-partner must pay her £300

AN OBAN man who punched his ex-girlfriend on the face has been ordered to pay her £300 compensation.

Kenneth Livingstone, aged 45, of 8E Colonsay Terrace, was also fined £250 after he admitted punching the woman on the head, grabbing her by the body and pushing her to her injury at his home on December 23 last year.

The pair had been drinking in her flat before going in to the town centre and then returning to Livingstone's house at 3.30am.

Procurator fiscal Justin Farrell told Oban Sheriff Court how the woman 'took umbrage' to Livingstone's son being in the house, as she did not get on with him.

An argument took place and Livingstone sided with his son. A brief altercation followed between the woman and the son and Livingstone pushed her out the flat, grabbed her left wrist and punched her in the face.

However, he immediately phoned Oban police office to confess to the assault.

Defence agent David MacNeill told the court that Livingstone was ashamed of his behaviour. He added: 'She struck his son on the face and he struck her. They used to be in a relationship and she forgives him.'

Fining him £250 and ordering him to pay the woman £300 compensation, Sheriff Douglas Small told Livingstone: 'This was a most unpleasant assault. You punched her in the face and I cannot ignore that.'

## Fund cash will help community

THOUSANDS of pounds of Argyll and Bute Council money will help residents in the Glencruitten area of Oban to regenerate their community.

Locals will soon have a community garden and a newsletter to call their own thanks to £15,000 from the Community Regeneration Fund.

Niall Urquhart, area manager for community learning and regeneration, said this week: 'The area has been classed as socially excluded and qualified for money through the fund. We were given a one-off amount of £15,000 to encourage those in the area to do things to help themselves.'

'We are now working with Glencruitten Residents Association, Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) and Argyll and Bute Council to build a community garden for Glencruitten. ACHA is going to lease land in Miller Road to the residents for £1 per year, and to help them give the project a kick-start, we will put in the people to design, create and build the garden.'

'There is a significant number of people in Oban who are socially excluded and news is spreading through word of mouth about this money.'

'We hope that once people see the garden start to be cleared they will wonder what is happening and ask to get involved.'

Oban councillor Roddie McCuish believes the money is a great opportunity to improve the area, adding: 'It's important the money is spent wisely and that people in the area reap the benefits of it.'

• Do you have an Oban story? Call our reporters on 01631-568060

# Drug dealers jailed for seven months

A SHERIFF sent out a clear message to Oban drug dealers this week when he jailed two men for seven months.

Sheriff Douglas Small said there is a drug problem in the town, and warned that anyone caught selling them could expect to be 'dealt with severely'.

Andrew Docherty's flat at 10 Columba Crescent was raided by police at 11pm on Saturday June 17, 2006, after police received information that he was concerned in the supply of drugs.

Officers found the 38 year old sitting around a coffee table with Christopher

Rowan and Stuart Scott. Loose white powder was found on top of a magazine and catalogue on the table, as well as tablespoons, tin foil, bank cards, a kitchen knife and a roll of plastic bags.

Police seized 169 Diazepam tablets and six grammes of cocaine worth £300 from the flat, which Docherty admitted were his.

His defence agent Mr Buchan told Oban Sheriff Court last week that Docherty 'had not been without his difficulties in his formative years', which led to prob-

lems with alcohol and he used Valium as a crutch.

'He has been striving very hard to turn his life around.'

Rowan, aged 24, of 1 Dungallan Court, Railway Pier, was searched and found to have four bags of brown powder in his pocket, which he admitted was 12 grammes of heroin worth £500 and belonged to him. He was also found to be in possession of cocaine worth £160.

Rowan's defence agent Duncan Durbin told the court his client has been taking heroin for two years but is now on

a methadone programme. Mr Durbin added: 'It was very close to his birthday and he and two friends decided to have a party that night.'

Stuart Scott, aged 26, of Flat 1, 17 Airds Crescent, was also searched and admitted ownership of a bag of cocaine worth £40, which he said was for his own use. Sentence was deferred on him until March 11.

Jailing Docherty and Rowan, Sheriff Douglas Small said: 'Cocaine is regarded as one of the most addictive and harmful drugs around.'



## Sylvia's in luck!

Oban's Sylvia Thomson regularly enters competition but never had much luck - until now. Sylvia entered the free prize draw held by Aldi to mark the supermarket's one-year anniversary in the town and won a television.

Sylvia collected her prize from store deputy Rachael Nunn last weekend, saying: 'I just got lucky this time.' t07ald01



Nichola MacLean can put her feet up after walking the West Highland Way to raise £850 for Oban Hospice. t08wa01

## These boots were made for walking

AN OBAN woman has raised hundreds of pounds for a local charity by walking her boots off.

Nichola MacLean, manager of the town's branch of Millet's, is more used to advising walkers on the best equipment to buy, but she decided to put her knowledge to good use to raise funds for Oban Hospice by walking the West Highland Way from Milngavie to Fort William.

Nichola began her walk with friend Michelle Collins from

Edinburgh. Unfortunately due to injury, Michelle had to leave the walk on day three, but Nichola kept going with another friend.

She finally reached Fort William after six long days and raised £850 in the process.

Nichola would like to thank her family and friends for their support and local businesses that sponsored her including Cakebread's, Timpson's, Ruben's, Norie's, Marianne's, Matheson's and Eric Smith's World Travel.

## Sponsored slimmers wanted

A SPONSORED slim is the first fundraising event of 2008 for the Oban Friends of Anthony Nolan Trust.

The friends have begun the 10-week slimming down period, which is being sponsored by Boots Chemists, Oban.

The person who lost the most weight and the person with the largest reduction in Body Mass Index will receive prizes.

Anyone interested in joining the group can contact Carol Turnbull on 01631 710 521.

## Praises sung of Soroba youngsters 'wrongly given a bad press'

# We're proud of our kids

SOROBA residents are fed up with their kids being labelled troublemakers and want the rest of Oban to know what they are really like.

At a meeting of Soroba Community Association, secretary Alison Harper claimed the area is actually the opposite of the reputation it has gained over the years.

She said: 'Just after Bonfire Night an article appeared in *The Oban Times* that a lot of residents felt contributed to the usual negative images of Soroba and suggested that only residents were involved in various incidents which occurred within the scheme.'

'In fact, the majority of children were not from Soroba. There were a large number of young people present who do not live in the area.'



'Kids are safe in Soroba'. t08sor01

'This is becoming a regular occurrence and also adds to the 'bad press' which plagues Soroba.'

Alison insisted that the children in Soroba are working hard to rid the area of its poor reputation.

'With a sound production class held on Monday nights, packed dancing classes

on Tuesday and a well-attended youth club on Wednesday evenings, the children keep themselves busy with positive activities rather than the hooligan behaviour they are always accused of,' she added.

One parent who attended the meeting said local children are always willing to lend a helping hand, raise money for charity and fund raise for educational trips for themselves.

Youth worker Andy Harper who supervises the children on these trips said that 'everywhere they go, they always surprise people with their attitude, manners and drive'.

He added: 'There is still a stigma attached to Soroba which contributes to people outwith the area being reluctant to move here.'

'Kids are safe here, cars drive slowly and there is a strong community spirit.'

'It's not perfect, but where there is a large number of houses there will always be some trouble.'

'All we want to do is stand up for Soroba kids who get labelled wherever they go.'

Mr Harper also spoke of the community's desperate need for a new community centre. 'A resurgence of Soroba will solely depend on that happening,' he said.

Oban Councillor Roddie McCuish also attended the meeting. He said: 'The Soroba area no longer qualifies for European funding which shows it has raised its game.'

'The community does a lot of positive things and it's a shame the children have this undeserved reputation.'



Jack Degnan, centre right, receives his long service award from fire brigade area commander John Ironside as brigade colleagues and Rockfield pupils look on. t08fir01

## Fire brigade award for Rockfield head teacher

A POPULAR Oban head teacher was delighted this week to receive recognition for his dedication to the fire service.

Rockfield Primary School's Jack Degnan was presented with The Fire Brigade Long Service and Good Conduct Medal for more than 20 years service as a volunteer fire fighter with Bunessan Community Fire Station on Mull.

Area Commander John Ironside, on behalf of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, presented Jack with his medal. Area Commander Ironside said Jack has provided exemplary service to his community, and that is was 'quite an achievement'.

He added: 'Twenty years service to the community is something not to be taken lightly,

and the fire service appreciates the role that Jack, and all other volunteer fire fighters carry out.'

Area Commander Ironside was joined by group command's David Proctor and Daniel Downie. Looking on as their head teacher received his silver medal were pupils Julia Gorecka, Lewis Campbell, Hannah MacLeod and Stuart Alexander.

Jack said afterwards: 'It has been a privilege and a pleasure to have served with Strathclyde Fire Service for all these years. The training and equipment we have in Bunessan is now comparable to anywhere else.'

'I am indebted to the fire fighters for the work they do and I speak on behalf of fellow volunteers when I say that.'

## Oban Homebase helps raise £1m

THE OBAN Homebase store has raised a fantastic amount of money for charity thanks to the kindness of staff and customers.

Homebase has raised a record £1 million for Marie Curie Cancer Care across the UK, with the Oban branch contributing £2,656 - making them one of the highest fundraising stores

in the area. Homebase has now raised enough to fund more than 130 hours of nursing care in the area - a magnificent 50,000 hours of home nursing across the UK.

Homebase staff in the Oban store have been getting involved in a variety of fundraising events.

# If £1 MILLION hits your postcode

what will your share be?

**Be a winner too. Please call free now!**  
**0808-10-9-8-7-6-5**  
 Or go to [www.postcodelottery.com](http://www.postcodelottery.com) or send back the coupon.

COUPON TO WIN A FORTUNE

**YES, I would like to play in the People's Postcode Lottery in Scotland with:**

3 tickets    2 tickets    1 tickets

Each ticket costs just £2 per weekly draw. Your ticket money will be debited from your account every month in advance.

Name:     Mr    Mrs    Miss    Ms

Address:

Town:    Postcode:

Email:

Please provide your telephone number:    Date of Birth: (dd/mm/yy)

**The Direct Debit Guarantee**

- This Guarantee is offered by all Banks and Building Societies that take part in the Direct Debit Scheme. The efficiency and security of the Scheme are monitored and protected by your own Bank or Building Society.
- If the amounts to be paid or the payment dates change, Postcode Lottery will notify you 5 working days in advance of your account being debited or as otherwise agreed.
- If an error is made by Postcode Lottery Limited or your Bank or Building Society, you are guaranteed a full and immediate refund from your branch of the amount paid.
- You can cancel a Direct Debit at any time by writing to your Bank or Building Society. Please also send a copy of your letter to us at the Postcode Lottery Limited.

Send in before 29 February 2008

• We may inform you about our future winnings & charities, if you do not want to receive such information please tick the box.

Players must be 16 or over. The Gambling Commission has issued a licence to Postcode Lottery Ltd (Licence No: 0002829-16-102511-001) to operate a Society Lottery on 20 September 2007.

**Instruction to your Bank or Building Society to pay by Direct Debit**

Name(s) of Account Holder(s):

Bank/Building Society account number:

Branch Sort Code:    **ADV.2011.P**

Originator's Identification Number:    Signature:

8 3 7 4 8 7

Please send the coupon in an envelope (no stamp required) before 29 February 2008 to:  
 Freepost RR55-EABU-ATGU, People's Postcode Lottery, Customer Services, 500 Duntreath Avenue, GLASGOW G15 8TD

## Stolen gravel may be easy to detect

Police have warned that substantial amounts of gravel stolen from a remote quarry on Arran may be easily traced.

They say the rock worth thousands of pounds, from Hawthorne Quarry, three miles from the main road, is unique and could be easily matched if found on someone's driveway.

The quarry, on a forestry road north of Whiting Bay, is owned by the Forestry Commission, called in police. Motor access is via a three-mile track from the Dyemill at Lamash.

Police believe the gravel has been stolen in 'truckloads' rather than something that could be carried in a pick-up.

Sergeant Stevie Leary said: 'We believe that the commission plans to install closed-circuit television at the site. If a theft is reported we will pursue it.'

'The geology of this rock is unique and any gravel traced to someone's driveway could very easily be matched. A prosecution would follow.'

A Forestry Commission spokeswoman said they had been aware for some time that stone was being taken from the quarry.

'I would estimate that several thousand pounds' worth has disappeared,' she said. 'We have reported this to the police who are looking into the matter and it would not be appropriate to comment any further at this time.'

## Lifeboat is unable to prevent flooding of fishing vessel



The fishing boat 'Lady Evelyn' succumbs to the rising tide.

OBAN'S lifeboat responded to its first call-out of the year when a fishing boat fell from the pier alongside the harbour wall on a low tide and was in danger of filling on the rising tide.

The 'Mora Edith Macdonald' was called into action in the early hours of February 1 as 'Lady Evelyn' found herself in trouble. Two of her crew scrambled ashore but a third was unable to do so. He was eventually rescued by the lifeboat.

The lifeboat put her salvage pump aboard and when this was found not to be coping, a spare pump was brought from the lifeboat station.

Despite the use of the two pumps - capable of pumping one and a half tons of water per minute - the battle was lost and the vessel filled.

The Lifeboat returned to the station when there was no further risk to the crew.



Lifeboat crew work to pump water out of the vessel.

## Dolphin and whale spotter wanted

THE HUNT is on for a whale, dolphin and porpoise spotter to study the mammals which are visiting the west coast.

The Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust, based in Tobermory, Mull, is looking for a new sightings officer to cover maternity leave.

The successful candidate will be responsible for co-ordinating sightings to cover for the trust's sightings officer Laura Mandleberg, who is going on maternity leave later this year.

Laura said: 'I go out on our own vessel between April and September logging sightings. But we cover such a huge area stretching from the Mull of Kintyre to Gairloch in the north we rely on calls from local boat operators and members of the public about sightings. Just today I just had somebody phoning from Uist about a stranded whale.'

'We get the odd humpback whale and have had a couple of sightings of killer whales which was awesome.'

All sightings are logged and analysed on a central database.

Laura said there had already been a lot of interest in the job because job opportunities in marine mammal work are rare.

'We are really keen to get somebody local and already staying here but it is difficult because it is a niche field. Applicants need a first degree in biological sciences and be familiar with the west coast marine environment.'

## Housing association confirms waiting list 'crisis'

# Dunbeg family of six tell of two-bedroom despair

A YOUNG family of six in Dunbeg simply cannot cope with being shoe-horned into a two-bedroom flat any longer, a mother has told *The Oban Times*.

Claire MacDougall says her family has been 'failed' by the area's housing association as they are living on top of each other - despite being on the waiting list for a bigger house for four years.

Ms MacDougall and partner Jamie Warnock have a 15-year-old son, and three daughters, aged 10, three and two respectively but Ms MacDougall says the living conditions are intolerable.

Report by HUGH ROSS

Mrs MacDougall works in the Lorn and the Islands District General Hospital in Oban and Mr Warnock is a chef and both have strong local connections.

'We eat and sleep in the sitting room and I'm trying to bring up four children but it is so difficult because there is so little room,' she said. 'It's very stressful. I have spoken to people at my work and there is no one else in the situation we are in.'

Ms MacDougall says the couple has been told there is not a single four-bedroom house available in the

whole of Argyll.

'This has been going on for four years. We have had to sit back and watch all these houses behind the hospital and at Taynuilt getting built. We have been asking Argyll and Bute Council and now ACHA (Argyll and Bute Community Housing Association) desperately for help as we have been council tenants for 16 years. I am so upset about this.'

'They have failed me. ACHA won't even come out to see the house for themselves. I just can't seem to be able to get any help from them.'

We were right at the top of the list for a three-bedroom house but then

we were told we couldn't get one because it was against the rules.'

ACHA chief executive Alastair MacGregor told *The Oban Times* that the family is near the top of the list for a four bedroom-house but the problem is availability.

'At the moment there are 42 families in Oban and 27 families in Dunbeg on the waiting list for a four-bedroom house. We have got so few houses it means the movement is very, very small. The bottom line is that we hardly have any four-bedroom houses in Dunbeg or Oban.'

'Three-bedroom houses is at crisis as well; 141 families in Oban are on

that waiting list with 95 families in Dunbeg. There is a logjam.'

Mr MacGregor confirmed that Ms MacDougall's family is not allowed to move into a three-bedroom house because that would still be classed as 'overcrowding' under legislation.

ACHA is set to build houses on Oban's Croft Avenue but they won't be ready until autumn 2009. Ms MacDougall is now seeking a meeting with ACHA and her MSP Jim Mather.

Do you have an problem you would like *The Oban Times* to highlight? Call our reporters on 01631-568060.

## Council's ferry response disappoints islanders

ISLANDERS on Luing are 'disappointed' at Argyll and Bute Council's response to calls for a more robust ferry service.

The islanders called for a failsafe ferry system in case of a medical emergency but the council said this was not needed, as the emergency services would be there to assist.

At the moment, only one ferryman is 'on call' but two ferryman are needed to operate the vehicle ferry to the island, which can carry an ambulance.

A spokeswoman for the council said: 'The council does not have a failsafe simply because the weather may prevent the ferry from operating.'

'The emergency services are there to provide the service and the council

will do whatever it can to assist.'

However, Luing community councillor Lasta King said: 'They always say that.'

She added: 'They can't say to us there will definitely be two ferryman on call, in order to run the ferry.'

'It would involve a lot of extra cost to the taxpayer if we needed to call out a Sea King helicopter or the coastguard.'

'The current system is not robust enough. The council's attitude is disappointing because we are looking to sit around the table with the council and the emergency services to work out a better emergency system.'



Victoria Moore shows off her artwork to Ian Harrington, assistant principal at Adam Smith College.

## Vettriano award for Oban student

AN OBAN student is celebrating this week after receiving an award from one of Scotland's most successful artists.

Victoria Moore was overwhelmed when Jack Vettriano presented her with £500 through his charitable trust for showing commitment to her art and design studies at Adam Smith College in Fife, and for showing a special artistic flair.

Before moving from Oban to Cupar, 21-year-old Victoria worked for an estate agent. However, she was uninspired in her job and it was when she received a copy of the college's prospectus from a friend who had began studying at Adam Smith that she discovered the HND art and design course and decided it was for her.

Victoria said this week: 'Receiving an award through the Jack Vettriano Scholarship is a great privilege.'

'The scholarship has enabled me to buy lots of materials, such as an easel and paints for my course and will also help me get my portfolio together which is really important as I hope to apply for a BA honours in fine art at Dundee when I finish at Adam Smith.'

## Advice for gardeners

THE NATIONAL Trust for Scotland has offered practical advice for gardeners in the light of recent outbreaks of a disease that can affect the likes of rhododendron and viburnum.

Phytophthora ramorum, also known as sudden oak death, has so far been found in the National Trust for Scotland's Arduaine Garden, near Kilmelford, and Inverewe Garden.

The Trust has been working closely with the Scottish Government Rural Payments and Inspections Directorate (SGRPID) on how best to manage the disease, and recently brought together its own gardening specialists from popular properties throughout Scotland, government authorities, the English National Trust and some private gardens to share practical knowledge.

Ann Steel, gardens and designed landscapes adviser for the trust, said: 'This disease is still very rare in Scotland but it's been a problem in England, so gardeners should watch out if woody plants seem to die quickly. Keep gardens and tools clean, buy your plants from a trusted source and if you're concerned, contact your local SGRPID office.'

## Eagle has historic eye operation

A WILD golden eagle on Mull flew up to her name when she flew into electric cables after being mobbed by a group of ravens.

'Electra' sustained serious tears to one wing, lost a great deal of blood and was suffering from shock when she was taken to the Wings over Mull Birds of Prey Conservation Centre and Sanctuary, run by Richard and Sue Dewar, after the accident.

Electra was then taken to Oban vet Max Bonniwell, who expertly repaired the torn wing.

It was then discovered the eagle was almost totally blind with cataracts on both eyes and would have to have an operation to restore her eyesight.

Although the operation is routinely carried out on dogs and cats, it had never been attempted on a golden eagle before in the UK. George Peplinski, a veterinary ophthalmologist based at the Small Animal Hospital in Glasgow, agreed to attempt the operation.

However, it was only possible

to remove the cataract from one eye as the other had serious damage to the retina.

Electra, now in a large aviary, is able to see again and is adjusting to being sighted only in one eye.

Sue said: 'It would have been wonderful if Electra could have been released back to the wild but at least she now has quality of life and could live for another 20 years in captivity.'

Electra's story was featured on the Animal 24/7 programme on BBC1 on Tuesday.



Golden Eagle Electra is on the road to recovery. i08eag01

## Storm uncovers ancient rock carving

FORESTERS in West Argyll have been blown away by the mysterious discovery of a prehistoric rock carving that has been uncovered during the recent storms.

For more than 60 years, the rock art has remained hidden and protected from the elements by a huge tree in Forestry Commission Scotland's Achnabreac Forest, which was blown down around three weeks ago.

The rock - believed to be around 5,000 years old - is a rare discovery and is inscribed with a dice-like carving. It sits high above the mouth of Kilmartin Glen and directly overlooks the rock art at Cairnbaan.

Its close location to the other rock art sites, visual relationship with both sites and the similar complexity of design suggests that all three sites are connected.

The new site may hold the key to further understand the mystery around the rock art in Argyll.

Andy Buntin for Forestry Commission Scotland in West Argyll said: 'We discovered the new rock art during a routine inspection of



Forestry Commission worker Colin Hossack examines the rock carving, believed to be 5,000 years old. i08rock04

trees that had been blown down or up-rooted during the high winds - so it seems this time the damage and disruption caused by the gales has uncovered something good!

'West Argyll is renowned for its archaeological importance with 46 scheduled ancient monuments and the site is one of the three largest ring-marked sites in Britain'

'The importance of the site and the reasons for the carvings remain

a topic of speculation and despite public and academic interest, the meanings of the symbols remains mysterious. But we do know that they date back to the Late Neolithic and Early Bronze Age.'

'Initially the carvings were found on boulders and outcrops of rock overlooking major routes, hunting grounds, water-holes and hunting spots. This suggests a link with herding or hunting

wild animals, although the presence on hillsides may indicate that they mark out boundaries between farmland and wild ground - perhaps an association with territorial ownership.'

'Later on many boulders were incorporated into burials and cairns where they separate boundaries between sacred areas.'

'The rock is very close to the popular Fire Tower mountain bike trail which means that for years, people have been cycling or walking past a prehistoric find! We will be re-routing part of the trail to ensure the carving is protected and opening up access for people to view the rock.'

Forestry Commission Scotland - with advice from Historic Scotland and Kilmartin House Museum - plans to carry out further evaluation work to determine the full extent of the find.

The Fire Tower trail will be closed for another two to three weeks due to storm damage but the walking paths to the other rock art sites remain open.

## Ammo find on Coll

THE BACK garden of a house on Coll has been the hiding place of firearm ammunition for more than 60 years.

The belted ammo is now in Oban after being discovered by police in Carnan Road, Arinagour, last week and seized by the Explosives Ordnance Disposal team.

The ammunition is believed to have come ashore at the north end of the island on the Steam Ship Nevada in 1942.

Islander Gordon MacDonald, aged 76, told police he recalls playing with the ammunition near to the school when he was a boy and that the children were all searched by teachers before going into class.

Mr MacDonald believes that the stock found was hidden by youngsters at the time.

You Are Beautiful Ltd  
 Medical Cosmetics

LOOK YEARS YOUNGER WITHOUT SURGERY

- IMMEDIATE RESULTS
- LOOK GOOD, FEEL BETTER

Anti-wrinkle treatment and Restylane® fillers

For professional BOTOX and Restylane treatment in your own home, or at our Lochgilphead base, Contact Sandra Lane your LOCAL Aesthetic Practitioner on 07810783407 Further details available on request

www.youarebeautiful.com

ARDUAINE FARM SERVICES LTD

Specialising in private water supply design, installation and upgrades for new and existing supplies, Arduaine Farm Services enjoys a reputation for excellent workmanship and a high standard of service throughout Argyll.

All work is carried out 'in house' from initial site visits to completed installations. For all your water supply needs contact Mike Campbell

Tel: 01852 200209 Mob :07775725434 email: arduainefs@aol.com

# 316th anniversary of the Massacre of Glencoe remembered Clan gathers at scene of 'dark deeds'

By STEPHEN NORRIS

THEY came from as far as Wales and Alaska, Skye and Kirkcaldy, just to remember.

In brilliant February sunshine, frost still coating the heather around the Celtic Cross Monument at Upper Carnoch, around 80 members of Clan Donald gathered last Wednesday to mark the 316th anniversary of the Massacre of Glencoe.

A poignant ceremony conducted in English and Gaelic saw wreaths laid at the memorial, built in honour of the 38 MacDonald men murdered by King William's troops and the dozens of women and children who died in the snow as they fled the slaughter on February 13, 1692.

Following the time-honoured 11am service of Requiem Eucharist, conducted by the Rev Canon Dr Emsley Nimmo at St Mary's Episcopal Church, West Laroeh piper John MacCallum led the procession on the short march from the Bridge of Coe to the monument.

With Lois MacDonell, widow of the 22nd chief in attendance, Rev Nimmo welcomed everyone before John MacFarlane of Taynuilt read the 35th Psalm in



Piper John MacCallum, from West Laroeh, Ballachulish leads the Clan Donald members on their march to the Celtic Cross Monument. 07/gle01

Gaelic, which implores the Lord to protect his people from those that would kill them.

He read to the hushed crowd: 'Glac fòs do shleagh, 's air luchd

mo thòir am bealach druid gu teann: Ri m'anam abair fein mar so, is mi do chòmhnadh ann.

'Cia fhad is leir dhuit so, a Dhe?' saor m'anam fein gu cas

O'm milleadhsan: mo sheircein fòs, tèarunn o leòmhnaibh bras. (Draw out also the spear, and stop the way against them that persecute me: say unto my soul,

I am thy salvation.

'Lord, how long wilt thou look on? Rescue my soul from their destructions, my darling from the lions.)

David MacDonald, executive director at the Clan Donald Centre at Armadale, Skye then laid the wreath, this year provided by the Clan Donald Australia.

A two-minute silence followed, before John MacCallum played two laments on the pipes.

In his address Rev Nimmo reminded his listeners of the terrible events of the morning of Feb 13, 1692.

He told of their aftermath, of how hospitality and kindness was repaid with murder and betrayal, how those 'dark deeds' would 'proceed through the chambers of history'.

He said: 'This was nothing more than a deliberate attempt at genocide. There is no more atmospheric place than this on God's earth. This is the place, this is their place and now it is our place too.'

After Psalm 121, prayers in English and Gaelic were said to close the event before Calum Murphy from Glencoe Primary School laid a wreath on behalf of the community.



## Lochside youngsters help African orphanage

CHILDREN of Lochside RC Primary School hand over £600 raised at their Christmas concert to Belford Hospital pharmacist Alex Belford. The pupils were so moved by Alex's talk and film on the plight of orphans at the Casa Reom Trust in Mozambique that they decided they was no better home for the money. Alex, who has also received donations from Belford Hospital staff and the Musterseed Church has been over to Mozambique and the Lochaber money has helped to refurbish the base, put showers in the girls' orphanage and give shoes to the boys.

## Kyle's cleaner water

SCOTTISH Water's £5.5 million Kyle Regional Water Supply has been switched on and according to the company, 1,300 people are enjoying clearer, fresher drinking water. The works took several years to complete, given the sensitive environment of the area.

Scottish Water is to invest £30 million — or £2,471 per person — in Skye & Lochalsh by 2010, part of their £200 million 'Vision for the Highlands'. Kevin Clifton, Scottish Water's tactical planner for Skye & Lochalsh, said: 'We're working closely with council planners and developers to ensure that our investment helps the area grow.'

Customers can keep up to date and send their comments about the improvements by visiting [www.scotishwater.co.uk/highlands2010](http://www.scotishwater.co.uk/highlands2010).

## Easter outing for 100

AROUND 100 local children will enjoy an Easter outing to the Nevis Centre on Good Friday, March 21.

Organised by Inverloch and Torlundy Community Council, an hour's entertainment has been laid on for the primary school pupils, the £3 price including soft drinks and crisps.

Anne Marie Dillon will again entertain the P1 to P4 age group, while the P5 to P7 children will play bowls.

Primary school are being contacted for numbers of eligible pupils and headteachers will be asked to distribute invitation cards to the relevant pupils.

Noel Williams has agreed to produce the invitation cards provided that he is notified of the numbers required and is given all other relevant information on or before March 11.

Adults will be in attendance at the event to help with the supervision of the children.



## Your New Store Grand Opening Fort William, Camanachd Crescent

Opens Thursday 28th February 8am



## Invergarry pupils clean up for UNICEF

INVERGARRY Primary School pupils splashed out the soap and water recently to raise money for UNICEF'S Day for Change. The children washed cars, bikes, in fact anything with wheels during the event at the school. An impressive £122 was collected, the money going toward water and sanitation projects in Gambia.

## Helicopter in daring rescue of climber

AN injured climber was plucked from an ice gully high up on Ben Nevis last Thursday afternoon in a daring helicopter rescue.

A Royal Navy team from HMS Gannet were scrambled from their search and rescue station at Prestwick after one member of a two-man climbing team plunged more than 200 metres down a snowfield.

He fell into an ice gully called Tower Scoop, his descent only halted by the rope attached to his companion.

Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team attended but ice conditions proved too treacherous. Gannet's Sea King helicopter had to fly within feet of rock and ice to rescue the casualty.

Pilot, lieutenant Mike Paulet said: 'This really was a tricky rescue because we had to put our winch line out to its full extent with our winchman on the end of it. He then had to adjust

height by altering the altitude of the aircraft and the steepness of the slope necessitated that the helicopter was operated in close proximity to the ice face.'

The casualty was taken to the Belford Hospital, where he was found to have a broken leg.

### Lochaber Business Workshops & Evening Class PROGRAMME Spring & Summer 2008

SPACES STILL AVAILABLE!!!

A wide range of workshops & evening classes available including:

- Food Hygiene
- Web Site Design
- First Aid
- Management
- Bookkeeping
- Languages
- ECDL
- SAGE
- IT
- ... and many more

If you're interested in the above, or would like information on the full list of courses, why not contact:

Lochaber Business Development Services  
**Jessie on 01397 874402**  
 H I E Lochaber

### TARGA 19" Widescreen LCD Monitor

- Visible screen size (diagonal) (cm): 48.2
- 2 x 1 Watt speakers
- Brightness: 300cd/m<sup>2</sup>
- Reaction time: 5ms
- Supplied with: mains adaptor, VGA cable, PC-Audio cable and manual



SAVE £50  
 149.99  
**99**  
 Each

### SilverCrest CD Car Radio with MP3

- With USB port for reading music files stored on your portable music player and card reader
- With integrated SD/MMC card reader
- 4 x 40W max. power output



SAVE £20  
 49.99  
**29.99**  
 Each

### SilverCrest

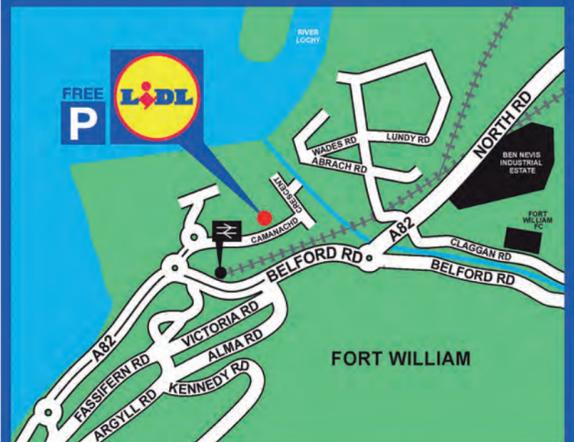
### Car Radio with DVD Player

- 7" TFT colour LCD touchscreen display
- 30° (to right and left) adjustable display
- With detachable fascia and storage case
- Reads: DVD±R, VCD, SVCD, CDR (W), SD and MMC cards, MP3, WMA, MPEG4, JPEG and much more



SAVE £70  
 199.99  
**129.99**  
 Each

At Lidl, we offer a range of bargains that change every Monday & Thursday. These non-food products vary continuously & include themes such as furniture, kitchenware, storage solutions, gardening, sports equipment, footwear, clothing & many, many more.



### Opening Hours:

Mon - Sat 8am - 8pm, Sun 10am - 6pm

Credit/Debit Cards Accepted:



[www.lidl.co.uk](http://www.lidl.co.uk)

**Lismore**

Your correspondent is Pauline Dowling: 01631 760293

**Farewell to museum development officers**

COMANN Eachdraidh Lios Mor has said goodbye to its museum development officers who were responsible for getting the first exhibition up and running at Ionad Naomh Moluag in time for the opening in April 2007.

Catherine Gillies and Jennifer Baker were presented with quaichs by Donald Black and John Livingstone respectively and thanked for their huge contribution to the museum's success.

It had not been an easy task. The first museum development officer had to resign after six months in the job and, as an interim measure, the job was shared by Catherine Gillies, Jackie Skeldon and Lynne Vesco who had all just finished working with the MacDougall collection.

In November 2006 Comann Eachdraidh appointed Catherine Gillies and Jennifer Baker on a job share post for a year and though the post has now gone, both will still be 'in the neighbourhood' as Catherine is returning to the MacDougall Collection and Jennifer to a voluntary job as events manager at the museum.

At the farewell drinks organised by Jennifer and Catherine, everyone who had worked with them was invited to preview the new exhibition they have prepared for the museum's re-opening in March.

**Roads and ditches**

IT WAS a great relief to see Argyll and Bute Council had sent a roads team to clear the ditches which have been partly responsible for extensive flooding following heavy rain.

However, the real problem is the giant potholes which are a danger to cars, their drivers and cyclists. The island's roads are as bad as they have ever been since the resident roadman's post was abolished and the more they are neglected the bigger the job will be.



Alan McGregor of Argyll and Bute Council's roads department pictured on Lismore.

**Appin**

**Ceilidh**

FOR THE first time, Gaelic groups in Appin are coming together to organise a ceilidh.

Appin Gaelic Interest Group, Strath of Appin Gaelic Medium Unit (GMU) and the parents of young Gaelic learners are holding the ceilidh in Port Appin Village Hall on Saturday.

Bean-an-tighe Agnes MacLean will introduce performers from Strath of Appin GMU, Alasdair MacDonald on pipes and accordian, Freddie MacKenzie, Moira Thomson, Rhona May Lawrie, Aimee MacDonald and Mary MacDougal. Entry is free to schoolchildren.

All profits from the night will go towards Oban Provincial Mod.

**Ballachulish**

BALLACHULISH Community Council is continuing its efforts to persuade Historic Scotland that its recent repair of one of the historic slate-built boat sheds near the Isles of Glencoe Hotel should be redone.

Around 12 months have passed since contractors carried out work on the listed monument to repair its roof, but community councillors feel strongly that the standard of workmanship leaves something to be desired.

The community council says Caithness slate was used, when plenty of Ballachulish slate could have been obtained from the nearby quarry and the mortar work was of poor quality. The council is 'pressuring all parties', including Highland Council and Historic Scotland, which supervised the work, to come up with a solution.

**Kyle of Lochalsh**

Your correspondent is Charlie MacRae: 01599 544359

**Winner**

CONGRATULATIONS to Megan Macleod, Drumbuie, for winning the 'Christmas in the Highlands' picture competition for primary three and four pupils organised by the Royal Bank of Scotland.

**Weather**

JANUARY in Plockton was one of the wettest months for many years with about 12 inches of rain.

The warmest day was 12°C and coldest was -2°C

**Sale of work**

KINLOCHSHIEL held a sale

of work in Dornie Hall on February 9 in aid of funds and raised more than £2,000.

The event was opened by the club president Councillor Biz Campbell.

**Glengarry Games**

THE DATE for the 2008 Glengarry Highland Games has been confirmed as Saturday July 5.

Traditionally Scotland's first Highland Games each year, the Glengarry event again

promises to get the games going in style. Tickets can be bought in advance by calling 01809 511260. The games take place from 1pm to 5pm.

**Craignish sale**

THE TENTH annual boat jumble and car boot sale will be held in Craignish village hall next month.

This year's event will be held on March 29 with tables inside the hall and car boots open outside. It starts at 10.30am and there will be a raffle and refreshments.

**Glencoe massacre commemoration**

THE COMMEMORATION of the 316th anniversary of the Massacre of Glencoe took place, as planned, on Wednesday February 13.

Prior to the ceremony, a service of Requiem Eucharist was held in St Mary's Episcopal Church, Glencoe, by kind permission of the Rector, the Rev Peter Rice, at which the celebrant was the Rev Canon Dr Emsley Nimmo, Aberdeen, who later conducted the service at the Memorial Cross. The march to the monument was led by piper John MacCallum, West Laroeh; the society's banner was carried by David J MacDonald, Kircaldy; his brother Steven carried the banner of the Clan Donald

Lands Trust, whose executive director David MacDonald of Castlecamus laid a wreath on behalf of Clan Donald in Australia, this year's sponsoring society. Among those present were Mrs Debra MacDonald of Castlecamus and Ray MacDonald, Alaskan State Commissioner, Clan Donald USA, who carried the personal banner of Castlecamus. The scripture lesson was read, in Gaelic, by Brigadier John MacFarlane, Taynuilt. The society's president, Norman H MacDonald, concluded the ceremony by thanking the company - around 70 in number - for their attendance and wishing them a safe journey home.

**Graduations**



**Martin Gillespie**

GRADUATED from the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama with a BA in Scottish Music. Martin is the younger son of the late Danny Gillespie and Joyce and is a former pupil of Tieve High School.



**Catriona MacKinnon**

GRADUATED from Glasgow Caledonian University with a BA in Nursing Studies. Catriona is the daughter of Peter and Mamie MacKinnon and grand-daughter of Betty and the late Hugh Galbraith of Colonsay, and the late Peter and Annie MacKinnon of Oban. Catriona is a former pupil of Rockfield primary and Oban high schools.

**Around the Rurals**

**Killin**

PRESIDENT Fiona Inglis welcomed everyone to the February meeting and introduced guest speaker for the evening Evie Johnston, regional fund-raiser for Hearing Dogs for the Deaf.

Mrs Johnston explained how the organisation gets its dogs from dog rescue centres or donations of pups.

Members then heard how the dogs are trained, how they are matched to owners and the aftercare offered to the owner. It was a very enjoyable talk.

The vote of thanks was given by Margaret MacGregor and tea was served by the hostesses.

Competition winners: Soup - 1 Margaret Galloway; 2 Elizabeth Woods; 3 Margaret Ogilvie. Words - 1 Margaret Galloway; 2 Elizabeth Wood; 3 Margaret Ogilvie.

**Dervaig**

MEMBERS of the Dervaig branch of the Scottish Women's Rural Institute (SWRI) met on February 6.

Following their business meeting, members welcomed Diana Oldacre from Lochdon who demonstrated the craft of making potholders for hot cooking pots. Diana is a great enthusiast for recycling and provided everyone with recycled material for their potholders - old sweaters washed on a very hot wash in the washing machine so that they 'felt' up and become extremely dense and heatproof.

The material can be cut into shape and two layers is generally sufficient. One layer is then embroidered with a design or picture; Diana had various templates that could be traced round or the more adventurous members designed their own. The traced outline is then embroidered over and the second layer placed to cover the back.

Diana then demonstrated various decorative stitches suitable for sewing the two layers together and the end result was a sturdy and attractive potholder. Most of the group, being enthusiastic but new to the idea, were in the 'finish it at home' class. On the other hand, perhaps they were distracted by the good-natured chat that went on. Several speakers over the year have mentioned that Dervaig is a very friendly and welcoming institute - so if anyone reading this is wondering about joining the group, there's a recommendation.

Whilst everyone was stitching, Diana told members about a recycling initiative to make reusable shopping bags. The instructions and more information can be found on the internet at www.morsbags.com. Diana was warmly thanked by everyone for a fun afternoon.

**Fionnphort**

FIONNPHORT SWRI members spent a relaxed February meeting having fun with pressed flowers, lovingly prepared by member Julia Schoenleber.

She provided a huge variety of flowers including beautiful red rose buds. Members folded cards, got stuck together with double-sided tape, sprinkled sand from the Ross of Mull's golden beaches and were amazed at the results. A splendid tea was served by Shirley and Fiona.

**Salen**

SALEN institute looked forward to a treat when demonstrator Annie Hall let members loose on each other to practise a facial massage.

Each member was instructed on how to mix the essential oils to create the perfect blend for each person and how to use them to their best advantage. At the end of the evening everyone agreed they had learned something useful which they can use to calm or invigorate friends and relatives.

Members all then enjoyed a lovely tea provided by Chrissie and Betsy. Competition, four flapjacks: 1 Eileen Slorach.

**Tieve**

TIEVE SWRI held a successful hands-on craft evening on February 12.

The demonstrators were Caroline MacLean with petal pounding, Jenny Niven with bead craft and Margaret Gorman who helped members make waterfall cards. At least one member completed a pair of earrings under Jenny's teaching and everyone enjoyed making a great deal of noise at the petal pounding. Margaret MacIntyre gave the vote of thanks and presented each demonstrator with a gift while supper was being served.

Betty MacKenzie and Nancy MacKinnon judged the competitions as follows: Paradise Slice - 1 Caroline MacLean; 2 Annette MacKinnon. Favourite apron - 1 Jean Tavener; 2 MaryAnn MacDonald; 3 Fiona Maxwell.

**Tobermory**

TOBERMORY SWRI met on February 5 when Olive Brown spoke about the Ruralitympics which had taken place in Edinburgh on February 2.

Unfortunately the team from Mull wasn't able to take part as it was impossible to get off the island because of atrocious weather. It had been an entertaining day so it is hoped that next year a team from Mull will be able to take part.

Kathryn Campbell then demonstrated Celtic Knotwork - a new craft to members. She showed

how to make the pattern with a thick length of rope then everyone made a key ring.

A few members had gone to a Girl Guide meeting in January to help them make sweets.

**Torosay**

AT THE February meeting, Ian Erskine held the audience spellbound with his talk and photographs on time spent in Kenya.

He had visited the country a second time so impressed was he with the spectacular scenery and the wildlife. He had taken wonderful photographs showing the wild animals in their natural habitats and the vibrant colours were shown to great advantage. The evening was judged a great success by everyone and president Janet Ackroyd thanked Ian for providing such an interesting subject.

The competition for the evening, Photograph of a Castle, was won by Pam White with Diana Oldacre second.

**Kilbrandon**

ON JANUARY 8, Ken MacDonald from Specsavers, Oban, gave an entertaining but thoughtful talk on Vision Aid Overseas, a charity that goes to remote parts of Africa and other disadvantaged regions giving sight back to thousands of people by simply performing an eye test and fitting them with glasses.

Most of the people tested are simply short or long-sighted and not blind as they had thought.

Ken has been out in the field with the charity and spent two weeks at the various clinics that had been set up. He told a few funny stories, but also explained the relief and gratitude the people had for the charity and their work. The vote of thanks was given by Lyn Pearson.

Vice president Shona Neil gave a warm welcome to the excellent turnout of 26 at the meeting on February 5. The speaker needed no introduction as it was Seil's own Dr George Hannah. Dr Hannah gave a fascinating talk on hypnosis, a term coined in the 19th century by Scotsman Dr James Braid who, thinking the phenomenon related to sleep, named it after Hypnos, the Greek god of sleep and dreams. By the time Dr Braid realised the state was induced without sleep, the term hypnosis had entered the language and remains today. Dr Hannah explained that hypnosis is a complimentary therapy used to treat conditions such as pain, headaches and insomnia. With the aid of a volunteer, he demonstrated that hypnosis is a guided form of relaxation, taking the subject into a state of deep calm. Vice president Shona Neil gave the vote of thanks.



**Black swans spotted on Loch Awe**

This photograph of two black swans on Loch Awe was submitted by John Douglas from Oban who spotted them on February 6. The natives of south-east and south-west Australia and Tasmania are not an uncommon site in Scotland but John says it is the first time he has seen them on Loch Awe. He added: 'I wonder if any readers know how they got here?'

Cut up to 1/3 off your energy bill by improving your energy efficiency rating.

Energy prices in Britain may be rising, but there are still ways to lower your bill. Get your free personalised energy savers report at [scottishgas.co.uk](http://scottishgas.co.uk)

Scottish Gas

Based on Energy Savers Report data from January 2006 - October 2007 plus efficiency advice.

## Police warn on alcohol

OBAN police are warning shopkeepers and youths that they will continue to take 'a very hard line' on underage drinkers and those who supply them with alcohol.

Three separate incidents were reported to police regarding underage drinkers within the space of three days.

A 16-year-old female was found drinking in the McCaig Road area of the town around 9.45pm last Thursday.

A group of around 30 underage drinkers were reported for causing a disturbance and making a nuisance of themselves last Saturday in Lunga Road and the following evening, around 10 youths were found to be consuming alcohol at Skerryvore Gardens.

It is suspected that persons are supplying under 18s from various outlets throughout the town and police will be focusing on this issue in due course.

Sergeant Neil Owen said: 'With current issues of antisocial behaviour and an ongoing anti-violence campaign, police will be taking a very hard line on these incidents.'

## Drink driver in court

A LOCHGILPHEAD man admitted a charge of drink driving at Oban Sheriff Court this week.

David Forrest, aged 27, of 8 Meadows Place, admitted driving on Soroba Road, Oban on February 17 this year with 83mcg of alcohol in 100ml of breath, more than twice the legal alcohol limit.

Sentence was deferred for reports on Forrest who also admitted driving without insurance and driving while disqualified. He will be sentenced at Oban Sheriff Court on March 17.

# Outdoor education facility accused of damaging environment

## Neighbour spills the dirt on eco-award centre

Report by HUGH ROSS

THE GREEN credentials of an eco award-winning outdoor centre in Argyll do not tally up with its actions, a neighbouring resident has claimed this week.

Lochgoilhead resident Andy Craig says the Ardroy Outdoor Education Centre has allowed raw sewage to spill into the loch in front of his house and cut down trees to create a car park.

The centre, which offers outdoor and environmental education to people of all ages, has been awarded two eco-centre green flags.

It is owned by Fife Council and employs 15 people but Mr Craig feels the centre 'cherry picks' its environmental responsibilities.

Mr Craig says sewage had been spilling onto the shoreside of Loch Goil in front of his house from an Ardroy septic tank. 'The stream between us flows through any sewage, so it travels across and in front of our home,' he said. 'We, our dogs, our grandchildren and other neighbours' children, tourists and fishermen all use the beach area. The sewage was a real health hazard to those innocent enough to venture along without knowing what was around the shells they picked up.'

He believes the septic tank is too small for the number of people using the outdoor centre.

'Ardroy also removed trees and ditches to make a car park. By removing the ditches the road is now awash with water which washes downhill into our houses.'

'In 2004 we were taking away a steep gradient from our driveway. We brought in 200 tonnes of stone aggregate but the water coming down the driveway washed down towards the house and into our garden.'



Andy Craig at the shore of Loch Goil with the sewage pipe from Ardroy in the background. t08and002

'It took the contractors three days to repair the damage and cost me £1,500 to replace the gravel we could not recover.'

Ardroy manager Liz Evans admitted some sewage had escaped but this was because of cooking fat blocking the tank. 'We cleaned it up and had the tank emptied and I am checking the colour of the outflow every day,' she said.

Ms Evans said Mr Craig's driveway was flooded because of exceptionally heavy rain during a freakish storm in August 2004. She added: 'There is a stream near the centre and this was blocked by trees and debris which caused the problems; it is nothing to do with the drainage. When the storm died down I went and cleared it myself.'

'We put £500,000 out in wages into the community alone. This weekend we have Lochgilphead and Tarbert youth groups down and we do a lot with the Argyll area. But when people have moved

into the area I think they would just prefer Ardroy wasn't here.'

Mr Craig added: 'Don't get me wrong, Ardroy is doing some good things here but it is the way that it goes about it. I don't believe it practices what it preaches.'

'The residents of Lochgoilhead value Ardroy's input to the community. But it must work in unison with us and have the same vested interests in the environment as a whole.'

## School explains why pupils worked extra hour

A CLAIM that pupils have been physically barred from leaving Tieve High School is 'a complete fabrication', its headteacher said this week.

A concerned parent contacted *The Oban Times* claiming that pupils had been blocked from going home last week.

The parent, who did not want to be named, said: 'Senior management was physically blocking exits so that no sec-

ondary pupils could board buses to go home at 3.30pm. The whole secondary school was being kept until 4.30pm. Secondary pupils who managed to get on their bus were ordered off and back into school by senior management.'

'This merits some serious answers.'

Three high headteacher Myra McArthur said its secondary department had to close for a day-and-a-half earlier this month after vandalism of toilets which

is now a police matter. Teachers volunteered to take pupils for an extra hour's class last Wednesday to make up for the time lost.

Ms McArthur wrote to all parents telling them about the plan and also arranged for the bus company to make a second run and pick up pupils at 4.30pm, instead of the usual 3.30pm which is when primary school pupils left.

'The pupils had a five-minute break

before the extra hour,' she said. 'I think it was a very positive thing from our point of view because we were trying to compensate for the time the pupils lost in the classroom.'

'I have had no complaints from parents and it is categorically not true and a complete fabrication that pupils were physically barred from getting on the buses.'

## Committee will examine country's ferry services

THE Scottish parliament's transport, infrastructure and climate change committee is meeting at the Corran Halls in Oban on Tuesday, March 4 as part of its inquiry into ferry services in Scotland. The meeting, which begins at 2pm, is open to the public.

Convener of the committee Patrick Harvie MSP said this week: 'Ferry services are of significant importance to Scotland's island communities in terms of their economy, tourism and environment.'

'The committee wants to look at everything from the frequency of ferries from Oban to Barra to the availability of ferries to Tiree and how ferries fit in with local bus and rail timetables.'

'We think it is important that people in Oban and the surrounding area have a chance to see and hear first-hand the committee's inquiry in action at The Corran Halls. This is why we plan to hear from local authorities serving the West of Scotland, a range of community groups who use ferry services and regional transport partnerships.'

As convener of the transport, infrastructure and climate change committee, Mr Harvie works alongside seven other MSPs - Rob Gibson, Charlie Gordon, Alex Johnstone, Alison McInnes, Cathy Peattie, Shirley-Anne Somerville and David Stewart.

Mr Harvie said the issue of ferry services in Scotland is understandably of significant interest to the population of the west of Scotland and the committee wishes to hear as much as possible from residents of these areas during its inquiry.

He added: 'We decided to visit Oban because of its location in the west of Scotland which serves as a hub offering a range of ferry services to more than ten islands. In being so accessible Oban is ideal in allowing a range of people who use different routes to come along and hear the committee's evidence session.'

In March and April the committee plans to hold meetings to hear the views of individuals and organisations with an interest in ferry services. In addition to the meeting in Oban, the committee plans to meet in Shetland. Other meetings will take place in the parliament itself. These meetings will be open to the public.

Committee members also plan to visit Mallaig, Dunoon and Arran in early March to discuss with residents and other interested parties the specific issues affecting parts of Scotland. Members also hope to hold discussions via video link with groups from Lewis.

Further updates on the progress of the committee's inquiry will appear on the its homepage on the Scottish parliament website. The committee hopes to publish its inquiry results by summer.

Further details are available on the parliament website at the Scottish parliament - committees - transport, infrastructure and climate change.

• If you would like to attend the meeting, please call the parliament's public information office on 0131 348 5411. You would then collect your tickets on the day from the Corran Halls where the meeting will open at 1.30pm.

## TOP 10 BETS

HAVE YOU GOT A TOP 10 PET?

SEND US YOUR PHOTOS AND YOU COULD WIN PRIZES! JUST FILL IN THE COUPON ABOVE, AND SEND IT IN WITH A RECENT PHOTO OF YOUR PET TO: TOP 10 PETS, PO BOX 1, OBAN, ARGYLL PA34 4HB. ALTERNATIVELY EMAIL YOUR PHOTO TO: EDITOR@OBANTIMES.CO.UK ALONG WITH YOUR DETAILS.



Danni, aged 3

Submitted by Rosie Maclean, Fort William.



Woody, aged 3

Submitted by Louis and Drew Walker, North Connel.



Breagha, aged 1

Submitted by William Shearer, Inverness.



Koni, aged 4

Submitted by Fiona MaPhail, Bridge of Awe.



Kee Kee, aged 6 mths

Submitted by Beth Shepton, Yallingup, Duror.



Heidi, aged 1

Submitted by Andrew Pretswell, Oban.



Roggie, aged 2

Submitted by Evonne Stewart, Invergarry.



Tuppence, aged 1

Submitted by Di Howie, Seil Island.



Bruno, aged 4

Submitted by Mary MacGregor, Deanery Brae, Oban.



Button, aged 10

Submitted by J Smith, Ardconnel Hill, Oban.

Pet Name .....

Age .....

Name .....

Address .....

.....

Tel .....

www.infoscotland.com/childprotection

If you are concerned about any child's welfare, call the Child Protection Line: 0800 022 3222.

The Oban Times & West Highland Times

Play it again SAMS

THE Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) laboratory at Dunstaffnage takes centre stage in the news this week with the focus on plans for a new, adjacent multi-million pound marine science park and the announcement of Professor Graham Shimmield's departure for a new challenge in America after 12 years as SAMS' director. What marvellous growth Prof Shimmield has overseen in his time in charge, and everything is surely in place for the facility to enhance its worldwide reputation for excellence. Let us hope they can play it again SAMS in the years ahead.

Glasgow Letter

Glasgow's Gaelic plan

A MAJOR consequence of the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act is that local authorities have to produce a Gaelic Language Plan.

With this in mind, Glasgow City Council has taken the initiative and recently consulted with interested parties. The expected time scale for completion of the plan is relatively short and the council is keen to ensure that its plan encompasses what the key stakeholders see as the necessary components to ensure the sustainability and development of the language. The contribution of Gaelic to the city is well documented and the council is very supportive of the language and the culture, probably most significantly in the education and arts sectors. It is to be congratulated on continuing this support by consulting at such an early stage in the development of its plan. Many new ideas emerged at the meeting and there will be a chance to comment on the draft plan, but if for some reason you, or your organisation, did not receive an invitation to the meeting you are encouraged to contact the council if you feel you can contribute. To do so contact Doreen Montgomery, Chief Executive's Department, Corporate Policy.

It may be coincidence but surely the timing of this initiative could not have been better coming so soon after the conclusion of Celtic Connections 2008.

During the festival many events sold out with approximately 120,000 in attendance at 300 concerts, ceilidhs and talks. In between the sell-out opening concert 'Common Ground' and the sell-out closing 'Transatlantic Sessions' the organisers brought musicians from all over the world to explore the links between Celtic and world music so what better time could there be to launch a plan for Gaelic within our own city.

An Lochran

THE RECENT Ceol's Craic event organised by An Lochran was a terrific success as indeed was the whole weekend, a Scottish/Irish Gaelic get together.

Prior to the main concert on the Saturday evening the language classes and socialising ensured that the participants were really in the mood to enjoy themselves at what was a sell-out concert full of highlights. On stage were Mary Smith, Maev MacKinnon, Barra, Kathleen MacInnes and Calum Alex MacMillan representing our culture with John Spillane and some fiddlers representing the Irish.

In between there was a demonstration of intricate Irish dancing footwork with audience participation and the open stage invitation was taken up by five members of the audience. A great night was had by everyone and they can now look forward to their next event on February 22 when Margaret MacLeod and Albany will entertain.

Clydebank ceilidh

IT WAS a night for Gaelic choir conductors to show that they are multi-talented when both Kirsteen Grant and Mary MacLean performed at the recent ceilidh.

Kirsteen's husband Iain also sang and together they performed a Para Handy sketch which was well received. Completing the programme

for a most enjoyable evening were Seonaidh Rostant, Scot's singer, Andrew Caulfield, piper, Susan MacFadyen, accordionist, and Anna Cameron, accompanist, with Christine Buchannan in the chair.

Forthcoming events

BLAS Gaidhlig will take place in the refectory of Ayr College on February 26 from 1 to 4pm.

The programme for this free event will include a variety of Gaelic music for the first two hours and then an hour of 'Learn Gaelic!'

Friday February 29 will see the annual concert of Glasgow Islay Gaelic Choirs return to Kessington Hall, Bearsden. Their previous concert at this venue was very well attended and everyone is hoping for a repeat.

On the same evening, in Whitefield Community Hall, Glasgow Uist and Barra Association will be joined by St Peter's Traditional Dance Club for its ceilidh dance.

For those of you close to Perth the following look to be exciting events of traditional music.

**Saturday March 1:** Trilok Gurtu, dazzling Indian percussionist, with Session A9 and folk singer Jim Malcolm.

**Monday March 3:** Braebach.

**Monday March 31:** Reinventing the Reel. Lau and The Trio - Ross Ainslie, Jarlath Henderson and Ali Hutton.

A reminder that the annual Oban High School Former Pupils Association Dinner will take place on Saturday March 8 in the Swallow Hotel. For tickets phone 0141 943 0281 or 0141 563 9729.

Diary dates

**Thursday February 21:** Star Folk Club, St Andrew's in the Square, 7.30pm, with Clare Mann, Aaron Jones and Tom McConville.

**Friday February 22:** An Lochran - see above.

**Saturday February 23:** Clydebank and District Highlanders Association, dinner dance, Lesser Town Hall, 5pm. Glasgow Skye Association, Buntata's Sgadan, Partick Burgh (Lesser) Hall, 7.30pm. Motherwell and District Highlander's Association, ceilidh dance, Dalziel St Andrew's Church Hall, 7.30pm. Strathclyde Police Pipe Band, Junior Solo Competition, Smithycroft School, 9am.

**Thursday February 28:** Star Folk Club, St Andrew's in the Square, with Jenna Reid and Kevin MacKenzie, 7.30pm.

**Friday February 29:** Glasgow Islay Gaelic Choirs annual concert - see above. Glasgow Uist and Barra Association, ceilidh dance - see above. Helensburgh and District Highland Ball, 7pm for 7.30pm, with Stuart McKeown's Band.

Pub scene

MUSIC in the Park Bar this weekend will be provided by Ballochmyle on Friday, Eriskay Lilt on Saturday and Shindig on Sunday while in the Islay Inn it will be Hell for Leather, The Believers and Don/Rory on respective evenings.

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



Fire Brigade football tournament Riverside Park, Kinlochleven-1987

This week's flashback photograph features the teams who reached the final of the Fire Brigade five-a-side football tournament at Riverside Park, Kinlochleven, in 1987. It was submitted by Shaun Taylor, The Pines, Ballachulish. We would like readers to send in 'Flashback' photographs. Please send prints to The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB, or email editor@obantimes.co.uk. Prints or emails must be accompanied by a caption, name, address and telephone number. Anyone wishing their prints returned must supply a stamped addressed envelope. Each month a photo will win £10.

Letters to the editor

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

www.obantimes.co.uk

Telephone: 01631 568000  
Fax: 01631 568001

Kerrera amendments

Sir, In response to Duncan MacIntyre's letter, I'd like to amend a couple of points.

He stated that islanders were offered Kerrera School on a long lease at a peppercorn rent.

As the chairperson of the then school committee, we were never offered such a lease. After more than five years of writing to the council asking to rent the building, we met with them to be told our only option was to buy the school.

Also, in regard to recycling, bottle and plastic banks were situated at the Kerrera Ferry mainland carpark, where they were used by residents.

If non-recyclable waste was put into the banks, it could have been anyone as they were situated on the mainland.

To my knowledge, the reason the banks were removed was to do with changes in the organisation which emptied them.

**Heather Craig, Ardmhor, Isle of Kerrera.**

Island needs council support

Sir, I feel it important to correct Councillor MacIntyre on certain aspects of his letter, which he stated as fact.

Regarding the mainland slipway, the amount of work carried out on the car park was quoted to be £6,000 when the work was carried out in 2002. Kerrera roads were patched - patched being the operative word because within four months all but a short stretch on the patch was washed away. The culverts they replaced were broken by the heavy machinery brought over to repair roads that had been left to fall into such disrepair. At that time they were no more than cart tracks.

Although the community had use of the school, on no occasion were we offered a long-term lease and did not pay rent. When the school was put up for sale in 2005 the community had an independent survey carried out. Although the school

needs major refurbishment the community made a fair offer of £90,000, which the council refused. It has been noted that a school on another island was gifted to the community for £1 while the school on Kerrera still lies empty and falls into even deeper disrepair.

On the issue of recycling, we have not had any recycling bins on Kerrera. The community approached the Group for Recycling in Argyll and Bute which placed three recycling bins in the mainland car park. We were aware of the problems about bins.

Councillor MacIntyre states a lack of willingness was shown by the community but it was impossible for us to police the bins from the island when they were on the mainland, placed on what is a public car park.

Finally, Argyll and Bute Council has committed itself to £10,000 as part of funding an independent consultant. That commitment has yet to be met. We are a small community and we do intend to find a way forward but the progress and support does not lie with the island alone but also with our councillors who we elected to represent us, and Argyll and Bute Council that takes thousands of pounds each year from the island in council tax.

**Elaine Pearson, School House, Kerrera.**

Pub closure a long time coming

Sir, I am writing in response to a letter in last week's Oban Times.

I was bemused to say the least when I read the letter by Ian Welhan, who claims to have lived at 12C Breadalbane Street for 'many years'.

Firstly, he can't possibly have lived there for 'many years' because I only sold that flat 13 months ago, after residing in it for five years. That is the first, obvious, fault to his letter.

Since he claims to have lived there for so long, I am amazed he has not come across any broken glass/bottles on the pavement or worse still in the gardens outside the flats.

I can't speak for the last year since we moved out, but prior to this I regularly had to sweep glass off the pavement in order for me to pass without the tyres on my son's pram being punctured.

That was inconvenient enough but, to make matters worse, there were constantly people leaving the pub - witnessed by myself and my husband - who urinated outside our flat or vomited on the pavements. Rubbish was always being dumped over our wall, which I might add was a favourite resting place for those tired revellers after leaving O'Donnells!

In conclusion, I am utterly amazed at the support for Ms Cameron. Surely it is obvious for all to see that given the circumstances the licensing board was left with little choice. Had the proprietor of O'Donnells heeded all the warnings and letters of complaint that she has received over the years then she wouldn't be in this situation.

Of course it is a sad day when local people lose a job, and indeed another pub to choose from on a night out, but the fact is that this was a long time coming.

I hope the remaining residents of Breadalbane Street now have some well deserved peace and quiet.

**Claire MacQueen, Ardconnel Road, Oban.**

Easdale Island shock

Sir, My family has been visiting Argyll on a regular basis for many years and always include Oban and a trip over to Easdale.

You cannot imagine how shocked we were on our last visit to Easdale because of the appalling state of the place.

The paths were completely obliterated and churned up by heavy vehicles and flooded with the recent torrential rain. I know that building has to take place but there had obviously been no attempt to minimise the damage and the amount of machinery and building materials lying around made enjoying the place an impossibility. We are forever reading articles in your paper and others about the amount of money that is being poured into the island and what a great community there is. It's also said it's a wonderful place to live. Take a trip over there and see what has become of the place. It is very sad.

Apart from the terrible mess which makes strolling around admiring the views and scenery impossible, there is nowhere for tourists to get anything to eat or drink and no toilets. The only place to shelter is the ferry shed. The new hall which attracted so

much lottery money and hype a few years ago, is looking very sad and on the numerous occasions I've been there is always closed.

I cannot say how sorry I am that such a lovely spot has become such a sorry sight. I hope something will be done in the future to return it to the beautiful and friendly place myself and others loved to visit.

**Cloe Grencham, Croydon, Surrey.**

Ban flying

Sir, Many irrelevant issues have been raised about airport expansion.

Readers have dealt with noise, cost, economic benefits to the community, but all these pale into insignificance when compared with the issue that planes are the most important factor in global warming.

Next time a few hundred people get drowned by floods in Bangladesh shall we praise Argyll and Bute councillors for their support in increasing global warming?

When floods next occur in low-lying areas of the UK such as Gloucestershire, Norfolk and Lincolnshire, shall we continue to praise those who support an increase in air travel? When the southern half of Western Australia disappears beneath the waves, when every coral island in the Pacific has gone, shall we remember who was responsible? They can only be saved by an immediate and total ban on flying.

**David Gallant, Oban.**

Beaver programme

Sir, The attitude of Donald Linton, Scottish Crofting Foundation, in the beaver debate is so angersome it has put me off my dinner - or at least my meat!

First, his use of the word 'vermin', so often used by farmers for animals other than sheep, cows and gamebirds is as foul and repugnant as the word 'nigger'.

Secondly has Mr Linton forgotten his market is in the town and city where more and more people are increasingly concerned about the environment, wildlife and food production? People consider schemes to secure and enhance our environment, like the Beaver Introduction Programme, to be progressive not backward, unlike how they will perceive his attitude.

This also conflicts with his comment about farmers being the best environmentalists. As for Mr Linton's suggestion that conservation money be passed over to agriculture, I have now decided to stop eating/buying beef and lamb so he'll get nothing from me. **Thomas Wilson, Oban.**

A VIEW FROM THE TOWER

By McCAIG



Water, expensive water everywhere

JUST when I believed Scottish Water had got on top of its problems, many inherited from years of neglect of water and sewerage throughout the country, I find this is most definitely not the case. Oban and Inveraray have ample evidence that major contracts are always behind schedule and the public suffers unnecessary inconvenience. In the case of Inveraray, a dramatic loss of turnover as streets are opened up almost to shop front doors.

One trader told me that he was only seeing half-a-dozen customers daily because of the disgracefully slow progress being made by Scottish Water-appointed contractors.

In Oban, it is little better. The contract to lay a main in George Street is weeks behind, the contractors don't work when it is raining or at weekends to try to catch up and make very slow progress. Just two examples of very poor management of major contracts.

But there is worse to come. David Stewart, a regional Labour MSP for the Highlands and Islands, has got so fed up with the inability of Scottish Water to cut down the billions of litres of wasted water every day, that he wants more powers for the Scottish Water watchdog.

After reading the figures for the daily wastage of treated water - £190,000 worth - he insists immediate action is necessary to reduce water leaks by 44 million litres daily, the equivalent of what would be needed to fill 17 Olympic-sized swimming pools!

David, being a good socialist, probably does not want Scottish Water to be privatised but this seems the only way to get contracts finished on time and leaks treated quickly and successfully.

Brown's bombshell

FOR WEEKS the 'McChattering' classes - to quote junior Scotland Office Minister David Cairns - have been pouring vitriol on Wendy Alexander's proposal to appoint a commission to examine the first 10 years of the Scottish Parliament and investigate whether there should be further devolution, including proper tax raising powers.

The McChatters stated as though they had had it from the prime minister's own lips - off the record of course - that this was just a non-starter. Indeed, David Cairns must have understood that this was the official line and was accordingly contemptuous only to be covered in confusion when he watched Gordon Brown's television interview on Sunday where he suddenly said that he, too, was in favour of a 'review' of the first decade of the operation of the Edinburgh parliament.

In addition, he gave full backing to Wendy Alexander as leader of the Labour Party in Scotland.

Even more surprisingly, Mr

Brown, Scottish born but fervently British, was prepared to agree that tax-raising powers should be explored although the current ability of the Scottish government to raise a tax of three pence in the pound has never been used.

His apparent 'volte face' has certainly put the fox among the chickens and sent all the political parties scuttling to their howffs to ponder what would be the best way to handle their recommendations to Mr Bown's 'review' or Ms Alexander's 'commission'.

While many of my media colleagues are temporarily speechless, I'm not in the least surprised that the prime minister has backed Ms Alexander's proposition in general, if not in the particular terms she and the leaders of the Tories and the Scottish Liberal Democrats have drawn up for their commission.

After a few months of almost constant allegations of 'sleaze' he had to bring something quite spectacular out of the hat to raise the standard of political debate and steer it away from who gave what to whom to support whoever's leadership campaign in Scotland or deputy leadership onslaught at Westminster.

However, I wrote before the first elections to the Scottish parliament that independence will not necessarily be achieved by the SNP obtaining an overwhelming mandate to declare a 'free Scotland' but rather by the Unionist parties making constant gestures.

Giving the Holyrood parliament more and more powers will mean that independence in all but name will be handed on a plate to the SNP which will win the subsequent referendum almost without out trying.

More beat police?

THE VAST majority of us would agree that we would like to see more police officers walking the streets, not only during office hours but during the evenings as well.

Locally, Chief Inspector Fred Hall is the latest senior officer for Oban, Lorn and the Isles to try to improve the on-street presence of his officers but even he hasn't yet got them out and about in the evenings when irritating offences are being committed and must be visible on the town's closed circuit television.

This isn't an attack on Chief Inspector Hall or his deputy as I know they try their very best with the officers available to them.

However, it is a call for a thorough examination of the reality of achieving 'more officers on the beat' through reducing the number of senior officers in promoted posts who will have to leave with very substantial golden handshakes, bitter that their careers have been terminated unnecessarily because of an over-hasty political announcement.

McCaig

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.

PRESS POLICY

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

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

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

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

# Letters to the editor

## How much has Eigg cost us?

Sir,  
I am pleased the Isle of Eigg now has its own electricity supply and that the 87 islanders can look forward to a more modern life.  
I understand from other sources that the total cost of the scheme is £1.6 million.  
How much of that is 'public' money? I am all in favour of assistance for more remote areas, but since the so called 'buyout' 10 years ago, the total contributed by us must have been considerable. Has anyone got the total spent by us since 1997 on the Isle of Eigg?  
Another point your article highlights is that despite Eigg harnessing every renewable available to them, they still need batteries and other sources of energy to keep them going with electricity. How does this translate on a national scale I wonder?  
**G W Stewart, Clachan Seil, Seil Island.**

## Housing crisis

Sir,  
Councillor George Freeman, rejoicing in the title of Housing and Communities Spokesperson, reminds me of an Admiral of the Swiss Navy - big title but no ships!  
In Councillor Freeman's case another big title but no houses!

This correspondence started when I stressed there needed to be an end to the semantics used by Councillor Freeman and a realisation that the most important thing is to get houses built for the homeless.  
Unfortunately, he is still at it as he will not recognise that the figure of people on the housing register in Argyll and Bute is 3,300 and is widely quoted by spokespersons for the housing associations which should know as it is their problem to build the necessary homes without, I should add, almost any support from Councillor Freeman.  
If it were what he claims, just a few hundred, everyone would be ecstatic and there would be no need to build 800 houses in the Oban to Dunbeg corridor on land which the local authority does not own and never has.  
The land which the council has transferred to West Highland Housing is a strip to provide access to the 800-house site. And transferred with no details of how and when the construction of these houses is to start. So much for the claims in the remainder of his letter.  
**McCaig.**

**Challenge to secularism**  
Sir,  
Reluctant as I am to take issue with my good friend McCaig, conscience bids me to do so.  
The Archbishop of Canterbury's foundation lecture 'Religious Perspective on Civil and Religious Law in England' at the Royal Courts

of Justice is fundamentally about 'conscience'.  
As a member of the United Reformed Church I believe that 'Christ gives his Church a government distinct from the government of the state. In the things that affect obedience to God the Church is not subordinate to the state, but must serve the Lord Jesus Christ, its only Ruler and Head. Civil authorities are called to serve God's will of justice and peace for all humankind, and to respect the rights of conscience and belief, while we ourselves are servants in the world as citizens of God's eternal kingdom.'

Whilst I was studying at Cambridge, Rowan Williams impressed me by his wisdom, intellect and sheer holiness. His recent lecture was quite properly about 'exploring ways in which reasonable accommodation might be made within existing arrangements for religious conscience'.  
This direct challenge to secularist dogma undermines the so-called values of those who would render everything to Caesar and nothing to God.

**Murdoch MacKenzie, Ferryfield, Connel.**

## The road forward

Sir,  
Can I please remind readers that for Oban and Lorn, the Gateway to the Isles, the prime freight route is not down the appalling road via Loch Lomond, but the almost equally bad A84/5 to Strirling?

This brings all our groceries and fuel and exports our fish and some of our timber because Central Scotland has all the depots and it gives the quickest access to the motorway network. Even for the private motorist, Edinburgh is becoming a more and more important destination, especially since Edinburgh Airport has now overtaken Glasgow as Scotland's number one.  
May I suggest the A82 group campaign that not a penny be spent on the A9 south of Dornoch until all Scotland's other primary routes have been brought up to an acceptable standard?  
**Duncan Martin, 13 Dungallan Terrace, Oban.**

**Switch freight to railway**  
Sir,  
Living up Glencoe as I do, it is necessary to travel on the A82 no matter where I go.  
I totally agree with all that has been said about the road throughout its entire length so why not use the railway?  
The number of heavy lorry movements there are on the road never ceases to amaze me. Timber lorries, seafood, supermarket traffic and fuel, to name but a few. The West Highland Line must be under-used from a freight point of view so it begs the question

why can't these bulk loads be moved by rail? As many lorry loads can be moved by one train, it is much more environmentally friendly, cost effective and will take heavy lorries that are charging up and down the road, off the road, making it much safer for other traffic.  
**David Baker, Glencoe.**



## Enjoying The Oban Times in Kauai, Hawaii

Christine (MacLean) Campbell, formerly of Aros, Isle of Mull, relaxes on the Hawaiian island of Kauai by reading her copy of *The Oban Times*. Christine, who now lives in Nanaimo, British Columbia, was on holiday on Kauai. Christine's sister, Flora (MacLean) MacMillan, Ardconnel Road, Oban, sends Christine *The Oban Times* every week to keep her in touch with all the local news.

why can't these bulk loads be moved by rail? As many lorry loads can be moved by one train, it is much more environmentally friendly, cost effective and will take heavy lorries that are charging up and down the road, off the road, making it much safer for other traffic.  
**David Baker, Glencoe.**

## Taypayers let down by council

Sir,  
The whole point of going on strike is to cause maximum inconvenience and expense to your employer.  
Unfortunately, because Argyll and Bute opted out of any of its responsibilities to their tax payers, the local authority workers' strike has only affected the general public, while those working the finances in Kilmory are probably rubbing their hands in glee at all their budget savings.  
The lack of gritting in particular - when the severe weather was well forecast - was incredibly irresponsible causing serious inconvenience, expense and not inconsiderable danger to the people of Argyll.  
The authority knew this was going to happen but made no attempt whatever to alleviate the situation.  
The only way that we, the public, can take a stand on this dispute is to make it very clear to councillors and Argyll and Bute Council 'management'

that we are not prepared to do without essential services and if they have to buy in alternatives, perhaps they will be more inclined to settle this dispute.  
**Trish Hurst, The Steading, Carradale.**

## Islanders 'held hostage'

Sir,  
The recent strike action by the Unison and Unite unions was a shocking course of action to take.  
I believe Argyll and Bute Council was wrong in the first place and, although I sympathise with the workers concerned, the unions were also wrong to call strike action and cut lifeline services.  
Withdrawing the only means of transport on and off the Isle of Luing amounted to holding the island people hostage. This is not only morally wrong but may well also be illegal.  
I trust the unions will bear this in mind should they start to consider such action again.  
Children have a right to their education. People have a right to be able to get to and from work. People requiring medical and welfare services have a right to those.  
**John V Roberts, 20 Toberonochy, Isle of Luing.**

## Passengers were not left stranded

Sir,  
I write regarding the article in last week's *Oban Times*

'Strike action cuts off remote village'.  
The part which said 'This meant the patients, mostly elderly, were left to find their own way back to the village from Taynuilt' has upset the people concerned, especially the bus driver.  
Before being dropped off in Taynuilt for their surgery appointments, the bus driver received a call to say that owing to the weather conditions and ungritted roads, Oban High School was closing early and would he collect the Dalavich/Kilchrenan pupils. At this point, a resident of Kilchrenan who was passing in his car, kindly offered to take the passengers home.  
They were not left stranded by the bus driver.  
**Marilyn Henderson, Kilchrenan.**

## Planning query

Sir,  
With regard to last week's letter 'No action by council', would Oban planning department tell us, through your column, whom the enforcement order was taken out against, for what reason and why did it not enforce it for so long?  
**Bill Slater, Dunollie, Oban.**

## Tiree wind turbine application

Sir,  
This planning application came before the Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Committee

on February 5 where the decision to hold a hearing was made.  
At no time did the committee discuss or decide on a refusal as reported in your paper last week.  
The area committee is going to Tiree to hold the hearing on Tuesday February 26.  
This is a very important issue and it is important that the views of the people of Tiree are heard.  
**Mary-Jean Devon, Councillor Ward 4.**

## Take cycle path off road

Sir,  
I write regarding recent discussions on cycling on the road between Dunbeg and Oban.  
I was driving to Oban recently for a ferry and it struck me that were I a regular cyclist on this route, I would be far happier away from the road as it can't be a particularly pleasant cycling experience - particularly in poor weather.  
As you head to Oban, on the right hand side there is some lovely countryside and I thought how much nicer it would be to cycle through that!  
I have no idea who owns the land, but I just wanted to make a suggestion that if a cycle path was to be built, it might be better to make it through this countryside, away from the busy, noisy road.  
I'm sure such a path would also be very appealing to pedestrians and perhaps in

particular to those living in Dunbeg who could have a far more pleasant walking route to Oban.  
**Douglas Irving, Isle of Colonsay.**

## A price for respect?

Sir,  
Absurd and sinister is the local commuter's suggestion, *The Oban Times*, January 31, that those not driving vehicles liable to tax - cyclists, presumably pedestrians, passengers in all vehicles, and drivers of electric cars - should either have to pay or be accorded lesser respect on the highway.  
Too often one encounters motorists who think that, because they pay tax to keep their vehicles, they own the road. It is as if smokers argued that, since they pay tax on tobacco, the air is theirs, and non-smokers ought to be charged at least a nominal fee for breathing it.  
If we set against motor tax the incalculably greater cost to the community and the environment of having made everything give way to the car, we must ask why for years now the price of motoring has been pushed down and the price of alternatives pushed up. As for insurance, a cyclist riding badly may cause a motor accident; so may a thoughtless pedestrian. Must we all be insured before stepping outside our front doors? It is the dangerousness of motor vehicles that obliges others to be extra careful.

## Public phone box scandal

Sir,  
Since government privatised British Telecom, the responsibility of maintaining public telephone boxes in rural and island areas of Scotland has been shared with favoured contractors of British Telecom.  
In 2007, British Telecom raised the price of a minimum telephone call made from a public telephone from 30p to 40p. There followed almost immediately and without notice to the communities of the islands and rural areas of Scotland, a decision that cash calls could not be made from the public telephone boxes in these areas.  
British Telecom now claims that about 200 telephone boxes throughout Scotland are not being used.  
The public has not had a choice in the matter. It has been the ill-thought out policies of British Telecom that has led to the public abandoning the use of the public telephone boxes in their communities.  
For many years now, the service offered to the public which is necessary to support the public telephone box service of British Telecom, has been deplorable. Despite suffering unjustified increases in the price of cash calls made from public telephone boxes, the service has little improved.  
But those of us who think a public telephone box service is necessary in rural and island communities, are not deceived by these latest claims by British Telecom. We expected that sooner or later British Telecom would propose the removal of public telephone boxes.  
These are claims I would find difficult to convey to a college graduate employed by British Telecom in an Indian call centre.  
**James Byrne, Morvern.**

25 Years Ago

## Those Were The Days

### The Oban Times

Thursday, February 19, 1983

**Port Charlotte postponement angers councillors**  
AN ISLAY district councillor has spoken out angrily over a 12-year delay in building 10 council houses at Port Charlotte and is threatening to resign unless the situation moves forward.  
Donald McKerrrell made it clear at a housing committee meeting that he does not blame the council directly for the situation and lays the blame at the feet of central government. The Port Charlotte development was scheduled to start this year but when the council's revenue allowance was cut from £5.2million to £4.2m this plan had to be shelved.  
Mr McKerrrell said: 'I feel sick about the way it is always the Port Charlotte houses that suffer. For 12 years now this saga has gone on first with Islay District Council, then the county council and now the district council. There always seems to be some reason why they aren't built - but it is just not good enough.'  
**Yachting week changes anger hotelier**  
CHANGES to the West Highland Yachting Week programme mean yachtsmen will only spend one night in Tobermory instead of the usual two.  
But a Mull hotelier has hit out at the change saying that hotels stand to lose thousands of pounds in custom because of the missing day.  
Derek McAdam, of the Western Isles Hotel, said: 'We cling precariously to the economic cliffs out here and can't afford to lose business in this way.'

'I get the impression that the changes have come about because of the vociferous few in big boats who are apparently attempting to change the whole nature of West Highland Week.'  
But Bobby MacLeod, himself a yachtsman and proprietor of the Mishnish Hotel, said he felt the loss of business would not be all that substantial.  
He said: 'The West Highland Week is now mainly for Clyde yachtsmen and we have to accept that what they think is the best, although we will miss them.'

**Plan to keep Crinan Bridge open**  
PROPOSALS to keep Crinan Bridge permanently open for canal traffic have been discussed this week.  
The bridge was originally built to allow access to the Crinan Ferry which has not been in operation for around 50 years. The British Waterways Board claims it can no longer afford to keep the bridge operating and want to simply leave it open to allow boats to pass through at any time. The bridge is currently closed to boats at nights and weekends.  
All of the houses on the far side of the bridge are occupied by tenants of the board, most of them employees.  
These people are in the habit of leaving their cars on the other side from their houses but the board says the bridge could be opened for them if they needed to take a vehicle across.  
But opening the bridge permanently might annoy some walkers who will have to take a longer route to get to the towpath. That is why the board decided to hold a public meeting in Cairnbaan this week.

The Oban Times

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE DOUBLE CROSSWORD

No. 528

**ACROSS**

1. 1777 battle in the American War of Independence at which General Burgoyne's force surrendered (8)
5. The derived SI unit of power (4)
9. The meat of a young sheep (4)
10. Water is a lake in England, scene of Donald Campbell's death in 1967 (8)
11. City in Lombardy, Italy, with a motor-racing circuit (5)
12. Country whose capital is Tbilisi (7)
13. 1978 Warren Beatty film (6,3,4)
18. Fleshy spore-producing body of a basidiomycetous fungus (8)
19. 'The — of Youth', 1917 novel by Alice Waugh (4)
20. 1950 film starring Richard Basehart and Cyd Charisse (7)
21. In ancient Greece and Rome, a propheticess such as the one who guided Aeneas through the underworld (5)
22. Tim, lyricist who worked with Andrew Lloyd Webber (4)
23. Explosive patented by Alfred Nobel in 1867 (8)

**DOWN**

2. Mr. France, author of Penguin Island (7)
3. Alexei, Russian dramatist who authored 1939's Tanya (7)
4. Actor who played Batman in the 1997 film Batman and Robin (6,7)
6. Island of the West Indies linked with Barbuda (7)
7. See 16.
8. The Bronze Age culture of Crete from about 3000 B.C. to about 1100 B.C. (6)
13. Eurasian burrowing rodent such as Mesocricetus auratus (7)
14. Toxic element, symbol: As (7)
15. Insect such as Forficula auricularia with small leathery forewings (6)
- 16 and 7. Scottish poet whose works include Anster Fair (7,7)
17. Line on a map connecting places having equal rainfall (7)

SOLUTIONS TO LAST WEEK

**GENERAL KNOWLEDGE - Across:** 1 Harriet Smith; 7 Speer; 8 Greco; 9 Rae; 10 The Warden; 11 Daniel; 12 Jersey; 15 Enchilada; 17 Ali; 18 Rioja; 19 Ouida; 21 Arnold Palmer.

**Down:** 1 Hundred Years'; 2 Ike; 3 Turner; 4 Magdalena; 5 Tweed; 6 Johnny Miller; 7 Stern; 10 The Mikado; 13 Scala; 14 Harold; 16 Choir; 20 Ida.

**QUICK - Across:** 1 Contaminated; 2 Atlas; 8 Julep; 9 Ill; 10 Conductor; 11 Enwrap; 12 Snatch; 15 Tabulated; 17 Inn; 18 As yet; 19 Orate; 21 Translucence.

**Down:** 1 Confidential; 2 Ail; 3 Insane; 4 Adjournd; 5 Eclat; 6 Apprehensive; 7 Allow; 10 Charlatan; 13 Trine; 14 Stroll; 16 Buyer; 20 Arc.

QUICK CLUES DOWN

2. Wrap up (7)
3. Commotion (7)
4. Remain neutral (3,2,3,5)
6. Broad blade (7)
7. Never ending (7)
8. A beetle (6)
13. Hide (7)
14. Fancy (7)
15. Famous film dog (6)
16. Charm (7)
17. Relate (7)

Sponsored by Wallace Optometrists

For people who really care about their eyesight

Call today and book your comprehensive eye examination

Wallace Optometrists  
0845 230 EYES  
(3937)

# The Oban Times Wedding Album



## Shelmeroine - White

Catherine Shelmeroine and Ian White, both of Greenwood Road, Lymm, Cheshire, were married at Barcaldine Castle where they also held their reception.  
Photograph by Anthony MacMillan Photography, Fort William.



## MacDougall - Hegarty

Gemma MacDougall and Simon Hegarty, both of Glencruitten Drive, Oban, were married at St Columba's Cathedral, Oban, by Father MacKay. The couple held a reception at the Argyllshire Gathering Halls, Oban.  
Photograph by Anthony MacMillan Photography, Fort William.



## Lucie-MacCallum

Alison Lucie and Stuart MacCallum were married at Our Dynamic Earth in Edinburgh. Alison is the younger daughter of Pat and Norman Lucie, Borden Road, Glasgow, and Stuart is the younger son of Mary and Bill MacCallum, Lochgilphead, and grandson of Minnie MacCallum, Rockfield, Tobermory.



## Gillies - Guilmartin

Ann Marie Gillies, of Achlain, Glenmorrison, and Iain Guilmartin of South Erradale, Gairloch, were married at St Mary's Church, Inverness.  
Photograph by Scott Hogg Photography.



## Cannon - MacLeod

Nicola Simone Cannon, younger daughter of Frank and Margaret Cannon, Glasgow, and Robert Norman MacLeod, Tobermory, Isle of Mull, were married at Tortola, British Virgin Islands, on Christmas Day 2007.



## Melville - Patterson

Michelle Melville and Alan Patterson, both of Glasdrum Court, Fort William, were married in St Mary's Church, Fort William, by Father Donald MacKinnon. The couple held a reception at The Moorings Hotel, Banavie.  
Photograph by Anthony MacMillan Photography, Fort William.



## MacDonald - Slater

Anna Marie MacDonald and Lee Slater, currently living in Dubai, were married in Crieff. Anna Marie is the daughter of Alex and Barbara MacDonald, Alma Road, Fort William, and Lee is the son of Carole and the late William Slater of Huyton, Liverpool.



## Doran - Clark

Emma Doran, of Lusk, County Dublin, and Donald Clark, formerly of Oban, were married in St McCullin's Church, Lusk. The couple, who now live and work in Edinburgh, held their reception at the Grand Hotel, Malahide.  
Photograph by Blakeney Norman Photography.



## Woodcock - Blunsden

Fiona Woodcock and Matthew Blunsden, both of Barcaldine, were married at the Dungallan House Hotel, Oban. They spent their honeymoon in New York.



## Carr - Smock

Nicola Carr, Hill Crest, Mallaig, and Andrew Smock, Kennoway Drive, Glasgow, were married in St Columba's Church, Mallaig. The couple held a reception in The West Highland Hotel, Mallaig.  
Photograph by Anthony MacMillan Photography, Fort William.



## Porter - Douglas

Alana Porter and Kenneth Douglas, both of Wallace Place, Culloden, Inverness, were married in St Margaret's Church, Roy Bridge, by Father Thomas Wynne. The couple held a reception in The Ben Nevis Hotel, Fort William.  
Photograph by Anthony MacMillan Photography.



## Burton - Lyon

Fay Burton, originally from Gloucester, and James Lyon, originally from Barcaldine, were married in St Oran's Church, Connel, by the Rev George Cringles. The couple, who now live in Boness, held a reception at The Falls of Lora Hotel.

# Why hospital food is being given plenty of thought

Good nutrition is now recognised as essential to a patient's recovery

By EUAN PATERSON

'HOSPITAL food is terrible.' It began as a general perception but stories of cold dinners and starving patients have made it gospel.

No more, it seems. Staff in some hospitals will claim to provide a near five-star service with fresh, uninterrupted meals delivered straight to the ward after the patient has ordered from a menu, full of choices. Most hospitals now put dietary requirements and nutrition at the forefront of their patient priorities and, in NHS Highland, the vast majority of hospital kitchens will cook fresh produce, on site.

Douglas Seago, NHS Highland's head of facilities, said: 'We try to get as much of our fresh food from local sources as possible including a contract with a local butcher. We also tie up with national contracts for dried goods as this gets us the best deal.'

And while some hospitals in other parts of Scotland cannot claim to serve the same fresh food, the three larger Glasgow-based hospitals used by Highland patients — Royal Alexandra, Royal Infirmary and the Southern General, — also prepare food on site.

But hospital meals are never far from controversy and recent figures published by Audit Scotland have revealed that more money is spent on prisoners' meals than on patients' meals. In 2003/04 an Audit Scotland report showed that some Scottish hospitals spend as little as £1.25 per patient, per day, whereas a year later the National Audit Office showed prisons (UK-wide) spend £1.85 per prisoner, per day.

In a bid to separate fact from fiction, Age Concern Scotland is issuing a patient questionnaire to find out what people really think of hospital meals and query whether NHS policy is working.

Hospitals will boast of a new scheme, protected meal times, by



Lorn and Islands District General Hospital support services officer Bruce Emslie, dietician Jackie Barron and link nurse Mike Taylor help to ensure patients have the nutrition they need from healthy foods. #06food01

which patients can eat their meals in private. All staff and visitors must not disturb the patient while they are eating, in order to give them privacy and to make sure they are not distracted from the task at hand.

However, Age Concern Scot-

land, which was a campaigner for the scheme, says hospitals have misunderstood how it should be implemented.

Ann Ferguson, Age Concern Scotland public affairs manager, told *The Oban Times*: 'We are aware that hospital food has been

under the microscope for a while, following reports by NHS Quality Improvement Scotland and Audit Scotland.

'We've heard about people losing weight in hospital because they are not eating, so this questionnaire will be exploring how

policy is affecting the patient.

'One of the issues we hope to find out about is protected meal times. What we mean by this scheme was that doctors, nurses and other staff don't do anything with the patient during meal times.

'But we have discovered the

scheme is discouraging visitors to the hospital. Visitors are often banned during protected meal times. But what if a family member is visiting and helping the patient to open a sandwich or something? If you take them away, that is one less person to help the patient.

'Also, stopping family members visiting at meal times, suggests to some people that the issue is being pushed underground and any problems the patient might have with eating seem hidden away.'

One hospital particularly proud of its protected meal time strategy is Lorn and Islands District General Hospital (LIDGH) in Oban, which says the scheme has been beneficial to patients, although staff have received a mixed response from family visitors who sometimes question the need for them being ejected from the ward.

The hospital has a full-time dietician, Jackie Barron, who is supported by link nurses, like Mike Taylor, who are her eyes on the wards.

Jackie says the perception that hospital food is disgusting is an out-of-date one and stressed that nutrition and diet are the most important parts of a patient's recovery.

She said: 'Nutrition affects everyone and patients are examined for their dietary requirements.'

'The food is excellent here and each patient gets their own menu to take into account any dietary requirements. They are also given snacks, like home baking, at 8pm to keep them going until breakfast. There are toasters and fridges on the wards and visitors are encouraged to bring in the patient's favourite foods.'

'In general terms, if you cook for 2,000 people in a city hospital, there are things that happen that decrease the standard of food but we may be the exception to the rule because we have fewer patients and we get really good feedback.'

Indeed, LIDGH places so much emphasis on nutrition that the hospital's support services officer Bruce Emslie, in charge of kitchen staff, says he is quite comfortable with his budget and brings in quality produce from all over Scotland.

Ms Barron dismissed suggestions that other crucial hospital services in Oban, such as accident and emergency and theatre, are suffering a lack of funding while hospital food has an embarrassment of riches.

She added: 'Forty per cent of people admitted to hospital are malnourished and, of that, 70 per cent (nationally) go on to be further malnourished.'

'The reason you are admitted to hospital is because something is wrong with you and the first thing that goes when you are unwell is your appetite. As soon as you stop eating your condition deteriorates faster, so we need to get good nutrition into these patients.'

'If we didn't have that, we would have people in beds for longer and the medical and nursing costs would go on to outweigh catering costs.'

Lasta King, from Luig, is a member of Oban, Lorn and Islands Locality Health Forum, which represents the interests of patients.

She says the idea of protected meal times is a welcome one but should be flexible; giving relatives of patients, who are used to feeding them, access to the wards at meal times.

As for hospital food, Lasta probably echoes the opinion of the majority.

'I don't have much personal experience of hospital food but the people who have talked to me about it say it is acceptable. Hospitals are disadvantaged by the length of time it takes to get a meal plated and up to the ward.'

'No-one is ever going to describe it as an amazing gourmet meal!'

# Monarch of the glen's key role in the west coast economy

By ROY BARFORD

DEERSTALKING is not only a prominent tradition and part of Scotland's heritage and history, but has also become a valuable industry.

This is particularly the case in west coast areas where agriculture is struggling.

Hunters from all over the world converge on the Highland hills each autumn to take up the challenge of hunting the red deer stag the 'monarch of the glen'.

While stalking across Scotland was once a privilege landowners reserved for friends and family, a combination of factors has gradually changed perceptions about the business potential of the sport.

In areas like Ardnamurchan, deerstalking is essential to the lo-

**Hunters pay up to £500 to shoot a stag, and will stay in the area's hotels, B&Bs and guest houses**

cal economy, with most estates offering stalking to clients and providing full and part-time employment.

Harvey Philip, a member of the Morvern Deer Management Group who has been an estate manager and deerstalker in Ardnamurchan for 18 years, believed the importance of deerstalking is often overlooked.

In his view, it is a lucrative way

of controlling the deer population.

'Deer management groups in each area of Scotland will decide before every season how many deer need to be culled, and each estate is given a quota depending on their size and number of stags,' he explained.

'If an estate employed somebody to go out and shoot a stag, the money they would get for that stag from the game dealer would probably not even cover the stalker's wage for the day.'

Venison prices have dropped to around £1 per kilogram, from up to £5 a kilogram ten years ago.

As a result deerstalking clients are effectively subsidising venison production.

'Clients who come to the region to shoot red deer pay between £400 and £500 for a stag,' said Mr Philip. 'The client is paying to pull the trigger, while it would otherwise cost the estate owner to have someone do the culling.'

Culling of deer is necessary to avoid overpopulation, which creates a number of problems, not least of all the deer being road hazards.

Most stalkers on the west coast

are selective about deer they allow clients to shoot, preferring to take out older animals and those in poor condition, so as not to affect the breeding lines.

Given that stag shooting season begins on August 1 each year and lasts nearly two months, Mr Philip said it serves as an extension to the summer holiday season.

'Each group of stalkers will usually come out for about a week, and will stay in hotels, bed and breakfasts or guest houses on the estates, which is all extra money coming into the local economy.'

Mr Philip said deerstalking was far more cost-efficient and profitable than various agricultural enterprises.

'When a client pulls the trigger to shoot a stag, that is an income of up to £500 for an estate. You haven't had to feed that stag, you haven't had to shear him and dose him with medicines, the only costs are your time and basic equipment.'

For every 100 sheep living on the same terrain as the deer in west coast regions, Mr Philip said a farmer would be lucky to get 40 lambs a year, which would sell at around £17 each at an auction.

With wool fetching as little as 10p a fleece, one red deer stag could thus provide better revenue than 50 sheep would produce in a year, if shot by a client.

All 10 estates that are members of the Morvern Deer Management Group provide stalking for clients or rent out the sporting rights.

These estates charge between £300 and £600 per stag shot, and



Ardnamurchan deerstalker Harvey Philip, left, and Danish hunter Niels Hanning, at the end of a successful stalk. #08deer03

between £50 and £100 for visitors on stalking trips who did not shoot a stag on the day.

Hind (female deer) shooting was charged at an average of £100 per person per day.

Stag stalking takes place from August 1 to October 21, and the hinds season between October 22 and February 15.

Red deer are predominantly shot in mountainous areas, while roe deer are most common in areas south of Oban. Sika deer are common in forestry areas, mainly in the Inverness region.

Estates in Ardnamurchan are visited by a large number of foreign stalkers each year, sometimes receiving more bookings than are able to cater for. Most are from Denmark, Germany and Czech Republic.

Niels Hanning, a Danish hunter with 50 years experience, who stalked in the Highlands for the first time last year, told *The Oban Times* it was a 'dream come true' for him.

'I have been hunting in many places, but this is the best I have

had so far. There is something very special about these hills, and the experience you have when you spend a few days walking through them.'

Mr Hanning said there were thousands of people like him in Denmark who saw Scotland as the ultimate destination.

'It costs a fair amount for us to come out here, but it is really worth it. In places like Denmark you can join shooting clubs, but you might be waiting five years before you get to shoot anything, and you will be paying a lot more money just to shoot something from a high seat.'

'Denmark does not have as many deer as Scotland, and they are also smaller,' he said.

Mr Hanning said that what drew him to the west coast of Scotland was the challenge of hunting in the hills, coming from a very flat country. He said that after having done research on deerstalking in Scotland, he had noticed the west coast to be far more affordable than the east.

The Deer Commission for Scot-

land (DCS) has been in discussion with the government about the role deer could play in the economy, looking at several sustainable suggestions.

Potential new developments included wildlife watching, wildlife photography and adding value to venison products.

John Milne, chairman of the DCS, said exciting times lay ahead.

'The joint agency strategy for wild deer in Scotland heralds an exciting time of change and innovation within Scotland's deer sector by establishing shared aims and objectives to direct the Scottish Government and its agencies in the sustainable management of Scotland's wild deer, with the support of all those with an involvement or interest in deer management.'

According to a 2005 study commissioned by the Association of Deer Management Groups (ADMG), deer stalking in Scotland supports the equivalent of 2,500 full-time jobs.



Ardnamurchan deerstalker Harvey Philip, left, scans the hillside for deer with a client.

www.thehighlandtheatre.co.uk for full listings and future presentations

### HIGHLAND THEATRE

George Street, Oban, PA34 5NX - Box Office: 01631 562444

**From Fri 22ND FEB for 7 days**

<b>CLOVERFIELD</b>	Cert 15 8.45 Daily 2.45 Sat & Sun Matinees
<b>THE WATER HORSE: LEGEND OF THE DEEP</b>	Cert PG 6.30 Daily 12.30 Sun & Sun Matinees
<b>UNDERDOG</b>	Cert U 4.15 & 6.15 Daily 12.15 Sat & Sun Matinees
<b>JUNO</b>	Cert 12A 4.30 & 8.15 Daily 2.15 Sat & Sun Matinees

**FROM FRIDAY 29th February**  
JUMPER '12A'

PROGRAMME SUBJECT TO CHANGE. PLEASE CONSULT WITH BOX OFFICE 1 WEEK IN ADVANCE OF ADVERTISED SHOW.

www.oban.org.uk the definitive web guide to Oban that enjoys 20 million hits

We can help you to help your business. Visit: [www.oban.org.uk](http://www.oban.org.uk) TODAY!

**Your Stars with Patrick Arundell**



**ARIES** (Mar 21 - Apr 20) 09111 767 272

You may not be able to put your finger on exactly why, but your drive could be just a little muted. Or is it the fact Aries that you'll have a low pain threshold for anything worthy or wearing. And there is a paradox, because forgetting everyday chores and having a fun time with friends can be very appealing. In fact, juggling can be cathartic. Call to hear why love is so special this week...

**TAURUS** (Apr 21 - May 21) 09111 767 273

You may want to have a fantastically frivolous time. Make sure you are out and about with your boss or partner as if that, they're going to probably be mightily miffed. Why? Because they can feel left out or more likely judgemental that you're not concentrating on the task in hand. How to handle this? Use all of your sultry charm Taurus. Call for your in-depth horoscope in full...

**GEMINI** (May 22 - June 21) 09111 767 274

In the last few days you've had a taste of the opportunities that beckon. This may have been exciting and challenging, all at the same time. However, if you're putting in extra hours at work have taken on - or are about to take on - extra responsibilities, all this just may cause a little bit of a judder in your emotional life. Make time for a little escapism. Call for your in-depth horoscope in full...

**CANCER** (June 22 - July 22) 09111 767 275

Whether you're about to buy a new washing machine or you're about to sign-off a mega deal as a business tycoon, the key to the start of this week, is buyer beware. Sorry to labour the point, but do read the small print. However, what can delight you is that someone can be wonderfully generous or will they be wonderfully alluring? Maybe! Call me now for your in-depth horoscope in full...

**LEO** (July 23 - Aug 23) 09111 767 276

You've become increasingly aware Leo that a bit of proverbial belt tightening has been in order. You may not have liked this, or you may have been slashing costs left, right and centre. If you're still in denial this week a bill or two may appear not to come up to scratch. Fortunately, an amazing conversation can put such issues into perspective. Call for your in-depth horoscope in full...

**VIRGO** (Aug 24 - Sep 23) 09111 767 277

Over the next few days, you'd be wise not to jump to conclusions about your relationships. Something or someone could seem to lack value or appear not to come up to scratch. However, if you wait a while, nash your teeth and commit to being a tad less perfectionist, things can look better than you fear. Goodwill can take you far Virgo. Call for your in-depth horoscope in full...

**LIBRA** (Sept 24 - Oct 23) 09111 767 278

One of the most oppressive planetary influences is played out and this could see you flagging physically, or find that the realities of life clash with your desire to have a good time. Ironically, you can enjoy yourself, but you just can't burn the candle at both ends. With one person, use your natural diplomacy to quell the potential for a rift. Call your Special Libra Prediction Line for more news...

**SCORPIO** (Oct 24 - Nov 22) 09111 767 279

An obstacle can be put in your path. And yet someone in your locality or a family member can give you great advice on how to deal with this. You don't have to follow what they say, word for word, but feeling supported can help you overcome things. Don't feel you're weak for asking. Be gracious in the face of this opposition - you're more likely fend it off. Call for your in-depth horoscope...

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov 23 - Dec 21) 09111 767 280

You and someone from a different age group may not see eye to eye this week. And yet a friendly sibling can act as a mediator. Ask yourself, are you being a bit too sensitive or is it a bit too stubborn Sagittarius? Sometimes, rather than confront problems head on - like you're inclined to - it's better to use a modicum of sensitivity. It will pay off. Call to hear why words can be so important now...

**CAPRICORN** (Dec 22 - Jan 20) 09111 767 281

Speaking out more freely is good and you're being given lots of astral support to do this. Yet not everyone will be receptive and this week someone could feel that you're being too pushy with your ideas. Accept that others have an equal right to an opinion and you'll deal with this more easily. It could be a case of two strong-willed individuals. Call me now for your in-depth horoscope...

**AQUARIUS** (Jan 21 - Feb 19) 09111 767 282

If you've financial burdens, they can catch up with you. But you won't buckle under the weight of these - do take steps to sort them. Firstly, make a list of what you own and what you owe cash to. Secondly, work out a new budget that's realistic. Thirdly, be honest about the things you don't really need in your life. Simplify where possible. Call me now Aquarius for your in-depth horoscope...

**PISCES** (Feb 20 - Mar 20) 09111 767 283

Good news can come in unusual ways. For example, this can be an excellent time to seek out confidential support, and someone can have a low key but powerful role to play. However, a challenge is possible. This may just come out in terms of a dip in energy or drive so try not to add to your ire by getting overly frustrated - it won't help. Call me now for your in-depth horoscope...

**For your detailed forecast call your number above.**  
Calls cost 60p per minute at all times.  
Visit: [www.patrickarundell.com](http://www.patrickarundell.com)

## At the Cinema

**Cloverfield** Cert '15'

The subject of much internet speculation since its provocative trailer last year, producer J.J. Abrams's (Lost) mystery shrouded production finds five young New Yorkers throwing their friend a going-away party the night that a monster the size of a skyscraper descends upon the city. Their video camera documents their attempt to survive the most surreal, horrifying event of their lives.

The visceral sense of increasing panic is overwhelming at times, as there is no warning of just how demonic this flesh-eating monster actually is when it is glimpsed by drunks from the balcony of the hero's flat. The panic is exquisite. The unnerving novelty about Cloverfield is the quality of shock. Fantastic.

### The Water Horse: Legend of the Deep

Cert 'U'

Based on Dick King Smith's critically-acclaimed novel, it tells the tale of two children who discover a mysterious egg on a beach. Uncertain of its origin, they take it home, hiding it for safekeeping. However, when it hatches, he finds himself the proud but puzzled caretaker of a water horse - a sea creature of mythic stature.

Attempts to keep his pet are foiled by the creature's accelerated growth, so unable to conceal it any longer, Angus returns it to the loch, unknowingly placing it in grave danger.

Angus desperately tries to protect the gentle misunderstood creature, but his secret begins to unravel. The film boasts some fine performances and spe-

cial effects and is a cut above the usual Hollywood Nessie tripe; all in all it's great family entertainment.

### Underdog

Cert 'U'

After an accident in the mysterious lab of maniacal scientist Dr. Simon Barsinister, an ordinary beagle unexpectedly finds himself with unimaginable powers and the ability to speak.

Armed with a fetching superhero costume, UNDERDOG (voiced by comedian JASON LEE) vows to protect the beleaguered citizens of Capitol City and, in particular, one beautiful spaniel named Polly Purebred (voiced by Academy Award nominee AMY ADAMS).

When a sinister plot by Barsinister and his overgrown henchman Cad threatens to destroy Capitol City only UNDERDOG can save the day.

Also starring Jim Belushi and utilizing state-of-the-art CGI special effects mixed with live-action

### Juno

CERT '12A'

Juno MacGuff is not your usual teenager; smart and sharp-tongued, she stands out from the high school crowd.

After losing her virginity with her friend Paulie Bleeker on a chair, she soon finds herself pregnant. At first she decides to get "a hasty abortion", but can't go through with it and instead decides to find a suitable couple to adopt the baby.

Searching through the small ads she comes across the Loring's, an affluent suburban couple, and agrees to allow them to adopt the child.

As she falls more and more pregnant she begins to bond with Mark Loring, a failed musician turned commercial jingles writer, while staying a little apprehensive about his highly strung wife.

It's hard to imagine a more immaculately conceived or perfectly delivered comedy this year, well deserved of its critical acclaim and 3 Oscar nominations, including Best Picture and Best Director.

# EXCLUSIVE to The Oban Times

## Scottish Sea Life Sanctuary launch local residents' passport to unlimited free entry



After the success of last year's privilege pass the Scottish Sea Life Sanctuary and The Oban Times have teamed up again to offer all readers another fantastic offer.

This year the Barcaldine-based Sea Life Sanctuary's special feature is a brand new interactive presentation in our Seal Nursery where visitors can learn even more about how the animal care team look after injured seals.

To get your special passport deal:

- Collect a token each week over the next 3 weeks
- When you have all 3 tokens (3 per person)
- Come to the Sanctuary between

March 8 - 21 10:00am - 3:00pm

- One off payment of £3.50 pp to cover admin costs
- Passport photo
- Kids passes (3-14years) can buy an explorer pass for £6.99 which is valid at any Sea Life Centre including the Loch Lomond Aquarium at Balloch
- Residents who take up this offer are also entitled to 10% off in the shop

If you need more copies of the The Oban Times to obtain tokens (no photocopied tokens accepted), please contact you local newsagent or your nearest Oban Times office.





## Na h-Oganaich back in Oban

OBAN'S Argyllshire Gathering Halls will be the venue for an exciting concert by a Gaelic folk group that were top of their game in the 1970s.

Na h-Oganaich will reform to stage a special concert on March 8 to help boost the fund for the Royal National Mod coming to the town in October 2009.

Na h-Oganaich formed in 1971 and consists of Margaret MacLeod, who won the Mod Gold Medal in 1970, her brother Donnie MacLeod and Noel Eadie.

That same year the trio won the folk group competition at the National Mod in Stirling, followed in 1972 with winning the Pan Celtic Festival in Kilarney.

The group captured audiences at home as well as America, Canada, Wales and Britain with their three part harmonies, which blended perfectly with the songs of the Melbost Bard Murdo MacFarlane.

The groups' success was attributed to the combination of Margaret's singing voice, Donnie's engaging stage personality and

## Tiree band to play charity gig

TIREE ceilidh band Skerryvore will be kicking up a storm when they play a gig in aid of a worthwhile charity in Glasgow next month.

The lads will be playing at Bearsden Burgh Hall at an event to raise money for Maggie's Cancer Care Centre.

Also on stage will be Fourgoodmen, a band that features musicians Mick MacNeil from Barra and Derek Forbes who were at the heart of The Simple Minds.

For wonderful music in March - Caol Artz presents

**Saturday 1st March - The Nevis Centre - Starts @ 8:00pm**

### The BLUES BAND

"Appearing in Fort William instead of Glasgow - a must see band!"

Tickets available online from [www.thebooth.co.uk](http://www.thebooth.co.uk) and The Nevis Centre - 01397 700707

Only £15

Band Members include BBC 2 Radio presenter Paul Jones, Tom McGuinness ex Manfred Mann, Rob Townsend ex Medicine Head, Dave Kelly and Gary Fletcher

**Saturday 8th March**  
Caol Community Centre  
Starts @ 8:00pm

## box club

"Four accordionists, One big exciting sound!"

Plus support act. Music in the bar till late

Tickets £10 each from Caol Community Centre J&T Music, Inverloch Granite Shop, Fort William.

With support from Strathmore Hotels & Highland Council

## Corran Hall's Events MARCH 2008

**RED HOT CHILLI PIPERS**

Friday 21st March 8pm

Bagpipes with Attitude! Drums with a Scottish accent. Tickets £15. A blazing rock band and a show so hot it carries its own heat warning.

**BACK BEAT BEATLES**

Saturday 29th March 8pm

Beatles Tribute Band. Relive the excitement and thrill of the Beatles. Tickets £15.

Corran Halls, Oban, Argyll  
Box Office: (01631) 567333

Please note only photographic driver's licence or passport will be accepted as proof of age at our bar. 14 to 16 years must be accompanied by an adult

**Richard Childs Gallery and Cafe**

- World class photography
- Smoothest coffee in town
- Unique gifts and artwork

4 John Street, Oban  
Tel: 01631 570470

Shake away those winter blues!

**Belly Dance Workshops**  
by Professional International dancer  
Taynuilt Village Hall  
Saturday 23rd February 12-2pm  
Dalmally Village Hall  
Saturday 8th March 1-3pm  
£15 each workshop  
Contact Azura on 07748786021 to book

**Karina's Fitness Classes**  
Oban primary Campus, from 25th February

- Pilates** Only £4 per class  
Mon & Thurs 6:30 - 7:30pm  
Cautions! Pilates will reduce the size of your waist!
- Body Combat** Mon & Thurs 7:30 - 8:30pm  
Non weighted low impact workout. Burns loads of calories!

**The Oban Times & West Highland Times**

## What's On Guide

**Saturday 23rd February**  
"Framed" playing live in The Lord of the Isles, Craobh Haven

**From Monday 25th February**  
Karina's Fitness Classes, Oban Primary Campus - Monday and Thursday - Pilates, 6.30pm - 7.30pm. Monday and Thursday - Body Combat, 7.30pm - 8.30pm

**Saturday 1st March**  
The Blues Band, Nevis centre, 8pm

**Saturday 8th March**  
Box Club - Four Accordionists, Caol Community Centre, 8pm

**Friday 21st March**  
Red Hot Chilli Pipers, Corran Halls, Oban, 8pm

**Saturday 29th March**  
Black Beat Beatles, Corran Halls, Oban, 8pm

**Tuesday 1st April - Friday 4th April**  
Lorn Drama Festival, Corran Halls, Oban, 7.30pm prompt

**WHAT'S ON GUIDE CONTACT - 01631 568000**

**RAFFLE TICKETS**  
Organising a prize draw?  
We can supply numbered and perforated tickets to your requirements.

Contact us at:  
Krisp Print & Stationery Ltd,  
Burnbank, Burnside Street,  
Campbelltown, Argyll PA28 6JD  
Tel: 01586 554975  
Fax: 01586 554903  
Email: [staff@krispprint.co.uk](mailto:staff@krispprint.co.uk)

## COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD

Barcaldine Community Association  
**LEAP YEAR QUIZ**  
Friday 29th February 7.30pm  
at the Sea Life Centre Restaurant  
Bring your own bottle (we'll provide the glasses)  
Teams of up to 6, £3 per person  
Tea, coffee and home baking  
ABCA Fund-Raising Event

Inner Wheel Club of Oban  
**COFFEE MORNING**  
in aid of ARGYLL YOUTH THEATRE  
Church of Scotland Centre  
Glencruitten Road, Oban  
Sat. 23rd Feb. 10.30 am - 12.30 pm  
Baking, Sales Table, etc

APPIN GAELIC GROUPS  
**CEILIDH**  
Part Appin Village Hall  
Saturday 23 February 7.30pm  
Strath of Appin Gaelic Medium Unit, Alasdair MacDonald, Freddie MacKenzie, Moira Thomson, Rhona May Lawrie, Aimee MacDonald, Mary MacDougall  
Bean an Tighe: Agnes MacLean  
£3 including refreshments. Raffle  
IN AID OF OBAN PROVINCIAL MOD

RNLI Oban Fundraising Branch  
**Coffee Morning**  
Royal Hotel, Argyll Square  
Saturday, 23 February 2008  
10.30am to 12 noon  
Entry £2 Stalls

IT AIN'T ALL TARTAN!  
**Charity Concert**  
In aid of Oban Hospice  
Presented by Na Cailleagan Phinne - Clarsach Ensemble  
Toni Russell Highland Dance School  
Friday 29th February  
Corran Halls 7.15pm  
Tickets on sale from The Corran Halls Box Office  
Price £5 Concession £3

Catherine Wheells Theatre Company Presents  
**'Martha'**  
in Craignish Village Hall, Ardfern on  
**Thursday February 28th at 6pm**  
"Warm, funny and touching"  
A family show for ages 4+  
Tickets £3/£4  
01852 500689

**MEUR LOCHABAIR SKYE CELIDH**  
in West End Hotel, Fort William  
Saturday 23 February at 7.30pm  
Calum Ross Art Cormack, Norman MacArthur Maggie MacDonald  
Music by Lochaber Ceilidh Band  
Fear an Tighe Allan Campbell  
Admission £8

Kilmartin House Museum  
**'The Landscapes of Kilmartin'**  
An Exhibition of Felt Art & Objects by 'The Yurt'  
2 March - 26 April  
For further information & diary of events contact 01546 510278  
[www.kilmartin.org](http://www.kilmartin.org)

Kilmartin House Museum  
**Felt Making with Liz Brown**  
Saturday 1 March 10 - 4pm  
To book a place or find out more contact 01546 510278  
[www.kilmartin.org](http://www.kilmartin.org)

Comunn Gaidhealach an Obain  
**BARRA Ceilidh**  
Masonic Hall, Roddy Campbell, Chrissie MacDonald, Murdo MacDonald, Mary C MacLean  
Saturday 1st March 2008 7.30pm

**A WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY**  
To discover the history and significance of the Stained Glass Masterpieces in Kilbrandon Church  
An illustrated talk by Rev. Alastair McLachlan to be held on Friday 29th Feb, in Kilbrandon Church at 7.45pm  
Tea/Coffee/Biscuits provided  
No Ticket-just turn up  
Donations accepted

To advertise in the **WHAT'S ON COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD**  
Telephone: **01631 568000**

**Advertise in the Community Notice Board for just £12.45 (plus VAT)**

This section is available to charitable organisations with a charity number.  
All AGM's will be placed on the Public Notice Page  
Please ask for details

**SAMS Open Day**  
Saturday 1 March 11am - 4.30pm

FLIND OUT ABOUT OUR SEAL & ENVIRONMENT

Handson displays, Talk, Quiz, Live Seal, Antarctic Snack Bar

Entrance free

**Advertise in the Community Notice Board for just £12.45 (plus VAT)**

This section is available to charitable organisations with a charity number.  
All AGM's will be placed on the Public Notice Page  
Please ask for details

**Advertise in the Community Notice Board for just £12.45 (plus VAT)**

This section is available to charitable organisations with a charity number.  
All AGM's will be placed on the Public Notice Page  
Please ask for details

**MORHAM & BROTHIE**  
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**

# West Highland Property Guide

The largest weekly property pages covering Argyll, West Highlands & Islands.  
(Seen by more than \*40,000 readers each week) \*Source: JICREG Reader per copy average from ABC audit

ESTATE AGENTS OF ARGYLL AND THE WEST HIGHLANDS

**TOWN & COUNTRY HOMES**  
Commercial Properties & Businesses

**Alexander DAWSON**

www.alexanderdawson.co.uk

1 George Street, Oban PA34 5RU. Tel: 01631 563901. Fax: 01631 566778

## £30,000 required for feasibility study on Community Centre



Community Centre needs to be replaced

AN OLD meat store building in Oban which is now a busy meeting place for the community is 'knackered' and needs to be replaced.

The owners of the community centre on Soroba Lane behind the Scottish Co-op are now working hard to raise the funds for a £30,000 feasibility study which will determine the shape of any new build.

The busy centre, owned by the charity Oban Youth and Community Association, hosts a daily crèche and nursery, youth clubs, music groups, computing and art classes and a Saturday autism group.

The association receives funding from Argyll and Bute Council and employs Wendy Gray as a full-time community worker.

But it says the building now needs to be replaced.

David Hodge, who is the association's honorary treasurer, told *The Oban Times*: 'For a number of years now we have been looking at doing something because the building is knackered. It is a difficult building to heat because it was originally a meat store for a cash and carry and last year we had to carry out repairs to the roof.'

The association has raised half of the money required for a feasibility study and is applying to funding bodies for the remainder.

'It will be a wide-ranging feasibility study which will take everything into account. Both myself and the association chairman David Preston would like to see a new centre before we retire. Oban is the only town in Argyll and Bute which doesn't have a council run community centre.'

'The study will look at the whole town's voluntary section - what the community's small charities and associations needs and wants are. The council has repeatedly said it receives funding applications from so many similar charities and voluntary groups in Oban that it would like to see a building where say the same office space could be used for a few different organisations.'

The association had expressed an interest in becoming involved with the steering group which has been formed to try and save the old Rockfield school building and site for the community.

But while it will be kept informed about the group's progress the association decided to keep the two projects separate so the situation wouldn't become complicated if a Rockfield feasibility study found there is no need for a community centre.

'If it wasn't feasible then we would have fallen off the end,' said Mr Hodge.

**Alexander DAWSON**

MAIN STREET, CONNELL

**For Sale:** An impressive traditional 1½ Storey Detached House offering extensively modernised and attractively presented accommodation convenient to village amenities. Comprising Lounge, Sitting Room, Dining Room, Study/5th bedroom, Kitchen, Utility Room, Shower Room, 4 Bedrooms, Bathroom, Toilet. LPG central heating, double glazing. Boiler house/store, garden shed. Garden extending to around a quarter of an acre. **Offers over £300,000.**

**DRUMMORE ROAD, OBAN**

**For Sale:** A substantial Semi-Detached House, pleasantly situated in an established residential area, conveniently located for the town centre and amenities. Family accommodation, benefiting from replacement double glazed windows and doors, comprising: Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Utility Room, Bathroom, 3 Bedrooms. Good sized garden with ample off-street parking. Lock-up garage. **Offers over £155,000.**

**1 GEORGE STREET, OBAN, ARGYLL PA34 5RU**  
www.alexanderdawson.co.uk  
Tel: 01631 563901 Fax: 01631 566778

**Argyll 4 Sale**

**ESTATE AGENT**

**10 Argyll Street, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8LZ**

Tel: 01546 603118  
Tel: 07793 810749  
Tel: 07799 504790  
Fax: 01546 603733

**THE NOOK**

**Poltalloch Street, Lochgilphead**

Recently upgraded to a high standard, 3 bedroom detached house with a large secluded walled garden (135 x 47ft). Quietly situated yet only 100 metres from town centre. Large airy family kitchen (4.00 x 4.40 mtrs) with double aspect and hard wood floor. Master bedroom (4.55 x 2.90 mtrs) with en-suite shower room. Property offers stunning views down over Loch Gilp towards Arran.

**OFFERS OVER £170,000**

View all our properties at [www.argyll4sale.net](http://www.argyll4sale.net)

www.dmkestates.co.uk  
01631 566122



**NORTH CONNELL**

**FEARNOCH VIEW, NORTH CONNELL**

A contemporary detached four bedroom house combining the best of Scottish vernacular architecture with modern construction methods and high specification overlooking Loch Etive with access to the sea. The well laid out accommodation over two floors comprises: three reception rooms, first floor sitting area (overlooking Loch Etive), kitchen, four bedrooms (one en-suite), family bathroom, shower room and utility room. Manageable garden, access to Loch Etive and jetty to launch a boat or to lay a mooring subject to the necessary consents.

**Offers over £395,000**

**ARDRISHAIG**

**HEADLANDS, OLD SCHOOL, ST CLAIR ROAD**

This superbly presented four bedroom dwelling house occupies an elevated position with views across Loch Gilp and is one of four converted dwellings forming part of the old primary school. In immaculate condition with high quality fixtures and fittings, the accommodation over two floors comprises: spacious entrance porch, hall, first floor lounge, kitchen, dining room, play area, four bedrooms, family bathroom and shower room. Double glazed. Oil fired central heating. Easily maintained gardens to the front and rear. Shared drive and parking with separate, private parking at the rear. **Offers over £210,000**

**TIGH NA COLLE, NORTH CONNELL**

A rare opportunity to purchase an impressive detached property situated close to the shore of Loch Etive. Over two floors the generous and well laid out accommodation comprises: reception hallway, extremely spacious lounge, dining room, modern kitchen, office, four bedrooms (one en suite), family bathroom, toilet/washroom and utility room. L.P.G Central Heating. Double glazing throughout. Gravel parking area for three cars. Large garage and workshop. Greenhouse and wooden shed. Easily maintained garden to the side.

**Offers over £340,000**

**ISLE OF MULL**

**34 RIVERSIDE COURT, ISLE OF MULL**

Immaculately presented semi-detached home with a bright, sunny aspect, situated within easy distance of Tobermory's Main Street. Spacious and beautifully decorated accommodation comprising: living room, kitchen with separate dining area, cloakroom, three bedrooms and bathroom. Garden ground on three sides with decked area to the rear and private parking to the front. Heating by modern electric night storage and panel heaters; fully double glazed. An excellent opportunity to purchase a lovely home, holiday retreat or investment property in this most sought-after island location.

**Offers over £160,000**

**CLOSING DATE**

**DUNGRIANACH, FIONNPHORT, ISLE OF MULL**

29th February 2008 12 Noon.

Chartered Surveyors Land and Estate Agents  
2 Gibraltar Street, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4AY  
T: 00 44 (0) 1631 566122  
F: 00 44 (0) 1631 564764  
enquiries@dmkestates.co.uk  
www.dmkestates.co.uk



**PROPERTY WANTED**

Be seen in over 2 million homes...

We will market your property to maximise your income. Send now for our Owner Information Pack... **Welcome**

**0845 268 0558**  
www.welcomecottages.com

**PROPERTY TO LET**

**ISLE OF TIREE**

A rare opportunity to let an unfurnished house (suit family), available for long term let. Recently decorated.

If you are interested in getting a head start with a new life on the Isle of Tiree please call to discuss and to request an application form.

Call 01879 220726 or 01865 311468  
email info@hebrideantrust.org

www.hebrideantrust.org Registered charity nos: SC038956 & 285629

**Wanted: Holiday Cottages**

- Payment in advance
- Free no obligation advice and property inspections
- Award winning website

www.sykescottages.co.uk  
01244 356861 Sykes Cottages

**SYKES COTTAGES**

**Flat to let in Oban town centre**

£500.00 pcm excl Council Tax

One month refundable deposit + first month required in advance.

**Brand New Studio Flats to let on Tobermory Waterfront**

Rent ranges from £40 per week (paid calendar monthly)

**Please contact Argyll Properties 01688 302821**

**HOUSE EXCHANGE**

Isle of Arran To Oban / Surrounding Area

3 bedroom semi-detached house, with large garden on Isle of Arran, (Housing Association) for similar 3-4 bedroom house in Oban or surrounding area.

Contact Box No. 99 Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB

**Heatherlee Court, Kinlochleven**

**1 bedroom first floor sheltered flats available now.**

Suitable for those of state pensionable age, or younger if in receipt of a government disability pension.

**£307.25 per calendar month includes rent, service charge and contents insurance.**

A Housing Support Charge is also payable to Highland Council. Contact Hanover (Scotland)

Housing Assoc at 01343 548585 or 01855 831331 for further information.

**URGENT**

**Cash buyer seeks spacious two-bedroom flat in Oban**

Must be in good condition with full bath, good kitchen appliances.

**Maximum £105,000**

Please contact mpj1952@yahoo.com

**TO LET Dunbeg**

Furnished 4 Bedroom Semi-detached Home

£595 pcm + Bills and C/T Band C

Sorry no D.S.S. Non Smoking

References required  
Tel: 07789 464500

**ROOMS TO LET**

Central Oban Single and Double Rooms Available

**Contact Alan 07771935198**

**IT PAYS TO ADVERTISE IN**

**The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES**

Be seen by over 40,000 readers

Tel: 01631 568000  
www.obantimes.co.uk

**COMMERCIAL AUCTION**

The following is among 83 Lots to be offered for Sale by Auction in Glasgow on 27th February 2008

**ISLE OF MULL**  
Redundant Tank - 150 sq.m

**SVA Property Auctions**  
13 Great King Street  
Edinburgh EH3 6QW  
Tel: (0131) 624 6660  
E-mail: info@sva-auctions.co.uk  
www.sva-auctions.co.uk

**SVA Property Auctions Ltd**

**WEST HIGHLAND PROPERTY GUIDE**

**HOUSE PLOT FOR SALE**

South Lochaber, Fort William

- Plot with outline planning for one house
- Services on site

For further information  
Tel: 07733 484946

**Knight Frank**

**Onich, Inverness-shire Offers Over £450,000**

Views of breathtaking scenery from the mountains of Glencoe to the shores of Loch Linne

Hall, drawing room, sun room, dining room, kitchen, utility room, cloakroom with shower, principal bedroom with dressing room, 5 further bedrooms (3 en suite) and family bathroom. Has great Bed and Breakfast potential. Double garage with floored loft, a beautiful three tier garden to the shoreline, separate amenity ground. In all about 0.57 hectares (1.41 acres)

Contact: Robert De Pre 0131 222 9600 RDP/255042

**FOR SALE ON THE ROSS OF MULL**

Registered Croft, extending to 6 acres of in-bye and approx. 10 acres of rough grazing.

- Outline planning for a single dwelling house has been applied for.
- All services are on site

For further enquiries Tel: 01681 700 541

**SAY YOU SAW IT IN**

**The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES**

Tel: 01631 568000  
www.obantimes.co.uk

**ROOM TO LET CENTRAL LOCATION**

No pets or D.S.S. £400 per month (includes utility bills)

Deposit references required

**Telephone 07979791061.**

**REMEMBER DEADLINE FOR ADVERTS MONDAY 4PM**

**The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES**

Tel: 01631 568000  
www.obantimes.co.uk

**THE KEY TO SELLING YOUR HOME TODAY**

**The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES**

Be seen by over 40,000 readers

Tel: 01631 568000  
www.obantimes.co.uk

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us @ [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk)

### Argyll & Bute COUNCIL

#### PLANNING

##### TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997, RELATED LEGISLATION PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Take notice that the applications in the following schedule may be inspected during normal office hours at the location given below, at Lorn House, Albany Street, Oban and by logging on to the Council's Website at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk) and clicking on Online Planning Applications. Anyone wishing to make representations should do so in writing to the undersigned within 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: 08/00258/DET  
Applicant: Ewan Colville  
Proposal: Erection of dwellinghouse  
Site Address: Site West Of St James Church Ardrecknish South Lochaweside  
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Dalmailly  
Section 34 and Article 9 Advert 14 Days

**Area Team Leader Development Control, Planning Services, Lorn House, Albany Street, Oban**

##### 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 and by logging on to the Council's Website at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk) and clicking on Online Planning Applications. 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.

† Ref No: 08/00258/DET  
Applicant: Ewan Colville  
Proposal: Erection of dwellinghouse  
Site Address: Site West Of St James Church Ardrecknish South Lochaweside  
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Dalmailly  
A18 Local Plan Potential Departure of Policies RUR 1 and RUR 2 of the Lorn Local Plan (21)

**Area Team Leader Development Control, Planning Services, Lorn House, Albany Street, Oban**

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](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/publicaccess)

### The Argyll and Bute Licensing Board

#### Licensing (Scotland) Act 1976

Application(s) for Regular Extension of Permitted Hours under Section 64 of the above Act

From Board Meeting Tuesday 18 March 2008 to Board Meeting March 2009, unless otherwise stated.

Name, and address of applicant	Address of premises in of which application is made and type of licence held in respect of these premises	Nature of extension of hours for which application is made
<b>Lorn and the Isles</b>		
Karl Lave, Argyll Arms Hotel, Bunnassan	Argyll Arms Hotel, Bunnassan (Hotel)	Monday to Saturday 11pm to 1am, Sunday 2.30pm to 6.30pm and 11pm to 1am

Application for a New Licence for sale by Retail or Supply of Alcoholic Liquor

Name, and address of applicant and, where applicable person responsible for the day to day running of the premises	Address of premises for which Licence is desired
David Wilson, 2 Port Ramsay, Isle of Lismore	Lismore Stores, Isle of Lismore (Off-Sale)

The first day of the meeting of the Argyll and Bute Licensing Board at which the foregoing applications will be considered is Tuesday 18 March 2008 at 11am in Ardrishaig Public Hall, Chalmers Street, Ardrishaig.

Any person wishing to lodge an objection to any of the foregoing applications should do so by lodging with the undersigned a written notice of objection specifying the grounds of objection and also serve a copy of same on the applicant, not later than Monday 17 March 2008, all in accordance with the provisions of Section 16 of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 1976. A copy of the Licensing Board leaflet entitled "How to Object to a Liquor Licensing Application" is available from the office of the undersigned or by telephoning: (01546) 604338.

**Susan Mair**, Clerk to the Board  
Kilmory, Lochgilphead, PA31 8RT

Please note: IN FUTURE ADVERTS WILL NOT APPEAR IN LOCAL NEWSPAPERS. APPLICATIONS CAN BE VIEWED ON THE LICENSING BOARD SECTION AT [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk)

### Argyll & Bute CARE & REPAIR

Argyll & Bute Care & Repair, a small independent charity that assists the over 60s and/or disabled and the vulnerable to stay in their own home in the community, is seeking to strengthen its Board of Directors.

Interested persons should have some experience in management and committee work as well as an interest in the field within which Argyll & Bute Care & Repair operates.

Please send CV to: The Company Secretary, Argyll & Bute Care & Repair, 120 George Street, Oban, Argyll, PA34 5NT

For further information, or to arrange an informal discussion telephone 01631 567780.

Directors do not receive remuneration but travelling expenses will be paid.

### COAST PROTECTION ACT 1949 REPAIR TO PIER/ BERTHING FACILITIES

Notice is hereby given that Scottish Woodlands Ltd, on behalf of Glenetive Estate has applied to the Scottish Ministers of the Scottish Government, under section 34 of the Coast Protection Act 1949, as amended by the section 36 of the Merchant Shipping Act 1988, to carry out the above works at Loch Etive:

Description	Latitude	Longitude
Corner position	56 33.490N	05 04.779W
Corner position	56 33.490N	05 04.724W
Corner position	56 33.451N	05 04.757W
Corner position	56 33.468N	05 04.800W

Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at 9 Glenfern, Fassfern, Fort William, PH33 7NP

Objections relating to safety of navigation, in respect of the application should be made in writing to:

Gordon Hastie, The Scottish Government, Ports and Harbours Branch, Area 2G North, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ within 28 days of the date of this notice quoting reference: 2SPC1\5\99

Glenetive Estate (per Scottish Woodlands Ltd)

### Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence

Balfour Beatty Group Ltd of Fleet Services, West Service Road, Raynesway, Derby, DE21 7BG is applying to change an existing licence as follows. To keep an extra 4 goods vehicles and 0 trailers at the operating centre at Stirling Council, c/o Balfour Beatty Group Ltd, Killin Maintenance Depot, Station Road, Killin, FK21 8TN.

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at MLH Licensing Team, Scottish Traffic Area Office, Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office.



### British Waterways Scotland Public Meeting

The next public meeting of the British Waterways Scotland Group will be held on **Thursday 6 March 2008**.

The meeting, at **Ardrishaig Public Hall, Ardrishaig**, will begin at **12.30 pm** with a buffet lunch.

The meeting is open to any member of the public with an interest in, or who wishes to express a view on, Scotland's canals. British Waterways Scotland will provide an update on its activities, including progress on the Ardrishaig Masterplan and the Dalriada project.

**British Waterways Scotland, 1 Applecross Street, Glasgow, G4 9SP**  
[www.britishwaterways.co.uk/scotland](http://www.britishwaterways.co.uk/scotland)

Looking after the future of Scotland's canals

### Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence

Balfour Beatty Group Ltd of Fleet Services, West Service Road, Raynesway, Derby, DE21 7BG is applying to change an existing licence as follows. To keep an extra 9 goods vehicles and 0 trailers at the operating centre at Fort William Depot, c/o Scottish Transerv, Annat Point, Corpach, Fort William, PH33 7NF.

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at MLH Licensing Team, Scottish Traffic Area Office, Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office.

### REMEMBER DEADLINE FOR ADVERTS MONDAY 4PM

The Oban Times  
A WEST HIGHLAND TIMES  
Tel: 01631 568000  
[www.obantimes.co.uk](http://www.obantimes.co.uk)

### SUMMARY APPLICATION UNDER THE COMPANIES ACT 1985, SECTION 653(2B)

Angus Douglas, residing at Ronlas House, Bridge of Awe, Tainuill, Argyll, PA35 1HT has applied to the Court for an order under section 653(2B) of the Companies Act 1985 to restore the name of **OBAN SERVICE STATION LIMITED** to the Register of Companies.

Interested parties who believe that they would be affected by the above application should lodge written representations with the Court at:

**Sheriff Clerk's Office  
Sheriff Court House  
Albany Street, Oban  
PA34 4AL  
within 8 days of this notice.**

### 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, FORT 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
First Scot Rail Limited Mallaig Railway Station Station Road, Mallaig 08/00023/LBCL0	Installation of CCTV and loudspeaker systems with ancillary equipment	Mallaig Post Office Listed Building (21 days)
Premier Developments Ltd Land to North East of Letterfinlay Lodge Hotel, Spean Bridge 08/00041/FULL0	Erection of 8 holiday apartments & new access onto A82	Spean Bridge Post Office Section 34 of the Act (14 days) Potential Departure from Development Plan (21 days)
Inverloch Castle Land West of Factors House Torlundy, Fort William 08/00044/OUTL0	Erection of 2 houses	Lochaber Area Planning Office Section 34 of the Act (14 days)
Monsignor MacKinnon Land to South West of St Mary's Church, Belford Road, Fort William 08/00048/FULL0	Erection of Parish Hall	Lochaber Area Planning Office Development Affecting Setting of Listed Building (21 days)

**Area Planning and Building Standards Manager, Ross, Skye & Lochaber: Dafydd Jones, Highland Council, Fulton House, Gordon Square, Fort William, PH33 6XY. Tel: (01597) 707015, Fax: (01597) 707022, e-mail: [planning.lochaber@highland.gov.uk](mailto:planning.lochaber@highland.gov.uk)**

### CROTTERS COMMISSION LICHTDARRAS NAN CROITTEARAN

Proposed Lot of a Croft/Part of a Croft

Mr John and Mrs Dorothy Livingstone, Balure, Isle of Lismore are applying to the Crofters Commission for consent to let the tenancy of the croft at Ballmadailichan Croft, Isle of Lismore to Miss Sarah Campbell, North Achinduin, Isle of Lismore

If you have any objection to the proposal, you may submit representations in writing or some other permanent form to the Crofters Commission, Castle Wynd, Inverness IV2 3EQ by the 20th March 2008, specifying your interest in the application and your reasons for objecting. A copy of any representations made will be forwarded to the applicant.

**Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES**

### GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE

Islay Crab Exports Ltd trading of Kilnaughton House, Port Ellen, Isle of Islay, PA42 7AX is applying to change an existing licence as follows: To keep an extra 3 goods vehicles and 1 trailer at the operating centre at The Old School, Port Ellen, Isle of Islay, Argyll, PA42 7DP. Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at VOSA, Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to making representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office.

## RECRUITMENT

### Branch Assistants

**£5.52 p/hr then £5.70 p/hr after 12 wk probation, 20 hrs/week - Oban**

Over 8,000 colleagues and 19,000 products have made us the UK's number one Cash & Carry wholesaler. Serving 400,000 registered customers from independent retailers to top hotels and restaurants, we're the discerning customers' first choice!

This is a role with real variety. You may be working on the tills, helping to stock shelves, keeping the store clean and tidy or picking customers' orders. Whichever, you'll be committed to delivering excellent service with a smile as part of our friendly, close-knit team.

This is a great opportunity to work within a fast-paced, growing business that has plenty of career progress opportunities on offer. Any similar experience would be an advantage and the role does involve lifting and carrying.

**To apply, please call Lorne Campbell on 01631 565 984 for an application form, quoting ref: OT/436.**  
Closing date: 14th March 2008.

**BOOKER**



Argyll College has a purpose-built childcare nursery adjacent to our learning centre at Dunstaffnage, which is open 5 days per week for 50 weeks of the year. The nursery will not close during local or national public holidays apart from the 2 week Christmas/New Year period. The opening hours will be Monday to Friday from 8am to 6pm.

We now require the following:

### Part-time cook

We require a cook for 25 hours per week to provide meals for young children in line with healthy eating guidelines and following dietary requirements. Food Hygiene Certificate preferable. Salary: £10,000. 10 public holidays (to be taken over the Christmas period) plus 15.5 days annual leave.

Applications in the form of a CV (maximum 2 pages A4) and one page covering letter should be sent by **Monday March 3rd 2008** to: Angela O'Byrne, Nursery Manager, Argyll College, Dunstaffnage Learning Centre, Oban, PA37 1PZ. Fax: 01631 559501. E mail: [angela.obyrne@argyllcollege.ac.uk](mailto:angela.obyrne@argyllcollege.ac.uk)

Applications from non smokers preferred. Full clean driving licence essential.

**YOUR LOCAL COLLEGE**



### Skilled Husbandry Staff

Oban Area

Scottish Sea Farms wish to recruit industry-leading candidates with a minimum of 4 years salmon husbandry experience. Vacancies exist over the coming months, as sites are re-established in the Loch Linnhe production zone. Have you an ability to deliver outstanding fish health support, efficient feed performance or excellent equipment maintenance? Are you ready to demonstrate your ability and lead through your example? You must have the highest professional standards and be motivated to succeed.

We will provide an excellent remuneration package in line with your skills and experience, and if appropriate a relocation package may apply. A full driver's licence is essential. Interested? Please contact our Personnel Department on 01786 445521 to obtain a copy of our job description, then e-mail a CV & covering letter to [claire.scott@scottishseafarms.com](mailto:claire.scott@scottishseafarms.com) outlining your present responsibilities and indicating your skills and aspirations.

Closing date for applications: **5 March 2008**

### CRAOBH MARINA Marina/Boatyard Assistants

To assist in all types of Marina & Boatyard work. A knowledge of boats, plant and equipment would be an advantage. Good working environment. Wage negotiable.

**Call Jim Berry on 01852 500 222**

### COUPLE wanted for busy country household in Central Scotland

An experienced cook with a partner to carry out gardening and maintenance duties, both with a willingness to help with general duties as required.

Current driving licence and a love of dogs are essential for this post.

Furnished accommodation provided.

**Apply with CV and references to** [shirley@keirstate.com](mailto:shirley@keirstate.com) or by fax 01786 832994



### Soroba House Hotel

Kitchen Porter/Commis Chef/Second Chef

Experienced preferred, hours to be arranged

Salary negotiable, immediate start

Telephone: **Duncan or Donald 01631 562628**  
Soroba House, Oban



### WANTED Instructor and Assistant Instructor

for our activity holiday cruises on Caledonian Canal. Friendly, relaxed atmosphere.

**Wages circa £7.5k to £16k p.a.**  
April to October. No live in costs.

[www.fingal-cruising.co.uk/jobs.html](http://www.fingal-cruising.co.uk/jobs.html)  
**01397 772167**  
Closing Date 29th February 2008



### Neach-rianachd (Pairt-thìde) 21 Uair a thìde gach seachdain - Sgioba Foghlaim Fad Beatha (FFB)

The sinn a' lorg neach-rianachd a bhios ag obair mar phàirt dhen sgioba FFB. Bidh na prìomh dhèisteanan agabh ceangailte ri Cùrsaichean Goirid agus cùrsaichean eile taobh a-staigh FFB mar a bhios iomchaidh. A bharrachd air deagh sgilean rianachd agus coimpiutaireachd, tha sinn ag iarraidh eòlas air pasganan ICT m.e. Excel. Feumaidh deagh sgilean eadar-phearsanta a bhith agabh. Tha e cudromach gu bheil sibh sìubhlach sa Chàidhlig agus deònach a bhith subailte a thaobh uairean-obrach.

\*Tha Co-ionannachd Chothroman aig crìche SMO agus cuirear fàilte air iartas bho gach roinn dhen chomharsnachd.  
\*Feumar dol tro sgrùdadh Disclosure airson na dreuchd seo  
\*Tuairastal: £12,806 - £14,663 (pro rata)

Fònaibh gu 01471 888 301 no cuiribh post-d gu [sm00na@uhi.ac.uk](mailto:sm00na@uhi.ac.uk) airson dealbh-obrach agus foirm-iarrtais fhaighinn.  
Latha nu' dheireadh airson iarrtasan: 07.03.08 ag 5f.

**www.smo.uhi.ac.uk**



### GRAPHIC DESIGNER/ MAC OPERATOR OBAN

Proficient in QuarkXPress, Photoshop & Illustrator. Experience of print production requirements.

It is essential that you can work to deadlines in a commercial environment, apply creative flair with accuracy and attention to detail with a positive and flexible attitude.

For further information contact **Susan MacKinnon on 01631 565485** or email your CV to [susan@cg-ltd.co.uk](mailto:susan@cg-ltd.co.uk)



### IT PAYS TO ADVERTISE IN The Oban Times

Be seen by over 40,000 readers  
Tel: 01631 568000  
[www.obantimes.co.uk](http://www.obantimes.co.uk)

Due to the securing of new contracts in Mid Argyll and Kintyre A/C Civils require

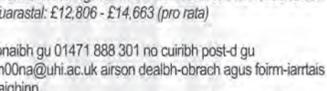
**1 Labourer  
1 Site Ganger**

Please contact **07748 770858** or **07768 250677**

### PART TIME EARLY MORNING CLEANER

required to work in local retail outlet in Ardrishaig.

Contact: **0141 956 2400** for details



### Hall Leisure Assistant

Person required for general cleaning and setting up at the Corran Halls.

Training will be given.

Contact **Mary or Sharon on 01631 567 333**

### Find all these jobs online at our new website

**West Coast Jobs**  
[www.westcoastjobs.co.uk](http://www.westcoastjobs.co.uk)

### LOOKING FOR NEW STAFF?

**The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES**

Be seen by over **40,000 readers**  
Tel: 01631 568000  
[www.obantimes.co.uk](http://www.obantimes.co.uk)

### FULL TIME SUPERVISOR

**OBAN**

Due to team development we are looking for a confident and enthusiastic Supervisor to assist the Manager with the day-to-day running of a mental health project in Oban.

Ideally you will have experience in mental health and learning disabilities, and be comfortable working in an office environment, as well as in the community. You should be available to work flexible hours and be able to cover on-call. SVQ level 3 is desirable however full training would be provided. Full driving licence preferred.

Application pack requests please phone **01631 567650**.

**CHOICES CARE**  
CHOICES CARE is an equal opportunity employer.

### Oban Celtic Shinty Club A.G.M

Tuesday **February 26, 2008 at 7pm**  
**The Lodge, Albany Street, Oban**

**Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES**

Find all these jobs online at our new website

# West Coast Jobs [www.westcoastjobs.co.uk](http://www.westcoastjobs.co.uk)



**Our small friendly team is looking for seasonal workers for both full time and part time positions.**

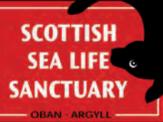
We are looking for people who are happy to work in our catering, retail and front of house areas.

There is also the possibility of working closer alongside the Animal Care Team during the summer months as an Entertainments Person who will be in the Displays area talking to the customers. Undertaking this position will mean that you have to be very outgoing and able to make a crowd cheer!

For all positions that are available no experience is required but it is desirable.

To fill these positions we will be holding an open day for preliminary interviews on the 28th February. Registration for the open day will finish on Wednesday 27th at 12noon.

For more information and to register for the open day please contact **Claire Rowlands on 01631 720386**



## Make sure our customers get exactly what they need and we'll do the same for you

**Senior Customer Consultant**  
Total benefits package worth up to £19,500 plus bonus  
Oban

Thorough training. Excellent prospects. Unlimited personal and team bonuses. And plenty of recognition. They're just some of the ways we meet the personal and professional needs of the **Consultants** who make sure our customers benefit from the right range of products. And if you've already proved your worth in customer service and sales, you could soon be benefiting from all of them and more.

Predominantly acting as a mortgage adviser, you'll also sell most of our other products - everything from credit cards and loans to savings accounts and insurance - you'll build strong relationships, meet achievable targets and generate leads. But not only will our customers profit from your knowledge and experience, so will our Customer Representatives. For you'll also be responsible for coaching them on how to generate leads and follow in your footsteps. And in return you'll work closely with your Branch Manager, gaining management experience.

As the world's largest building society - owned by customers, not shareholders - we look after the people who look after our business. What's more, our continued growth, and our investment in our branch network, means there couldn't be a better time to make the most of everything we offer.

Closing date: 28.02.08

Just visit [www.nationwide.co.uk/careers](http://www.nationwide.co.uk/careers) and download an application form. Or call

0800 169 0100 (Mon-Fri, 8am-6pm) quoting ref: 026694



### Assistant Branch Manager



A vacancy has arisen for an Assistant Branch Manager at our Lochgilphead Depot. The successful candidate will be mainly responsible for assisting current team with maintaining high levels of Customer Service that our depot offers along with various admin and company procedures. Previous experience in merchandising would be advantageous but not essential. If you are interested in joining our successful team please apply to:-

**William Malone, Branch Manager, Keyline Builders Merchants, Kilmory Industrial Estate, Lochgilphead, PA34 4NW or by email to [wmalo@keyline.co.uk](mailto:wmalo@keyline.co.uk).**

### MACLEOD

MACLEOD CONSTRUCTION LTD

Require **OPERATOR FOR TRUCK-MOUNTED HYDRAULIC ACCESS PLATFORM**  
APPLICANTS MUST HOLD CSCS CERTIFICATE AND HGV LICENCE  
FULL TRAINING CAN BE PROVIDED

WRITTEN APPLICATIONS WITH C.V. TO **MacLeod Construction Ltd Kilmory Industrial Estate Lochgilphead PA31 8RR**  
Email: [jobs@mkmacleod.co.uk](mailto:jobs@mkmacleod.co.uk)



### PROCUREMENT OFFICER

Reporting to the Purchasing Controller, the successful applicant should have good knowledge and experience in the following areas:

- Sound commercial awareness
  - Knowledge of computerised purchasing and stores stock systems
  - E-procurement methods
  - Good interpersonal and negotiating skills
- Ideally, the successful applicant should have a commercial qualification and good engineering knowledge and background.

Please send your application and CV addressed to **Mr C H Peerman, Purchasing Controller Alcan Smelting and Power UK Lochaber Smelter, FORT WILLIAM PH33 6TH**  
Closing date for applications is **Wednesday 27th February 2008.**

Rio Tinto Alcan is an Equal Opportunities Employer

### Education, Culture & Sport Playground Supervisor

**Kinlochleven Primary School, £6 per hr, 6.25 hrs per wk**

Informal enquiries to Mrs Cheryl Allan, tel (01855) 831708.

Application packs quoting Ref: L/16/07 are available from our website or by telephoning (01349) 868640.

Closing date: 7 March 2008 [www.highland.gov.uk](http://www.highland.gov.uk)



### LOCHABER COMMUNITY CARE FORUM VOLUNTEER VISITOR SERVICE CO-ORDINATOR

Currently Funded until February 2009, but an extension of this service is planned.  
Salary Scale AP3: £18,381 per annum pro rata.  
Hours: 28 per week.

Co-ordinator required to develop and organise an activities-based visiting service for people with community care needs in Lochaber, in order to alleviate loneliness and isolation through support provided by volunteer visitors. The service has been operating since February 2006. Applicants should possess:

- Good communication skills and an ability to work with and involve a wide variety of people in your day-to-day work.
- Self-motivation, enthusiasm and the ability to work on their own initiative but also as part of a team.
- A knowledge of community care issues and the needs of volunteers.
- Basic computer skills.
- A current driving licence and use of a vehicle.

Lochaber Community Care Forum operates an Equal Opportunities Policy and welcomes applications from all sectors of the community irrespective of age, sex, marital status, religion, race, colour, ethnic origin, or disability.

Informal enquiries/ Application Pack: **Mervyn James, Lochaber Community Care Forum, An Drochaid, Claggan, Fort William. PH33 6PH. Tel: 01397 700311. email: [LCCFORUM@aol.com](mailto:LCCFORUM@aol.com)**

Closing date for applications is 12 NOON, Friday 7th March 2008.

The Volunteer Visiting Service is funded by the Voluntary Action Fund



### HGV Class 1 Driver required for transportation of live shellfish

**Islay Crab Exports Ltd**  
Tel: 01496 302275

### REMEMBER DEADLINE FOR ADVERTS MONDAY 4PM

**The Oban Times**  
Tel: 01631 568000 [www.obantimes.co.uk](http://www.obantimes.co.uk)



### CRERAR HOTELS



### SALES MANAGER ISLE OF MULL HOTEL & SPA

Full Time or Part Time

A fantastic opportunity has arisen to join the team at the Isle of Mull Hotel & Spa.

The Hotel has just opened a new £2 million Spa & Leisure facility which follows on from the recent refurbishment of the rest of the hotel.

We are looking for an experienced Sales person to develop existing and new business with a major focus on accommodation sales.

We will consider sales professionals from all backgrounds and offer a very competitive salary.

Please respond by 7th March 2008, in the first instance to: **Simon Downes, Sales & Marketing Director [simond@crerarhotels.com](mailto:simond@crerarhotels.com)**

Crerar Hotels, 1 Queen Charlotte Lane, Edinburgh EH6 6BL

[WWW.CRERARHOTELS.COM](http://WWW.CRERARHOTELS.COM)

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us @ [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk)

### Argyll & Bute COUNCIL

**Training & Management Services Assistant**  
Salary up to £24,417 Lochgilphead

You will be directly involved in the design and delivery of high quality training on a range of topics, and support our web based e-learning system. With a valid driving licence and a minimum of 2 Highers (ideally to include English) or equivalent qualifications/experience, you will be an organised and enthusiastic individual with evidence of continuing professional development. If you are not already a member of the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development, you must be willing to work towards this. A HND/Degree is preferred. You should have experience of designing and delivering training courses, or wish to develop your skills in this area. Knowledge of Microsoft Office is essential, and ideally this will include Word and PowerPoint. Document design and layout skills are also desirable. CEP02004/R2 Recruitment packs from 01546 604034/604044.

### Employability Support Assistant (Temporary)

£16,096 - £17,610 Campbeltown  
This post is temporary to 31st March 2009 but may be extended depending on funding. The Employability Team is seeking an Employability Support Assistant to work with individuals and groups in the Campbeltown Area who have significant barriers to gaining sustainable long-term employment. It is essential that you possess a minimum of 3 Standard Grades (Level 1, 2 or 3) including English and Maths or equivalent qualifications/experience. You will have previous experience of working with people in identifying needs and assisting with action planning for individuals. You will also ideally have experience of working with people on New Deal or similar Employment Training Programmes. It is also desirable that you have experience in landscape and/or construction related work. You must have good communication skills and have the ability to motivate others. Computer experience and experience of working with people with significant barriers to long term employment is desirable. You must be able to work under your own initiative, as well as part of a team. It is essential that you have a valid UK driving licence. Successful applicants will be subject to Disclosure Scotland vetting. DSE0204173 Recruitment packs from 01546 60428.

### Gardner/Gravedigger

£15,549 - £17,015 Islay  
You will undertake all duties involved in the burial of the dead and the maintenance of cemeteries and grass areas throughout the Islay/Jura area. A current driving licence is essential with C1.E. for mini excavator, PA1 & PAGA pesticide certificates and driving licence category C1-E being desirable. You must have general work experience in grounds maintenance. The ability to use safely all grounds maintenance tools and machinery is essential. You must be capable of working as part of a team and be able to deal with the public in a friendly and understanding manner. This post is NOT suitable for Jobshare. OSR00372 Recruitment packs from 01546 604873.

### Senior Clerical Assistant (Job share)

£14,709 - £16,096 per annum, pro rata 17:50 hours per week Oban  
The hours for this post are Wed, 1.30 - 5.00 and Thurs/Fri, 9.00 - 5.00 You will be required to provide financial and administrative support for professional and administrative staff within the department. You must possess a minimum of 3 Standard Grades (Level 1, 2 or 3) including English and Maths or equivalent qualifications/experience. Previous administrative experience is essential as is a working knowledge of Microsoft Word, with Microsoft Excel and Access being an advantage. OSF00015/R1 Recruitment packs from 01546 604873.

### Mechanic

£332.65 per week Lochgilphead  
You will be required to inspect, service and repair vehicles and plant in the workshop and on site ensuring that the work is completed to the required standards. You will also be required to drive vehicles when necessary, complete vehicle documentation and be available for callout on a standby rota throughout the year. You must have a City & Guilds qualification in vehicle repair or equivalent. A driving licence is essential, LGV licence is preferred. Experience including inspections, servicing and repair of light and heavy commercial vehicles is essential. Alternatively this post could be based in Oban. OSF00015/R1 Recruitment packs from 01546 604873. Closing date 7th March 2008.

The Council welcomes applications from New Deal Applicants.

## ADVERTISING SALES REPRESENTATIVE

### Argyllshire ADVERTISER

We are looking for an advertising sales person to work in our Lochgilphead office and cover the Mid Argyll area. The successful candidate will require to have previous sales experience, a pleasant friendly manner, good communication skills, confidence and the ability to use their own initiative. They will liaise with our customers, help them with their advertising needs and establish good working relationships. If you would like an exciting and challenging career with an established local company then we would like to hear from you.

A good salary plus commission, generous annual holiday entitlement, company pension scheme, life assurance and private medical insurance. A full driving licence is essential.

Please apply in writing with full C.V. to [personnel@wyvexmedia.co.uk](mailto:personnel@wyvexmedia.co.uk) or post to **Christine MacBryde, Personnel Officer, Wyvex Media Ltd, P.O. Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB** Fax 01631 568001

## KEY support workers

PART-TIME 19.5 - 30 PER WEEK & RELIEF REGISTER  
REF: SW/HIGH/1843 (£7.67 - £8.13 PER HOUR)

• Easter Ross • Invergordon • Alness • Inverness • Nairn • Fort William  
Key supports adults with learning disabilities across the Highland to live in their own homes, be part of local communities and develop positive lifestyles. We are looking for flexible, motivated people who:

- enjoy working with people
- have a positive attitude and commitment towards making a difference to the lives of adults with learning disabilities
- can support people to develop a home life and become active citizens in their community

Applicants for the part-time posts will need to be prepared to join a rota and be available to work a variety of shifts including evenings, weekends and sleeper. Qualifications are not essential as Key provides training, professional support and supervision.

We also have opportunities to join our relief register which would suit people who cannot commit to a contracted post but who would be available to work a few hours per week when required.

Closing date for completed applications is 7th March 2008.

For an application form, job description and copy of our equal opportunities policy, please telephone 0141 342 1892 (24 hour answering service) or visit our website at [www.keyhousing.org](http://www.keyhousing.org) or write quoting job title and location to the Personnel Manager at Key Housing Association, Savoy Tower, 77 Renfrew Street, Glasgow G2 3BZ.

## THE ARRAN BANNER

personnel@wyvexmedia.co.uk  
Christine MacBryde, Personnel Officer, Wyvex Media Ltd, P.O. Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB Fax: 01631 568001

The Arran Banner is looking for a Sales Manager to manage and develop its business within the island's community.

- Do you have:**
- drive and enthusiasm
  - the confidence and ability to make decisions
  - good organisational skills
  - good communication and management skills
  - sales knowledge and ability
  - the desire and determination to provide customer care

An excellent salary of 22K OTE + benefits package is available for the right candidate.

**If you think you fit the bill, please apply in writing with full C.V. to address above.**

## When your people have energy, so does your business.



### Cruachan Power Station Visitor Centre (Seasonal Vacancies)

A number of fixed-term vacancies exist for the 2008 season for the following jobs at Cruachan Power Station Visitor Centre situated 19 miles from Oban.

Café Assistant	June to end September	(EW-V019-08)
Receptionist	April to October	(EW-V020-08)
Driver/Guides	April to October	(EW-V021-08)

As the above posts all require close interaction with the visitors you will require to possess a friendly outgoing nature. As part of a small team it is essential that you will be able to work flexibly and cover different roles. The visitor centre is open 7 days a week and you will be required to work a rota system.

All successful candidates will be screened by Disclosure Scotland. If you believe that your skills and attributes match our requirements, and you would like to be considered for these positions, please contact Elaine Rodger, Visitor Centre Manager, Cruachan Power Station, Lochawe, Argyll PA33 1AN - tel 01866-822 618.

The closing date for all applications is Friday 29 February 2008.

**ScottishPower**  
energy wholesale

The energy people

# THE NEW PEUGEOT 308 SW OPENS UP A WORLD OF MOTORING EXPERIENCES

- World premiere at the 2008 Geneva Motor Show
- Replaces the 307 SW
- Larger, improved modularity and class leading safety
- On sale in the UK in June 2008
- This year's Geneva Motor Show will be the stage for Peugeot to unveil the new, innovative and practical 308 SW, which will replace the 307 SW.

develops them even further. For example, the panoramic glass roof is now 27% larger (total area of 1.68 m<sup>2</sup>) and extends beyond the heads of the second row passengers, the modularity is easier to operate and improved and it now has a very practical opening rear tailgate glass.

A lot of attention has also been paid to the modularity of the 308 SW so that it can be adapted simply and efficiently, according to the requirements of its occupants. The rear seats in

the second row are all individual, easy to remove, identical in size and offer a multitude of combinations.

To enable seven occupants to be carried, two occasional rear seats can be fitted in the third row.

Access to the rear load area is either via the rear tailgate or the opening rear tailgate glass. With the second row seats in place it can accommodate up to 674 litres (573 dm<sup>3</sup> VDA) under the rear load cover. With the seats removed it provides a total volume of 2,149

litres up to the level of the roof (1,736 dm<sup>3</sup> VDA).

The 308 SW is based on platform 2 of the PSA Peugeot Citroën group and compared to the hatchback, the wheelbase of the 308 SW has been increased by 100 mm and the rear overhang by 124 mm.

With regards to secondary safety, the structure (thanks in particular to the presence of three impact absorption beams) has been designed to provide optimal protection, combined with the ability to absorb the

maximum amount of impact energy in a controlled manner. In addition, the SW can be equipped with up to seven airbags, including a steering column airbag.

The 308 SW is available with a wide choice of modern, high performance, economical and environmentally-friendly powertrains.

The use of the latest technology in both the petrol and diesel engines, combined with the car's efficient aerodynamics, weight saving measures and the use of Miche-

lin Energy Saver tyres, reduces the fuel consumption, compared to the 307 SW, by up to 10%.

With regards to road holding, the suspension set-up and wheel size options have been borrowed from the 308 hatchback but revised to meet the special requirements of the SW version.

The 308 SW range will go on sale in the UK in June and more information concerning specification and prices will be announced nearer the launch date.



Launched in April 2002, the Peugeot 307 SW offered a stylish and innovative alternative for customers who, for practical reasons, found that a hatchback vehicle lacked the flexibility and size they required and were uninspired by the de-

sign of conventional estate cars and medium size MPVs. Since its launch in the UK, the 307 SW has sold over 40,000 vehicles.

Like the 308 hatchback, the 308 SW builds on the strengths of its predecessor but

## NEW CAR INDEX

<b>BMW</b> Calterdon Ltd Harbour Road, Inverness Tel. 01463 236566	<b>RENAULT</b> W.D Semple Inveraray & Lochgilphead Tel. 01499 302150
<b>SKODA</b> Delmore Cars Limited Carsgate Road, Inverness Tel: 01463 231214 www.delmore.skoda.co.uk	<b>SUBARU</b> S & S Services Old Bridge Road, Heathfield, Ayr Tel. 01292 880080/880440
<b>HONDA</b> Helensburgh Honda 135 East Clyde Street, Helensburgh Tel. 01436 675777/www.helensburghhonda.co.uk	<b>TOYOTA</b> Helensburgh Toyota 5 John Street, Helensburgh Tel. 01436 672779 www.toyota.co.uk/helensburgh
<b>ISUZU</b> S & S Services Old Bridge Road, Heathfield, Ayr Tel. 01292 880080/880440	<b>VOLKSWAGEN</b> Hawco Caol, Fort William Tel. 01397 700900 www.hawco.volkswagen.co.uk
<b>MINI</b> Calterdon Ltd Harbour Road, Inverness Tel. 01463 236567	<b>VOLVO</b> Strathmore Dunkeld Road, Perth Tel. 01738 622156 www.strathmoreonline.co.uk
<b>FORD</b> Ben Nevis Motors North Road, Fort William Tel. 01397 700110	<b>MAZDA</b> Struan Motors A85 Crieff Road, Perth Tel : 01738 445566 www.struans.co.uk/mazda
<b>PEUGEOT</b> Struan Motors A85 Crieff Road, Perth Tel : 01738 632222 www.struans.co.uk/peugeot	<b>SKODA</b> Delmore Cars Limited 69 Carsgate Road, Inverness Tel: 01463 231214 www.delmore.skoda.co.uk
<b>TO PROMOTE YOUR NEW CAR DEALERSHIP PLEASE CALL: 01631 568000</b>	<b>TO PROMOTE YOUR NEW CAR DEALERSHIP PLEASE CALL: 01631 568000</b>

## IT'S A HATRICK! - S&S SERVICES ARE SUBARU DEALERS OF THE YEAR

S&S Services are currently celebrating the announcement that they're not only the regional winner of the prestigious title 'Subaru Approved Used Car Dealer of the Year,' but top for new Subaru car sales across the UK. Incredibly, Subaru have also announced that S&S Services also employ the best Subaru Sales team not only in Scotland but across all parts of the UK!

To win all three accolades takes a great deal of dedication. There are 90 'Approved' dealers and the marking system gets tougher every year. It focuses on a dealer's adherence to the programme's high standards, the quality of its used car display and the professionalism of service given to the used car customer. All 'Proven' vehicles must be prepared to the same exacting standard for which Subaru dealers are



John Spicer, Dealer Principal of S&S Services (left) receives his Subaru Car Dealer of the Year Award

renowned. This includes a 102 pre-check inspection and a full 12-month 'Approved' warranty that includes roadside assistance. Subaru Used Car Manager, Tom Vause, said: "This gives customers absolute confidence in any used car purchased from a Subaru Approved dealer but S&S Services has proved to be the best of the rest." To celebrate their 'hatrick' S&S Services are offering an unbeatable deal on the stunning Imp-

reza GB270 Limited Edition model which normally retails at £23,000. This very special Impreza is currently being offered at £19,995 - that's £3,000 off the normal recommended retail price for this rare and incredible sports car. Remember though that this deal is only available at S&S Services while stocks last. It's a great time to visit your local Subaru dealer as the eagerly awaited diesel versions of the new Legacy and Outback

have just arrived in the showroom. Just as you would expect from Subaru, a company with an outstanding engineering pedigree, the new diesel engines are top notch offering unrivalled performance, refinement and economy. In short, it's been worth the wait! S&S Services are one of the longest established Subaru dealers in the UK, having represented the marque for more than a quarter of a century. Brian and

Dulcie Spicer opened S&S Services nearly 28 years ago and they were later joined by their son, John. During that time, their company has gained a reputation for providing friendly and efficient customer service. It's the kind of place where you're far more than just a number on a job sheet.

S&S Services offer full aftersales facilities for Subaru and Isuzu along with general servicing and repairs for all makes and models. Courtesy cars or local collection and delivery are offered by prior arrangement. Why not check out the new Legacy and Outback diesels along with the rest of the excellent Subaru range by visiting S&S Services at 8, Old Bridge Road, Heathfield, Ayr (KA8 9SX). Log on to www.sands.subaru.co.uk or call (01292) 880080/880440 for more information.

**NEW OR USED CARS TO SELL?**  
The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES  
Be seen by over 40,000 readers  
Tel: 01631 568000  
www.obantimes.co.uk



**QUALITY USED LAND ROVERS**  
THE LAND ROVER EXPERIENCE FROM LIX TOLL  
NEW DISCOVERY 3 TdV6 COMMERCIAL in Black, dark blue & green, CD player, air suspension.....£24,250 + VAT  
05 (05) DEFENDER 90 Td5 STATION WAGON XS in silver, black half leather interior, air con.....£19,650 inc.  
03 (53) DEFENDER 110 Td5 DOUBLE CAB PICK UP in Belize green, tow pack.....£10,150 + VAT  
03 (53) DEFENDER 90 Td5 HARD TOP in Caledonian blue, chequer plate & tow pack.....£10,425 + VAT  
03 (53) DISCOVERY COMMERCIAL Td5 Alveston red. Facelift model, tow pack.....£9,675 + VAT  
03 (03) DEFENDER 90 Td5 HARD TOP in Caledonian blue, chequer plate & tow pack.....£9,025 + VAT  
03 (52) DISCOVERY COMMERCIAL Td5 Chawton white. Facelift model.....£9,985 + VAT  
02 (02) DEFENDER 110 Td5 HARD TOP in Caledonian blue & Epsom green, choice of two.....£7,975 + VAT  
01 & 02 (51) DISCOVERY COMMERCIAL Td5 Oslo blue. Cruise control, rad/cas, choice of two from.....£9,975 + VAT  
**LixToll GARAGE** (01567) 820280  
KILLIN, PERTHSHIRE, FK21 8RB  
E-mail: sales@lix toll.com  
www.lix toll.com

## Subaru Special Offers at S & S...

**Introducing The World's First Boxer Diesel Passenger Cars - Legacy Sports Tourer & Outback.**

**Exceptionally Smooth. Beautifully Refined.**  
The new Legacy Sports Tourer and Outback Diesels feature class leading 49 m.p.g. with outstanding standard equipment.  
The range starts at £19995 for Legacy 2.0TD Sports Tourer.

**STAR performer Stage WINNER**  
The Amazing Subaru Impreza GB270

**The Limited Edition Impreza GB270 features**  
• Impreza WRX carpet mats • WRX sports spring kit • PLUS OVER £7000 WORTH OF EXTRAS • Momo Air Race aluminium gear knob  
18" x 7.5" GT1 wheels • Quicksift gearbox • Prodrive Performance Pack • Upgraded anti-roll bar  
Only £19995 OTR

**KING QUAD ATV 4X4**

**£2000 o.n.o.**  
300cc, Suzuki 2003  
Good condition, New tyres  
Starts every time, Good on fuel  
Tel: 07718 917454 / 01546 605367

**BATESON DERBY HORSE TRAILER**

**£1700 o.n.o.**  
Light weight, rear unload, 5 year old, good condition, takes two 15.2 horses.  
Tel: 01852 316 282

**3 GREAT CARS With 3 GRAND OFF!**  
Huge Savings on List prices  
Offer ends 31st March and applies to selected models in the Legacy, Sports Tourer and Outback ranges registered by 31st March 2008.

**Legacy Saloon 3.0R SAVE £3000**    **Legacy Sports Tourer 3.0R SAVE £3000**    **Outback 3.0R Automatic SAVE £3000**

**TRIUMPH DAYTONA**

**£1,500 o.n.o.**  
1997 (P), 955cc, Taxed and Mol'd, 27,000 miles, Recent tyres, chain, sprockets and fluids  
Tel: 01546 603511

**DISABLED SCOOTER**  
Reva 4 Wheel, 2 year old, recent service  
Telephone: 01631 566920  
**£500**

**Due to increased sales of new subarus, we have reduced prices on our used car stock - Telephone for details 01292 880080 / 880440**

**JOHN SPICER, WILL BE IN OBAN THIS WEEKEND 23rd & 24th FEBRUARY - Tel: 07831 808702**

**S & S Services** www.sandservices.co.uk  
**OLD BRIDGE ROAD, HEATHFIELD, AYR KA8 8SX**  
**Tel: 01292 880080 or 880440**

Instead of reading this 43,025<sup>th</sup> readers could be reading your advert.  
\* source: Joreg, January 1st 2007  
Telephone: 01631 568000 | **The Oban Times**

**SILVER 2000 HONDA CIVIC 1.8i**



**£3,300 o.n.o.**

Vti Aerodeck Estate 5dr with tow bar. Taxed. Tested Sept 08. 59K miles. Tel: 01631 710516

**SKODA FELICIA 1600cc**



42,900 miles, 1998 reg, MOT/tax November 08 Good condition  
Telephone: 01586 810174

**£600 o.n.o.**

---

**VW GOLF CABRIOLET**



1994, 2.0L Avantgarde New roof, alloys, full electrics  
Tel: 01770 300108 or 07967 274144

**TOYOTA HILUX SURF 2.4 DIESEL**



**£2650 o.n.o.**

(J Reg) 88,000 miles, carefully maintained v. g. condition for year  
Tel: 01852 500301

**VAUXHALL VIVARO**



**£4,900 o.n.o. NO VAT.**

LWB, 53, 10 months MOT, 1 year tax, 81,000 miles, Ply lined and shelved on one side.  
Tel: 07810 242911 (Fort William area)

**WANTED**

**ELDDIS, SWIFT ABI OR SIMILAR TOURING CARAVAN, WITH CASSETTE TOILET.**

Private Buyer Tel: 0790 422 8568

**RENAULT CLIO RL 1.2**



1998 R Reg 67,000 miles 5 Door, Red, Good condition, Mot Jan. 09 Taxed 09 Jan.  
Telephone: 01631 565187

**£950 o.n.o.**

**PEUGEOT 307S (04 REG) PETROL**



1600cc Estate, 37,000 miles, MOT Sept 08, Taxed March 08 A/C, Electric Mirrors & Windows, CD Very Good Condition  
Alan or Kay Stout Tel 01770 860495 (Arran)

**£5,000**

**MITSUBISHI L200 DLX D-CAB**



**£4750 o.n.o.**

Pick-up 4x4; Aug 2000; 6 mths MOT & Tax; 64000 miles; 2 private owners; no off-road use; canopy, load-liner, towbar; no VAT, well-maintained. Excellent condition.  
Tel: (01397) 704001 (eve)

**FORD TRANSIT SWB**



Semi high top, ex Scottish Power, full MOT, wood lined, CD player, timing belt changed and serviced  
Telephone: 01586 810252 or 07990 974026

**£850 o.n.o.**

**AVONDALE DART 380/2**



**£7250 o.n.o.**

2 berth, new, March 2006, full cooker, toilet, shower, fan heater, very good condition.  
Tel: 01631 730575

**MERC E280**



Leather interior. Taxed and Mot Jan. 09  
Telephone: 01631 566920

**£1800**

**FIAT PUNTO**



1.9 Diesel Y reg March 2001 72,800 miles MOT & tax May 08 Excellent condition  
Telephone: 01583 421123

**£1900 o.n.o.**

**FORD RANGER PICK UP**



4x4, 51 plate, taxed August, 08, MOT August, 08, 89,000 miles  
Telephone: 01397 701682

**£2200 + VAT o.n.o.**

**PEUGEOT PARTNER**



600 LX HDI, 1997cc, 05 Reg, 9,000 miles.  
Telephone: 01583 431313

**£6,000 o.v.n.o.**

**ATLANTIC RIBS BOATS FOR SALE**

1999, Avon SR 5.5 two forward two back facing sit-down bucket seats, windscreen, Yamaha 70hp outboard, fully serviced, twin axel trailer all in good condition  
**£6250**

Yanmar 20hp diesel engine and gearbox  
**£1400**

All boats serviced and ready to go. Outboard servicing from £50.  
Contact Atlantic Ribs Bellanoch Garage 07900654862 or 01546 830205.

**FORD FIESTA 1.4**



**£4,800**

3dr hatchback reg July 04, genuine 9,670 miles from new, one lady driver, immaculate cond, alloys, electric windows/mirrors, fog lights, CD, FSH, ABS, tax June 08, MOT Jan 09  
Tel: 07811 128865

**MINI COOPER S**



**£16,900 o.n.o.**

07plate Sparkling Silver and Black. 1.6cc Turbo, 175 HP, leather, TLC more than 5years, makers warranty 2 1/2 years, 5000 miles.  
Tel: 01631 710427 Nr Oban

**MITSUBISHI 4LIFE PICK UP**



**£7200 plus VAT**

Double cab. Good condition/ low mileage. Blue/silver paint.  
Tel: 01688 302228 for more details

**RENAULT EXTRA 1.9 DIESEL**



GOOD CONDITION TOWBAR, ROOF RACK AND CENTRAL LOCKING, 69,000 MILES  
Tel: 01838 400354 or 07776 428508

**BENETEAU ANTARES SERIE 7 MOTOR BOAT**



**£24,500**

Inboard Diesel (85hp)- 450 hours. Sole owners. Built 1995.  
Tel: 01631 730207

**02 RENAULT CLIO DYNAMIQUE**



1.2, 1.6v, 3 door, metallic black, MOT'd and taxed, power steering, CD player, very clean car.  
Telephone: 01586 810252 or 07990 974026

**£3450 o.n.o.**

**RENAULT SCENIC 1.6**



**£5900 o.n.o.**

1.6v petrol dynamique (2004) SY54 NKN Red non metallic paint, dark grey cloth. Air con. Alloys. Power steering, CD player. 5 star NCAP. Excellent condition. Owner since new. F.S.H. Taxed and MOT'd until August 2008. Only 24500 miles.  
Contact 01397 703390 or 07876740002

**ISUZU TROOPER 3.1 TURBO DIESEL VAN**



**£1500 o.n.o.**

June 99 reg. 8 months MOT 127K Good towing vehicle regularly serviced  
Tel: 01852 316220

**LDV CONVOY MINIBUS**



High roof 12 seater P reg 6 months MOT first time starter would also make good camper van great MPG  
Tel: 07818273469

**WESTERLEY GK 24 "POINTER"**



**£7000**

Most head rig, inboard diesel with folding prop, set of racing and cruising sails.  
Telephone for further details 01546 602633 or 07712 114143

**RENAULT LAGUNA, 1.8**



1996 Bottle Green, 92,000 miles, with tow bar and roof rack, 2 new tyres. MOT till mid October, taxed till May. Good condition, excellent runner  
01972 510321

**£600 o.n.o.**

**VAUXHALL VECTRA SRI**



(150 bhp), Turbo diesel, 40,000 miles, sports suspension, air con, cruise control, rain sensor wipers, electric front windows/mirrors, trip computer, ABS, MOT Sept 08  
Tel: 01586 551374 or 07917 763169

**FORD RANGER 3 LTR V6 PICK-UP**



LHD, American, auto, yellow. 1997. Mot & taxed. Outstanding condition. Very reluctant sale  
Telephone: 01770 600810 or 07979 416372

**£6,395 o.n.o.**

**AVONDALE TOURING CARAVAN 4 BERTH**



end toilet, 2 new Awnings and generator, various accessories.  
Telephone: 01631 570830 evenings or 07917151517

**£2,650 o.n.o.**

**LASER RACE 05**



**£2,950 o.n.o.**

for quick sale No 184361, little used, spare radial rig pack, trolley, many extras  
Tel: 01852 500289

**NISSAN PRIMERA ESTATE**



2.0 SLX 1998/5 reg Taxed till end May 08 Good runner MOT due, work needed, hence low price.  
Telephone: 01688 302075

**£150**

**VECTRA ARCTIC 1.8 16V S REG**



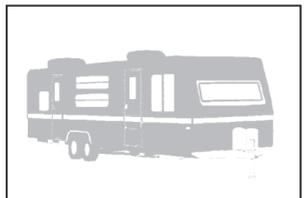
Mot Sept 24, 08 Service History 1 former keeper, 112,000 miles, silver, alloys, e/w/ p.a.s. drivers airbag, f/ fogs. Good Condition.  
Telephone: 01838 200 409

**£785 o.n.o.**

**WANTED 4 X 4 VEHICLES, LAND ROVER, TOYOTA ETC. OR DIESEL CARS**

Mot or high mileage not important, any condition Immediate cash payment  
Telephone: 07703490572

**STATIC CARAVAN 28' X 12'**



6 berth, new cooker, separate lounge, ideal for self house builder.  
Tel: 07801130044

**£1500 o.n.o.**

**14' Dory Type Boat with Day Cabin**



**£650**

Trailer and 25hp. Evinrude (outboard) Available separately  
Other boats for sale Boat Store etc  
"The Boat Store" Lower Dunollie Rd, PA34 5 PJ, Oban  
Tel: 01631 565005

**BMW 323i**



R Reg, MOT till August 2008, 6 months tax, Pioneer 4x4 CD, Alloys, Great condition  
Tel: 01546 603537

**£2,700 o.n.o.**

**PEUGEOT 306 1.9 TURBO DIESEL**



62,000 Miles New front discs, pads & rear shoes. Mot'd Jan 09, Tax'd July 08 Timing Belt 50,000 Excellent Car  
Telephone: 01586 554616

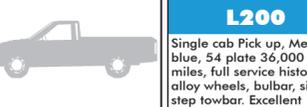
**£2,200**

**WANTED**

**WANTED LANDROVER 90 OR 110**  
NEW OR OLD MODELS, ALSO DISCOVERY, RANGE ROVER AND ALL JAPANESE MODELS, TOYOTA ETC, HIGH MILES, DAMAGED, ANYTHING CONSIDERED  
Contact James 07866 590583

---

**MITSUBISHI L200**



Single cab Pick up, Metallic blue, 54 plate 36,000 miles, full service history, alloy wheels, bulbar, side step towbar. Excellent condition  
**£7500 o.n.o.**  
Tel: 01681 700541

**STATIC CARAVAN**



**£1100**

Buyer removes 23ft Chorus, 1 bedroom, very good condition. Strontian  
Tel: 01967 402204 (evenings)

**ROLLS-ROYCE SILVER SPIRIT**

C Reg, genuine 28,000 miles, 12 months MOT, cruise control, bronze in colour, red leather interior, vehicle garaged, 3 owners from new, superb condition.  
**Offers around £10,000 o.n.o.**  
Telephone: 01880 820006 07886 784190

**BMW 318CI CONVERTIBLE**



**£11,300**

2002, Metallic Orient Blue with Dark Blue Roof, Nappa Light Yellow Leather seats and interior, Myrtle Wood Trim, Xenon Head Lamps, Seat Heating, Interior Ski Bag, Detachable Towbar, Wind Deflector, Rain Sensor, CD Player, Cross Spoke 7X16 Wheels and Dynamic Stability Control. 74,000 miles, Taxed and Mot until 2009, Full Service Record, One owner.  
Tel: 01546 600123

**SENATOR WYOMING**



**£10,750 o.n.o.**

2005, Twin Axle, 4 berth Fixed bed, Full size shower Many extras, Very good condition  
Tel: 07831 529549 / 01546 606538

Telephone 01631 568000 to place your advert + SECOND WEEK FREE Telephone 01631 568000 to place your advert + SECOND WEEK FREE

CALL 01631568000 FOR YOUR PAID FOR ADVERT TO RUN FOR A SECOND WEEK

bulthead (new footwells), new white steel 8 spoke wheels, offers. Telephone 01788 543863 (Rugby).

ROOFRACK, heavy duty, 3 piece, including back roller, suit Ford Transit, £49.99. Telephone 01631 564021.

WHITE ASTRA L Reg. 107,000 miles. Turbo 1.7D No Mot. No License. Needs some attention. Mechanically sound, £200. Telephone 01631 562778.

72 MIXED FOAM and wooden rubber stamps for card making, £15 for all. Telephone 01546 603637.

APPROX 80 velvet hard and soft eyed creels plus 3 coils of base rubber, £350. Telephone 01546 870221 or mobile 07831 181185.

COBALT BLUE 3 seater sofa with scatter cushions, good condition, £49. Telephone 07776 024062 or 01631 710040 (evenings).

COBALT BLUE 2 seater sofa with scatter cushions, good condition, £49. Telephone 07776 024062 or 01631 710040 (evenings).

LARGE WALL unit with lights, very good condition, £49.99. Telephone 01586 553511 (evenings).

PINE SINGLE bed with mattress, very clean, £30 can deliver Oban area. Telephone 07887 513286.

SOLID MAHOGANY dining room table, 6 chairs, (table extends to seat 8), vgc, £250. Telephone 01631 565323 after 6pm or 07751 605717.

SOLID MAHOGANY, 6ft display unit, 2 glass doors with back lights, vgc, £250. Telephone 01631 565323 after 6pm or 07751 605717.

SOLID MAHOGANY hi-fi cabinet, £60. Telephone 01631 565323 after 6pm or 07751 605717.

SOLID OAK desk, 5 drawer, 4'6" x 2'6", £49.99. Telephone 01631 562713.

SOLID PINE double bed frame, antique stain, very good condition, £49. Telephone 01546 603637.

SOLID PINE two door sideboard, antique stain, very good condition, £30. Telephone 01546 603637.

TRADITIONAL STYLE bookcase, three shelves plus drawer. Cherry wood finish, very good condition £49.50. Telephone 01546 810207.

TIKKA T3 LS 243 with scope. CZ 452 Varmint 17H plus scope plus MOD. Both rifles in mint condition, less than 100 rounds. Also Leupold Scope VX111 30mm 4.5

ANTIQUEROCK refectory table, 7'6" x 2'4" plus six spindle back chairs, £250 ono. Telephone 01631 710040 (evenings).

COBALT BLUE 3 seater sofa with scatter cushions, good condition, £49. Telephone 07776 024062 or 01631 710040 (evenings).

COBALT BLUE 2 seater sofa with scatter cushions, good condition, £49. Telephone 07776 024062 or 01631 710040 (evenings).

LARGE WALL unit with lights, very good condition, £49.99. Telephone 01586 553511 (evenings).

PINE SINGLE bed with mattress, very clean, £30 can deliver Oban area. Telephone 07887 513286.

SOLID MAHOGANY dining room table, 6 chairs, (table extends to seat 8), vgc, £250. Telephone 01631 565323 after 6pm or 07751 605717.

SOLID MAHOGANY, 6ft display unit, 2 glass doors with back lights, vgc, £250. Telephone 01631 565323 after 6pm or 07751 605717.

SOLID MAHOGANY hi-fi cabinet, £60. Telephone 01631 565323 after 6pm or 07751 605717.

GREYHOUNDS The Retired Greyhound Trust have beautiful dogs and bitches suitable for adoption.

FOOTWEAR MEN'S AQUABOOT, black, fleece lined, size 10, 100% waterproof, £20. Telephone 01397 712920.

FURNITURE ANTIQUEROCK refectory table, 7'6" x 2'4" plus six spindle back chairs, £250 ono. Telephone 01631 710040 (evenings).

COBALT BLUE 3 seater sofa with scatter cushions, good condition, £49. Telephone 07776 024062 or 01631 710040 (evenings).

COBALT BLUE 2 seater sofa with scatter cushions, good condition, £49. Telephone 07776 024062 or 01631 710040 (evenings).

LARGE WALL unit with lights, very good condition, £49.99. Telephone 01586 553511 (evenings).

PINE SINGLE bed with mattress, very clean, £30 can deliver Oban area. Telephone 07887 513286.

SOLID MAHOGANY dining room table, 6 chairs, (table extends to seat 8), vgc, £250. Telephone 01631 565323 after 6pm or 07751 605717.

SOLID MAHOGANY, 6ft display unit, 2 glass doors with back lights, vgc, £250. Telephone 01631 565323 after 6pm or 07751 605717.

SOLID MAHOGANY hi-fi cabinet, £60. Telephone 01631 565323 after 6pm or 07751 605717.

SOLID OAK desk, 5 drawer, 4'6" x 2'6", £49.99. Telephone 01631 562713.

SOLID PINE double bed frame, antique stain, very good condition, £49. Telephone 01546 603637.

SOLID PINE two door sideboard, antique stain, very good condition, £30. Telephone 01546 603637.

TRADITIONAL STYLE bookcase, three shelves plus drawer. Cherry wood finish, very good condition £49.50. Telephone 01546 810207.

TIKKA T3 LS 243 with scope. CZ 452 Varmint 17H plus scope plus MOD. Both rifles in mint condition, less than 100 rounds. Also Leupold Scope VX111 30mm 4.5

ANTIQUEROCK refectory table, 7'6" x 2'4" plus six spindle back chairs, £250 ono. Telephone 01631 710040 (evenings).

COBALT BLUE 3 seater sofa with scatter cushions, good condition, £49. Telephone 07776 024062 or 01631 710040 (evenings).

COBALT BLUE 2 seater sofa with scatter cushions, good condition, £49. Telephone 07776 024062 or 01631 710040 (evenings).

LARGE WALL unit with lights, very good condition, £49.99. Telephone 01586 553511 (evenings).

PINE SINGLE bed with mattress, very clean, £30 can deliver Oban area. Telephone 07887 513286.

SOLID MAHOGANY dining room table, 6 chairs, (table extends to seat 8), vgc, £250. Telephone 01631 565323 after 6pm or 07751 605717.

GREYHOUNDS The Retired Greyhound Trust have beautiful dogs and bitches suitable for adoption.

FOOTWEAR MEN'S AQUABOOT, black, fleece lined, size 10, 100% waterproof, £20. Telephone 01397 712920.

FURNITURE ANTIQUEROCK refectory table, 7'6" x 2'4" plus six spindle back chairs, £250 ono. Telephone 01631 710040 (evenings).

COBALT BLUE 3 seater sofa with scatter cushions, good condition, £49. Telephone 07776 024062 or 01631 710040 (evenings).

COBALT BLUE 2 seater sofa with scatter cushions, good condition, £49. Telephone 07776 024062 or 01631 710040 (evenings).

LARGE WALL unit with lights, very good condition, £49.99. Telephone 01586 553511 (evenings).

PINE SINGLE bed with mattress, very clean, £30 can deliver Oban area. Telephone 07887 513286.

SOLID MAHOGANY dining room table, 6 chairs, (table extends to seat 8), vgc, £250. Telephone 01631 565323 after 6pm or 07751 605717.

SOLID MAHOGANY, 6ft display unit, 2 glass doors with back lights, vgc, £250. Telephone 01631 565323 after 6pm or 07751 605717.

SOLID MAHOGANY hi-fi cabinet, £60. Telephone 01631 565323 after 6pm or 07751 605717.

SOLID OAK desk, 5 drawer, 4'6" x 2'6", £49.99. Telephone 01631 562713.

SOLID PINE double bed frame, antique stain, very good condition, £49. Telephone 01546 603637.

SOLID PINE two door sideboard, antique stain, very good condition, £30. Telephone 01546 603637.

TRADITIONAL STYLE bookcase, three shelves plus drawer. Cherry wood finish, very good condition £49.50. Telephone 01546 810207.

TIKKA T3 LS 243 with scope. CZ 452 Varmint 17H plus scope plus MOD. Both rifles in mint condition, less than 100 rounds. Also Leupold Scope VX111 30mm 4.5

ANTIQUEROCK refectory table, 7'6" x 2'4" plus six spindle back chairs, £250 ono. Telephone 01631 710040 (evenings).

COBALT BLUE 3 seater sofa with scatter cushions, good condition, £49. Telephone 07776 024062 or 01631 710040 (evenings).

COBALT BLUE 2 seater sofa with scatter cushions, good condition, £49. Telephone 07776 024062 or 01631 710040 (evenings).

LARGE WALL unit with lights, very good condition, £49.99. Telephone 01586 553511 (evenings).

PINE SINGLE bed with mattress, very clean, £30 can deliver Oban area. Telephone 07887 513286.

SOLID MAHOGANY dining room table, 6 chairs, (table extends to seat 8), vgc, £250. Telephone 01631 565323 after 6pm or 07751 605717.

TWODRAWER computer desk, pine effect, good condition, £12. Telephone 01852 300072.

OFFICE DESK, metal frame beech effect finish. 3 lockable drawers W123 x D75cm, very good condition, £40. Telephone 01546 810207.

VISIONER ONETOUCH scanner, instruction booklet and CD rom included, very good condition, £20. Telephone 01546 603637.

SCOTTISH FIELD CALENDARS, featuring spectacular photography of some of our most scenic lochs, rivers, beaches and mountains.

OBAN WEST HIGHLAND CALENDAR fabulous views of the West Highlands portrayed in this handy and conveniently sized calendar.

2 DOUBLE GLAZED doors approx 58"x23" from upright cooler, plastic edging, £5 each. Telephone 01631 564844.

HOBART POTATO peeling machine, good working order, £49.99. Telephone 01866 822069.

NEW HAND-crafted hen house, ready assembled, suiting six large hens. Many extras including Butinox finish, £200. Telephone 01631 562930.

Colour Photocopier - Have your favourite photographs enlarged to A3 or A4 size. Call into Krisp Printing and Stationery, Burnbank, Campbeltown. 01586 554975.

Organising a prize draw? We can supply numbered and perforated tickets to your requirements.

Contact Krisp Printing and Stationery, Burnbank, Campbeltown. 01586 554975.

SPORTS EQUIPMENT SET GOLF clubs, ideal for novice or beginner, 1 and 3 woods, 3 to 9 irons, wedge, putter, bag all in good condition, £45. Telephone 01546 603536 after 7pm.

POLY TUNNEL Frame. Telephone 01631 740571.

MAIL ORDER SCOTTISH FIELD CALENDARS, featuring spectacular photography of some of our most scenic lochs, rivers, beaches and mountains.

OBAN WEST HIGHLAND CALENDAR fabulous views of the West Highlands portrayed in this handy and conveniently sized calendar.

2 DOUBLE GLAZED doors approx 58"x23" from upright cooler, plastic edging, £5 each. Telephone 01631 564844.

HOBART POTATO peeling machine, good working order, £49.99. Telephone 01866 822069.

NEW HAND-crafted hen house, ready assembled, suiting six large hens. Many extras including Butinox finish, £200. Telephone 01631 562930.

Colour Photocopier - Have your favourite photographs enlarged to A3 or A4 size. Call into Krisp Printing and Stationery, Burnbank, Campbeltown. 01586 554975.

Organising a prize draw? We can supply numbered and perforated tickets to your requirements.

UNWANTED ITEM TO SELL? The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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

WANTED POLY TUNNEL Frame. Telephone 01631 740571.

MAIL ORDER SCOTTISH FIELD CALENDARS, featuring spectacular photography of some of our most scenic lochs, rivers, beaches and mountains.

OBAN WEST HIGHLAND CALENDAR fabulous views of the West Highlands portrayed in this handy and conveniently sized calendar.

2 DOUBLE GLAZED doors approx 58"x23" from upright cooler, plastic edging, £5 each. Telephone 01631 564844.

HOBART POTATO peeling machine, good working order, £49.99. Telephone 01866 822069.

NEW HAND-crafted hen house, ready assembled, suiting six large hens. Many extras including Butinox finish, £200. Telephone 01631 562930.

Colour Photocopier - Have your favourite photographs enlarged to A3 or A4 size. Call into Krisp Printing and Stationery, Burnbank, Campbeltown. 01586 554975.

Organising a prize draw? We can supply numbered and perforated tickets to your requirements.

SELL YOUR ITEMS WORTH £50 OR MORE FOR AS LITTLE AS £12.93

You could have just what our 40,000 readers are looking for! You can sell those items that you no longer need for just £12.93 for up to 16 words, £15.28 for up to 20 words £17.63 for up to 24 words or £19.98 for up to 28 words

To advertise here's what you do:- IN PERSON - Fill in the booking form below...

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".

PLEASE NOTE: DEADLINE MONDAY 4.00pm

TO ADVERTISERS - No trade advertisers in private sales - All boats, cars & trailers must appear in Drive Times

YOUR LOCAL WEST HIGHLAND OFFICES: OBAN - The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB

TURN YOUR UNWANTED ITEMS INTO CASH! UNDER £50 FREE!

To advertise here's what you do:- IN PERSON - Fill in the booking form below...

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

PLEASE NOTE: DEADLINE MONDAY 4.00pm

TO ADVERTISERS - Only 1 item per coupon - No cars or parts - No boats or parts

YOUR LOCAL WEST HIGHLAND OFFICES: OBAN - The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB

If you don't sell in the first week, we will insert your advert FREE in the next available issue

LOCAL services Tel: 01631 568000 THE place to be seen

Chris Craft window blinds. FREE MEASURING / FREE ESTIMATES. www.chriscraft.co.uk

Argyll and Bute WOMEN'S AID. Offers information and support and refuge (if needed) to women and children.

Corrie Plumbing & Heating Ltd. For all aspects of Plumbing and Heating Domestic and Commercial.

TARTAN CARPET SPECIALISTS. FREE BROCHURE & SAMPLES. www.tartanrugs.co.uk

MOBILE PHONES. FREE MOBILE PHONES, free connection. For best deals telephone your local dealer.

A TOUCH OF SCOTLAND EVERY WEEK! The Oban Times SUBSCRIPTION RATES.

CONDITIONS OF ACCEPTANCE FOR ADVERTISEMENTS. YOUR attention is drawn to the following terms and conditions which relate to the placing of advertisements in all publications owned by Wyvex Media Limited.

WINTER SALE USED STATIC CARAVANS. from only £1,500 (multiple uses). NEW STATIC CARAVANS ALSO AVAILABLE.

GARDEN SERVICES. HAVE YOUR GARDEN. Tractor - Mower Strimmer etc. Serviced Now and be ready for Spring.

REMOVALS & STORAGE. MACQUEEN BROS. Removals and Storage Full Packing Service Available.

PHOTOGRAPHY. Commercial Industrial and Landscape Photography. 360° Virtual Tours.

IT PAYS TO ADVERTISE IN The Oban Times. Be seen by over 40,000 readers.

The Oban Times PREPAID ADVERTISING RATES. Private Classifieds Lineage Rates. Trade Display: £8.65 per single column centimetre.

CARAVANS FOR SALE. Off-park Sales - Suitable for House Builds Staff Accommodation - Holiday Hire etc.

KITCHENS CONTRACT CANCELLED. 300 Kitchens to clear in oak, birch, hi gloss white or beech.

BUILDING CONTRACTORS. Neil McGougan Ltd. Joiners and Building Contractors.

REMEMBER DEADLINE FOR ADVERTS MONDAY 4PM. The Oban Times.

If you've taken the time to read this then your business could benefit from advertising in the Oban Times.

D. HALL BUILDER Dalmally. Telephone: 01838 200448.

H BUCHANAN CONTRACTOR. Site Clearance, Foundations, Drainage, Landscaping, Coastal Protection.

## Highland cattle judge praises entry at Oban

HIGHLAND cattle judge Andrew Cameron, Culduthel, Inverness praised the recent show line ups as the Highland Cattle Society hosted their show and sale at Oban.

He said that the quality of animals in front of him was excellent and this was reflected in the prices obtained in the sale ring.

Mr Cameron emphasised that there wasn't the tail in the classes that he has seen in past years and the quality remained good throughout.

Bids of over 1,000gns were achieved for 20 males and 22 females, with the show champion selling to 3,800gns to Jim Smith, Maybole - while the reserve champion sold at 8,000gns to Mr Hodgkiss of Bolton.

Champion bull and best 2-year old bull - Ruairidh 2nd of Mittistone from Michael poland.

Reserve and reserve 2-year old bull - Brogach 2nd of culfoich from J and M Mc-Conachie.

Best senior bull - Tom of Earn from Mrs H Corrigan

Reserve - Loggin 2nd of Glengorm from Glengorm Estates.

Best yearling bull - Valiant 2nd of Beinn-Latha-Ur from Mr J Lacey

Reserve - An Droghair of Coirefuar from Angus R MacKay

Best senior heifer - Una Buidhe 2nd of Miungairigh from Angus J MacColl

Reserve - Sheila Mor of Glengorm from Glengorm Estate

Best 3-year old heifer - Duchess of Bein Esk from Mrs P Smith and Mr P Burns

Reserve - Milly 6th of Benmeach from Anna Taylor

Best 2-year old heifer - Molly 11th of Lagg from Mrs C Lawrie

Reserve Wyna 1st of Dunmor from Robert Leitch

Best yearling heifer - Erin of Bien Esk from Mrs P Smith and Mr P Burns

Reserve - Albanach Eiled 6th of Glekinglass from Mr and Mrs RD Schuster

Best pair of females - Morag 1st of Dunmor and Wyna 1st of Dunmor from Robert Leitch

Reserve - Gruagach 30th of Ormsary and Lynsey 8th of Ormsary from Sir WJ Lithgow and Son, Ormsary

Sale averages  
2-year old bull - 20 - £2,494  
Yearling bulls - 5 - £690  
Aged bulls - 7 - £1,131  
Senior heifers - 16 - £1,272  
3-year old heifers - 15 - £1,068  
2-year old heifers - 13 - £640  
Yearling heifers - 15 - £688

# The photographer's apprentice

## Scottish Farmer photographer announces he is to retire

A PHOTOGRAPHER, who has worked closely with west Highland livestock farmers for the last 34 years, announced his imminent retirement at the Highland Cattle Society dinner in Oban last week.

And John Fraser, from Dunblane, who has been with *Scottish Farmer* magazine since 1974, brought along the man who got him started all those years ago.

Louis Flood, from Perth, operates his own photography business but helped John on his first job for *Scottish Farmer* in 1974 - the Highland Cattle Society Show in Oban.

Louis recalls the day he first met John. He told *The Oban Times*: 'In 1974 *Scottish Farmer* asked me to cover the Highland Cattle Society sale in Oban with a new photographer they had. I was to show him the ropes, because it was his first job.'

John said: 'I was sent to Oban for my first job and was told to look out for Louis Flood, who would keep me right. 'We've been pals ever since.'



Louis Flood and John Fraser chat about their first meeting over a dram. ©07emma01

# Lorn and islands' farmers give angry reaction to EC double-tagging scheme

## 'What a mess, what an absolute mess' claims local farmer



Nigel Miller vice-president of the National Farmers Union of Scotland (NFUS)

'The reality is that we have lost that fight and we are stuck with it.' - Nigel Miller

## England holds the key to Scotland's risk of bluetongue

ENGLAND holds the fate of Scottish farmers in its hands in the way it deals with bluetongue, Argyll farmers have been told. The stark choices facing farmers on how to combat the disease were laid out by Nigel Miller, vice president of the National Farmers Union of Scotland (NFUS), in Oban last week.

The UK Government has ordered 20 million units of vaccine to combat the disease but this will be used on the protection zone in England and Wales and won't be ready until May. It will be a voluntary system but the European Commission would prefer it to be compulsory.

Mr Miller said: 'You can't say there is ever a good time to get a disease. But the UK got it at the best time

of the year - at the end of the foot and mouth restrictions and there was not a big midge population. If you ticked all the boxes you couldn't be more lucky. The UK has the biggest sheep flock in Europe but there won't be a vaccine until May - 9 months late.'

Bluetongue is spread by two species of midge - which are both active in the UK. 'If the plan to combat bluetongue in England is robust then the risk to Scotland is less.'

He said there are three options open to Scotland. One - to extend the protection zone. Two - to compulsory vaccinate livestock, or three - vaccinate the south of the country to act as a 'buffer' against England.

holding of birth. The scheme has been designed to bridge the gap until the dreaded electronic identification is introduced in 2010.

Mr Miller said the Scottish and UK governments both opposed double tagging and took legal advice to quash it but the EC pushed it through. The union says traceability will now be worse but cost will be higher.

Ardachy Farm, North Connel's manager Malcolm MacDonald said: 'Has nobody in the NFUS, or the governments got a modicum of sense to say that double tagging is a backward step?'

Mr Miller replied: 'The rural affairs cabinet secretary Richard Lochhead was against it and challenged it. EC officials have accepted the old system may be better but there is no common sense about Europe.'

Mr MacDonald said: 'It is the lunatics taking over the asylum!

It is unbelievable. The traceability is less. What a mess, what an absolute mess. What is this going to achieve? Do consumers really care?'

Mr Miller said Spain and Italy already had the electronic identification scheme but their sheep flocks were much smaller and generally housed indoors. The scheme sees sheep double tagged with one normal and one electronic tag - both carrying identical codes. Movement documents would have to carry the individual code of each animal - a condition the NFUS has described as a 'nightmare'.

The union says it will not accept individual recording of movements and says it is unworkable in Scotland. It wants trials to be carried out on any new sheep identification system which must be 'robust, affordable and cost-effective'.

Oban vet Max Bonniwell said: 'If everybody vaccinates their livestock then they lose their protection zone. I think people could be tempted to buy vaccine on the black market if they have valuable animals.'

'How has vaccinating gone on the continent?' Mr Miller replied: 'There has been varying degrees of success but doing it on a voluntary level doesn't really eradicate bluetongue. We would have to do it for two-three years.'

Neil MacCorkindale, of Scammadale Farm, said: 'The map of where bluetongue has spread doesn't look too healthy for us. I don't think it is selfish for us to be looking for compulsory vaccinating. The Scottish Government should be getting vaccine ordered up.'

## Trade rises at Stirling

UNITED Auctions sold 425 store cattle and 1017 store sheep at Stirling last Wednesday.

Bullocks averaged 141.7p (+1.4p) and sold to 172.3p per kg for a 290kg Charolais cross from Polnoon and £835 for a 636kg Simmental cross from Whitsome Laws. Heifers averaged 135.5p and sold to 153.6p per kg for a 414kg Charolais cross from Harviestoun and £670 for a 526kg Limousin cross from West Yett.

Cast cows averaged 98.4p per kilo and sold to 133.9p or £945 for a Belgian Blue cross from Easter Mye, cast bulls averaged 116.7p.

Cross bred lambs from Kilwhinleck sold to £45 with Texels from New to £40.50 and Cheviots from Dullatur to £38.

## Hoggs to 158.8p per kilo

UNITED Auctions sold 3794 prime sheep including 3057 hoggs and 737 ewes and rams at Stirling last Thursday when the sale average for hoggs was 116.9p/kg.

Hoggs sold to £71.50 and 158.8p per kilo for Texels from Guardswell. Blackface hoggs from Brackley sold to £55 and to 131p per kilo Knock O'Ronald.

Ewes sold to £78 for Texels from Halbeath, Quixwood sold Mules to £50 and Aikengall sold Blackfaces to £35.20.

## Blackface sheep breeders host Dalmally stockjudging

NORTH Argyll Blackface Sheep Breeders Association held their annual stockjudging at Dalmally Auction Mart, by kind permission of United Auctions, on Friday, February 8 when 145 people took part.

The organisers are indebted to all the people who brought stock and to all competitors that travelled from a far to support the event.

### Results

#### Individual

North Eastern Farmers Trophy  
1 George MacPherson, Balliemeanoch  
2 = Bruce Dixon, Killinochinoch, John MacPherson, Balliemeanoch, Davy Jackson, Pole, and Kevin MacKinnon Team

1 John, Alex and Grant MacPherson, Balliemeanoch

2 Davy and Jock Jackson and Richard Smith, Pole

3 Calum, Alastair and Will Shaw

Young Farmers Class

Suie Lodge Cup

1 = Catherine MacDermaid, Strachur and Alex MacPherson, Balliemeanoch

3 Calum Shaw

Ladies

Youngs Animal Health Shield

1 Sybil MacPherson, Brackley Farm, Dalmally

2 Catherine MacDermaid, Strachur

3 Sheila MacGregor, Kerrera

Under 14s

1 Greg Gillespie, Campbeltown

2 Calum Leitch, Kilchrenan

3 Jody MacArthur, Glenbarr

Primary

1 Lewis Montgomery, Invermoaden

2 Robert Dempster, Dalmally

3 Lauren MacDonald, Lochgilphead

Open Top Hogg Homebred Class

Bill Black Shield

1 J & J MacPherson, Balliemeanoch Farms, Dalmally

2 Laggan Farms, Killinochinoch, Kilmartin

3 J & J MacPherson, Balliemeanoch Farms, Dalmally

Overall championship

D. Livingstone

## Nature Times

ROCKY shores are fascinating places to explore, but can be treacherous because of the slippery seaweeds which often grow luxuriantly there. The commonest types are brown seaweeds known as wracks. Like kelp, they are covered with a gelatinous layer of mucilage which reduces desiccation when the tide is out.

There are several different types of wrack on our shores but knotted wrack is the most abundant type around sea-lochs and sheltered bays. Knotted wrack is easily recognised because of the hollow egg-shaped swellings along the stem, giving it its alternative name of egg wrack. These 'bladders' are usually two to three cm long but I have seen them twice this size. They are gas-filled and enable the weed to float vertically when the tide is in, to reach the sunlight. At low tide the long, strap-like strands of this olive-green and black seaweed drape over the shore in a thick carpet. It grows wherever there is a firm surface to attach to, be it bedrock, boulders or large cobbles.

At this time of year outgrowths known as receptacles appear along the fronds. These warty, jelly-filled swellings, about the size of sultanas, grow on long stalks. They produce the reproductive cells, which are shed into the water.

The branched fronds of knotted wrack can reach much greater lengths than other wracks on the shore: 1 to 2 metres is common, but I have seen huge plants well over 4 metres long in Loch Sunart. The plant's size and weight mean that strong waves will readily tear it off rocks, so it is restricted to more sheltered waters. Here, dense beds of knotted wrack can develop and provide shelter for a variety of shore fishes. This makes them a favoured hunting ground for otters when the tide is in.

In very sheltered conditions individual plants may grow for many years, and older plants often become heavily encrusted with marine life such as the breadcrumb sponge. Look too for sea-firs - tiny colonial animals related to corals, which form branching structures like miniature trees. Knotted wrack even provides a home for a much-branched purplish seaweed called Polysiphonia, which can also be seen in the picture. It attaches to the knotted wrack with fine rootlets. Because of its lush growth, knotted wrack has been an important resource for crofters in the Western Isles, the west of Ireland and elsewhere. Traditionally gathered as a natural fertilizer, in recent decades it has been an important source of chemicals called alginates. These are widely used in the manufacture of many different products, including paints and cosmetics, even beer and ice-cream!

Highland Darter



Knotted wrack grows luxuriantly on sheltered rocky shores

## STIRLING - United Auctions

**Bullocks** Up to 250kgs Sorn Mains £375, 156.3p; 251-300kgs High Cairn and Polnoon £460, Polnoon 172.3p; 301-350kgs Sorn Mains £525, 157.2p; 351-400kgs High Milndovan £580, Sorn Mains 148.4p; 401-450kgs Meikle Hareshaw £615, High Unthank 144.1p; 451-500kgs Dyke £710, 144.9p; 501-550kgs Dyke £710, 144.9p; 551-600kgs Sauchrie Mains £730, 130.8p; 601-650kgs Whitsome Laws £835, 131.3p.  
**Heifers** Up to 250kgs Toward £325, 140.1p; 251-300kgs Sorn Mains £440, Harviestoun 153.6p; 301-350kgs Sorn Mains £490, Harviestoun 143.5pp; 351-400kgs Laigh Alticane £530, 138.4p; 401-450kgs Dyke £610, 139.9p; 451-500kgs Syke £635, 131.5p; 501-550kgs West Yett £670, 127.4p.  
**Cast cows** Easter Mye (BBX) High Unthank (Lim) Westhall (Lim) £945; Morhambank (AAX) £895; Whitsome Laws (SD) £865; (Sim) £825; Westerhill (ChaX) £815; Crosbie Mains (HF) £795; Blyth (Ho) £725; Whitsome Laws (ShX) £625; Caddell (MRI) £565.  
Easter Mye (BBX) 133.9p; Westhall (Lim) 119p; Whitsome Laws (Sim) 114.5p; Morhambank (AAX) 111.9p; Cairnside (Cha) 111.4p; Whitsome Laws (SD) 107.3p; Crosbie Mains (HF) 104.3p; Blyth (Ho) 99p; Whitsome Laws (ShX) 96.7p; Caddell (MRI) 85.6p.  
**Breeding cattle** Hfrs & Calves Gowstone (Lim hfr & Lim calf) £820; High Crewburn (Lim hfr & BB calf) £800; Netherwood (AA hfr & calf) £720; Strathavon (Lim hfr & Lim calf) £700.  
**Lambs** Kilwhinleck (X)£45; New (Tex) £40.50; Quixwood (Suff) £38.20; Union (Suff) and Dullatur (Chev) £38; Braendram (Tex) £37.50; Craigend (BF) £36.50.

**HAY AND STRAW FOR SALE**  
in lorry loads, round bales and small bales of hay, round and also hestons of straw.  
Telephone 01764 654267

**COVENTRY for FENCING**  
Scotland's No. 1 WIRE, STOCK FENCING, BARBED, HighlandX, TENSILE, MILD STEEL - BEST PRICES  
**TIMBER DIRECT FROM OUR SAWMILL**  
Depots throughout Scotland Delivery available For a competitive quote please call 01631 566866

**SECOND HAND FARM MACHINERY**  
Kivnerland 3 furrow Conventional plough With hydrein bodies and discs. Immaculate condition.  
Howard 80" spike rotovator (new spikes) Bamford 10' heavy duty discs, vgc  
Krone 90" blade rotovator, vgc,  
Telephone 0750 696 3456

**Tractors Wanted**  
MF 590, 290, 690, 390  
Zetor 5245, 6245, 7245, 7745.  
And all other Zetor, JD, MF, Ford Fiat & Case IH 1970 to date.  
Also wanted for breaking: Most tractors, balers, diggers and heavy plant. 1960 to date. Any condition, worn out or accident damaged.  
Contact John Craig, Easter Clevegar Farm, Dunning, Perth.  
Tel: 01764 684265  
Mob: 07774 629123

**SELLING YOUR FARM STOCK?**  
The Oban Times  
A WEST HIGHLAND TIMES  
Be seen by over 40,000 readers  
Tel: 01631 568000  
www.obantimes.co.uk

**FURNITURE AUCTION**  
To be held by West Coast Auctions  
In association with Oban Livestock Centre on  
**Saturday 23rd February 2008**  
At 10.30am  
**OBAN LIVESTOCK CENTRE**  
Goods received for auction at the livestock centre on  
Thursday 21st February 4pm - 8pm and  
Friday 22nd February between 9am - 3pm.  
Viewing between 6pm - 9pm Friday evening.  
Contact: Ronnie Maccormick West Coast Auctions  
Telephone 01631 570631 07717435248 (mobile)

**ZETOR tractors wanted**  
Also any other make  
Running or non running  
Any condition, all roller round balers, total farm clearances undertaken  
**01786 818 995 or 07966211709**

**EQUINE SUPPLIES Harbro**  
QUALITY LIVESTOCK NUTRITION  
Visit our Country Store in Lochgilphead for all your equine feeds and needs! We stock Harbro Country Horse & Pony feeds, many other feed brands plus  
• Supplements & licks  
• Clothing & muck boots  
• Shavings, forks, etc  
• Grooming products  
Please call Fiona and Catriona on 01546 603804 for more information - in the Oban area on Thursdays.  
Open Monday - Friday 8.00am - 5.00pm  
Site 14, Kilmory Ind. Est., Lochgilphead, PA34 4SD

**THE OBAN TIMES**  
West Highland Times

THE REGIONAL NEWSPAPER FOR THE WEST HIGHLANDS, ISLANDS AND ARGYLL



The Oban Times is the best-selling weekly newspaper in the Highlands and is distributed via 1742 newsgates every week

Editorial Director: **Joan P. Bennett**  
Group Managing Editor: **Stewart MacKenzie**  
Deputy Editor: **Graham Crawford**  
Chief Reporter: **Marian Miller**  
Head Office:  
Oban 568000  
Fax: Oban 568001  
E-mail: editor@obantimes.co.uk

Branch Offices:  
Fort William  
01397 703003  
Fax 01397 702495  
Lochailhead  
01546 602345  
Fax 01546 602661  
Campbeltown  
01586 554646  
Fax 01586 553006

year illness, Elizabeth, formerly from Annat and Caol, sister of Hamish and mother of Victoria and Alexandra, at her home near Los Angeles, California. Her long term companion and carer Terry Young has posted a memorial page on his website www.noonalley.org/liz.html.

**MACDONALD** - Johnnie-Nan. Peacefully at home, surrounded by his family, on February 14, 2008, aged 79, after a long and courageous battle against illness, much beloved husband, father and grandfather. Forever in our hearts and sadly missed by all the family.

**McARTHUR** - Agnes Morton. Peacefully, at North Argyll House, Oban, on Friday, February 15, 2008, Bunty, formerly of Cuan and Clachan Seil, beloved wife of the late Duncan McArthur.

**McNAUGHTON** - Peacefully, at Islay Hospital, on February 12, 2008, Neil, beloved husband of the late Flora McNicol and much loved father of Michael, father-in-law of Jeanie and grandpa of Neil and Katherine. The funeral service was held in Bowmore Hall on Friday, February 15, 2008, at 11.30am and thereafter interred in Bowmore Cemetery. Sorely missed by many.

**SHAW** - Peacefully, on Friday, February 15, 2008, at the Royal Alexandra Hospital, Paisley, with his family in attendance, Archie, of Port Askaig, Islay. Much loved brother, brother-in-law, uncle and great-uncle of the family and dear friend to many.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

**CAMERON** - Sandy, Fiona, Kate and all the family of the late Mattie would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for their many kind expressions of sympathy, cards and flowers received in their recent sad loss. Special thanks to Pam and Irene and all the staff at Mains House Nursing Home, Newtonmore for their unfailing care and kindness to "granny". Thanks to Rev Richard Corbett and John Fraser for their comforting service. Grateful thanks to Mike McFall and his staff for their kindness, care and assistance with the funeral arrangements and to those who paid their last respects at the church and graveside and gave so generously to the resident's fund at Mains House.

**PERT** - The family of Ian W Pert, husband of the late Teresa Farrell, wishes to thank the Vale of Leven Hospital, doctor and nurses of the Critical Care Unit for their wonderful tender care. Stan Lupton Undertaker and his assistants for their most helpful and sympathetic ministrations. Father William McLean for kind words, Kenny McLaughlan, Scotch Heathers for beautiful sprays and piper Ian Campbell. Also that of Scott McPherson and associates, nursing staff at Inveraray Surgery, and wardens of Chalmers Court. Our profound thanks.

**ROBERTSON TAYLOR** - At 'House for an Art Lover', Glasgow, on Saturday, February 9, 2008, Struan, son of Elliot and Hazel (North Connell), to Sarah, daughter of John and Joy (Shrewsbury). A very happy day!

**CORAL WEDDING**

**MACLEOD** - Neil and Christina, who married on February 23, 1973, are celebrating their Coral Wedding Anniversary. Congratulations from all your family and a big kiss from Lewis.

**RUBY WEDDINGS**

**MACMILLAN - MACNEILL** - At Kildalton Parish Church on February 22, 1968, by the Rev Frank S Gibson, Billy to Sheena. Present address 2 Distillery Cottages, Lagavulin, Islay.

**DEATHS**

**CAMERON** - Peacefully at the Lorn and Islands District General Hospital, Oban, on February 12, 2008, aged 90 years, Duncan, eldest son of the late John and Margaret Cameron, Drimmin. Beloved husband of Morag, much loved father of Marion and John and dearly loved grandfather of Alison, Euan and Catriona. Service took place at St Erans Church, Fionnphort, on Saturday, February 16, 2008.

**DOWNIE** - Jean Downie, née Wells, suddenly but peacefully at the Western Infirmary, Glasgow, on Wednesday, February 13, 2008. Wife of the late Hugh Downie, mother of Alison and Linda and grandmother of Emma, Jennifer, Gary and Matthew. Much loved and sadly missed.

**LOUDON - DRATH** - Peacefully after a two

**COOPER** - In loving memory of Dorothy, who died on February 23, 2006.

Though absent you are always near. Still loved, still missed and very dear.

- Tricia, Caroline and families.

**FARQUHAR** - In loving memory of Molly and Donald.

- Rhoda.

**FERGUSON** - Treasured memories of our much loved parents, Murdo, died February 19, 1989, and Katie, died June 16, 2000.

Forever in our thoughts. - All the family at home and away.

**GIBSON** - In loving memory of my dear wife, Marybell, who died February 23, 1987.

Loved and remembered always.

- Jimmy.

**GIBSON** - In loving memory of our dear mother Marybell, who died February 23, 1987.

Loved and remembered everyday.

- Iain and family, Dalnally, Margaret and family, Canada.

**JOYCE** - In loving memory of our dear Donny Joyce, who passed away on February 22, 2007.

In our hearts you will always be loved forever.

- Mandy, Dad and Caroline.

**MACCORMICK** - Treasured memories of a dear mum and granny Catherine, who passed away on February 27, 2002.

Those we love don't go away. But walk beside us every day.

- Love from Colin, Flora and Graeme.

**MACCORMICK** - In loving memory of my dear mother, Catherine, died February 27, 2002.

As long as I live I will always be glad.

To treasure the memory of the mother I had.

- Her daughter Mary.

**MACDONALD** - Treasured memories of our beloved mother, gran and great-gran, Margaret MacDonald, who passed away on February 21, 2005.

Three years have passed since that sad day. The Mum we loved was called away.

A wonderful mum so very rare. Content in her home and always there.

She guided our paths and helped us along. If we walk in her footsteps we'll never go wrong.

A smile for all, a heart of gold. The best the world could ever hold.

Never selfish, always kind. Content in her home and always there.

She guided our paths and helped us along. If we walk in her footsteps we'll never go wrong.

A smile for all, a heart of gold. The best the world could ever hold.

Never selfish, always kind. Content in her home and always there.

She guided our paths and helped us along. If we walk in her footsteps we'll never go wrong.

A smile for all, a heart of gold. The best the world could ever hold.

Never selfish, always kind. Content in her home and always there.

She guided our paths and helped us along. If we walk in her footsteps we'll never go wrong.

A smile for all, a heart of gold. The best the world could ever hold.

Never selfish, always kind. Content in her home and always there.

She guided our paths and helped us along. If we walk in her footsteps we'll never go wrong.

A smile for all, a heart of gold. The best the world could ever hold.

memories of Veronica, a much loved sister and auntie, who passed away February 25, 2000.

As time unfolds another year. Memories keep you ever near.

- From Violet and family.

**MACTAGGART** - Treasured memories of our dear sister, auntie and great-auntie, who died February 25, 2006.

Loved and remembered always.

- Joan and family, Islay, Drymen and Glasgow.

**McCLOUNNAN** - In loving memory of our father David, who died February 17, 2006. Also our brother Callum who died March 27, 2007.

Quietly remembered along life's way.

- Inserted by David, Mary Ann and family, South Uist.

**McFADYEN** - In loving memory of our dear dad, Bob, who died on February 25, 2006.

Another year passes us by. But our memories of you will never die.

Thinking of you always. - Love John, Lorraine and Michalea.

**MORTON** - In loving memory of a beloved wife and dear mother Catherine, died February 24, 1995.

Always in our thoughts. - John, John and David.

**MORTON** - In loving memory of a dear mum and nana, Catherine, died February 24, 1995.

Always in our hearts and thoughts.

- Karen, Norman, Christopher x and Lewis x

**MORTON** - In loving memory of a dear daughter-in-law Catherine, died February 24, 1995.

Forever in my thoughts. - Mum.

**POULTON** - In loving memory of my grandson and nephew, Danny, who died February 15, 1992, aged 3 days.

Always remembered. - Freena and family, Ardtun, Bunnassan.

**ROWAN** - In loving memory of a dear Dad and Grandad, Alan, who passed away on February 23, 1993.

Never forgotten. - Inserted by Gordon, Mairi, Alan and Kyle.

**ECCLIASTICAL NOTICES**

**SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH ANGLICAN COMMUNION**  
Sunday 24 February 2008  
Lent 3  
St John's Cathedral, Oban  
Holy Communion..... 08.00  
Choral Mattins..... 10.15  
Sunday School and Creche  
Parish Eucharist..... 11.30  
Loop System  
Large Print Hymn Books  
All welcome  
Norman MacCallum,  
Provost  
01631 562323  
St Columba, Gruline,  
Mull  
Holy Eucharist..... 11.00  
St Columba,  
Bishop's House, Iona  
Holy Eucharist..... 10.00

**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 24 January 2008  
11 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.  
Phone-In 'Worship Link' available  
Rev. Archie McPhail  
MA, MTh  
01631 567076  
All welcome

**CHARITY DONATIONS**

**Oban Hospice**  
CARING FOR THE FUTURE  
Donations always gratefully accepted  
Please contact  
David Mudie (Treasurer)  
Oban Hospice Ltd  
The Croft  
Kilmore

**WE ARE MACMILLAN. CANCER SUPPORT**  
Working towards a time when every person in Scotland has equal and ready access to the best information, treatment and care for cancer  
West of Scotland Fundraising Office  
1st Floor, Erskine House  
North Avenue, Clydebank  
Business Park, Clydebank G81 2DR  
Tel 0808 100 6000  
In memory of Dawn Joyce

**CANCER RESEARCH UK**  
Fighting Cancer on all fronts...  
CRC Scotland spends more on research than any other organisation  
Commitment of over £15 million each year  
Cancer Research UK Scotland  
Suite 1/1, Unit 4 Blair Court  
Clydebank Business Park  
Clydebank, G81 2LA

**FOR THE BLIND CHILDREN OF SCOTLAND'S ACADEMIC TUITION AT THE ROYAL SCHOOL IN EDINBURGH**  
Please give your financial support by donation, deed of covenant or legacy  
Please send to Appeals Department, Highland Arts Effort, Royal Blind Asylum School, R.O. Box 500, Gillespie Crescent, Edinburgh, EH10 4HZ

**Obituary - Mrs Mary Campbell Weir (nee MacNeill) (1911 - 2008)**

**MAIMIE** died on Sunday, February 10 at Renfield Nursing Home. She was the second eldest of the MacNeill family who lived in Dunoon in the 1920s and 1930s. She herself was well known in several parts of Argyll where she taught all her life. Her father was inspector of police for the Cowal area. In his retirement he undertook the duties of session clerk at the High Kirk.

She was born in Campbeltown as was her sister Morag. The family moved to Bowmore Islay during the First World War while there she remembered a journey to Ardlussa, Jura to visit her paternal grandparents. Part of the journey was from Craighouse, Jura to the north of the island in a small open boat. She was sick all the way which did not endear Jura to her. While there she had to trudge to a well, daily, to collect water. Ever since then she suffered from sea-sickness and avoided even viewing the sea as much as possible. It is to her credit that despite this she braved the journey to Islay again to help Morag when she was having her first child George (now Lord Robertson of Port Ellen) and then Nigel.

Most of her schooling was at Dunoon Grammar after which she went to Jordanhill Training College to become a primary school teacher. After a short spell at St Munn's Catholic School in Dunoon she went to Ballylurgan in Islay. There she acted as organist at the local church.

She then taught at Ardfern School at Craignish with a Miss MacNicol which led to a life-long friendship as she also moved to Dunoon on her retirement. From there she went to Dalnally where she stayed during the last world war. She made many friends there.

After this she was appointed to St Catherine's school. It was a single teacher school with the somewhat grand name of Poll Public School. Here she taught all classes in the one



Maimie Weir pictured with her brothers Torquil, left, and Alastair.

large room ranging from infants to what was then called the qualifying year before secondary school. She numbered among her pupils Peggy, Sheena and Malcolm Darroch, who all attended her funeral in Greenock. Other pupils I recall were the Lindseys, Munros, Mathers Macnabs and Mackies. Attached to the school was the schoolhouse. It was quite large, including four bedrooms - large for a single teacher but built in the days of larger school rolls and schoolmasters with large families. Later the school was closed because of a lack of pupils. When this happened Maimie taught at Strachur school for a short time.

She met and married a local farmer Robbie Hunter Weir of Ardnor Farm while at St Catherine's. They moved into a farm in the area - called Ardchyle. They had many happy years there. She became a focus for the family there especially for her eight nieces and nephews - George, Nigel and Rosemary Robertson, Deirdre, Ruari and Callum MacNeill, and Duncan and Sheena MacNeill. They

all learned a lot from Maimie and had a great time finding out about the country scene and life and adventures on the farm. A little work was also done, haymaking, sheep shearing and collecting eggs to name a few. They in turn gave her joy in the fulfilment of her maternal nature.

Maimie and Robbie retired to Dunoon (as far as possible away from the sea). Robbie enjoyed his bowling at the Bogelha. Maimie continued to make new friends and extended hospitality to family, relations and ex-pupils (one even from Australia). Robbie died and she was left alone for about 20 years. She adapted well, she read the Herald, the Oban Times regularly as well as the Dunoon Observer and the Argyllshire Advertiser. Latterly this was achieved more easily after two cataract operations.

In the last few years she had fractures of both hips which led to her going into the Renfield Nursing Home. Recently she had a severe respiratory infection. She recovered but was left too weak to survive. She

was looked after with care and sensitivity at Dunoon General Hospital and Renfield Nursing Home. She appreciated the many visits from all while in the hospital especially from George and Nigel Robertson who made time to visit often despite the long distances involved.

Maimie was 10 years older than me. It was a big sister, wee brother relationship which survived, sometimes embarrassingly into adulthood. She made my first suit when I was four. It was a knitted jersey and knitted trousers. She took me to school on my first day and came to the boundary between the boys' and girls' playgrounds at mid morning playtime along with some other girls (now gone) to see how I was surviving.

She was a good soul. She worried for others. She did not have children but fulfilled her motherly nature by caring for her own brothers and sister, nieces and nephews and pupils.

She is survived by her brothers Torquil and Alastair.  
Dr Alastair Duncan MacNeill

**Obituary - Pat Smith**

**PAT SMITH** was one of the most remarkable characters I ever met and there are many who will say the same. Some people's friends come from a narrow circle but in Pat's case friends came from everywhere and every connection. I doubt if she had such a thing as a passing acquaintance; it seemed that everyone who encountered her was attracted by her amazing personality. She was warm and loving with a great zest for life and, above all, a wonderful sense of fun.

Pat died in January at the age of 86 but, in some ways, she never grew up - which probably explains why she had such a rapport with young people. There were no generation barriers for Pat. Nor, it seems, did she ever change. After her death, someone who worked with her for five years 26 years ago and who had not seen her for a number of years, sent an appreciation and what he wrote were exactly the aspects of her character which so many of us here loved.

Protection of birds and wildlife

were some of the matters she was most passionate about. And sport. It was no use trying to get her on the phone if there was an important cricket match in progress, and, during Wimbledon fortnight, there was a notice on her door: 'Do not disturb. Wimbledon in progress.'

Pat was very knowledgeable and had an interesting and adventurous life. Born in South Africa, she experienced other countries and was an army nurse during the war, later speaking of her pride in standing in her uniform in London during the victory celebrations. She also served as a Land Girl during the war and, as an example of her strong views of right and wrong, often bemoaned the fact that Land Girls received no state recognition for the considerable contribution they had made to the successful war effort. How ironic it was that recognition at last came but only a few days after her death. Perhaps the government was frightened to admit to Pat that she had been right all along.

Pat worked with the BBC World

Service in London for a number of years and later with The Performing Rights Society. She arrived in Oban about 20 years ago having decided after previous visits that it was the place for her. She did some freelance journalism and used her writing skills to stand up for justice and make her views known to various authorities - especially of she disapproved of them.

Another of Pat's outstanding characteristics was her courage. Disabled, it is thought, because of a road accident many years ago and suffering from arthritis, she never complained. In fact, she used to laugh when recounting how, for a spell, she could not sleep lying down and had to be propped up in a chair. She accepted with humour and courage whatever life threw at her.

For the last two to three years of her life she was at Eadar Glinn Home where she was wonderfully looked after and where she was so happy. Her love of young people led her to a great interest in the staff there. And not only them but their babies

and those of her other friends. She joked about continually having to have more shelves put up to display all the baby photographs of whom she was so lovingly proud.

Another example of Pat's easy relationship with people came from Fergus MacDonald, the son of one of her great friends, who composed a tune especially in her memory, played it on his violin, recorded it onto a CD and got it to the Clydebank Crematorium in time for Pat's service. It was also played at a special celebratory service at Eadar Glinn a few days later which was very well conducted by the Reverend Liz Gibson who conveyed to us just what it was that made Pat so special.

Pat's many friends will miss her enormously. Despite her own health difficulties, it was not possible to visit her without leaving feeling better than when we arrived. Her humour and laughter uplifted us. She will not be forgotten.  
Graeme Pagan



**Colleagues honour Pat**

COLLEAGUES travelled from near and far to Highland Council's education offices at Camaghael, Fort William, to mark the retirement of Mrs Pat MacQuarrie after almost 40 years in education.

She received many cards, flowers and gifts from all over Highland region at the function on Friday.

Latterly Pat held the post of area support for learning team leader, which involved supporting staff, pupils and parents in schools throughout Lochaber and the Small Isles.

**Couple celebrate golden wedding**

CHARLES and Cathie McAuley, of Ardconnel Road, Oban, are pictured being presented with a bouquet of flowers by Councillor Roderick McCuish on behalf of Argyll and Bute Council to celebrate their golden wedding anniversary.



**Oban Hospice**  
CARING FOR THE FUTURE  
Donations always gratefully accepted  
Please contact  
David Mudie (Treasurer)  
Oban Hospice Ltd  
The Croft  
Kilmore

**WE ARE MACMILLAN. CANCER SUPPORT**  
Working towards a time when every person in Scotland has equal and ready access to the best information, treatment and care for cancer  
West of Scotland Fundraising Office  
1st Floor, Erskine House  
North Avenue, Clydebank  
Business Park, Clydebank G81 2DR  
Tel 0808 100 6000  
In memory of Dawn Joyce

**CANCER RESEARCH UK**  
Fighting Cancer on all fronts...  
CRC Scotland spends more on research than any other organisation  
Commitment of over £15 million each year  
Cancer Research UK Scotland  
Suite 1/1, Unit 4 Blair Court  
Clydebank Business Park  
Clydebank, G81 2LA

**FOR THE BLIND CHILDREN OF SCOTLAND'S ACADEMIC TUITION AT THE ROYAL SCHOOL IN EDINBURGH**  
Please give your financial support by donation, deed of covenant or legacy  
Please send to Appeals Department, Highland Arts Effort, Royal Blind Asylum School, R.O. Box 500, Gillespie Crescent, Edinburgh, EH10 4HZ

## Gow back at the helm at Kingussie

### Shinty

JIMMY Gow has returned as Kingussie manager for a third term following the resignation of Ian Ross.

Ross and Gow have swapped place over recent seasons with Ross stepping in for a third spell as manager last year after Gow stepped down.

At the club's recent annual general meeting, they also voted in a new club president - former Kingussie player, Neil Reid.

Fitness instructor Neil Bowman, and Michael Thain will continue to assist Gow with the first team while Norman Dickson is to continue as second team manager.

Kingussie start their premier league season on Saturday, March 1 away to newly promoted Lovat before meeting Newtonmore in the first Badenoch derby match at the Dell on March 8.

## Newtonmore and Lochaber share draw

### Shinty

NEWTONMORE came back from two goals down at the Eilan against Lochaber in last Saturday's pre-season friendly.

A good first-half from the Spean Bridge side and a goal-keeping error saw them comfortably ahead before the home side found the net twice in the second period. A series of good saves from Lochaber keeper Angus Morrison ensured that the teams were still level at the end of 90 minutes.

This Saturday, Newtonmore will host their annual open day ahead of their first Premier league tie of the season on March 1, at home to Strathglass.

## Astie Cameron appointed

### Shinty

FORMER Fort William player and referee Astie Cameron has been appointed by the Camanachd Association to the role of Operations Manager.

He will take up the post at the beginning of the season and replaces Alan MacLeod, Strathglass who resigned from the position after being the main link between the governing body and the grass roots of the sport.

Meanwhile, it has also been announced that temporary administrator Kevin Cheeseman will also leave the Association.



Fort William's John MacDonald breaks away from the Kinlochshiel defence during his side's 6-1 home win last Saturday. F08shin01

## Strachur retain Robert Wylie Memorial Cup on penalties



OBAN Celtic began their pre-season preparations with the challenge match for the Robert Wylie Memorial Cup.

Cup holders Strachur returned to Mossfield with a team that started sluggishly, but then went a goal ahead after only 10 minutes when Oban Celtic lost the ball in their own half and allowed Ali Merrilees to strike from just outside the area.

While both teams shared equal possession for the next 20 minutes, the home defence look to struggle more than the visitors', who in turn had to deal with a considerable onslaught from the Oban forwards.

On the half hour, Kieran Gallacher's persistent tackling gained him the ball on the left and he was unlucky to see his angled shot rattle off the Strachur crossbar. Sustained pressure was rewarded three minutes later when Alan Miller's low, 20 yard shot found the back of the net.

Three minutes later Celtic were a goal ahead thanks to

a neat passing move, sparked off by half-back David Duffy, via Gallacher and Donald MacKay and finally to Miller who, again, manage to elude the Strachur keeper with his low angled drive from the left.

Just as the tide seemed to be turning in Oban's favour, wily veteran Donald MacDonald chose to make his presence felt after 51 minutes, taking advantage of a defensive muddle, pouncing on a loose ball just outside the area and driving a vicious shot past a sprawling Neill MacNab.

Lack of match play began to tell after an hour, with big spaces beginning to open up in midfield as both centre lines struggled to hold their shape and gain control of the crucial area of the park.

MacKay and Gallacher both had near misses, but after 68 minutes Merrilees put Strachur ahead again with a speculative long ball towards goal, MacDonald cleverly stepping out of its path whilst at the same time unsighting

MacNab, who was to see it cross the line just inside his right hand post.

House and Home sponsored Oban Celtic pushed forward again, desperate to salvage a match that was slipping away from them. The tireless Gallacher was finally rewarded with the equaliser when a 20-yard shot whipped past defenders and forwards alike and into the goal.

Two minutes later, MacNab was to keep Celtic in the game with a spectacular diving save from MacDonald, but that was the nearest either side was to come to winning the match before full-time.

Moving directly to a penalty shoot-out, it was apparent that both keepers had the edge on the respective marksmen. Two goals apiece after the statutory five strikes, the shoot-out moved to sudden death, with the visitors coming out on top.

Mrs Catherine Wylie presented the cup and medals, having enjoyed a fitting encounter for such an important trophy.



Fort William beat Kinlochshiel in The Torlundy Cup on Saturday. F08shin04

## Duncan Rodgers is Fort William's Player of the Year

### Fort William win Torlundy Cup against Kinlochshiel

FORT William Shinty Club thrashed Kinlochshiel 6-1 in the Torlundy Cup at An Aird last Saturday.

Perhaps a little under the weather after their awards dinner the previous evening, Fort William players admitted their performance was far from flawless in the pre-season friendly, but the supporters were pleased none the less.

A good crowd gathered in cold but dry conditions and although both teams were a little rusty after a lengthy break during the off-season, the game gained momentum as it progressed.

Fort William struck first in the opening minutes through Gordy Mackinnon but the visitors replied shortly afterwards, perhaps a wake-up call for Fort William who tightened their defence thereafter.

Further goals from Mackinnon, John MacDonald, Drew Ferguson and two from James Clark completed the comfortable victory for the hosts.

Ferguson and Clark were particularly men-

acing up front, with Gary Innes and Neil McPhee controlling the game well in midfield.

Teenage substitute Bryan Simpson had some promising touches, but was unlucky with several shots at goal in the closing minutes.

Although Kinlochshiel never gave up, Fort William were just too skilled and organized and gave away very few opportunities in their own half of the field.

At the annual dance and award ceremony held at the West End Hotel, 20-year-old defender Duncan Rodgers was named first team player of the year.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'It obviously feels great to win the award, especially at such a young age, but I have to say it was the rest of the boys that helped me look so good, and I think any of the team members deserved the award as much as I did.'

James Tangney was awarded second team player of the year, while Joss MacGhee was named under-14 national player of the year and Kyle Grant second team youth player of the year.

## Refereeing courses to be held at Fort William and Inveraray

### Shinty

THE search for new shinty referees has been stepped up with a new foundation referee course which will be held at Fort William and Inveraray.

The course has been developed as the first step in the production of a full training and support package for referees. The course will qualify match officials to take control of junior and reserve team shinty.

Graham Cormack, shinty coaching and performance development manager said: 'This is a new opportunity that I hope players and other individuals who have an interest in shinty will sign up for.'

'Refereeing is such an important role in any sport and being able to referee well is a rewarding way to spend a Saturday afternoon.'

'Referees often come to the role through a wish to give something back to their sport and a way of keeping themselves fit once they retire from play but refereeing is open to anyone at any age - and there is a small payment made for refereeing a senior level match as well as travel expenses.'

'We would really wish to encourage people to think about taking up refereeing and this course has been developed to provide them with a firm foundation.'

The first courses will be run from 2pm to 6pm on Sunday February 24 at Fort William and Sunday, March 9 at Inveraray.

## Lochgilphead win Mid Argyll First Shinty tournament in Oban

LOCHGILPHEAD team won the Mid Argyll First Shinty tournament played in Oban's Atlantis Leisure at the weekend.

Runners-up were Kilmory who also boasted the player of the tournament in Coll McCallum.

The Mid Argyll tournament winners will now go on to represent the area at the national finals which this year will be played in Perth.

Last weekend's competition was held in Oban's Atlantis Leisure centre because of the roof damage to the sports hall at the Lochgilphead school campus.

Lachie Wood sponsored the tournament which was run by the Ardrishaig Junior Shinty Club.



The winning Lochgilphead and Kilmory players in their tracksuit tops supplied by the Argyll Hotel, Lochgilphead. 08shin01



**WIN £600**

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE...



This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are: Ian Mitchell, 13 Cara View, Tayinloan and James Birt, 6 Millpark Avenue, Oban

# Spot the SHINTY BALL Competition

### 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 12noon on Tuesday. You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

### Competition Rules

No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery. The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.

In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company.

The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time. Employees of The Oban Times Limited, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.



I enclose £1 (note) for 20 crosses (tick box)  The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules. How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Tel No. \_\_\_\_\_

Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB

*Writing Paper & Envelopes*  
**Personalised & matching, to your own requirements - an ideal present**

Contact us at:  
**Krisp Print & Stationery Ltd.**  
 Burnbank, Burnside Street,  
 Campbeltown, Argyll PA28 6JD  
 Tel: 01586 554975  
 Fax: 01586 554903  
 Email: staff@krispprint.co.uk

## Cup run continues for Oban Lorne

### Impressive victory over Moffat in plate competition

ON SATURDAY Oban faced the 'Moffat Rams' for the third time this season with one win and one loss from the previous encounters.

This time at Glencruitten the meeting was in the second round of the Scottish Hydro Electric Plate competition.

Oban Lorne were sporting their bright new club strips and did not disappoint the spectators who turned up for their Christening.

Receiving the kick off Oban started in a controlled and direct manner through good driving play by the pack and clever kicking from the backs.

This combination proved effective as it was only ten minutes into the game when following some quick rucks and good continuity between



Oban Lorne players model the team's new strips supplied by removal firm MacQueen Bros. 108sgb01

backs and forwards Neil Rimmer powered over the line for a try.

Euan Wilson converted to put Oban seven-nil ahead.

### Rugby

There were clean breaks coming all over the field but most notably from the three namesakes; Chris McDonald, Robbie McDonald and Martin McDonald in the backs.

Following some good direct backs play the forwards took the ball on and there was a try for player/coach Andy MacDougall on the stroke of half time making it a comfortable 21-7 lead.

After half time Oban never looked like conceding points but were being frustrated in their attempts to win quick rucks and throw the ball around.

The frustration eventually led to the sin-bin for Driaan Van Zyl and shortly afterwards Robin MacQueen, both for repeated infringements.

This halted the Oban pressure for the next quarter of the match and led to a scrappy spell for the teams, spectators and referee to endure.

However once those players were back on the field Oban finished the stronger of the sides.

After a few near breaks Robin MacQueen broke down the right of ruck in the Moffat 22 and fed Alan Beaton who was screaming for the ball out wide.

The winger dived over in the corner to seal the victory and a respectable points tally of 26-7 to Oban.

Man of the match was Mark MacQueen.

**Team:** Downie, MacQueen, M. McDonald, McInnes, Smith, Rimmer, Van Zyl, MacDougall, Louw, Macleish, Wilson (c) M MacQueen, Beaton, C McDonald, R. McDonald, M. McDonald, Davies, MacEachan.

Oban immediately pressured again and attempted a set backs move from some forward drives.

Worryingly the move broke down in the midfield and handed possession to the Moffat left wing who ran in from his own 22 metre line to score a try totally against the run of play. The conversion duly followed making the score 7-7.

Minutes later it was the Oban backs' turn for a try.

After a sequence of pick and drives from the big home pack Mark MacQueen, playing at 10, was first to a breakdown on the opposition line and powered over the remaining yards to score a crucial five points.

The conversion from Wilson made the score 14-7.

Oban were now in the ascendancy and the linking between backs and forwards was surprisingly good considering the lack of games recently.

### National trial at Kinlochleven

LOCHABER Motorcycle Club held a national trial at Kinlochleven on Sunday, February 10, with an amazing 70 competitors taking part.

There was really close competition over the 'A' route with experienced trials and Enduro rider Crawford Carrick-Anderson coming out on top after some excellent racing on

### Motorcycling

27 points. He was closely followed by Neil Dawson on 34 points with local rider Rodger Mount finishing in third place with 41 points.

Ian Macphail finished on 46 points overall in the 'Masters' route, earning him first place with Andy Muir second.

## Saints drop into relegation zone

**Umbro Scottish Amateur Football League Premier Division OBAN SAINTS 0 INVERCLYDE 1**

SAINTS entertained premier league leaders Inverclyde last weekend and the men from the tail o' the bank returned home with all three points after a hard fought win in what turned out to be a very good game of football.

Saints manager Iain Jackson publicly criticised his players last week for their lack of effort against Carlton in the Jimmy Marshall Trophy, and

### Football

this message must have got through as all his team tried their utmost in this fixture, although in the end it wasn't good enough as they went down to the only goal of the game scored from the penalty spot in the 43rd minute.

The manager decided to start with the same line-up that lost to Carlton and they were soon buzzing around the Inverclyde box, but the men from Greenock are not top of the league for nothing as they showed their class to come storming back into



Soroba Saints' goalkeeper Cameron MacMillan has been in inspired form this season producing some wonderful saves to help take his team to the top of the league.

## Cameron has the safest pair of hands in soccer

THIS week was a bit of a goalfest at the Oban Express Primary Football League with an incredible 75 goals scored in 13 matches.

Saints lead the way in their own right with four emphatic victories over K-Oz, Dolphins, Thistle and Ben Lora and now sit a proud six points clear of Sharks, who kept up their challenge with a single goal victory over third-placed Appin, thanks to a late Jodie Dairon strike.

Sharks also recorded a win over Thistle but found it hard work with young goalkeeper Ryan Woodrow in superb form to keep them at bay for long periods.

The meeting between Benderloch CGL and Appin was a real nailbiter with the score going one way then the other, until Appin finally secured the win. Appin also went on to beat Thistle to consolidate their position in the league.

'Team of the day' was, undoubtedly, Dun-

### Football

beg, who won all four of their matches against K-Oz, Thistle, Dolphins and Ben Lora to leapfrog to fourth in the league.

After their last showing Ben Lora were expected to do well this week, but it was not to be their day when they got off to a poor start against Benderloch, as Ewan Gibb embarked on a mazy run and fed to Michael Strathearn to score. Craig McMillan scored a second before an own goal completed the scoring and set the tone for the day for the newcomers.

Vast improvements are noted in K-Oz, who although failing to register any points managed to score quite a few goals on the day from 'open play', with Brandon Petrie, Lennon Campbell and Lewis Campbell among their scorers. A lot of spectators will give them a huge cheer when they do manage to secure that elusive first point.



Oban Saints under-13 captain David Beaton with Oban Electrical Services managing director Sandy Dunlop before the team's 9-0 victory over Blair Thistle. The team are also sponsored by Beaton and McMurphy Architects Ltd. 108san01

## Tides

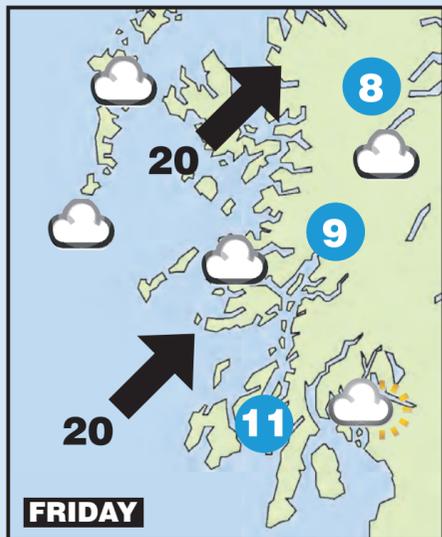
Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, February 21, 2008** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur	05.53 4.0 12.31 0.8 18.21 3.9 *** **	
Fri	00.24 0.5 06.25 4.1 13.05 0.8 18.49 3.9	
Sat	01.01 0.5 06.57 4.1 13.37 0.8 19.17 3.9	
Sun	01.36 0.6 07.26 4.0 14.07 1.0 19.44 3.9	
Mon	02.07 0.8 07.54 3.9 14.35 1.2 20.11 3.7	
Tues	02.39 1.0 08.22 3.7 15.05 1.4 20.39 3.5	
Wed	03.12 1.3 08.49 3.4 15.38 1.6 21.12 3.1	

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

Sponsored by **NANCY BLACK** Ships' Chandler 01631-562550



## the weather

Sponsored by **NANCY BLACK** Ships' Chandler

**Thursday**  
Will be cloudy with a mixture of showers and sunny spells. Winds moderate south-westerly. Temperatures 3°C to 12°C

**Friday**  
Again cloudy with a mixture of showers and sunny spells. Winds moderate south-westerly. Temperatures 8°C to 10°C.

**Weekend Outlook**  
Both days expected to be rather cloudy with a mixture of sunny spells and isolated showers. Winds moderate southerly. Temperatures 3°C to 9°C.

**Ferry Crossings/Sea States**  
**Oban to Barra/South Uist** - Moderate  
**Oban to Coll/Tiree** - As above  
**Kennacraig to Islay** - As above

Sponsored by **NANCY BLACK** Ships' Chandler 01631-562550



Ross Maitland picks out colleague Myles McAuley with a pass during Saturday's match against Inverclyde.