The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Established 1862 No 7919 | Thursday, December 4 2008 | www.obantimes.co.uk | 70 pence

NEIL'S CAR FRIES ALONG THE ROAD!
Page 2

PUPILS LAUNCH RECIPE BOOK
Page 11

Three dead in Islay crash

THREE people, including a 10-year-old boy, were killed in a road accident near Bridgend, Islay on Tuesday evening.

Two men, aged 47 and 38, died along with the youngster when a Skoda pick-up collided with a lorry on the A846 at around 5.50pm

The road was closed until Wednesday morning while police investigations took place.

Police officers from the mainland were flown to Islay in the police helicopter to assist the island officers.

Drug dealer evicted

A FIFTH tenant of Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) has been evicted after being convicted of dealing in illegal drugs.

The tenant was evicted from a property owned by the housing association in Oban last month and it is being seen as another victory in the fight against drug dealing.

Oban councillor Roddy McCuish, a member of ACHA's board of management, said: 'ACHA has made it clear it will not endure drug dealing and will go ahead with exhaustive and expensive legal action to protect the wider community.'

Inspector Neil Wallace of Oban police said: 'This type of direct action sends a clear message to tenants that being involved in the drugs scene may ultimately result in you losing your home.'

Youngsters have new strings to their bows

Talented primary school pupils from across Lorn have joined forces to make up a strings orchestra – the first of its kind in the area. The Primary Schools Strings Orchestra consists of children from Oban's Rockfield Primary School, Easdale, Kilninver, Dunbeg, Lochnell and Barcaldine and was formed by Lorn schools strings instructor, Hazel Clark, after she successfully applied for £4,750 from the Awards for All grant scheme. Ms Clark is also being supported by senior music students from Oban High. The children will perform for the first time next Wednesday at the Oban High School concert. t49str01

Barra is the best!

BARRA is celebrating a windfall of £4,000 after it was judged the best small community in Britain in the Calor Village of the Year awards because it 'worked together to address the challenges of an isolated location'.

Gerald MacDonald of Barra and Vatersay Company Limited, who received the award in London on Tuesday, said it was a massive achievement for Barra's 'brilliant people'.

Full story next week.

Jura internet woes

JURA residents have been left without broadband internet connections for six days due to a fault 'difficult to trace'.

Shop owner Steve Martin said: 'BT customer services keep telling us it was a problem for individual homes and not a matter for engineers to fix. It is very frustrating. We have sent a petition to the industry regulator, OFCOM, to try and get the problem solved.'

Homes left without heating

RESIDENTS in Glenshallach, Oban, claim they have been left with no heating or hot water since Saturday, while landlords insist they were not aware of any problems until Tuesday.

As temperatures plummeted to minus four some families were still without heating on Tuesday in their West Highland Housing Association homes.

They also claim the environmentally-friendly wood chip burner heating system is not effective enough to heat all the houses on the estate.

One mother of three said: 'Everybody who lives around here had some sort of trouble with their boiler over the weekend. One of the residents said that she would phone the housing association on our behalf and report the fault. But nobody has turned up.

'We have been freezing. The children have to keep their jackets on.

'I phoned the housing association and was told it could not guarantee a repair person before 10 days. They said that I could borrow electric heaters from them.'

Linked

Another mum with toddlers said: 'Residents are all linked into one boiler system from a generator behind our houses.

'We don't have a choice about where we have our power supplied from because this system fuels all our houses. I have not heard anyone say it is great heating.'

A spokeswoman for the housing association said: 'We have a 24-hour helpline. We will give tenants electric heaters and get an engineer out as soon as possible.

'Of the 89 houses on the estate we have only received four complaints about four houses. An engineer was despatched to the houses immediately, on Tuesday, when we were made aware of the problem.

'The bio-mass heating system heats all of the community and the price per kilo watt gives superior value for money to tenants.'

Council cash is massive boost for Oban

£8m buys road and marina

Report by DAVID WALKER

OBAN Bay will have a new marina and the town will have a new development road as Argyll and Bute Council agreed a 'historic' £30 million investment in five of its main towns.

Councillors united behind proposals which will see an £8 million investment in Oban and similar sums being spent on Campbeltown and Helensburgh.

Dunoon was given £8.5m and Rothesay was given £2.5m to progress plans for town centre and waterfront improvements.

Over the past year £400,000 has been spent by the council progressing business cases for each town which threatened to pit area against area in a head-to-head battle to secure £10 million of funding for a waterfront project which 'scored' the highest in consultants' reports.

Deal

However, following a series of meetings between council leaders, area committee representatives and political groupings, a deal was hammered out which will see all five towns get a share of a larger pot.

Councillors decided to add £20m to the £10m already set aside for the projects. The money will come from the council's capital budgets over the next five years and a loan of a further £7m from the Treasury.

A total of £6m was allocated to the Oban development road to open up new areas for residential and commercial development along with £900,000 for a new marina in Oban Bay. The money for the road is to come from the the 2012 roads budget for Argyll and Bute.

The project will also see a 'Dunbeg corridor' created with new housing close to 'hi-tech' jobs, and action to reorganise the waterfront and harbour areas in the town.

There was delight among Oban councillors, but also a note of caution from Oban and Lorn area committee chairman Duncan MacIntyre.

He said: 'This is an unbelieveable opportunity but we musn't forget that we are in hard times. Match funding is not going to be automatic and there is a lot of work to be done. I am going to be recommending that we have a board to look after the whole project. This is for the good of all of Argyll and Bute, not just five factions.'

Good news

Councillor Roddy McCuish said: 'This is good news for Oban. The bid was for £10m and we are getting £8m, but there is also the sale of capital assets in the town which we can put towards the project costs, that will generate even more money.'

Councillor Neil MacKay said: 'Today has proved that we are Argyll and Bute councillors and we have to push forward the whole area. But we recognise our own concerns; we have concerns for the fishermen and will be looking at investment in that area.'

Councillor Elaine Robertson said: 'This will also impact on the fringe areas as well. A new road and yacht haven will enhance economic capacity and social development. This way of driving forward is for the greater good of the whole population.'

• Marina could be open by summer – see page 3.

Anger as city shopping plans go off rails

By LOUISE GLEN-LEE

FIFTY-FIVE people were left stranded by the 8.11am First ScotRail train to Glasgow on Saturday.

First ScotRail was aware of high demand for the service and every seat on the train was booked but it failed to put on another carriage, instead ordering a bus for remaining passengers.

When the bus turned up at 8.30am there was a rush for 35 seats. Some passengers, including five-and-a-half months pregnant Jennifer Graham, felt unable to fight for a seat.

Those left behind were led to believe that another bus would be called to take them to Glasgow. But at around 9am it was confirmed that there would be no further service to the city until the next train at 12.11pm.

Stranded passengers Willow Lunn, Page Williamson, Josie Rogerson, Katlin McNeil and Morag Grant are pictured with MP Alan Reid. t49train02

Passenger Brian William from Stafford said: 'I had a reserved seat but a group of women on a hen party were sitting in it, so I got off to find the guard and the train left without me.'

Katlin McNeil from Colonsay said: 'It was chaos, nobody knew what was happening. Station staff were polite but didn't know when and if another bus was being arranged.'

Willow Lunn, from Oban, said: 'Why didn't they think ahead and just put on another carriage?'

Marion McCuish said: 'There is no point in anyone going to Glasgow on the 12.11 train because you would get to the city and need to come straight back.'

Alan Reid MP, who was at the station, said: 'This is a problem at all the stations down the line. We want to encourage people to travel by train, and First ScotRail must put on enough carriages to cater for this demand.'

A First ScotRail spokeswoman said: 'We have now arranged for the Oban-Glasgow service to run as four carriages, instead of the normal two, for the next three Saturdays.

'Our advice to people is please book ahead to secure your seat.'

M&Co.

20%OFF* FOR FRIENDS TONIGHT

To receive your discount cut out the attached discount card, pick up a card in-store or print off your discount card from www.mandco.com

20% OFF* * Offer is only valid in M&Co. stores & www.mandco.com on 4th December 2008 between the times specified. Use promo code 625922 to save online. Offer excludes non-participating concessions.

You are invited to an M&Co. Friends Evening. Receive 20% off between 4pm & 7pm on Thursday 4th December at your local M&Co. (Some stores may close earlier due to shopping centre closing times - please ask your local store for details)

We'd love to keep in touch - Please give us your email address so we can keep you up to date with the latest promotions, special offers and new collections available instore & online from M&Co.

E-mail:

M&Co. is committed to protecting your privacy. We (including our group companies) will use your information on this form for marketing and may share it with our business partners for this purpose. We or our business partners may contact you by mail, telephone, e-mail or other electronic messaging service with offers of goods and services or information that may be of interest to you. By giving us your address, telephone numbers or email address you consent to being contacted by these methods for these purposes. If you do not wish to receive marketing information from us tick this box: ■ or from our business partners tick this box: ■ You may change your marketing preferences at any time by contacting: Mackays Stores Ltd, Caledonia House, 5 Inchinnan Drive, Inchinnan Business Park, Renfrew, PA4 9AF.

Till code 625922

5 021109 423250

The Isles of Glencoe Hotel & Leisure Club

'Old Skool' Disco Nights are back!

Saturday 13th, Friday 19th & Saturday 20th December 2008

folio Hotels

In December there is no better place to be than the Isles of Glencoe Hotel, so get the old gang together for a school disco to remember.

Christmas Dinner & Disco all for £25 per person • To Book Call Events Manager Lorna MacAskill on 01855 811 602 or email: events.glencoe@foliohotels.com

Accommodation Offer £32.50 per person is offered to all festive partygoers, subject to availability.

Festive Lunches At The Ballachulish Hotel & Isles of Glencoe Hotel

The perfect venues to bring friends, family & colleagues to soak up the Christmas atmosphere.

Adults from £9.95 per person Children 5 –15yrs from £5.00 Under 5's £4.00

To Call Isles 01855 811 602 ask for Barrie Or Call Ballachulish 01855 811 606 and ask for Frank

BEAT THE CLOCK AT

PIAZZA

Everyday 5.30 - 7.30

ALL MAIN DISHES AT THE PRICE OF THE TIME YOU ENTER

FOR EXAMPLE:

Come in at 5.35
Your Lasagne will be £5.35

Come in at 6.15
Your Garlic Chicken will be £6.15

The Perfect pre-panto or pre-theatre Christmas countdown

Achnabreck
LASERS
Laser Hair Removal

Achnabreck lasers offers a safe and effective way to reduce unwanted facial and body hair, using the latest laser technology operated by Sally Darnborough. A range of other laser treatments are available including the elimination of leg veins and the reduction of fine lines and wrinkles.

For further information call 01546 602991 (leave name & contact details)
All enquiries are dealt with strictest confidence.

Stoddarts
STODDARTS
Old Crofters, Oban PA34 4HU
Telephone: 01631 564176
Mobile: 07799 692072 (John)

WE HAVE THEM ALL!!! QUADBIKES,BUGGIES AND 2-WHEELERS
FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY
THIS XMAS!!

QUADS
QUADZILLA ZR50 C/W TRAILER E/START,FULLY AUTO £990 i.v.
QUADZILLA RT100 E/START,FULLY AUTO,REVERSE £1,150 i.v.
QUADZILLA ST200 E/START,FULLY AUTO,REVERSE.ROAD LEGAL £2,399 INC.NO.PLATES AND ROAD TAX

2-WHEELERS
HONDA CRF70 3 SPEED SEMI-AUTO,4-STROKE £1,000 i.v.
HONDA CRF100 5 SPEED,4-STROKE £1,395 i.v.
HONDA CRF230 5 SPEED,4-STROKE E/START £2,395 i.v.

USED MODELS
QUADZILLA BUZZ 50 FULLY AUTO E/START,V.G.C. £650
SUZUKI LT 50 FULLY AUTO GOOD RUNNER £390
YAMAHA PW80 3 SPEED SEMI-AUTO V.G.C. £495
YAMAHA TTR 90 3-SPEED SEMI-AUTO £790
HONDA XLR125R TRAIL E/START £1,450
HONDA TRX250 SHAFT DRIVE,CARRIERS ETC. £2,290

STODDARTS OF OBAN ,OLD CROFTERS,SOROBA RD.OBAN
01631 564176.MOBILE 07799692072
OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE:WWW. STODDARTS.CO.UK

ORDER NOW FOR THESE FANTASIC OFFERS, JUST GIVE US A RING FOR MORE INFO.

The Iona Shop
OBAN - ARGYLL - PA34 5RS - SCOTLAND
TEL. 01631 562071 - EMAIL. INFO@IONASHOP.COM
Just like the last 61 Christmas's, we have a fabulous mix of Modern, Traditional and Estate Jewellery as well as Giftware, like the stunning Ortak Pen Collection, to suit all budgets..
New Sheila Fleet Rowan Collection

150 MILES OF UNSPOILT NATURAL BEAUTY.
WINTER PARADISE MADE AFFORDABLE.

Have you ever considered the Outer Hebrides for a Winter break? At **winterhebrides.com** you'll discover why we've some of the mildest winters imaginable… and why, with ferry fares now slashed, there's never been a better time to experience our unique culture, hospitality and absolute freedom.

Homecoming Scotland 2009
homecomingscotland2009.com
Live it. Visit Hebrides.
visithebrides.com 0845 22 55 121

Fish and chips has Neil's car frying along the road

THANKS to a fuel converting machine, a man on Iona only visits the petrol pumps once a year.

Neil Harvey, manager of the St Columba Hotel on Iona, has found a way of converting his waste cooking oil into fuel for his car.

Neil explains: 'We had a great difficulty in disposing of our waste cooking oil, and we had rising fuel costs – worse than most because there is no filling station on Iona.

'I found out about a machine, called a bio-diesel processor, which could convert the waste vegetable oil from our frying machines into fuel that would run our seven-seater, Volkswagen Sharan 1.9 diesel car.

'Before we bought our conversion machine we were filling up almost weekly. But this year we have only had to fill up at the pumps once or twice.

'During the winter we offer fish and chip meals to the islanders, on a Friday night, and that alone gives us enough fuel to run the car.

'The processor, which cost £1,000, makes everyday normal cooking oil suitable for use in a any car. The processor paid for itself in around six months. Instead of paying £1.19 per litre we are only paying 15p.'

Neil Harvey is joined by hotel shareholder Louise Alloway at the car which uses waste vegetable kitchen oil.

Skye village to hand back radiation tablets

Potassium iodate withdrawn as Broadford's 'Z' berth closes

RESIDENTS of Broadford on the Isle of Skye have been asked to hand back tablets for use in the event of a radiation after the MoD announced nuclear-powered warships would no longer berth there.

In a letter to local people the MoD said usage at the operational berth at Broadford Bay, formally known as a 'Z' berth, had been 'reviewed' and that there was 'no future operational requirement' to maintain the berth for nuclear powered ships.

The change of use means potassium iodate tablets (PITs) predistributed to all properties in the two-kilometre planning zone around the bay now have to be recovered.

Pre-paid envelopes for the tablets have been sent out to all residents and holiday homeowners.

An information leaflet under the Radiation (Emergency Preparedness and Public Information) Regulations 2001 accompanied the letter and envelope.

Consultant in public medicine for NHS Highland, Dr Ken Oates told *The Oban Times* potassium iodate tablets were distributed to bases around the UK and other countries where nuclear submarines were present, explaining the tablets protect the thyroid gland by'flooding' it with natural iodine to prevent the absorbtion of radioactive iodine released in a nuclear accident. Dr Oates said the practice of handing out iodine tablets was 'purely precautionary'. 'They have never had to be used in the UK,' he said.

Conventionally-powered vessels will continue to use the berth at Broadford.

Knitted fish from North Uist come under the hammer

North Uist hosts knitted fish auction for RNLI

FISH WITH a difference are on the menu at Carinish Hall, North Uist after Taigh Chearsabhagh Museum and Arts Centre announced it is organising a knitted fish auction and ceilidh as part of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution's (RNLI) Yellow Wellie Challenge.

The fish, the result of a community knitting project with the artist Deirdre Nelson, will go under the hammer at the hall tomorrow (Friday).

Deirdre Nelson undertook a three-month visual arts and heritage residency in Taigh Chearsabhagh at the beginning of 2008. During this time she created the exhibition A' Fighe A' Cheo/Knitted Fog in response to the local historical societies' collection of artefacts. The knitted fish project on Uist is a development of an ongoing project in Shetland called 'The Fish Exchange' which has been created by Deirdre and Hazel Hughson of Shetland Arts.

During her residency Deirdre wanted to involve the community in her work and initiated the knitted fish project in North Uist, which proved extremely popular with all age groups. The project connects with a whole history of netting, knitting and fishing which is synonymous with fishing communities around the coast of Scotland.

Colourful

In the lead up to the auction Uist knitters have been adding to the colourful shoal of fish already on display at Taigh Chearsabhagh.

It is hope that the fish auction and ceilidh will raise lots of money for the RNLI and, in order to open the auction up to a wider audience, a selection of 'fish' will be auctioned on a popular internet auction charity website.

Coll and Colonsay pupils gain four-week flight pilot

AS HINTED in last week's *Oban Times* student flights to both Coll and Colonsay will go ahead for a four-week trial period.

The trial will bring to an end weeks of wrangling over how fairly flights for students are being allocated after the council miscalculated the number of seats for island children requiring flights home.

Every weekend

A spokeswoman for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'Instead of alternate flights to Coll and Colonsay at weekends, island pupils attending Oban High School will now be able to travel home on a more regular basis due to return flights to both islands every weekend.

'The trial will begin on December 6, with outbound flights on a Saturday and return flights on a Sunday.'

Councillor Duncan MacIntyre said: 'This is wonderful news.

'The trial will allow us to evaluate the service to see whether or not the additional flights meet the needs of the hostel residents and their parents.

'The flights have been a very popular choice for pupils, and this trial, with a subsequent review, will help us decide the best way forward for providing the scholar service.'

Children from Coll will still receive flights on a rota basis.

Hostel

There are around 20 high school-aged children on the island but only eight seats on the aeroplane, so children from Coll go on a rota, managed by Glencruitten Hostel, for the flight once or twice per month.

The flights will be provided by Highland Airways who, following a competitive tendering process, were chosen as the preferred bidder in July last year.

Search for Tobermory's 'golden' galleon continues

A VESSEL hunting for rumoured Spanish gold has returned to Tobermory Bay.

The expedition, launched by the Duke of Argyll in February 2007, has been trying to locate a wreck or evidence of a Spanish Armada galleon which sank there in 1588.

A spokeswoman for the Duke of Argyll said: 'It left before Easter just because the bay gets so busy, and now they are back to continue their investigations of the seabed.'

She added that it is not possible to say how long the expedition will last.

It is the latest of numerous salvage operations for the famous missing galleon since the 16th century.

Mull Christmas lights on hold

TOBERMORY's Christmas lights that will 'outshine Oban' have been held back for one week due to missing poles.

Councillor Mary-Jean Devon claimed that the lights are going to be so bright that they will outshine Oban, but due to a technical hitch they are not ready yet to be switched on.

The poles, that were ordered in July, were meant to arrive in town early last week but instead ended up in a warehouse in Inverness. 'But the party will go ahead tomorrow, Friday, at 6pm,' she said. 'Everyone on the island is welcome.'

New home for historical society

MULL HISTORICAL Society has finally found a new home in Bunessan.

The group has moved its extensive archives from the run-down portable building, on the outskirts of the island village, to Millbrae Cottage.

The new venue is situated beside the ruined corn mill and has been renovated to provide an exhibition area, research room and office space for the busy research group.

The group will officially open the centre at Easter and it will tie in with Scotland's Year of Homecoming.

Meanwhile, the society is to benefit from funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

The group plan to use the money to carry out detailed surveys on island graveyard and townships over the next two years.

Skye road closures

THE A855 Staffin road between Portree and Loch Fada will be closed at various times from this week until February 27, 2009 for works to improve the carriageway to twin track width.

The road will be closed to traffic between 11.15am to 12.45pm and 1.30pm to 4pm on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursday between Tuesday this week and Friday, December 19 and then during the same hours from Monday, January 5 until Friday, February 27.

It will also be closed in parts between 9.30am and 4.30pm on Saturday, February 21 and Saturday, February 28.

Museum's TV date

MULL Museum is the latest west coast heritage centre to feature in a BBC Alba series on Scotland's ancient treasures, Ulaidhean.

Presenters from Caledonia TV spent two days exploring the museum's exhibits for the half-hour programme, to be broadcast on Tuesday, December 9 at 8.30pm.

Museum chairwoman Olive Brown said: 'Something very interesting about the war memorial is revealed.'

Previous episodes featured Kilmartin House Museum, the Museum of Islay Life and the West Highland Museum in Fort William.

Institute is top debater

THE NICOLSON Institute from Stornoway has come out on top against Uist rivals Sgoil Lionacleit in the final of the BT Scotland Gaelic Schools Debate.

An audience of around 100 including presiding officer Alex Ferguson enjoyed the high-quality contest.

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar's convener, Alex MacDonald, said the annual competition was a 'wonderful showcase' for Gaelic speaking secondary pupils from schools throughout Scotland to show off their debating skills.

sshhh, don't tell everyone but this is what she wants this Christmas...

Isle of Eriska Hotel, Spa & Island
Gift Voucher £50

Exclusive taste doesn't have to be expensive.
If you would like to give the perfect present, in a place of tranquillity, give luxury Spa Treatments.

Isle of Eriska Hotel, Spa & Island

If you spend £50 on Spa treatments, you also have the use of our swimming pool, sauna & steam room leisure facilities.

Telephone 01631 720371
www.eriska-hotel.co.uk
email office@eriska-hotel.co.uk

MP fights bank takeover

ARGYLL MP Alan Reid and Tavish Scott, leader of the Lib Dems in Scotland, joined a campaign outside Oban's Halifax/Bank of Scotland against the takeover of HBOS by Lloyds TSB.

They say the takeover could lead to the loss of branches and up to 20,000 jobs around the UK.

Mr Reid said: 'Oban has one HBOS branch. If this takeover goes ahead, I fear for its future. I urge everyone to get behind our campaign and show the Government that we are united in protecting banking jobs in Oban and across Scotland.'

MSP wants action on fuel bills

ARGYLL and Bute MSP Jim Mather has called for action to ease fuel bills this winter.

He said soaring fuel costs hit those on fixed incomes and has backed a campaign by Westminster colleagues to put pressure on the chancellor to cut VAT on household energy bills and give pensioners an extra £100 to help them through the winter.

Work starts on collapsed bridge

WORK has started on a bridge that collapsed near Southend, Campbeltown and left residents and farmers with a diversion several miles long.

Dunglass Bridge on the Macharioch road is being replaced by Argyll and Bute Council with a single span bridge. Remedial work will also take place on the road surface, damaged during recent flooding that undermined the structure. Work is expected to be complete early in the new year.

Drivers charged

A DRIVER who was allegedly over the drink-drive limit and another driver who was suspected of driving with alcohol or drugs in his system were charged by Oban police last weekend.

Two further drivers were also apprehended after failing to provide a test sample.

Man accused of hotel break in

A MAN is in custody and appeared at Oban Sheriff Court yesterday (Wednesday) accused of breaking into a hotel on Oban's Esplanade.

The man is alleged to have broken into the hotel's basement store on Tuesday.

Motorist injured avoiding deer

A DRIVER on Mull suffered minor injuries after he swerved to avoid hitting a deer near Craignure.

The man was taken to hospital for his injuries following the incident on Sunday.

Members of Benderloch and North Connel Drama Club ready to hit the stage with the pantomime *Sleeping Beauty*. t49panto01

Oh yes it is two head schoolteachers!

THIS year's offering of pantomime mirth in Oban comes from Benderloch and North Connel Drama Club's *Sleeping Beauty.*

Over the next three days (Thursday to Saturday) the company will be treading the boards at the Corran Halls, with baddies, fairies, a king and queen – looking remarkably like two well-known primary school head teachers – the odd fool and, of course, a princess.

Music

There will be familiar pop music, dancing by senior girls from Oban High and a guest appearance from a firefighter, accompanied by music from The Full Monty.

The cast started rehearsing at the end of August, with Jenny Livingstone as Princess Eilidh, Dougie MacKenzie as Bad Finger, Gillian Carney and Jack Degnon as the queen and king, Hamish Gibson as Callum and George Hamilton as pantomime dame Jessie.

The pantomime was written by Alan McHugh, who has written many productions for the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama, and has been produced by Robin Banks, directed by Jean Smith and stage managed by Val Hamilton.

Marina's summer aim

OBAN Bay Marine chairman John MacGregor was able to tell the community company's first annual general meeting last week that he envisages its £1.6 million, 60-berth pontoon in Oban Bay will be up and running by next summer.

Mr MacGregor also reported to members that without the financial assistance of businesses and individuals in the Oban area, who gave £100 a month to raise more than £30,000, that the project could not have gone ahead.

The chairman reported that all planning permissions were in place and funding was secured for the project.

In his chairman's report, Mr MacGregor said: 'We have been very successful this year. We had an agenda and we stuck to it. We achieved planning permission the week before last and we are now moving rapidly forward to costing the project.

'Without the financial support of the community this could not have moved one foot. We had to spend that money on surveys and consultants before we went anywhere.'

Mr MacGregor also reported that Argyll and Bute Council had confirmed a grant of £900,000 as part of its Oban waterfront development funding and an £800,000 loan from the Crown Estates was offered.

He added that the company was still looking for around £700,000 of funding as any money given by the Crown Estates would have to be paid back.

Mr MacGregor continued: 'A lot will rest on the dredging. If we don't meet any opposition in the shape of rock then I am confident that the timetable is realistic.

'We have done a number of test digs down to five metres and found nothing. If there is rock there it is a small amount and we will be able to deal with that as we go.

'The yachtsmen and boat users are already there and will give an instant return for the town.'

Mr MacGregor, a property developer who also owns the Argyllshire Gathering venue in Oban, received a resounding vote of confidence as chairman and was re-elected unanimously by members along with the rest of the board.

Solicitor Mike Robertson stays as company secretary, as does treasurer, Elaine Lauder, previously secretary of Argyll Charter Boats Association. The board also includes restauranteur, Paul Sloan, charter boat owner, Adrian Lauder, Roddy MacEachen, Calum MacLachlainn and Roger Parry, a retired architect and past commodore of Oban Sailing Club.

Ice peril for motorists

BLACK ice caught on many Argyll motorists on Tuesday morning.

Police attend a spate of road accidents, despite Transerv Scotland and Argyll and Bute Council sending out gritters the previous evening and on Tuesday morning.

Three vehicles, including an empty petrol tanker, were stuck in snow at Strone Hill, near Bridge of Orchy, and two accidents occurred at Lochgilphead. A further two accidents occurred at Dalmally and another on the A819 between Dalmally and Lochgilphead.

At Lochawe a woman was taken to hospital after her car skidded off the road.

A spokesman for Transerv Scotland said its gritter drivers were out all night on Monday as low temperatures and snow had been anticipated.

Sergeant Paul Burns of Oban Police said: 'I would ask drivers to be extra careful in these road conditions and not to travel unless their journey is necessary.'

Iona ferry services face disruption

FERRY SERVICES to Iona will be disrupted over the next three and a half weeks due to essential maintenance works to the jetty and slipway.

Islanders have asked why, after such a relatively short period of time since the jetty was upgraded, such extensive works are required. The jetty was revamped within the past 16 years.

Mark Jardine, chairman of the community council, said: 'The work needs to be done. If the construction workers discover that the slipway has deteriorated more than was initially thought then the work will need to be extended but islanders are generally happy the work is being done.'

Argyll and Bute Council says that the work is a result of 'concrete repairs to address undermining and voiding on slipway surface and extension'.

The spokeswoman confirmed: 'The disruption is due to last for 24 days, however, disruptions to the ferry will be for critical elements of work and the contractor shall endeavour to minimise such restrictions. Adverse weather may increase the time of the contract works.'

A spokesman for CalMac said: 'We will operate four ferries a day during the repair work. It is appreciated that there is considerable disruption to our normal timetable.'

Islanders have commented on how helpful the CalMac staff are being 'to smooth the situation'.

The worry of Woollies

Jobs fears for 50 staff in West coast stores

MORE than 50 employees of retailer Woolworths in the West Highlands are waiting to see if they will still have jobs after Christmas.

This follows the announcement that Woolworths PLC, which has more then 800 high street stores nationwide, has gone into administration with an estimated 25,000 jobs nationwide at risk.

In Oban the 20 staff, including at least one employee of more than 30 years, in the popular George Street store were said to be 'shocked' at the news.

In Fort William's High Street 17 people are employed by the retail chain and in Campbeltown 18 jobs are at risk.

Famous

The store, famous for its 'That's The Wonder of Wooklies' slogan, has been a stalwart of British high streets for nearly 100 years. It has sold everything from pick 'n' mix sweeties to CDs and DVDs, children's clothes, toys, hardware goods, magazines, books and goods for the home.

A spokeswoman for administrators Deloitte said: 'It is business as usual for the company and it is our expectation that all stores will remain open past Christmas and all employees in those stores will be paid.'

The wholesale division of Woolworths Group PLC Entertainment UK Ltd, which is the UK's leading distributor of entertainment products, has also gone into administration.

'We have received a substantial number of expressions of interest in both the retail and the wholesale businesses and we have been holding talks with these parties. Face to face talks will continue this week,' said the spokeswoman.

Neville Kahn, reorganisation services partner at Deloitte, said: 'Woolworths has suffered a number of cash flow problems. Strenuous efforts over recent weeks to keep these companies going have unfortunately failed and the businesses are now looking to be rescued under the administration process.

'We have mobilised a large Deloitte team to stabilise the business and have hired Hilco as our agent to assist in the management of the retail business.'

Raw sewage pumped into loch illegally

SCOTTISH Water was in the dock at Campbeltown Sheriff Court when the saga of raw sewage being pumped into Campbeltown Loch ended in a guilty plea.

The water authority admitted breaching its water use licence on various dates between January 1 and June 5, 2007 by discharging sewage effluent into Campbeltown Loch other than in terms of its licence.

A Scottish Water lawyer told the court that it had inherited the problem from West of Scotland Water: 'Everything we are doing at the present is sticking an Elastoplast over it. The only solution is redesign of the pumping station and works,' he said.

Sheriff Ruth Anderson deferred sentence until May, pending a report from Scottish Water and SEPA to see if progress has been made.

Film stars head to Mull

A FORTY-strong film crew is about to descend on Mull to shoot a feature film with Merlin star Colin Morgan.

Leading actress Janet McTeer is due to arrive on the island this weekend.

The Sea Change, based on Jane Rodgers' novel, Island, is a tale of family tragedy and love set in a Hebridean island community.

Keiron Perry, owner of the Pennyghael Hotel where 15 of the crew are staying, said having so many visitors provided a boost to the local economy during the quiet season. He added: 'We have been invited on to the set. We are going to go next week when it's up and running.'

With filming by Tailormade Productions at Pennyghael, the Ross of Mull and Fishnish, local transport and catering firms have also seen a boost in trade.

Grants for transport schemes

COMMUNITY and voluntary groups plugging gaps in public transport can apply for new funds from Argyll and Bute Council.

From next April, the Enhanced Demand Responsive Transport Initiative will support community car and minibus schemes in areas with limited or no bus service.

Council leader, Councillor Dick Walsh, said the grants would benefit rural communities.

Applications, which must be returned by December 19, are available from www.argyll-bute.gov.uk or from the council's community transport officer on 01546 604179.

Santa's little helper

IN LAST week's *Oban Times*, we were given the wrong name of the Park Primary School pupil who was one of two children allowed to ride in Santa's sleigh at the town's Christmas lights switch on after winning a Christmas card competition. It was in fact Ross MacArthur. Santa, of course, knew his real name.

Shop staff have prize ideas to help children's hospices

FOUR staff at a shoe shop in Oban have been putting their talents to good use.

Manager of Stead and Simpson Stuart Collie and his staff Teenie Campbell, Tina Evans-Argent and Jane Paterson have been raising money for Children Hospice Association Scotland by selling raffle tickets for prizes they have produced themselves.

The talented team at Stead and Simpson, Jane Paterson, Tina Evans-Argent and Stuart Collie. t49chas01

Jewellery

Stuart has used his talents as a photographer to offer a framed photo of Castle Stalker at Appin as a prize, while Tina has produced hand-made jewellery, Jane has offered up a beautiful pencil drawing of a bird and Teenie's bramble whisky will be worth purchasing a ticket for.

The raffle in aid of the company's chosen charity this year is running until Monday, December 8.

There is no better way to stay warm without raising the cost
Pay-as-you-go heat
Only £99.95
For Instant Warmth call Head Office 01631 564050 OR Email: ailsam@jmaclachlangroup.co.uk
AIR LIQUIDE CALOR Gas BOC
West Highland Gas Limited
Depots at Oban, Lochgilphead, Fort William, Isle Of Mull & Dunoon

THE WOODSIDE HOTEL LOUNGE and BEER GARDEN
Great Pub Grub now being served 12-3pm and 5-8pm
The Hydro Bar
FREE for private functions
Regular Live Entertainment
Accommodation from £20 p.p.p.n.
THE WOODSIDE HOTEL TWEEDALE ST, OBAN 01631 562184

• Do you have a story? Call **The Oban Times** reporters on 01631-568000

SPECIAL OFFERS ON GUY NOEL ROAD TOW MIXERS
NOW ONLY £2750.00 Plus VAT
Highland Industrial Supplies Ltd
Unit 2 Ben Nevis Industrial Estate, Claggan, Fort William PH33 6PR
Tel 01397 705159 Fax 01397 700722
E-mail: ftwm@hisltd.co.uk

OUTSIDE EDGE
Lots of Christmas Presents at all price points
> Get the full benefit of the VAT reduction
6 MacGregor Court, OBAN
Tel: 566617
Email: outside.edge@btconnect.com

What's in your hamper this christmas ?
Have a fishy festive season with our affordable luxury hampers
Try our own range of smoked produce or our fresh fish this christmas
WILLIE - FISH
8 Stevenson Street, Oban
Tel: 01631 567156
www.williefishoban.co.uk
email: info@williefishoban.co.uk

Unconvinced on waterfront

HIGHLAND Council is to steam ahead and conclude missives with Fort William Waterfront Limited on its £80 million scheme to redevelop the town's sea front - but Lochaber remains unconvinced.

The plan came in for heavy flak at a public meeting in the Council Chambers, Fort William on Monday night, when a succession of speakers from the 100-plus audience sought to hole the idea below the waterline. The blueprint, which would see new land created in Loch Linnhe to accommodate a new council HQ, library, superstore, shops, more than 300 houses and public spaces, had its backers on the night - but they were in the minority. See report, page 17.

Woman injured

DEMANDS for a footbridge over the River Spean at Spean Bridge are certain to intensify after a PVC panel from a double-glazing van struck and seriously injured a woman just before midday on Monday.

The woman was walking near the Woollen Mill when the 15-foot, inch-thick panel fell off the van and hit her. She is still undergoing treatment in Raigmore Hospital.

Crofting course

SGOIL Lionacleit on Benbecula scored a national first this week when it officially launched the country's only course teaching pupils the centuries-old art of crofting.

The course will be delivered by Lionacleit crofter Neil MacPherson, who will work alongside teaching staff in the classroom and on the croft.

Newsdesk 01631 568000

A walker above Muirshearlich enjoys a winter sunset over Loch Linnhe on Sunday. f49view201

Severe winter weather takes hold in Lochaber

PREDICTIONS of a severe winter appear to be accurate after heavy snowfalls across much of Lochaber last Friday night were followed by days of frost and more snow.

Between two and ten centimetres of snow fell overnight down to sea level on November 28 - an event rare in itself - then persisted as freezing temperatures set in.

Lochaber High School, Kinlochleven High School and Kinlochleven Primary School were closed on Tuesday after sheet ice carpeted access roads following overnight sleet and snow, while in Fort William early morning buses to Plantation and Upper Achintore were cancelled because of skating-rink conditions.

Elsewhere, most major routes were badly affected by black ice, including the Lochaber section of the A82, where several accidents were reported. Police are warning motorists and pedestrians to take extra care and ask the community to help the elderly as the cold digs in. More snow is forecast.

Arisaig health centre fears as services cut

FEARS that Arisaig may lose its health centre after further cuts to its services emerged this week.

The centre is part of Mallaig and Arisaig Medical Practice which this week announced plans to discontinue surgeries in Arisaig on Thursdays and change 15 minute appointments into ten minute appointments.

Morar resident Dick Browning said: 'They joined the Mallaig and Arisaig centres together recently but they are running the Arisaig centre down.

'We are going to end up with no medical practice at all in Arisaig. For me, suffering from extreme breathlessness due to a medical condition, there is no proper car parking at the Mallaig centre and I have to climb up to the place.'

Mallaig and Arisaig Medical Practice says it has been monitoring the demand for appointments over the past year and that the majority of demand is at Mallaig. The practice says its figures show an average of 77 per cent of the 42 appointments per week available at Arisaig are used, leaving almost one quarter empty.

An NHS Highland spokesperson said: 'An audit was conducted by the Mallaig and Arisaig practice and they found that over the course of a full year there were a significant number of unused appointments at Arisaig. NHS Highland has been kept informed and understands the reasons for reducing by one surgery to three mornings a week as it makes better use of GP time.'

Patient's flight trauma probed

Medical help minutes away, but man taken to Stornoway

Exclusive: By STEPHEN NORRIS

A TOP-LEVEL investigation is underway after a critically ill Ardnamurchan man almost died after two jolting helicopter journeys to Stornoway and on to a Glasgow hospital to receive life-saving treatment.

Retired crofter Malcolm MacMillan, aged 78, is recovering at his Kilchoan home this week after five weeks in Stobhill after suffering a heart attack while dining with friends in the Sonachan Hotel at 7.20pm on October 26.

Mr MacMillan had to survive a traumatic hour-long flight in 25-knot winds from a field next to the hotel to Western Isles Hospital in Stornoway, then a second two-and-half-hour flight to Glasgow the next day.

Mr MacMillan suffered badly during both journeys and was so ill by the time he got to Glasgow that his heart had to be defibrillated and the family was called for.

Mr MacMillan's family has written to the Maritime and Coastguard Agency demanding to know why the desperately ill man was not taken to Fort William's Belford Hospital, only 15 minutes away by air, where coastguard and medical teams stood ready.

They ask why a Stornoway Coastguard helicopter was scrambled when a Navy helicopter from HMS Gannet in Prestwick could have taken the patient straight to Glasgow, and why the civilian pilot decided to go back to Stornoway, when the Belford team was waiting.

The Oban Times understands the civilian helicopter crew, employees of a private company contracted to the MCA, were not equipped with the night vision goggles which could have aided a short flight to Fort William.

Coastguard sector manager Phil Wren, based at Fort William, confirmed letters of complaint had been received.

He 'could not really comment' until the investigation, which Mr Wren said involves the MCA, the Air Rescue Co-ordination Centre at Kinloss and the helicopter's owners CHC was completed.

Mr MacMillan's family are also unhappy the ambulance sent to attend Mr MacMillan was single-crewed, and could not take him to the Belford.

No other family must go through this.' See page 7.

Posties deliver an early message

Argyll MP Alan Reid joined postal workers in Oban on their early shift last Saturday.

Mr Reid was shown around the delivery office by delivery manager Ian Tibbetts who told him: 'Our postmen and women do their very best to make sure mail is delivered quickly over the busy festive period. We urge our customers to post early so that friends and family have longer to enjoy their Christmas greetings!' The last posting dates for Christmas are Saturday, December 20 for first class post, Thursday December 18 for second class post, Friday December 12 for airmail to Western Europe.t49sort01

Joint effort to ensure future of Uist crofting

STÒRAS Uibhist is to compile a register of interest in crofts to prove demand exists from young people and new entrants as 150 crofts with absentee tenants continue to lie vacant.

Following his demand in last week's *Oban Times* that Stòras allocate crofting a higher priority, the Stòras board has given Norman MacAskill, tenant of the estate-owned Drimore and Grogarry Farms, a lead role in finding ways to improve the agricultural sector's viability across the Uists, bringing together interested parties when necessary. Mr MacAskill said: 'As a long-time supporter of Stòras Uibhist, as well as an active farmer, I am pleased to be working with the community company to assist in developing the agricultural and crofting sector in the Uists.'

Stòras chief executive Huw Francis said: 'We welcome the expertise Mr MacAskill has offered in supporting this activity and look forward to working with him.'

Chairman Angus MacMillan said a 'core aim' of Stòras' was to develop the long-term viability of crofting and the creation of jobs for young people. 'The board of directors is dedicated to improving the economic activity of the crofting community and work with all interested parties to do so in a positive manner,' he said.

Brother and sister Kiera and Finn Smith, of Fort William, were picked from pupils of Fort William Primary School to switch on the town's Christmas lights on Monday night. The school choir sang carols at the event.

Memorial outrage

THIEVES have targeted the Commando Memorial for the second time in a month, this time removing four plaques from the world-famous site.

Cash from a charity cairn was stolen just before Remembrance Sunday and the latest outrage has left police stunned and relatives of dead commandos outraged.

Four memorials were taken from the garden of remembrance next to the 17-foot high bronze statue at the viewpoint near Spean Bridge.

Veterans are now considering dismantling the garden and laying bricks into the paving instead.

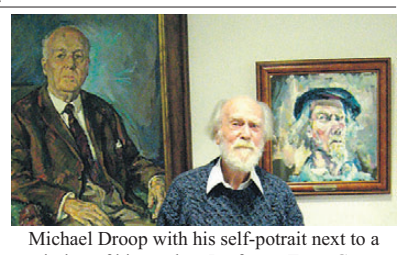
Retired scientist celebrates 90th birthday

A RETIRED Taynuit scientist celebrated his 90th birthday at the Scottish Association of Marine Science (SAMS) at Dunstaffnage.

An informal event was held to celebrate the 'scientific achievements and legacy of one of the most outstanding scientists in the history of the Culture Collection of Algae and Protozoa (CCAP)'.

After retiring 25 years ago Dr Michael Droop, who worked as a microbial ecologist, turned his passion for painting into a second career. As part of the celebration he donated a self-potrait to SAMS which is displayed next to a painting of his teacher, the father of algal culture collections Professor Ernst Georg Pringsheim.

Head of CCAP Dr John Day said: 'Without Michael, CCAP would most certainly not be at SAMS, and at least eight staff thus directly owe their jobs to the work Michael did over 30 years ago.'



Michael Droop with his self-potrait next to a painting of his teacher, Professor Ernst Georg Pringsheim.

10 Years Ago — Those Were The Days

The Oban Times — Thursday December 3, 1998

Christmas trees stolen

CHRISTMAS is coming, and the tree rustlers have been in action already.

Police report that on Monday night last week 400 Christmas trees were stolen from Inverliever. The trees, for the domestic market, had been cut down and were awaiting collection by their owner. However, they disappeared.

Welcome to Benbecula – but hold your nose

BENBECULA residents are up in arms over proposals for a sludge treatment plant at Balivanich. A 98-strong petition was sent to Western Isles Council protesting about North of Scotland Water Authority's plans, amid fears of adverse smells and noise pollution.

A meeting of the council's development committee heard on Monday evening that the plant at Benbecula airport was needed because of new legislation banning sewage sludge disposal at sea. The council's environmental services department said the development did pose 'some odour risks'.

'I'm convinced that the proposal will not cause odour nuisance to people living and working in the area,' said environmental services director Hamish Fraser. 'Since there is no alternative method of sewage disposal available in the Uists and Barra, there is no doubt that such a facility is required in order to comply with legislation.'

Go kart green light

FORT William new go-kart track is under starter's orders following the green light from Lochaber planners. The area planning committee approved the plan on condition that noise from the track remains below 65 decibels – the equivalent of heavy traffic on a main road.

Noise absorbing plant will be established around the site to contain and screen the track at Blar Mhor industrial estate, near Caol.

Good news as mink fall foul of MESH

CONSERVATIONISTS have welcomed moves to eradicate mink from the Western Isles.

The Mink Eradication Scheme, Hebrides (MESH) has been formed by a consortium of landowners and sporting estates to eradicate mink from the rich nesting grounds for waders, seabirds and other ground nesting species in the Outer Hebrides. North American mink have spread through the islands since escaping from a Carloway fur farm about 30 years ago.

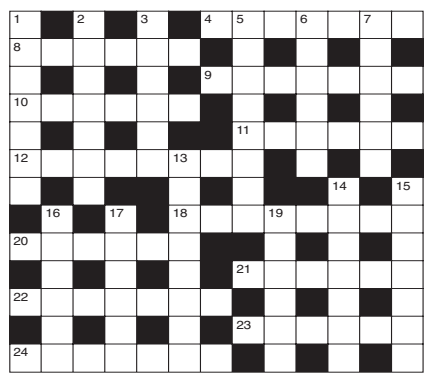
The Oban Times GENERAL KNOWLEDGE DOUBLE CROSSWORD No. 551

ACROSS

4. Songbird with long pointed wings and a forked tail (7)
8. King of the fairies in Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream (6)
9. Ruler used in technical drawing for drawing horizontal lines (1-6)
10. Yarn or fabric made from wool waste or clippings (6)
11. Short portable ladder used in mountaineering (6)
12. Raymond, author of The Big Sleep (8)
18. Volcanic island in Indonesia (8)
20. John, author of The French Lieutenant's Woman (6)
21. Town in France famed for its brandy (6)
22. Latin American percussion instrument of African origin (7)
23. Bird of the family Columbidae (6)
24. Walt, 19c U.S. poet whose major work was Leaves of Grass (7)

QUICK CLUES ACROSS

4. Attribute (7)
8. Mad (6)
9. Forsake (7)
10. Use (6)
11. Show (6)
12. Trickster (8)
18. Dormant (8)
20. Pick (6)
21. Remember (6)
22. Wither (7)
23. Mettle (6)
24. Aver (7)



SOLUTIONS TO LAST WEEK

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE - Across: 1 A Doll's House; 9 Ion; 10 Guatemala; 11 Jacks; 13 Elysian; 14 Raeder; 16 Addams; 18 Uccello; 19 Sadat; 20 Cantonese; 21 Lee; 22 Port Moresby.
Down: 2 Dan; 3 Lagos; 4 Spacek; 5 One-eyed; 6 Swaziland; 7 Jim Jarmusch; 8 Varnish tree; 12 Crescendo; 15 Elliott; 17 Toledo; 19 Steve; 21 Lob.
QUICK - Across: 1 Incredulity; 9 Oil; 10 Extricate; 11 Lagos; 13 Caution; 14 Sobbed; 16 Lesion; 18 Notable; 19 Canal; 20 Skedaddle; 21 Ass; 22 Intermingle.
Down: 2 Nil; 3 Reeks; 4 Detect; 5 Leisure; 6 Tradition; 7 Foolishness; 8 Meaningless; 12 Go-between; 15 Embrace; 17 Seldom; 19 Clean; 21 All.

DOWN

1. Mediterranean island whose capital is Ajaccio (7)
2. Jack, author of On the Road (7)
3. The — crow has a grey body and black head (6)
5. Twining climbing plant of E. Asia and North America (8)
6. National museum and art gallery in Paris (6)
7. Flann, author of At Swim-Two-Birds (6)
13. Lower House of the Indian Parliament (3,5)
14. Seaport capital of the Falkland Islands (7)
15. Basque province of France later united with Aquitaine (7)
16. Another name for potassium carbonate (6)
17. Heinrich von —, playwright whose works include Prinz Friedrich von Homburg (6)
19. Fine white clay used for the manufacture of bone china (6)

QUICK CLUES DOWN

1. Varying (7)
2. Sterilised (7)
3. Wrap up (6)
5. Sink (8)
6. Musty (6)
7. Spot (6)
13. Languid (8)
14. Competition (7)
15. Nimbleness (7)
16. Tie (6)
17. Alleviation (6)
19. Free (6)

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)

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

A GLENRUITTEN resident in Oban has set up a blog to encourage people to get involved in the community garden at the top of Miller Road.

Margaret Powell-Ross, who lives in the area, has set up the page on the internet with photos and a diary on how work is progressing on the community garden project. She hopes more people will become 'involved in planning and maintaining the garden'.

The garden project started earlier this year and has involved clearing a vacant site of scrub and rubbish, re-fencing the area and putting in a gate, with help from Glencruitten Residents and Tenants Association, Argyll Community Housing Association and Argyll and Bute Council's employability team.

As well as her diary there are some impressive photos of the burn flooding into the area during recent heavy rains. Visit www.lynnsideproject-blog.blogspot.com to see more.

❐ ❐ ❐

OBAN Photographic Club met at the Regen Hotel, Oban to hear the results of the 'Movement' competition when well-known photographer and judge Rikki O'Neil, Dundee gave a down to earth and informative criticism of the images.

Peter Cleave gave a vote of thanks.

Results

Prints - 1 John Douglas, Oban; 2 Stuart McCracken, Taynuilt; 3 Jim Kilpatrick, Oban.

Projected images - 1 Jim Kilpatrick; 2 Ronnie MacKillop, Oban, 3 Douglas MacDougal, Taynuilt.

John Douglas Trophy for the best overall image - Jim Kilpatrick.

❐ ❐ ❐

AT THE AGM of Lorn Drama Festival, two stalwarts of the committee, Jean Smith, secretary and Carol Thomson, treasurer, retired.

Both were major contributors to the resurrection of the festival and have worked tirelessly for the past 11 years to turn it into the successful annual fixture it is now.

Jean has been the 'welcoming' face of the festival and maintained communication links in between festivals. Carol has managed the books and applied for grants, successfully getting the tiered seating for the Corran Halls which is enjoyed by many organisations and their audiences. The festival committee thanked them for their much appreciated hard work.

The new secretary is Martyn Gibson from Dalmally and the new treasurer is Bethia MacColl from Oban. The next festival will run from March 30 to April 3.

Woman banned from driving for two years

A TULLIBODY woman has been was banned from driving for two years after admitting drink driving on the A85 at Bridge of Awe.

At Oban Sheriff Court, Leigh Dorricott, aged 35, of 77 Redlands Road, was also fined £300 on the drink driving charge and £75 for driving without insurance on November 15 of this year.

David Orr, aged 30, of Clarence Street, Paisley and originally from Easdale, pled guilty last week at Oban Sheriff Court to driving with twice the legal alcohol limit and without a licence or insurance in Glencruitten Road, Oban around 2am on October 12.

Sentence was deferred until December 23 for background reports.

A driver who collided with another car while overtaking a truck has admitted dangerous driving.

At Oban Sheriff Court last week, John Sheridan of Broughty Ferry, Dundee, accepted he was to blame for the crash on July 16 this year, on the A85 near Dalmally. Road markings indicated overtaking was unsafe. His vehicle hit an oncoming car carrying four people.

Banning Sheridan from driving for one year and fining him £500, Sheriff Andrew Mackay said: 'It was very lucky that this accident was not worse.'

Boost for Mary's Meals

A DALMALLY charity will receive national publicity after it was backed by the UK's largest-selling broadsheet newspaper.

Mary's Meals, part of Scottish International Relief (SIR), has been chosen as one of the Daily Telegraph's Christmas charities this year.

The charity feeds schoolchildren in poverty-stricken countries. To feed one child in Malawi, the charity needs as little as £6.15 a year.

Its work will be featured in a series of articles in the Telegraph in the run up to Christmas.

Ruth Black, the charity's communications manager, said: 'We hope that this amazing opportunity will allow us to gain supporters in England and Wales and to feed more children around the world.'

Resurfacing work on A83 in Mid Argyll

A 1.9 KM section of the A83 between Tarbert and Lochgilphead is in the process of being resurfaced.

Transport Scotland is spending £249,000 on the work, which started last Thursday, south of Inverneil. A convoy system and temporary traffic lights are in place until the work is completed next week.

Scotland Transerv, the trunk roads operating company which is overseeing work, has warned motorists to allow extra time for their journeys.

New local tourist trail planned for waterfront

ALMOST £12,000 will be spent on a series of tourist information boards for Oban shorefront, if planners give the go ahead.

The series of boards at Station Square and along the waterfront railings between the Caledonian Hotel and Oban's War Memorial would make up a tourist walking trail through the town.

Oban Community Council has applied for planning permission to erect six signs and, if approved, hope they will be in place by Easter next year.

Chairman Kenny MacIntyre said: 'It is to give visitors a taste of Oban's culture, history, natural heritage and biodiversity.'

Grants have been awarded by Scottish Natural Heritage, Oban's Common Good Fund and the Leader programme to pay for the design and production of the six interpretation plaques.

Text and design are being finalised but might include details of local birds, the town's most famous people and Gaelic culture in the area.

There are also plans to produce an information leaflet to promote the new town trail.

The project plan states it aims to allow visitors to delve deeper into Oban and 'take away with them a sense of really knowing the place, rather than simply using Oban as a jumping off point for the islands.'

YOUR VIEW

What more should Oban be doing to encourage and assist tourism in the area?
Are you a visitor? What do you want from Oban?
Pass your ideas and thoughts to The Oban Times via www.obantimes.co.uk or by writing to The Oban Times PO Box 1, Oban

Food festival put on back burner

UNCERTAINTY surrounds the future of a food festival in Oban which was due to take place during next year's Homecoming 2009 celebrations.

Organisers of the event, Oban and Lorn Tourism Association (OLTA), have postponed the event until 2010 due to a lack of funding but local councillor Neil MacKay believes a 'food festival' event could still run next year.

OLTA applied for a grant of £18,500 from Argyll and Bute Council to host the event at Oban Distillery in September 2009, however the event was given a conditional grant of £6,000, and despite efforts to secure private funding organisers have decided to decline the grant offer and postpone the event until 2010.

OLTA chairwoman, Linda Battison, said: 'Sadly, we were only awarded a conditional grant of £6,000 and despite our best efforts to secure additional private finance the committee has decided that it would be better to decline the council's offer and make plans for a festival in 2010 than try to 'make do' with too little finance.

'There is no doubt that Oban would greatly benefit from a food festival and OLTA were heavily involved in the old seafood festival which ran for several successful years on the North Pier.

'We would like to thank all those who wrote to the council with letters of support for our plans and to Oban Distillery for the offer of the distillery courtyard as a location for the festival.

'We are aware that other groups also received far less than they had requested and we feel it is better to put the £6,000 back into the Homecoming pot, which will hopefully allow some of the other events planned to go ahead without cutting corners.'

Argyll and Bute Council agreed to give out a total of £140,000 in grants to 32 events being marketed as part of the homecoming year.

Oban and Lorn councillor Neil MacKay said: 'I would like to think the event will go ahead on a smaller scale.

'There are so many excellent food producers in this area and it is far too good an opportunity not to have a festival during the summer months incorporating seafood, local meat producers and farm produce.'

Malcolm and Sue Chattwood made sure they packed a copy of *The Oban Times* for their visit to Oban, New Zealand.

It's Oban – but not as we know it

WHILE the name may be familiar, the location is just about as far flung as readers of *The Oban Times* can get.

Sue Chattwood of Kilmichael Glassary, near Lochgilphead, snapped her husband Malcolm's photograph while he read his *Oban Times* outside Oban Visitor Centre in New Zealand.

Malcolm said: 'When I included Stewart Island in the itinerary, I couldn't resist the temptation to carry paper for 12,000 miles for a photograph. In fact, as we flew out via Hong Kong and returned via Los Angeles, the paper has circumnavigated the globe.'

The town of Oban is the only big settlement on Stewart Island, a granite island covered in rain forest off New Zealand's southern coast. Close by are the islands of Iona and Ulva.

The three-week trip, the couple's second to New Zealand, was to celebrate their silver wedding anniversary.

Dancers from Oban and Lorn celebrated St Andrews Day t49dance01

Children celebrate with day of dance

CHILDREN from throughout Lorn were involved in the Day of Dance to celebrate St Andrews Day.

The day was the culmination of Highland dancing tutoring undertaken by Argyll and Bute Council's Active Schools project with 12 schools taking part. Dale Kupris, the Oban and Lorn Active School's co-ordinator said: 'Sue Porter of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Association has driven this project forward.' Pictured are three children from each school with band members Sileas Sinclair and Archie McAllister with Sue Porter and Dale Kupris.

Scout post

OBAN and North Connel Scouts will be delivering Christmas cards to residents during their scout post fundraiser.

The scouts will deliver cards to Oban and Benderloch for 20p per card and collection boxes can be found at Tesco, Co-op, Jackson's Butchers, Hannah's, Alba, Albany Stores, RS McColl, Halfway House and Dunbeg Stores. The boxes will be open until 4pm on Wednesday, December 10. The scouts, along with their parents, will begin delivery on December 13.

Scout leader Jeff Anderson said: 'This is our only big fundraiser and is a long tradition that the children really enjoy.'

The scouts are seeking new leaders. Anyone interested in volunteering can contact Mr Anderson on 01631 566135.

North Connel water main bursts

UP to 100 homes in North Connel were affected last week after a water main burst.

Scottish Water engineers worked on the burst in the morning of Tuesday, November 25 and completed the repair in mid-afternoon.

The water authority apologised to customers for any inconvenience caused.

Police warn against giving bank details

POLICE confirmed this week that Red Cross door step collectors operating in the area last week were legitimate but emphasised that people should be wary when giving out bank details.

Inspector Neil Wallace said: 'People should be very cautious about giving out their bank details to a stranger.

'In this case the collectors were legitimate and not breaking the law but people might not be so lucky next time.'

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

Beachd Ailein

LE DÙN Èideann a' comharrachadh 20 bliadhna de dh' fhoghlam tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig, Bun Sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis a' soirbheachadh, agus sgoiltean ùra air fàire ann am Port Righ is an Gearasdan, bheil mu dheireadh crìoch air ceasnachadh èifeachdas Foghlam tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig?

Gu mi-fhortanach, a-rèir coltais chan eil, tha beachdan guineach a' nochdadh ann am pàipearan naidheachd thall 's a bhos fhathast. 'S e rud fallain a th' ann an deasbad agus gu dearbh tha e na phàirt de ghluasad leasachaidh, ach nuair a chithear Gàidheil aig ugannan a chèile air foghlam tro mheadhan an cuid cànain fhèin tha an dealbh a' fàs doirbh a tuigsinn dha Gàidheil is Goill gan amharc. Aig amannan chan è an dòigh foghlaim a tha na thrioblaid idir, ach an gluasad a dh'fheumas tachairt ma tha cùisean dol a chumail air adhart a' leasachadh. Le ìre na Gàidhlig cho lag 's a tha e, feumar cumail a' togail air gach adhartas mean air mhean chun an tig ìre 's gum bi Gàidhlig ga leasachadh fhèin gu nàdarra aig ìre teaghlaich is coimhearsnachd.

An urrainn sin tachairt is Gàidhlig cho lag? Feumaidh sinn cumail a' dol a' feuchainn fhad 's a tha dòchas idir ann. Cha robh riamh uimhir de thaic is inbhe laghail againn agus nach bu bhochd a-nise an cànan a thrèigsinn.

Ma tha misneachd a dhìth air pàrantan cha bu mhiste dhaibh èisteachd ri 20 sgoil an sàs ann an Deasbad BT Alba! Clann sgoile cho òg ri ceithir deug ag òraid is a' deasbad gu fileanta, loinneil ann an Gàidhlig – agus dha mòran dhiubh b' e sin cànan a dh' ionnsaich iad san sgoil. Le ceartas tha iad moiteil as an cuid comais cànain, agus bu chòir dhuinne a bhith moiteil asta cuideachd, is tuilleadh taic a chumail ri foghlam Gàidhlig. Tha cothroman an luib na Gàidhlig mar nach robh riamh. Mar eisimpleir ma tha alt agaibh air bàrdachd nach fheuch sibh air duaisean airgid ann an Duais Cholmcille 2009, agus Farpais Bàrdachd Bail' Ùige. Tuilleadh fiosrachaidh air www.strokestownpoetry.org agus www.wigtownbookfestival.com/poetrycomp.

THE EFFICACY of Gaelic Medium Education was eloquently demonstrated by 20 secondary school teams competing in the BT Gaelic Debate 2008. Pupils as young as 14 spoke and debated passionately and skilfully in a language which many of them had acquired totally at school. Their pride in bi-lingualism deserves our continuing support.

Some of the public debate between Gaels conveys confusing messages and this is particularly unfortunate when the root cause of disagreement is at times a resistance to essential evolution in educational provision. Gaelic education must grow until the language is self-sustaining in the home and community. That objective is challenging but with unprecedented support we owe it to ourselves to keep trying. There are unique opportunities in Gaelic. Now, for example, aspiring poets can try for valuable cash prizes in the Colmcille Poetry Prize 2009 www.strokestownpoetry.org and the Wigtown Poetry Competition 2009 www.wigtownbookfestival.com/poetrycomp.

Ailean Caimbeul (*Allan Campbell*).

You can email - ailein@obantimes.co.uk

Pupils stage play

Pupils at Strath of Appin Primary School performed a play of the Appin Murder in Appin Village Hall, as part of their project on the infamous incident. The pupils also performed on Lismore. t49appin01

Christmas cheer at Gordon's Chemist

ONCE again Gordons Chemists, Scotland's fastest growing pharmacy and health and beauty chain, has proved to be the consumer's champion in the face of difficult times.

Their 'Magic Christmas Sale' has been solving Christmas gift dilemmas for Scottish shoppers by offering amazing discounts on a massive range of great quality gifts right across the board from perfume to electrical and gift sets.

Dithering Dads, hesitant husbands and bewildered boyfriends unsure what to get the women in their lives have a huge choice of gifts to choose from.

Cool stocking fillers in store include Nivea Ladies Sensation Set £4.88, a saving of £3.11, and Olay Body Set £3.90, saving £1.59, which will help to keep skin in tip top condition for the hectic party season. Mums, wives and girlfriends need not worry either as Gordons Chemists has pulled out all the stops to ensure that their festive fellas also get something special.

Give him a close shave on Christmas morning with the Remington Razor 360 Degree £68.45 - less than half price!. The Gillette Champions Regime Set £5.86, saving £4.13, and Joop Homme Aftershave 70ml £14.18, saving £10.32, will have him looking and smelling like the next 007 hero.

At the fragrance counter the unbelievable savings continue. For this week only Beckham Intimately Women 30mls is only £9.77 - save £9.73 - and Beckham Intimately Men 50mls only £12.71 - save £13.29.

Islay

Your correspondent is Susan Campbell: 01496 850215

New book

DR DAVID Caldwell 's new book 'Islay, the Land of the Lordship' was launched at Ardbeg's Visitor Centre on the evening of Wednesday November 19.

An enthusiastic audience heard Dr Caldwell speak about his early visits to Islay as an archaeologist, leading the original excavations at Finlaggan in 1990, and how his growing interest in Islay has developed over the years.

His book is a true reflection of that interest, providing a comprehensive history.

Trust centre renovations

FINLAGGAN Trust's extension at the information centre is now complete, and this winter the trust committee and helpers are organising new displays and exhibits for the opening next spring of the refurbished centre.

The official opening will take place on Saturday April 11.

The trust held a whisky tasting evening on Saturday November 29 in the centre. A tasting masterclass was given by well-known Master Distiller James McEwan of Bruichladdich.

A specially labelled bottle of Bruichladdich's single malt was auctioned. Janie Torrance and Libby Morris entertained with traditional Gaelic songs, and a buffet supper was served.

Around the Rurals

Oban

THE OBAN branch of the Scottish Women's Rural Institute (SWRI) held a Christmas open night on Tuesday November 25.

It was attended by a large number of members from surrounding institutes who enjoyed demonstrations of beautiful seasonal floral arrangements from Kathleen Black and Karen Mackie. Margaret Devine and Joan MacLean organised an extensive raffle and a festive tea was served by local members.

Appin

THE APPIN branch of the Scottish Women's Rural Institute held its annual whist drive on Friday November 7 in Appin Village Hall.

Eight tables were in play and the cardmaster was Allan MacKenzie. Chrissie MacNeill presented prizes to the following: Ladies - 1 Sheila Duff; 2 Margaret Wilson; Consolation, Elizabeth Cameron; Travelling, Linda MacLeod. Men: 1 Barbara Carmichael; 2 Sandra MacMillan; Consolation, Doreen Evans, all playing as gents; Travelling, Rab MacDonald.

After the raffle, president Margaret Ross thanked everyone for supporting the event which raised £216.60 for SWRI funds.

President Margaret Ross welcomed members to the monthly meeting in Appin Village Hall on Thursday November 20.

With business completed, Margaret introduced the speakers for the evening, Neil Armour and Jenny Burgin of Tesco.

Jenny gave an interesting talk tracing the company from its small beginnings to the huge international business it is today. Neil then answered the many and varied questions put to him by members, giving a fascinating glimpse behind the scenes.

To round off an excellent presentation, members were invited to sample a lovely selection of cheese and wine. Chrissie Malone and Helen Currie were the lucky winners of the Tesco raffle prizes.

Agnes Thomson proposed the vote of thanks to Neil and Jenny for a most enjoyable evening.

Competition winners: peppermint creams, Gold, Ellen MacCorquodale and Margaret Massey. Silver, Jessie MacKenzie, Alison MacCorquodale, Agnes Thomson, Myra MacDougall and Barbara Carmichael.

Dervaig

DERVAIG held its November meeting on Bonfire Night, but the plotting that went on was not about gunpowder rather the contents of the 2010 Federation Show schedule.

Although still a long time ahead, these things need to be organised properly and publicised in plenty of time for members to decide which classes to enter to best exhibit their talents at sewing, knitting, baking and all manner of other crafts; not to mention the planning of each institute's community exhibit - a hotly contested class at the yearly shows.

This took up a fair proportion of the afternoon, but was followed by a 'Name the Child' game. Each person brought along a photograph of themself as a baby or small child and everyone had a go at guessing who was who.

Excellent cakes, supplied by Mary Barton and Cath Mayo, were served with tea.

Fionnphort

FIONNPHORT SWRI has started its winter season with two excellent meetings.

In October, 12 people joined members for an open night with Seumas Westland from Tobermory. His topic was the geology of Mull and Iona and, as ever, he was informative and entertaining.

November's guest speaker was Minty MacKay from Ardalanish Farm, who talked about the vision and hard work needed to create a successful enterprise around organic farming and weaving. She brought along a large selection of woven items made by the farm's own staff and out-workers, mostly from wool spun from their own fleeces. Jackets, rugs, waistcoats, designer fashions, bags, purses and knitted goods were all much admired and members promised themselves visits to Ardalanish before Christmas.

Salen

MEMBERS and visitors were inspired by Angela Boocock who prepared and baked a variety of canapés in Salen Resource Centre.

These can be made now and frozen ready to enjoy with a pre-Christmas lunch drink instead of a starter, giving the hostess time to relax. Members were able to taste each one and savour the variety of fillings which Angela had chosen. They were all delicious.

Members were delighted to hear how much the Hallowe'en fancy dress party was appreciated and also how successful the institute's stall had been at the charities fayre, as members had done the baking for both events.

Louise Dyer won this month's competition for a jar of orange curd and Eileen Slorach was presented with the annual cup for last year's competitions.

Members are looking forward to celebrating the 60th birthday of Salen Institute at the Isle of Mull Hotel and to the annual Christmas lunch at Salen School.

Tiree

VICE president Margaret Gorman welcomed a good turnout of members and visitors to the November meeting.

She welcomed Catriona Sibbald who gave an interesting talk on Kenyan orphanages.

She had met, by chance, a lady at a charity dinner and then went out to Kenya and felt so strongly about what she saw on that trip that she set up the Kate MacAskill Foundation, named after her inspirational 105-year-old grandmother. When they began at the Kandara Orphanage in Nairobi, there was no power or running water. Now there is both, plus Jenny from Scotland who showed the orphans and staff how to grow their own produce including lemon grass and aloe vera which they are using to make their own soap which they sell. A baby unit and a skill centre have also been built.

There is also the Seed of Hope Project at Johari which takes 30 teenage girls for two years and gives them training in business and dressmaking. It also has an office and two shops to sell their completed garments.

Thomas Barnado's House in the city is far bigger. It runs a successful Westminster Project which organises weddings. They do everything from stationery, catering and hiring out second hand wedding dresses.

Catriona's friend Leslie Wallace then briefly told of the poor conditions at Ayani and the teddies in bags that were being knitted and sent out to the orphans. Fiona Maxwell donated 12 teddies in bags on behalf of Tiree Community Workshop.

The vote of thanks was given by treasurer Dorothy Burnie who presented Catriona with a cheque for £250 for the Kate MacAskill Foundation which was raised at the September coffee afternoon.

Competition winners: four treacle scones - 1 Fiona Maxwell; 2 Margaret MacIntyre; 3 Annie MacKinnon.

Tobermory

TO THE delight and relief of members, Tobermory institute had its first proper meeting of the session on Tuesday November 4.

President Jean MacLean welcomed 17 members to hear guest speaker Lorna MacLean, an experienced genealogist. She showed the research she has done into her own family, which goes back six generations to the 18th century with some references going back even further. Then she invited questions which came thick and fast. It appears that Scottish records are easier to track and much more detailed than English records. They are also more accessible through the website Scotland's People. Lorna recommended starting with birth certifcates, which give a lot of information, and then moving back with death certificates.

Lorna ended her talk by showing a family tree she had done for someone which unrolled to six-feet in length and was absolutely beautiful.

Torosay

THE WORLD of rubbish and how to dispose of it might seem unlikely subjects of great interest but speaker Hazel Cowe proved otherwise when she spoke at the November meeting.

She explained the work of Mull and Iona Community Trust which along with Mull and Iona Community Council and Mull and Iona Chamber of Commerce form MESS. She produced facts and figures to demonstrate how profits can be made from recycling. These include Island Castaway shops where cans, bottles, clothes, books and many other things can be sold or recycled.

Members had also enjoyed a night out in Oban's Coast restaurant.

Kilmore

A MEETING of Kilmore SWRI took place in Kilmore Hall on November 12 when president F Dickie welcomed members, new members and visitors to the open night.

Guest speaker was John Barbour of the ambulance crew.

Business and finance matters were dealt with first, then the president presented an honorary member certificate and badge to Mrs C Currie who is to leave the area soon. Flowers were also presented by Mrs E Lennox, with best wishes to Mrs Currie from everyone for her long service to Kilmore WRI.

The president welcomed John Barbour who brought some of the equipment from the ambulance and explained the use of the technical and expensive items used. F Dickie volunteered to have some procedures demonstrated which helped assure everyone of the importance of this equipment.

Members then asked questions which were answered expertly by John and a vote of thanks was given by A Robertson.

Members and visitors were then asked to support the sales table and bought cake and candy, which raised £40 for Argyll Beats Cardiovascular Disease. A raffle was also held in aid of Kilmore WRI funds.

Competitions: Shades of Autumn photo - 1 A Stewart; 2 F Dickie. Three paradise slices: 1 F Dickie; 2 C Hodge.

The winner of the 100 club for November was J Hamill.

A successful coffee morning was held in Kilmore Hall on Saturday November 8 including a bottle stall and raffle. All proceeds went to the Oban Hospice fund.

Next month's meeting will be the Christmas party on Wednesday December 10. Everyone welcome.

Killin

FIONA Inglis welcomed everyone to the November meeting of Killin SWRI in Lesser Hall Killin on Thursday November 6.

Mrs Inglis introduced the speakers for the evening, Michael Crow from The Smiddy Bistro, Killin, and Luke Melia. Michael and Luke cooked a three-course meal consisting of fresh pasta ravioli stuffed with salmon and riccota, tenderloin of pork, finished off with crepe suzette. Everyone enjoyed sampling the end results. This was followed by a question and answer session with some tips about preparation for entertaining. The vote of thanks was given by Elizabeth Woods and tea was served by the hostess.

The usual business matters followed. Competition results: Cheese Scones - 1 Sally Connor; 2 Bunty Macgregor; 3 Margaret Galloway. Decorated tissue box - 1 Margaret Galloway; 2 Margaret Ogilivie; 3 Jenny Huntly.

Church history in spotlight at meeting

LOCHABER Local History Society is expecting a bumper turnout at its December meeting tonight (Thursday) when local priest Father Roddy Johnstone will address his audience on 'Ancient Roots' concerning local church history.

The society's winter programme has been well supported so far with about 70 members attending each of the first two meetings, the last featuring a talk from Alex Gillespie relating to his discoveries of small hydro schemes about Lochaber, many now nearly 100 years old.

October's meeting heard Professor Jim Hunter of the University of the Highlands and Islands speak of his Duror origins.

Tonight's meeting starts at 8pm in the Alexandra Hotel, Fort William. Everyone welcome.

Mercy flight 'nearly killed' my uncle

Family demand answers after man flown from Kilchoan to Stornoway

EXCLUSIVE: By Stephen Norris

ARDNAMURCHAN community leaders and the family of Kilchoan man Malcolm MacMillan are demanding answers after the 78-year-old was flown to Stornoway following a heart attack.

According to Ardnamurchan Lighthouse manager Davie Ferguson, who is married to Mr MacMillan's niece, Western Isles Hospital staff were stunned when the unconscious patient arrived from the mainland at 11.30pm on October 26.

Almost without exception, patients are transferred FROM the Western Isles to Raigmore or Glasgow for intensive care.

Describing the ordeal in 'the black juddering hole' of the Sikorsky S92, Mr Ferguson told *The Oban Times* the flights 'nearly killed' his uncle.

The helicopter, requested by the Scottish Ambulance Service (SAS) and tasked by the Air Rescue Co-ordination Centre (ARCC) at Kinloss, left Kilchoan around 10.30pm.

Mr Ferguson thought Belford Hospital was the destination.

He said: 'The whole decision making process seemed very, very hazy. Stornoway was the wrong place and it was the wrong decision to fly him there. The doctors and nurses at Stornoway were amazed he had been brought out from the mainland. There was no mention of Stornoway until we got into the aircraft. I heard the night flying goggles were absent and they did not want to fly over the land.

'Once we arrived all they could do was stabilise him. Early in the morning they started phoning around for an ITU [intensive care] bed and found one at 6am in Stobhill.

'The team came up by air ambulance from Glasgow and prepared him for the journey. That was at 12pm, and they spent three hours getting him in a condition to risk flying him. The paramedic said there was only a one in five chance he would make Glasgow. At 6pm we arrived at Glasgow airport and they had to defibrillate him there. We were told 'you better hang about, he might not make the night through.'

'They had never heard of a patient being taken out to Stornoway. The second trip to Glasgow nearly killed him. If this happens again, someone will die.'

Mr MacMillan recovered, had a pacemaker fitted and got home to Kilchoan yesterday.

Maritime and Coastguard Agency press officer Fred Caygill could not say why a helicopter from Stornoway was scrambled and not an HMS Gannet in Prestwick aircraft to take Mr MacMillan direct to Glasgow.

Coastguard helicopters are bound by strict CAA regulations and, unlike those from HMS Gannet, are not equipped with night vision goggles.

'Military helicopters have different constraints put on them,' said Mr Caygill, explaining flying time to Stornoway on October 26 was 36 minutes, Prestwick 54 minutes, so 'the nearest appropriate asset was tasked, bearing in mind the conditions'.

He did not know why the helicopter did not use the Belford, only saying there were 'further details required'.

'The captain of an aircraft is responsible for his crew, the casualty and the aircraft and there could well have been operational reasons why the aircraft went to Stornoway,' he said.

Declining to comment further because the Coastguard was responding to a complaint letter from Mr MacMillan's family, he added: 'We have to be fair about this. It would not be right for me to make any speculation, because that's not my game.'

West Ardnamurchan Community Council secretary Rosie MacLachlan told *The Oban Times*: 'We have to make sure that no other family goes through what this family has gone through. I know we live away out in Kilchoan, but we deserve the same service as anybody else. I don't think they should get away with it. In this day and age it's disgraceful. People are not going to want to come and live in our community when they hear that you have a service like this if you have a heart attack you end up in Stornoway. It's ludicrous.'

Coastguard sector manager Phil Wren said the ARCC at Kinloss 'would be part' of the investigation.'It was a very unfortunate series of circumstances. The tasking was very vague. I am sure that some good will come out of all this and things will be put right for the future,' he said.

Spokesperson for the ARCC Michael Mulford said 'the nearest available aircraft' was sent and the final decision on destination rested with the helicopter captain.

He declined to comment further on why Stornoway, not nearby Fort William, was chosen.

A single crewed ambulance, which could not take Mr MacMillan to the Belford, the district nurse and doctor attended Mr MacMillan at the Sonachan Hotel, Kilchoan, until the helicopter arrived.

Ms MacLachlan said they had noted single-crewed ambulances being called out to Kilchoan seven times this year alone.

'A decent and reliable ambulance service, that's what we have been fighting for for years, yet we seem to be going backwards,' she said. A SAS spokesperson said single crewing of ambulances would be eliminated within two years.

'We hope to remedy the situation as soon as possible. We are recruiting the resources as quickly as we can,' he said.

Banavie primary pupils celebrate St Andrew's Day

Saltires and tartan were the order of the day at Banavie Primary School on Friday for St Andrew's Day. The school celebrated Scotland's patron saint with Scottish songs and poems.

Firefighting brother honoured for 20 years service

ONE OF three firefighting brothers from Kinlochleven has been honoured for his long service.

Tony Taylor, brother of firefighters Shaun and Stephen Taylor, was awarded a long service medal for 20 years of service at the Kinlochleven station, one of the few stations in the country with three brothers serving at the same time.

Tony has attended two of the most serious fires in the Lochaber area in the recent past, the fire at MacTavish's Kitchens in 2005 and a blaze at Glenlochy Distillery in the early years of his career. Tony joined the fire service in Kinlochleven in 1988 and passed the General Recruits course with flying colours.

He also passed initial training at Invergordon that year. Along with Hugh MacKay, Tony also pulled two unconscious casualties from a fire at the Army Hostel this year, undoubtedly saving their lives. A keen footballer, Tony was also awarded man of the match at a charity game in Kinlochleven against a team including Chic Young, being presented with a tankard by ex-Celtic and Scotland defender Danny McGrain.

Area Commander Dave Gill paid tribute to Tony at a presentation ceremony at the Tailrace Inn in Kinlochleven. He said: 'Tony is a fine example of the dedicated, committed, reliable and trustworthy personnel who serve Kinlochleven and the surrounding area.'

Tony Taylor receives his long service medal from area commander Dave Gill.

Fort William medical centre shortlisted for award

FORT William Medical Centre featured in a UK national competition for medical innovation and design last week.

The centre was shortlisted in two categories, best UK primary care building and best team, from a record total of 143 entries in the 10th Annual Building Better Healthcare Awards. John Dryburgh, from the health centre developers Apollo Capital Projects, Alistair Wilson from NHS Highland and local GP Chris Robinson represented the centre at the awards, held in The Brewery, London.

The centre did not win first prize, but Dr Robinson said the team was 'well pleased' with being shortlisted at the prestigious event.

Mallaig skipper takes delivery of new 16.5 metre trawler

THE FIRST trawler in ten years to be built for a Mallaig skipper has been launched in Hull.

Skipper Robert Summers' new twin-rig prawn trawler *Rebecca Jeneen*, named after his daughters Rebecca and Jennifer and wife Noreen, left the English port last week after four weeks of fitting out work.

Mr Summers' whole family, including Robert's father Jock and mother Margaret, made the trip to MMS Repair and Dry Dock Company, Hull, in October to see the 16.5m vessel take to the water for the first time. Margaret christened the boat with the traditional bottle of champagne. Noreen chose the boat's colour, 'lagoon blue', and kitted out the galley.

The *Rebecca Jeneen* has already completed her first fishing trips off Mallaig.

The couple's previous boat, the Macduff-built *Ocean Trust* OB38, has sold to Tony Kenning, Mallaig, and re-registered as OB381.

Reach the local market with your local paper
The Oban Times
Cost effective advertising
01631 568000

www.thehighlandtheatre.co.uk for full listings and future presentations

Cinema The Highland Theatre

George Street, Oban, PA34 5NX - Box Office: 01631 562444

From Friday 5th December for 7 days

FOUR CHRISTMASES — Cert 12A — 88 mins — Daily 6.15, 8.30 (not Wed, Thurs) SAT & SUN MATINEE 1.45

MADAGASCAR 2 — Cert PG — 89 mins — Daily 6.00 SAT & SUN MATINEE 1.30, 3.45

MAX PAYNE — Cert 15 — 99 mins — Daily 8.45 SAT & SUN MATINEE 4.00

Wednesday 10th - Thursday 11th December

THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL — Cert 12A 95 mins — PREVIEW SCREENINGS WED & THURS 8.30

FROM FRIDAY 12TH DECEMBER
INKHEART 'PG'

Oban and Lorn Tourism Association

www.oban.org.uk the definitive web guide to Oban that enjoys 20 million hits

We can help you to help your business. Visit: www.oban.org.uk TODAY!

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20) ☎ 090 6612 4520
ARIES Mar 21st - Apr 20th
If we hold to astral stereotypes, your zodiac sign is known to be insensitive and pugnacious – by other astrologers! However, there is little doubt that you can have enormous energy and desire to get things done, which more precious mortals can take the wrong way. Yet this week you could display these attributes or else someone close to you can. Call now for your in-depth forecast…

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21) ☎ 090 6612 4521
TAURUS Apr 21st - May 21st
Your ruler is the beguiling Venus. This and your fixed quality see you comfortable with what you know. However, when you do get exorcised about something, that's when you can dig your heels in to be stubborn. A confrontational side of you can arise this week. This could be because someone tries to control you or will you try to control them? Call me for more astral advice…

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21) ☎ 090 6612 4522
GEMINI May 22nd - Jun 21st
If there's a side of you which naturally dislikes authority or those that hold power, this could be a testing week. Then again, if you are a manager and have people working for you, a rebellion could be in the ranks. This is because however clearly you feel that you're expressing yourself, someone could perceive you as trying to browbeat them. Call your special prediction line for more news…

CANCER (June 22 - July 22) ☎ 090 6612 4523
CANCER Jun 22nd - Jul 23rd
Trying too hard to please, is obviously far better than not trying at all, but you could fall into precisely this trap this week. At work particularly, you can pour so much energy into your tasks that an unscrupulous person may try to exploit your goodwill. On the other hand, you could find yourself resenting the daily grind and people's expectations. Call for more news and advice…

LEO (July 23 - Aug 23) ☎ 090 6612 4524
LEO Jul 24th - Aug 23rd
There's part of you that can really love a challenge, and another part of you which can be resistant to change. The problem can come when you try to buck this by pitching into situations as an impulse to escape your more sceptical side. That's fine if you do all the necessary background research but less so if you make decisions on a leap of faith. Call me for your in-depth forecast…

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23) ☎ 090 6612 4525
VIRGO Aug 24th - Sep 23rd
Home and family relations will require tact yet the strident Sun/Mars link with the restless Uranus would point to anything but. Venus however, urges you to have reasonable expectations and to also be personally reasonable. But it does seem possible that a sudden change can occur, perhaps a young adult will announce they are moving out! Call me now for more news and astral advice…

LIBRA (Sept 24 - Oct 23) ☎ 090 6612 4526
LIBRA Sep 24th - Oct 23rd
Your naturally logical approach can see you stay calm when everyone else is losing their heads. For being an air sign, your mission is to communicate. On the face of it you can do so with relish this week. The only problem is that you can become so wired up by the sheer pace of things, that it can leave you totally stressed out. Create some you time Libra. Call me for more astral advice…

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 22) ☎ 090 6612 4527
SCORPIO Oct 24th - Nov 22nd
There's a feisty combination in your cash sector that links with the impulsive Uranus but this could make you reckless. Now we all know that this is, for most people, not a time to be rash with money. If you're someone who's generally canny with your budget, then perhaps your impulse will come out by breaking a diet by hitting the calorific goodies. Call now for your financial forecast…

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23 - Dec 21) ☎ 090 6612 4528
SAGITTARIUS Nov 23rd - Dec 21st
Once your mind is made up you can be decisive, but you can also make about turns as and when situations require you to think on your feet. However, the impatience of the Sun and Mars - along with the erratic vibes of Uranus, could see you do something on the spur of the moment that goes against your interests. Try to slow your decision making down. Call me now for more news…

CAPRICORN (Dec 22 - Jan 20) ☎ 090 6612 4529
CAPRICORN Dec 22nd - Jan 20th
It's hurtful when we discover someone's been airing criticism behind our backs. But equally, there is little more embarrassing than when someone accuses another person of doing this, when, after the facts are known, this isn't the case. Someone may not be trustworthy right now, and just who can astound. However, do be sure before you speak out. Call me now for more news and advice…

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19) ☎ 090 6612 4530
AQUARIUS Jan 21st - Feb 19th
A moral quandary can crop up. Money could be involved or it may be to do with your love life. In both cases, you can find yourself musing whether a gain is worth sacrificing deeply held beliefs. You can protect yourself however, by refusing to make any snap decisions. It can be when you do, that you can find yourself in the proverbial hot water. Call me now for your love scope in full…

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20) ☎ 090 6612 4531
PISCES Feb 20th - Mar 20th
Pride goes before a fall, and you'd be wise to bear this in mind. The heavens are conferring upon you added confidence. Use this wisely, and results will follow. However, if you use this energy to force situations to your will, you could reap far different results - particularly if people perceive that you want everything totally on your own terms. Call your prediction line for more advice…

SP: Pronto Ltd, PO Box 52785, EC1P 1TY
Calls cost 60p per minute from standard landline
For entertainment purposes only

At the Cinema

FOUR CHRISTMASES
CERT '12A'
Happily unmarried San Francisco couple Kate (Reese Witherspoon) and Brad (Vince Vaughn) find themselves grounded by fog on Christmas morning, their exotic holiday plans morph into the family-centric holiday they had, until now, gleefully avoided. Unable to escape they trudge to four sets of festivities, increasingly mortified to find childhood fears raised and adolescent wounds reopened by they're unusual families. Think Meet the Parents and Meet the Fockers , twice.

MADAGASCAR: ESCAPE 2 AFRICA
CERT 'PG'
In the sequel to the original smash hit animation, Alex the Lion, Marty the Zebra, Melman the giraffe and Gloria the Hippo return for more hilarious misadventures. Due to the Penguins less than professional piloting skills they crash land in Africa resulting in some typically bar my soul searching and personal realisations from all. Of course it wouldn't be complete without more antics from the Penguins, Lemurs and Chimps which are as funny as ever. Ben Stiller, Chris Rock, David Schwimmer and Jada Pinkett Smith return to voice their parts.

MAX PAYNE
CERT '15'
The story of a maverick cop determined to track down those responsible for the brutal murder of his family and partner. Hell-bent on revenge, his obsessive investigation takes him on a nightmare journey into a dark underworld. As the mystery deepens, Max (Mark Wahlberg) is forced to battle enemies beyond the natural world and face an unthinkable betrayal . The film has a great conceptual hook from a director who visualizes better than he dramatizes. He creates a vivid fantasy noir world that moves so stylishly is can carry you through all the absurdities by sheer imagery and momentum. As long as you don't think too much about it.

THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL
CERT '12A'
20th Century Fox's contemporaryreinvention of its 1951 classic. Keanu Reeves portrays Klaatu, an alien who arrives on our planet with a dire warning and triggers a global upheaval. As governments and scientists race to unravel the mystery behind the visitor's appearance, a woman (Jennifer Connelly) and her young stepson get caught up in his mission - and come to understand the ramifications of his being a self-described "friend to the Earth." Klaatu Barada Nikto!

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS SHOPPING DAYS
at Seahorse Shop PORT APPIN
Seahorse
6 & 7 Dec from 10.30am
Pony and Trap rides, Roasted Chestnuts, Mince Pies, Mulled Wine and Music.
Beautiful and unusual Christmas presents plus lanterns, candles, cards, decorations, ribbons and wrappings.
www.seahorseshop.co.uk

THE DROVERS
Extensive Christmas menu 4 courses £14.95
Book now and receive 10% off
and a complimentary bottle of wine plus
an additional 20% off food in January

Great Home Cooked Food served all day
Full Sky Sports and Setanta • Pool Table
Late license 2am every Friday and Saturday
DJ's, live music, tribute acts
Fantastic Offers on Wines, Spirits, Ales and Malts.
Merry Christmas from all the staff at The Drovers
141 High Street, Fort William. Tel: 01397 706 413

lord of the isles
Craobh Haven • Pub & Restaurant 01852 500658
For the ultimate dining experience, join us at LOTI

A warm welcome awaits you
Open from 11am

LOTI News
Thursday 4 December 2008
WHAT's ON at the Lord of the Isles
Local Band *Framed* Playing Lord of the Isles

Party Night on 19th Dec - Framed
Book your Christmas Party Lunch or Dinner
Bookings now being taken for Christmas Day Lunch
Last few remaining places available for our Hogmanay - Food, Fiddles & Fireworks Party
• Breaking News • Breaking News •

Club marks St Andrew's Day

Lorn lunch Club held a special meeting to celebrate St Andrew's Day on Saturday. The speaker was Andrew Fulton, newly elected chairman of the Scottish Conservative Party. The former diplomat, who has links to MI6, was invited to speak at the monthly lunch club held in the Regent Hotel. Mr Fulton is pictured on Oban's Esplanade with his wife Mary and Argyll and Bute constituency chairman Roy Rutherford. t49cons01

Free entry to museum

THE WEST Highland Museum in Fort William is following up last year's successful 'Free November' by opening its doors free of charge to the public for Advent.

Curator Mairi Mooney said she hoped locals and visitors would take advantage of the free access period, which ends on December 24.

The museum is open all year and is financed almost entirely by admission charges.

Pipers delight Dunoon

THE RED Hot Chilli Pipers played to a full house in Dunoon for the Dunoon and Cowal Marketing Group's St Andrews Awards 2008 where they received a standing ovation.

They played at the Hunters Quay Holiday Village when five awards were given out.

Best Eating Out was won by the Holy Loch Inn and Chatters Restaurant; Best Service went to Ronnie Ford and Atelia 23; Best Retailers to Kents Plaice; Best Accommodation to Hunters Quay Holiday Village and Best Attraction was Cowal Highland Gathering.

Beachcombing becomes work of art

AN ARDFERN sculptor has turned beachcombing into a work of art for a new exhibition at An Tobar, Mull.

Clare McNiven made dancing figures out of hundreds of pieces of string, all found washed up on sea shores across Argyll.

'This is not an environment piece of art,' she said, 'but it does raise questions about what all that string was doing there.'

Clare wants the message of her exhibition to be positive rather than a warning about a planet in crisis.

She said: 'One of the key aspects of the exhibition is optimism; that we can take things and make something beautiful out of them. There is that drive to take what the world throws at you and use it.'

When Clare, who has lived on the Ardfern peninsula for 12 years, began hunting for materials on Argyll beaches, she was struck that string was the most common find.

Once she settled on string as a medium, the artist prepared for the exhibition with visits to beaches from Uist to Tarbert in Mid Kintyre.

'They asked me to put the exhibition together in May, which is not the best time because the grass has grown up and the string is hidden,' she said. 'I'm becoming quite a connoisseur of string.'

The exhibition runs at An Tobar until the end of the year and Clare will give a talk about her work as part of An Tobar's Christmas Party on Saturday December 13.

Accordion and fiddle club hits all the right notes

INVERARAY and District Accordion and Fiddle Club gathered in the Argyll Hotel on November 12 for its usual monthly meeting.

Supporting players were Fyne Folk with Janette Gibson on accordion, Sally Hall, Alex John MacLeod and Jake MacKay on fiddle, Allan McIntosh on keyboard and Grant MacDougall on drums; also Charlie Sorn on fiddle; James MacArthur on melodeon; on accordion were Alastair Campbell, Arrochar, John Weaks, Glasgow, Ian Joseph MacDonald, Fort William, Margaret Campbell on keyboard and Jim Thomson on drums. They all made up various bands and their music was much enjoyed by the audience.

Alexander and Arlene MacKechnie from Strachur delighted the audience yet again with Alexander - fresh from his recent success at the Mod - on fiddle, playing a slow air, march, strathspey and reel, followed by Arlene on accordion - accompanied by Alexander - with a lovely set of 4/4 marches, both finishing off with a well deserved encore.

Guest artistes were the Sileas Sinclair Trio with Sileas, from Connel, on accordion, Deirdre MacDonald, from Fort William, on fiddle and on drums, Ryan McGlynn. This very artistic trio entertained the audience to a great variety of sets in each half, including some accomplished solo selections from Deirdre.

Chairman Niall Iain MacLean thanked all the artistes for their contribution to a great night of music. The club is looking forward to the welcome return - after six years - of Freeland Barbour and The Occasionals to its next meeting.

Christmas gifts for under £20

Give a gift subscription this Christmas
Call us on 01631 568000 quoting OTX08
Offer open to new UK subscriptions only - Rest of World rates available on application.

Highland Theatre grant boost

THE HIGHLAND Theatre in Oban is to provide a better cinema for the community thanks to a grant from Scottish Screen.

The cinema has received a £35,000 grant from Scottish Screen's Digital Projection Equipment Fund which will see two new digital projectors being introduced.

Manager and owner Gavin Fraser said: 'This is fantastic for us and will allow us to make the cinema a better community resource.'

This means any extra cash the cinema has can go towards its physical upgrade like seats and a café as well as cutting overheads.

'We may be able to increase the amount of films shown in a week from four to five, six or even seven over and above the new releases,' said Gavin 'We may also be able to provide matinees.'

COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD

Seil Island Craft Fair
Sunday 7th December 2008
10am – 4pm
Basketry, woodcrafts, cake stall, cards & decorations, felted & knitted crafts, jewellery, stained glass and much more.
Light lunches, tea, coffee & cake served all day.
Organised by Easdale Primary school and Seil Hall Amenities Group

FREE BADGER SURVEY TRAINING DAY
Saturday 6th December 2008
10am - 4pm
Atlantis Leisure Centre Oban
No experience necessary. Booking essential.
Please contact Elaine Rainey on **0789 677 1867** or at **elaine@scottishbadgers.org.uk.**

Oban & District Old Peoples Welfare Christmas Dinner
Monday 15th December 2008
Regent Hotel, Oban
7pm for 7.30pm
Entertainment and presents for all
Book by Monday 8th December 2008 by calling 01631564848 (office hours)
All welcome • Admission free

ART SALE
In aid of Cancer Research UK
Saturday 13th December 2008
10am till 5pm
Oban Congregational Church Hall
Argyll Street
Paintings by the late Iain Jack of Oban

Oban & District Needlework Group
COFFEE MORNING
Saturday 6th December 2008
10am – 12 noon
The Lorn Resource Centre
Soroba Road, Oban
Home Baking
Gift Stall
Raffle
£2.00 incl. Coffee/tea and baking

Inveraray & District Accordion & Fiddle Club
Argyll Hotel, Inveraray
Wednesday 10th December at 8.00pm
Guest Artistes
From Edinburgh
Freeland Barbour & The Occasionals
Supporting players most welcome

Kilmartin House Museum
'Christmas Crafts and Complementary Therapy'
Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th December, 11am-4pm
Homemade cards, woodcrafts, jewellery, soap and much more.
Sunday there will be a bric a brac stall to raise money for the museum.
SOLAS Health and Well Being Group will be doing therapy taster sessions, 15 min sessions for £5
Please come along and show your support for the Museum and its work!
For further details contact 01546 510278 www.kilmartin.org

Glenfinnan festive fun

GLENFINNAN Community Council is busy issuing invites to Christmas events for children and older people in the area.

The senior citizens party will held in the Princes House Hotel on December 14 at 7pm, while the children's Christmas party, with Santa in attendance of course, will be in the Glenfinnan House Hotel on December on December 20 at 3pm.

The community council's upcoming AGM will be held in the Princes House Hotel on December 7 at 3pm.

Sealife Sanctuary search is on after otter escape

FINGAL, a North American otter, has escaped at his home in Barcaldine's Sea Life Sanctuary.

The otter, a popular attraction at the sanctuary, was being moved to a temporary enclosure last week when he forced his way out of a carrying cage.

Fingal vanished into nearby woods and was not seen at all on the Tuesday and Wednesday.

'He was being moved so we could partition his enclosure in readiness for three new arrivals, so they could get used to each other before the partition was removed,' said Alex Blackman, sanctuary manager.

'Fingal is several inches larger than our native otters. He is very capable of feeding himself and surviving in the wild and he has been neutered so there is no possibility of inter-breeding.

'Our chief worry is the possibility of him straying into the path of traffic and we are very keen to get him back home where we know he will be safe and well cared for,' said Alex.

The sanctuary is close to a straight section of the A828 Oban to Fort William road.

Hopes were raised when there was a sighting of a large otter near the sanctuary's café last Thursday and humane traps have been set as well as more staff being brought in to widen the search area.

Even the fire brigade offered to lend a hand with thermal imaging equipment.

Fingal lost his long term partner Sula over a year ago and a female and two male North American otters were recently found at an Essex wildlife centre that is closing down, hence the need to build a partition.

'Obviously Fingal didn't realise we were moving him for his own longer-term benefit and the speed with which he forced his way free and made his escape left us with little time to react,' said Alex.

Although the otter has a gentle nature, anyone spotting him is advised not to try and capture him themselves but to phone 01631 720386.

Jean Bowman is joined by fellow fundraiser Caroline Gillanders at their weekly coffee morning in Kilmelford. t49care01

Transport charity off to a great start

A CHARITY set up to assist terminally ill people has got off to a great start.

Inspired by the tragic death of her own daughter at the age of 33, Jean Bowman has decided to raise funds for a private vehicle to transport terminally ill people.

The mini-bus sized vehicle will transport patients to specialist units in Glasgow or to local hospitals without them having to use public transport when they are near to the end of their lives.

In the first few weeks of fundraising the charity, The Cherish Fund (Oban), has raised more than £3,000. The fund holds a coffee morning every Monday from 10.30am in The Shower of Herring restaurant in Melfort Village to raise funds for the transport vehicle.

Ahoy there!

TOBERMORY pantomime will take to the seas from Tuesday December 9 for four nights.

The *Adventures of Robinson Crusoe* has taken the group a number of months to rehearse, and it promises to be a great night out. The stage settings and costumes have all been made by Mull arts and crafts people.

People are being asked to buy tickets in advance from Tobermory Togs.

Tickets selling fast for Oban Hogmanay Street Party

COUNCILLOR Neil MacKay, pictured left, and *Oban Times* editorial director Stewart MacKenzie met this week to choose the winners of the Oban Hogmanay Street Party tickets.

Names that came out of the bag were Graham Murrice of Lochawe, Margaret Marshall from Dunbeg, Sandra Morrison from Fionnphort and Kenny Merrilees from Mallaig. They each win a pair of tickets. All four correctly guessed that the band Skerryvore is originally from Tiree.

Councillor MacKay said: 'Tickets are selling really well.

'We have found that families and groups of friends want to come so we have removed the limit of tickets that any one person can buy.

'Skerryvore will be launching their new recording of Caledonia on the night. With people coming from all over the world the Oban Hogmanay will be an international event with world class bands.'

Tickets for the Hogmanay Street Party, priced at £11.50/£6.50, can be bought on-line from www.obanhogmanay.co.uk, from the Corran Halls or from Oban Filling Station. t49prize01

Christmas Greetings
Published on 18th December
SEND A SPECIAL CHRISTMAS MESSAGE TO YOUR FRIENDS FOR ONLY £18
A: SEASONS GREETINGS to all friends and family from Morag Nicoll, Appin
B: HAPPY CHRISTMAS to all my relatives and friends from Hugh Harvey, Oban
C: SADIE MACINTOSH Would like to wish everyone a peaceful Christmas and a Good New Year
Simply fill in the coupon below with your special festive message and send or hand in to:-
OBAN TIMES, PO BOX 1, OBAN TEL: 01631 568000
OBAN TIMES, MAMORE HOUSE, FORT WILLIAM TEL: 01397 703003
ONLY £18 (inc. VAT.)
PAY BY CHEQUE / PO or
Phone in your message quoting your Access/Visa Number
Deadline Monday 15th Dec. To appear Thursday 18th Dec
*NAME..... A☐ B☐ C☐
ADDRESS.....
.....Tel.....
PLEASE TICK A BOX FOR THE PICTURE YOU WISH TO USE.
*(NOT FOR PUBLICATION)
20 words maximum
PRIVATE ADVERTISERS ONLY

Christmas gifts for under £10

Scottish Field - £8.95* The Oban Times - £6.99* Scottish Field Mini - £6.99*
Give the gift of a Calendar this Christmas
East Coast Fishing Scenes - £6.99* Isle of Arran - £6.99* West Coast Fishing Scenes - £6.99*
Call us on 01631 568000 quoting CALX08
*All prices include worldwide postage and packaging.

the pierhouse HOTEL & SEAFOOD RESTAURANT
Relaxed dining & stunning views
"A plain joy as a place to eat"
Hardens UK Restaurant Guide
Live Music with 'Gunna Sound' at
The Pierhouse Christmas Ceilidh
on Friday 12th December.
Why not make a night of it and come and join us for a Christmas celebration and even take advantage of our special 50% off accommodation offer.
Ideal for Christmas parties with Special Christmas Menu (£15.95 for 2 courses or £19.95 for 3 courses).
To book your table now call 01631 730 302
PORT APPIN, ARGYLL PA38 4DE
www.pierhousehotel.co.uk reservations@pierhousehotel.co.uk

INVERAWE
Christmas Shopping Extravaganza
at Inverawe Smokehouses, with free mulled wine & mince pies
Dec 12th, 13th & 14th
for your Christmas smoked salmon, gifts & hampers, gourmet foods, cookery books and much more.....

Inverawe, Taynuilt. T: 01866 822808

F.W.Holroyd Est.1912
Art Gallery and Picture Framer
Mixed Christmas exhibition

Goatfell, Arran original acrylic by Alan Morgan
10% off framing throughout December
Old Ferry Road, North Ballachulish
Just off the A82, north of the Ballachulish Bridge
01855 821 277 www.holroydgallery.co.uk
December Opening Hours Mon – Sat 10 – 5pm

Local Producers Christmas Fayre
Thursday 4th December
VICTORY HALL
Benderloch
10 am to 3 pm
LOTS of PRESENTS
LOTS to EAT
Every First / Third Thursday
Interested Producers contact
01631 720223
Local Origins Rural Network
www.lorn.org.uk

The Barn Bar Restaurant
Lerags Glen, Oban
Christmas Day Lunch - £36 per person
Welcoming drink, 4 course meal, coffee + chocolates
Open every weekend through the winter
Roast Sunday Lunch
Thursday evenings main meals only £5
Monday evenings, Beer £1.50 a pint
Free Pool, Darts
To book or enquiries call 01631 571313

The Shower of Herring RESTAURANT & BAR
Easy Sunday at the "Shower" 12.30 until 2.00
Try a light bite, traditional 2 or 3 course Sunday lunch, coffee and one of our delicious home-made desserts; the choice is yours from £3.40 to £15.40
KILMELFORD BY OBAN 01852 200345
jb@.showerofherring.co.uk
Coffee Morning most Mondays 10.30 – 12.30
£2.00 per person in aid of The Cherish Fund (Oban)
Aiming to provide transport for the terminally ill

HALF PRICE
SCOTTISH FIELD

December '08 edition
• FESTIVE FOOD SPECIAL
• 10 FABULOUS THINGS TO DO AT CHRISTMAS
• FREE 52 PAGE WHISKY SUPPLEMENT
• 100 BRILLIANT GIFTS
£1.70 OFF SCOTTISH FIELD
This offer is valid until and including 9th December 2008
To the retailer: Please write your wholesale box number in the space below
TERMS AND CONDITIONS
To the customer: Present this voucher to your local retailer to receive £1.70 off the cover price of SCOTTISH FIELD magazine December 2008 edition. While stocks last. This offer is valid until 9 December 2008. This voucher may only be redeemed against a single copy of SCOTTISH FIELD magazine. Not valid in conjunction with any other offer. Vouchers are not transferrable and are not valid outside the UK.
To the retailer: SCOTTISH FIELD magazine thanks you for accepting this voucher. Please return it within 42 days of receipt (valid until 20 January 2009) to your wholesaler to receive £1.70 plus a 2p handling charge. Notice this voucher is not transferrable or redeemable for any other item. Accepting it in lieu of payment for any other article constitutes fraud.
To the wholesaler: Your head office will have received prior notice of this promotion. Please credit the retailer in the normal way plus handling fee and forward your claim and actual vouchers ASAP to arrive no later than 2nd March 2009 to The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Lochavullin Industrial Estate, Oban PA34 4HB
9 916480 011706 >

The Oban Times & West Highland Times
What's On Guide
Castle Stalker Cafe
Winter hours - Thursday - Sunday 10am - 4pm
Food served all day. Local specials every weekend

Thursday 4th December
New Local Producers Market, Kintaline Farm, Benderloch, 1 mile along the Tralee road, 10am – 3pm. Every first and third Thursday 01631 720223.

Christmas Fair - 5-9pm, Tree Shop/Loch Fyne Oysters, Clachan, Cairndow, Argyll

Scottish Wildlife Trust "The Emeralds in the Crown" mosses and liverworts in Argyll by Gordon Rothero, Dunstaffnage Marine Laboratory 7.30p.m. All Welcome

Thursday 4th, Friday 5th, Saturday 6th December
Benderloch & North Connel Drama Club, Sleeping Beauty Panto, Corran Halls

Saturday 6th, Sunday 7th December
Special Christmas Shopping Days at Seahorse Shop, Port Appin

Friday 12th December
Live Music; The Pierhouse, Port Appin.
Christmas Ceilidh. Christmas Menu £15.95-£19.95

12th, 13th & 14th December
Christmas Shopping Extravaganza, Inverawe, Taynuilt

Monday 15th December
Oban & District Old Peoples Welfare, Christmas Dinner, Regent Hotel, 7pm for 7.30pm. Book by Monday 8th December 01631 564848.

Friday 19th December
Lord of the Isles - Framed

Wednesday 31st December
Oban Hogmanay Homecoming Street Party
Tesco Car Park. Gates open 9pm

WHAT'S ON GUIDE CONTACT - 01631 568000

FOR THAT EXTRA SPECIAL CHRISTMAS GIFT ....
...our range includes...
ERNI UPTON ORIGINALS
Scottish Themed Oils
LIMITED EDITION FRAMED PRINTS
SCOTTISH ARTISTS
BUTLER & PEACH
Solid bronze miniature animals.
PURDIES OF ARGYLL
Organic handmade soaps and toiletries.
MELFORT VILLAGE GIFT SHOP, UNDERNEATH THE SHOWER OF HERRING!
Open 10am-5pm every day(01852 200257)

Paddy

3 years old, large Deerhound cross. Very nice dog, is neutered. Needs an energetic home.
Please phone Jean on 01631 566406 after 8pm.
aaa.rescueteam@btconnect.com
www.smallpaws.co.uk
Registered charity SCO 13211

Christmas at Argyll Arms Hotel

Choose from a feast of festive favourites including
King scallops and crispy bacon
Haggis fling on sage and onion bread
Seafood basket with crayfish and riesling
Traditional succulent roast turkey with all the trimmings
Chocolate and orange roulade
Individual Christmas pudding and brandy sauce
Followed by
Luxury mince pies and coffee
or Indulge yourself with a selection from our very popular seasonal al a carte Menu.
Dinner Bed and Breakfast Packages for two sharing from £75.00 inclusive.
Party's and groups welcome discounts and 20% off accommodation booked with meals
Make Christmas special this year, come to The Argyll Arms Hotel, Bunessan, Isle of Mull.
To Book Call 01681 700240
Email argyllarms@isleofmull.co.uk

The Oban Times
& West Highland Times

Investment is a good deal for Oban

HOWEVER it was achieved in the end, the £8 million secured by councillors for Oban's development road and marina is to be welcomed.

Oban is in desperate need of investment to realise its ambitions as a leading tourist destination on the west coast of Scotland and to inject new life into the town, both economically and socially.

These two projects, one of which, the new marina, will be in place by summer 2009, will make a big difference to the town. The new road, which Oban badly needs, will open up new areas for residential and commercial development, allowing the town much-needed scope for vital economic growth in the years ahead.

Along with the other towns in Argyll who benefited from the £30 million council investment, Oban must now grasp its opportunity and make sure it emerges from the present economic difficulties in good shape.

Glasgow Letter

Echoes of Oban

UNTIL the 1950s, piping enthusiasts who were unable to travel to the Argyllshire Gathering in Oban, a long journey in those days when few had their own cars, were given the chance to listen to prizewinners at a concert in Glasgow.

For about 50 years this concert did not take place but, using its excellent new auditorium, the College of Piping decided that 2008 was the right time to give a Glasgow audience the chance to listen to an evening of top quality piping.

Although, in terms of time, Oban is now much more accessible people's lives seem to be very busy and those in the well-filled hall were most appreciative as they listened to the fine piping which presumably most of them had missed first time round.

Compere for the evening was Robert Wallace and he welcomed several past Oban winners to the concert prior to inviting Gordon McCready to play the jig 'Echoes of Oban'.

Then it was the turn of Peter MacGregor from Lairg, in the army for past nine years with the Highlanders, who won the 'B' March.

He was followed by Fraser Wylie, from Campbletown, a student at Glasgow University, the winner of the 'B' Strathspey and Reel.

There then followed two winning Piobaireachds played by young female pipers, Silver Medal winner Andrea Boyd from Nova Scotia who is about to graduate from Glasgow University with a Masters degree, and Ashleigh Bell who was successful in the MacGregor Memorial Competition for competitors under 22 years of age.

Allan Johnstone, from Govan, the current Army Piping Champion, played a selection followed by his winning A Grade March and then it was time to welcome back Gordon McCready, a member of the Field Marshall Montgomery Pipe Band, to demonstrate why he was successful in the open jig competition.

The evening was completed by Gold Medal winner Niall Stewart, piping instructor for schools in Kyle and Lochalsh.

At their competitions the pipers would have had to play to a small group of judges but on this occasion they had a hall packed with many experts. This did not daunt them and they all performed well.

Ceol's Craic

THE LAST meeting of Ceol's Craic in 2008, its Christmas event, will take place in the Centre for the Contemporary Arts (CCA), 350 Sauchiehall Street, on Saturday December 13.

On stage will be Bodega, winners of the Radio 2 Young Awards in 2006, and the Shed Inspectors.

Bodega first met at the Music School in Plockton in 2004 and formed the band in 2005.

They are a representative band of traditional music with members from the Shetland Isles, Lewis, Skye, Fraserburgh and Oban.

This should be an evening for the MacIvers of Lewis with Norrie in Bodega and Graham MacIver in the Shed Inspectors, a group consisting of fiddle, banjo, mandolin and double bass.

Where does their name come from? Yes they rehearse in a shed!

The CCA café will open at 6pm so why not go along and sample their Christmas menu.

For tickets telephone 0141 352 4900.

Diary dates

Thursday December 4: Glasgow Skye Association Annual Dinner, Hilton Grosvenor Hotel, 7.30pm. Star Folk Club, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm, with Gaberlunzie.

Friday December 5: Glasgow Skye Association Annual Concert and Dance, Glasgow University Union. Concert at 7.30pm. Dance to Deoch 'n Dorus at 10.30pm.

Saturday December 6: Glasgow Mid Argyll Shinty Club Buffet/Ceilidh Dance, Hillhead Sports Club, Hughenden. An Comunn Tir nam Beann ceilidh, 7.30pm, St John's Episcopal Church, Lothian Road, Edinburgh.

Friday December 12: Clydebank and District Highlander's Association ceilidh, Lesser Town Hall, 7.30pm. Helensburgh and District Highlander's Association, Christmas Supper Dance, Commodore Hotel, 7.30pm, with Charlie Kirkpatrick's Band. Glasgow Uist and Barra Association ceilidh dance, Community Hall, Ibrox, 9pm. Perth Gaelic Society ceilidh, St John's Church Hall, Tay Street, Perth, 7.30pm, Stirling Gaelic Choir.

Saturday December 13: Ceol's Craic - see above. Glasgow Skye Association Children's Party, Renfield St Stephen's Church Centre, 2.30pm. Telephone 01786 832278. Paisley and District Highlander's Association ceilidh, Elderslie Village Hall, 7.30pm.

Pub scene

GUNNA Sound will play in the Islay Inn on Friday with Robert Nairn on Saturday.

In the Park Bar it will be Pneumatic Drills on Friday, TBC on Saturday and Gunna Sound on Sunday.

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

Benderloch Gaelic Choir - June 1920

This week's flashback photograph is of Benderloch Gaelic Choir, winners of the Selma Shield in Oban in June 1920. Pictured back row, left to right, Ronnie MacDougall; Davie Colthart; Duncan Morrison; Duncan MacKenzie; Angus Kennedy; Johnnie MacFarlane; Dougie MacLaurin and Bobby Carmichael. Middle: Ian Allan; Nancy MacGillvray; Mary Cameron; Clark Campbell; Katie Munro; Neil MacArthur; Nan Munro; Sandy Kennedy; Margaret MacLucas; Hugh Campbell; Lizzie Auld; Morag Campbell and Lizzie MacKenzie. Front: Margaret MacCorquodale, Nurse MacKinnon; Ina Haig; Peter MacDonald; Irene MacCowan; the Rev Alex MacDonald; Bella Colthart, Nurse MacPhail; Mary Crearer and Mary MacLucas. Sitting: Jessie Walker and Teenie MacKenzie. The photograph was submitted by Catherine Hunter, The Chalet, Benderloch. It belonged to her father Hugh MacColl, Keil Farm, Benderloch. 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 flashback 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

Will Isle of Seil ever be the same agin?

Sir,

I sympathise with the unnamed reader who jumped into excavations being carried out on the Isle of Seil sewerage project.

Sadly, on crossing over 'The Bridge Over The Atlantic', visitors and islanders are presented with what can only be described as a 'war zone'.

Vast areas of the Seil Sound shoreline have been destroyed, wildlife has moved away and the roads on the island are atrocious.

Whilst Alan Reid MP acknowledges 'the tremendous amount of upheaval to islanders', has he considered the long-term environmental effects this work will create?

I hope, as he states, 'he will have some answers for us soon' but more importantly he will be around to support residents on the Isle of Seil when the so called 'reinstatement of the island' takes place.

I fear the Isle of Seil will never be the same again. What do other readers think?

Gavin Rae, Balvicar.

Hogmanay party 'rip-off'

Sir,

This year's planned Hogmanay party in Tesco's car park is a joke.

Last year it was a great idea to do something for the people of the town after many years of being ignored by Argyll and Bute council.

We had an event to attend to celebrate the coming of a new year and it was a success, helped by the fact it was the only show in town as the local pubs agreed to remain closed while it was underway.

The organisers have taken this as a licence to rip people off this year.

Many people I have spoken to agree that they are having a laugh charging £11.50 for a ticket. A more reasonable price would be £5 or £6 as for just £10 in Edinburgh you would be able to see Glasvegas, Complete Stone Roses, Attic Lights and Broken Records, Peatbog Faeries Moishie's Bagel, Burach and Watergaw, Great Calverto, Michelle McManus, Concrete Jungle Collective, Hot Chip and The Hoosiers.

Edinburgh is a bigger place with greater resources but that does not mean we are ripe for the picking, as the Oban organisers seem to assume.

I can see the Chilli pipers being a great act for a Hogmanay party, but the size of the acts should be reflected in the price of the event not the greed of the promoters.

Wullie MacDonald, Oban.

Dog needs a priority

Sir,

I write in reply to Ian Woods' letter of November 13.

I would like to add that the exercise given to a dog off the lead should be governed by the needs of the dog and not just the wishes of the handler. They are often very different.

I would also like to say that I personally deplore the habit of feeding of feral cats, without also getting them neutered.

In this cold weather it is pathetic to see so many stray cats scavenging for inadequate food and shelter; simply feeding them only increases their population.

It is easy to catch them in large humane traps.

In addition, the Scottish Socicety for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and local cat charities have vouchers to have them neutered, or will take them for re-homing or safe-keeping where possible.

Surely this is kinder than condemning generations of cats to a life of unnecessary hardship?

Marion Dickie, Ledaig.

Islay Letter

Gathering chairperson

MOD GOLD medallist and Bowmore Distillery communications manager Iseabail Mactaggart will be the guest chairperson at the Glasgow Islay Association's annual gathering to be held in the Glasgow University Students' Union building on Friday March 6 next year.

As well as being well-versed in Gaelic, she is equally at home in the languages of the far east having studied at the Xi'an University in China.

Before joining the whisky industry, Iseabail enjoyed a career in broadcasting, largely based in London, where she was one of the youngest producers in the BBC and was assistant editor of the Radio 5 Live breakfast show. She won the gold medal at the national Mod in Perth in 2004, an honour she shares with her sister Deirdre who struck similar gold at the 2000 national Mod at Dunoon.

Her Lewis-based brother Seumas is a Gaelic TV director and produced the highly acclaimed 'Gruth is Uachdar' based on the autobiographical writings of the celebrated Gaelic broadcaster Finlay J Macdonald.

Iseabail also conducts Coisir Ghaidhlig Ile which enjoyed national Mod singing success under her baton in Falkirk in October. She is married to Andy MacDonald, manager of Ionad Chaluim Chille Ile, and they have two of a family, soon to be three-year-old Alec and seven-month-old Maeve.

With her 'Islay' date next year, she continues a family tradition as her father Hamish from Kintra chaired the Comunn Ileach gathering in the mid 1980s.

Kenneth Roebuck

THE SUDDEN death of 78-year-old Kenneth Roebuck in his home at Ballygrant shocked his family and saddened everyone who knew him.

Born into a military family in Glasgow, he studied at the Auchencruive Agricultural College in Ayrshire and on graduation spent part of his early working life in the potato industry. During this period he met and married Eila MacLachlan from Bridgend in Islay and eventually both set off for Nigeria where Ken took up a government advisory post.

On returning from Africa, they became popular mine hosts at the Gigha Hotel where they became an integral part of the God's island community.

Ken was also heavily involved in the life of the island's parish church where he was an elder, session clerk and a lay preacher of conviction and ability.

On retiring from the hotel trade, the Roebucks returned to Eila's native isle and set up home in the former Kilmeny manse at Ballygrant.

Sadly, Eila died seven years ago but Ken retained his interest in local events and in the running of Kilmeny Parish Church where it was standing room only for his funeral service, conducted by the Rev Steve Fulcher, on November 22.

Ken will be missed by his friends and acquaintances but most especially by his immediate family who mourn a devoted father, grandfather and mentor.

Post Mod ceilidh

COISIR Ghaidhlig Ile's post Mod ceilidh attracted a capacity crowd to Ionad Chaluim Chille on Friday.

The packed-out audience, which included Glasgow Islay Association president Peter Campbell and his wife Ena, greatly enjoyed the winning ways of the host choir conducted by Iseabail Mactaggart. Equally enjoyable was the input from the victorious Port Ellen Primary School Choir, led by Maureen MacDonald, and their Bowmore Primary School counterparts, who were directed by Helen Gillies and were second in the same competition. The ladies section of Coisir Ile showed their winning mettle as did the men's section who came fourth in the male voice contest.

Bowmore's Natalie Dunn, top winner in the 9 to 10-year-olds poetry class, showed how it should be done as did Ryan Johnston who achieved the silver medal in his class. Alasdair Currie, winning soloist in the 10 to 12 year old boys' competition, sang with ease and also reprised his bronze medal chanter playing success.

Duettists Hannah Gillies and Laura Woodrow were also in fine voice and when joined by Natalie became a trio. Kayla Woodrow provided further verse and 'poetry in unison' was also the domain of Hannah and Laura along with Eilidh MacDonald, Fraser Barker and Andrew MacNeill.

Not to be outdone, Catriona MacPhee, Rhianna Hayes, Anna Stewart, Laura May Poffenroth and Jack Monaghan also displayed their united poetic skills.

Members of the Bowmore School folkgroup were at their most lively and the rousing opening selections were ably provided by the Black Bottle Isle of Islay Pipe Band under the direction of Pipe Major Nigel Morris.

This was a splendid ceilidh programme much enjoyed by a responsive audience.

Good wishes

CONGRATULATIONS to Catherine and Donald Morrison of Kilmeny who celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary on November 29.

The 'ruby' couple were married in Lossiemouth and now live in the Gartness area of Ballygrant. A h-uile beannachd.

Happy to see local Gaelic activist Mairi Carmichael out and about again after a recent health scare. Every good wish Mairi and keep up the continuing progress.

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

A View From The Tower

By McCAIG

Tory chairman confident of success

FORMER diplomat Andrew Fulton, now Scottish chairman of the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Association, was in Oban last Saturday to press the party flesh and address them.

With the skill of an experienced diplomat, he told them what they wanted to hear but did not all believe, that the Argyll and Bute Westminster constituency will return to the party fold at the next General Election.

Talking to him afterwards I asked him what made him so sure that the perceived swing to the Tories in the South of England would be repeated elsewhere and that the current, very hard working Lib-Dem MP Alan Reid would be evicted. After all, this seat is a volatile one that has had Tory, SNP and Lib-Dem representatives at Westminster in the last three decades.

He said he felt they had a good candidate who was young and a local councillor, but he soon realised I did not share his confidence.

Mr Fulton insisted he stood 'four-square' behind the current Tory leader David Cameron and was convinced that come a General Election he will be the man to lead the centre-right party to victory in Britain. He is under no illusion of the task before him and the party. For Mr Cameron to obtain the keys to No 10 Downing Street, he must win a number of Tory seats in Scotland - not just one as at present.

And how does he propose to achieve this? He says by choosing young, dynamic candidates who will footslog this unwieldy constituency and others like it.

The key to success

WE TALKED about how Tory lawyer John Lamont won a Borders seat in the Scottish Parliament at the last General Election against all the odds.

We both agreed he'd achieved it by an enormous amount of walking and talking to constituents over several years and being a prominent and able local councillor.

To do both of these successfully needs candidates who don't have to hold down nine-to-five jobs and are able to 'greet and meet' potential voters not just once but over and over again.

That's the way to establish the rapport necessary to get the voters out on polling day irrespective of the weather.

Scottish rural seats require that personal relationship with the electorate who need more than just a Tory or any other party ticket round his or her neck.

What is the incentive for them to change from a high profile, very hard-working Lib-Dem MP who is seen somewhere in the constituency every weekend, to a little known candidate who hasn't the time to devote to the 'slog' necessary to gain that level of personal contact necessary for victory.

'Cast of a Lifetime'

AS SOMEONE who reads many books, and reviews quite a few of them, I'm always delighted to come across one with which I have an instant rapport.

Therefore, when David Kilpatrick, a local friend of many years standing, handed me a slim and beautifully illustrated volume 'Cast of a Lifetime' by A McL Jenkins and said 'it's a book about fishing' I wasn't sure how I would take to it.

Browsing through it, I soon realised that I would be entirely at home, indeed hooked - pardon the pun - on it.

Yes, escapades that involve fishing in various parts of the world including the west Highlands and superb photography carefully preserved over five decades, are both there but there's much more.

Retired surgeon Sandy Jenkins and, on quite a few occasions, a very dashing and handsome David Kirkpatrick, get into difficulties on various continents but still retain that schoolboy awe for nature red in tooth and claw, even if close proximity to grizzly bears was a 'bit scary'.

But let Sandy Jenkins tell the stories himself. If I were to have been given a copy of his book for Christmas, I would be thrilled to bits and curl up in a comfortable armchair to read it from cover to cover.

It can be obtained in Oban from Anglers Corner or by post from the author at Spitalhaugh House, West Linton, EH46 7BH, and email sandyjenkins37@tiscali.co.uk.

A major strategic investment

ALL OVER Scotland, the era of the consultant has taken hold and Argyll and Bute is no different.

Last week, a firm of consultants advised the local authority about the allocation of £10 million for town centre and harbour development.

Rumours of their report abounded and this was heightened by the fact there were to be high profile losers rather than winners; Oban and Dunoon being those alleged to be in that category.

All that Oban was to get was £1,000,000 for Oban Bay Marine's 60-berth pontoon proposal. This was generally welcomed, except by local fishing interests.

However, by the time the full council met, some very high and farsighted finance had been put together and accepted unanimously.

Indeed, for once I am delighted to congratulate councillors and officials on their achievement. It is all the more creditable that they grasped the opportunity to go ahead with the £31 million proposals against the background of the current credit crunch.

McCaig

Your letters

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

Council vow following death of baby P

Child protection an Argyll priority

ASSURANCES have been given that Argyll and Bute Council's child protection policies are as good as they can be following the death of baby P in London.

But the director of community services and spokesman for social services both said there could never be an absolute guarantee that a similar event would not happen in Argyll.

The 18 month old died after a period of sustained abuse which resulted in his mother and her boyfriend being convicted of causing or allowing his death. Social and health services have been criticised for their lack of interference after the extent of the child's injuries and number of visits to hospital and by social workers were revealed.

At last week's executive committee of the council, director of community services, which includes social work, Douglas Hendry said: 'It is important to emphasis the point that right across all the agencies that we can never give an absolute guarantee that the terrible incident of the type that we have heard about won't happen.

'But what we can say is that we and all the other agencies will do everything we can to make sure that type of thing doesn't happen here.'

He said that the social work department had been given a positive inspection by Her Majesty's Inspectorate in 2006 and it would be back in January 2009 to see what progress had been made.

'We take our responsibilities in relation to children very seriously,' said Councillor Donald McIntosh, spokesman for social services.

'Working to protect children will continue to be a priority for this council and we are looking at several steps to take forward in the budget process and councillors will get the chance to take certain options forward.

'This council is doing its utmost to ensure that there is as little risk as possible because it can't guarantee that it would never happen.'

Leader Councillor Dick Walsh added: 'We have very robust child protection policies and agencies that all talk to each other.'

A new recipe book is launched by the children of Rockfield Primary. t49rock03

Rockfield pupils launch recipe book

TOP Scottish chef Nick Nairn has contributed to a new recipe book produced by the children of Rockfield Primary.

The children of primaries 4 and 5 were responsible for every aspect of the new collection, from drawing up a budget to drawings for the cover, as part of a school enterprise project.

Abbie MacDermott was part of the team which wrote to celebrity chefs and local restuarants asking for recipes. She said: 'The best bit was getting the letter from Nick Nairn.' Enclosed was his recipe for chicken saltimbocca. Oban's Kitchen Garden and Chocolate Shop also contributed to the 'Rockfield's Rocking Recipes' project. Jessica Swan helped make posters and a banner: 'We are going to put up posters around the school and in shops.'

Other teams sorted and typed the recipes, translated some into Gaelic, and organised printing and binding.

The children and their teachers, Miss Thomson and Miss MacLelland, were excited to see the first of the books roll off the production line last week. The book costs £3.50 and can be ordered from the school on 01631 568091.

The team of pupils who wrote to restaurants and celebrity chefs asking for recipes. t49rock02

SAMS gives verdict on marine bill

AN ARGYLL-based marine science organisation says a marine bill for Scotland could position the country as a leader in managing its coastal waters, but also warned that the current proposals are 'far too focused on the North Sea region'.

In its response to a consultation on Scotland's first marine bill, the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS), based at Dunstaffnage near Oban, also say a new bill should be underpinned by an excellent science base.

The new bill, proposed by Scottish cabinet secretary for rural affairs and the environment, Richard Lochhead MSP, aims to provide sustainable management of Scotland's seas, a framework for marine planning, conservation and sea fisheries and protection for the marine environment.

SAMS' response to the consultation stated: 'As the interest and use of Scotland's seas continues to grow there is a need for frameworks that promote integrated and sustainable management of the marine estate.

'It is the services from Scottish marine ecosystems that provide the economic growth, social cohesion and inspiration for ongoing development and well being.

'We must move from a highly regulated, segregated, sectoral approach to an integrated, forward-looking, strategic system that balances existing and future use and wealth creation with conservation, science and innovation.

'This will position Scotland as a leader in marine policy and development and should be underpinned by an excellent science base.'

SAMS also warned that the science evidence base, which informs government decision marking, must be independently gathered and that there should be balance between interests in the two main marine sub-regions – the North Sea and the Celtic Seas.

The responses to the consultation are now to be considered by ministers before a marine legislative framework is announced in early 2009.

Last-ditch bid launched to save prawn fleet

WEST coast fishermen have made alternative proposals to the European Commission (EC) in a bid to save the area's prawn fishery which is under threat following plans to conserve white fish stocks.

The EC has proposed closing white fish and prawn fisheries off the west coast of Scotland as well as closing fishing grounds to all but mackerel and herring boats.

West coast fishermen say the move could devastate the prawn industry in the area worth around £30 million every year to the local economy. Under the EC proposals the west coast prawn fleet would be forced to use a grid system which fishing leaders say is incompatible with the smaller vessels and gear used in the fishery.

West coast fishermen are to forward alternative proposals to European Commissioner, Joe Borg, to increase the size of square mesh panels on the grids from 90mm to 160mm to allow cod to escape while prawns are still caught. The proposals will be put to Mr Borg at the December meeting of the European Fisheries Council in Brussels.

The delegation will include Scottish fisheries minister, Richard Lochhead MSP and John Hermse of Mallaig and North-west Fishermen's Association.

Argyll and Bute MSP, Jim Mather, said: 'It is a concern that such draconian proposals should come forward at this time when other economic pressures are in force and with such a restricted timeframe in which to propose alternative action.'

Argyll and Bute MP Alan Reid raised the matter during the annual fisheries debate in the House of Commons.

He said: 'The Commission's reason for introducing the Swedish grid is to prevent cod by-catch. However, previous studies have shown that the cod by-catch when fishing for nephrops off the west coast is negligible.'

Seafood Temple

Re-Opens Tonight! with Fireworks Display

Thursday 4th December

Thursdays, Fridays & Saturdays for the Winter

Christmas Surf & Turf Special

And Launching

Light Tapas Lunches 12 – 2.30pm (NOT evening menu)

Dinner from 6pm - often two sittings

Tel: 01631 566000 Answerphone is attended every day.

blue property

planning for the future

Affordable

Energy Efficient

Super Insulated

Eco Homes

Built to Last

Design & Build Service Available

TM

lindifferon court, nr.cupar

- From £345,000
- 2 remaining
- 4 bed
- grants available

blue sky at taynuilt, nr. oban

- From £249,995
- 2 remaining
- 3-4 bed

blue sky at carnbroe

- From £140,000
- now taking reservations
- 3-4 bed

Blue Property Ltd.

Cloich Mhile, Stanley, Perth, PH1 4PU

t:01738 788 199 f:01738 788 199 w: www.blue-property.co.uk e: enquiries@blue-property.co.uk

Blue Property Limited is a company registered in Scotland, No SC314547 Registered Office: 30-31 Queen Street, Edinburgh, EH2 1JX

Scott Robertson
Accident Repairs
• Car & Light Van Body Repairs
• Insurance and Private Work
Wishing all motorists safe winter driving!!!
Tel: 01631 569441
Quarry Road,
Oban
PA34 4DP

ROAD SAFETY IS NO ACCIDENT

Christmas is the time when you hear the following statements during discussions on Christmas jollifications:-

"I can take it - it doesn't affect me!"

"I know when I've had enough!"

"I know when to stop!"

"Six pints? No problem, I can handle it!"

"I think drivers who drink should be banned for ever, but three or four pints isn't really drinking is it?"

"I'm fine, I had a pint of milk before I started drinking, and a vitamin C tablet! And I shall have some black coffee before I get back in the car!"

"It doesn't matter how much you drink, if you've had something to eat it won't affect you!"

The sad thing is, most of these statements are untrue but all too many well-meaning folk genuinely believe that alcohol has no effect on their ability to control a motor vehicle. That they are still regularly trotted out and quite genuinely believed only serves to demonstrate that, in spite of a great deal of publicity, people still don't fully comprehend the effect on their brains of even a small amount of booze.

Alcohol works on the brain in two ways. First and contrary to popular conception, alcohol is a powerful depressant. It slows down brain action rendering the drinker less alert. Its other effect is to produce a feeling of euphoric confidence, false confidence in fact. As you drink you slow down, imperceptibly at first but sufficiently after just one unit of alcohol to be recordable on special instrumentation. This affects your reflexes which don't react as fast as they should as a result. Unfortunately with the accompanying euphoric confidence you don't realise your short comings. As a result your judgement becomes clouded, you don't recognise danger signs, you are more likely to take chances but less able to react fast enough to deal with emergencies which, let's face it, can occur very fast when you are at the wheel of a car. It is a highly dangerous position to be in for driver, passengers and all other road users.

Now it is important to remember, this is not a matter of theory or supposition. It is all measurable fact and if you only have twice the legal limit of alcohol in your blood, you are at least thirty (30) times more likely to have an accident.

Another sad fact is, there is no absolute minimum amount that will allow you to drive safely. It all depends on your state of health, the time of year, any medication you may be on, how well and what you have eaten in the previous twenty-four hours, your weight, your mental state - stress can enhance the effect of alcohol, and for females, the stage of their menstrual cycle. Indeed because of the biological difference between males and females, females cannot deal with alcohol as well as males can, so already they will require less to incapacitate them.

One day a half pint of ordinary bitter can render you a dangerous driver, the next it will not affect you at all. And there's no way of knowing what state you are in. Nor can you rely on milk, vitamin C or black coffee to help you out. They have no affect whatsoever on your blood alcohol level. Black coffee in fact, will make things worse.

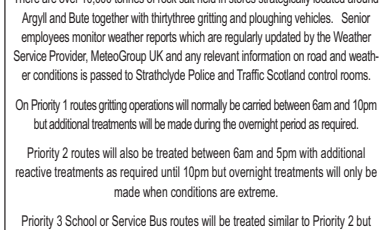
The recommended maximum units of alcohol to be consumed in one week is 14 for women and 21 for men. It has been suggested by some authorities that 21 for women and 28 for men is acceptable but there is no absolute proof. An average glass of wine, half a pint of ordinary bitter or a standard measure of spirits each equal one unit. Because of the above however, these do not equate to the legal driving limit. Remember too that it takes one hour for your liver to process one unit of alcohol, so if you have had a skinful the night before, don't drive the next morning unless you are very sure your blood is quite clear of alcohol. Many an unfortunate driver has been caught and tested positive by the police the morning after a boozy session the night before.

This Christmas, if you want to drink, don't drive. Make other arrangements for your transport needs. Make sure this Christmas is one you remember for its happy times; not for being the one on which you gained a criminal record and someone else lost life or limb because you were driving under the influence of drink.

NO EXCUSES

If you are convicted of:	The maximum penalty is:
Causing death by careless driving when under the influence of drink or drugs.	14 years' imprisonment, an unlimited fine, disqualification from driving for at least 2 years and a mandatory extended driving test.
Driving or attempting to drive whilst above the legal limit* or unfit through drink.	6 months imprisonment, a fine of up to £5,000 and disqualification from driving for at least 12 months (3 years if convicted twice in 10 years).
Being in charge of a vehicle whilst above the legal limit* or unfit through drink.	3 months imprisonment, a fine of £2,500 and discretionary disqualification from driving.
Refusing to provide a specimen of breath, blood or urine for analysis.	6 months imprisonment, a fine of £5,000 and disqualification from driving for at least 12 months.

THINK
Don't Drink and Drive
www.dft.gov.uk/think
Directgov
Straight through to public services



DRIVING IN WINTER

Whenever possible avoid driving on snow or ice. However, if you really must make the journey

- tell someone where you are going and when you hope to arrive
- listen to news and weather broadcasts
- reduce your speed
- increase the gap between you and the vehicle in front
- Use dipped headlamps when visibility is reduced
- avoid harsh braking and acceleration
- keep your vehicle well ventilated to avoid feeling drowsy
- if caught in a snowdrift remain in vehicle unless shelter is nearby- let help come to you. Do not run your engine to keep warm unless you are sure the exhaust can vent.

PREPARE YOUR VEHICLE

- have a full service before winter starts - have anti-freeze tested
- check tyres regularly - tread condition & inflation pressures
- check lights regularly - must be working and clean, consider fitting fog lights
- windscreen - keep clean and washer bottle filled with screenwash

Always carry emergency equipment during the winter months.

In the Boot: Tow rope, spare bulbs, spare fuel, shovel, spare wheel, jack & tools, hazard warning triangle
In the Car: de-icing can, first aid kit, torch, car blanket, wellington boots, phone, hi-vis jacket

SNOW CLEARING

During the winter period Argyll and Bute Council will endeavour to keep our roads and footways free of snow and ice. Forty five trained operatives and managers from Operational Services Roads services will be on stand-by from the beginning of November until the middle of April. This workforce can be backed up by an additional eighty operatives with further resources capable of being called upon when necessary.

There are over 10,000 tonnes of rock salt held in stores strategically located around Argyll and Bute together with thirtythree gritting and ploughing vehicles. Senior employees monitor weather reports which are regularly updated by the Weather Service Provider, MeteoGroup UK and any relevant information on road and weather conditions is passed to Strathclyde Police and Traffic Scotland control rooms.

On Priority 1 routes gritting operations will normally be carried between 6am and 10pm but additional treatments will be made during the overnight period as required.

Priority 2 routes will also be treated between 6am and 5pm with additional reactive treatments as required until 10pm but overnight treatments will only be made when conditions are extreme.

Priority 3 School or Service Bus routes will be treated similar to Priority 2 but only in advance of scheduled journey days and times.

Priority 4 routes will normally only be treated during normal working hours as resources become available from other routes and only when hazards persist.

DRIVING IN WINTER ALWAYS INVOLVES THE RISK OF AN ICY ROAD SURFACE - EVEN AFTER GRITTING OR SNOW PLOUGHING YOU MUST TAKE GREAT CARE AT ALL TIMES - DRIVE SENSIBLY

DRIVE Safe IN ARGYLL AND BUTE

ENSURE ALL ICE IS CLEARED FROM ALL GLASS BEFORE DRIVING, YOU WILL BE COMMITING AN OFFENCE IF YOU DON'T.

Drive Safe is a Community Planning Partnership initiative

the tartan tavern
Run by the McKie family
Promote Safe Driving This Winter
Closed 8th December
for refurbishment
Reopens Friday 12th December
Come In And Enjoy The Craic!!
Tartan Tavern, George Street, Oban
Tel: 01631 562118

OBAN EXPRESS
ARRIVE ALIVE...DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE
7 Glengallan Road, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HG
Tel: 01631 563745 Fax: 01631 563424
Glasgow: 0141 4272229
E-mail: enquiries@obanexpress.com
DRIVE SAFE THIS WINTER

HALFWAY HOUSE FILLING STATION
ARE PROUD TO SUPPORT
DRIVING SAFE THIS WINTER
Telephone 01631 562784
Esso

ARGYLL TYRES
PROMOTES SAFE WINTER DRIVING
All makes of tyres available at great prices.
Bishopton Road, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8PY
Tel: 01546 602692 Fax: 01546 603279

Kerrie's Tyre Service
NO TYRE TOO BIG OR SMALL
WE FIT THEM ALL
Wishing all drivers safe motoring this winter.
WE NOW SUPPLY AND FIT ALL MAKES OF MOTORBIKE TYRES
24 Hour Breakdown Service with Fully Equipped Van
Contact our friendly helpful staff who will be happy to help
Quarry Road, Oban Tel/Fax: (01631) 570000

L CHRISTIE School of Motoring
Wishing all drivers safe Winter Driving
Oban: 56 57 91
Block booking discounts, Patient, friendly instructor. Xmas gift vouchers available.

FRANK'S AUTOPARTS OBAN
Promotes safe Winter driving
Free battery and antifreeze checks
20 point safety inspection £15.00
Soroba Lane, Oban PA34 4HX,
Tel: 01631 562787
email: sales@carpartsscotland.com

FLIT
Flit car and van hire
MOT Station
Promote safe Winter Driving
Tel: 01631 566553
Oban

Frank, Gary, Caroline and David
Wish all their customers safe winter driving
Robertson's Motor Repairs
Ben Nevis Ind. Est.
Fort William
Telephone 01397 705507 Fax: 01397 703704

Encompass Counselling & Support
Serving BUTE, ISLAY, OBAN & MID-ARGYLL
Information, Support and Counselling for people affected by alcohol or drug use
Drink OR Drive!!
Market Street Centre
Oban , Argyll
Tel: 01631 566090

S.D. MacDougall AUTOSERVICES
DRIVE SAFE THIS WINTER
Mot's, Car Repairs, Services and Car Sales
Unit 6, Lochavullin Estate, Oban
Telephone: 01631 566502/566470

CROFT MOTOR SERVICES VAUXHALL
Low cost – No Deposit Finance Available
Quotations on request – Credit subject to status
We can supply all models of new and nearly new Vauxhalls
For enquiries please contact Charlie on 01397 703877.
Email Charlie@heathercroftmotors.co.uk
or call in to Torlundy, Fort William, PH33 6SW.
www.heathercroftmotors.co.uk
Get ready for winter with a Safety Check & Top Up from only £25 Plus Free Winter Car Care Kit
Croft Motors For A Safe Speedy Recovery This Winter!!

O.A.S.I.S
Oban Addiction Support And Information Service
Stay Alive Don't Drink or Drug Drive.
What can OASIS offer you?
Non-judgemental advice and support
Access to a drug worker
Advocacy and networking with other services/agencies
Assistance with related issues--Debt, Housing, Benefits, Health, Training/Work
Acudetox (ear acupuncture)
Tel: 01631 571348

Remote fuel supplies to come under scrutiny

THE cost and practical challenges of supplying remote petrol stations will be discussed by the Highlands and Islands Transport Partnership tomorrow (Friday).

The transport body commissioned research after a new UK law came into force in April, requiring every litre of petrol to include a portion of biofuel. The change has implications for storage and transport to the region's 231 filling stations. The research found specific issues with shipping fuel by sea to the outer islands, as biogasoline is unstable in contact with water.

www.mgmtimber.co.uk
Suppliers of Quality Timber and Building Products to Trade and Public
• Decking & Fencing
• Hardwood Flooring
• Sheet Materials
• Wetwall
• Doors
• Trusses
• Laminate Flooring
• Windows
• Insulation
• Aggregates
• Cement / Plasters
• Block / Brick
Special Offer on Solid Oak Flooring
Quote Ref AB08
showroom now open

MGM TIMBER
Scotland's Timber Merchant of Choice
t: 01631 563948
Lynn Road, Oban
www.mgmtimber.co.uk
Perth - Inverness - Oban - Dundee
Glasgow - Dunfermline - Glenrothes
Edinburgh - Wishaw - Grangemouth
Prestwick - Hillington

£2.5m increase in cost of council capital projects

£2.2m of other work not spent in timescale expected

THE NUMBER of capital projects by Argyll and Bute Council behind time or costing more than originally expected is causing concern among councillors.

At last week's executive meeting, a report on the capital budget showed that as of the end of September almost £2.2 million of the year's capital budget of £39 million had not been spent in the timescale expected.

But there was also an increase of in costs on a number of projects, totalling about £2.5 million.

A flood prevention scheme in Dunoon at £2 million, which was put on to the capital programme in 2000, was behind time because of staffing problems getting the design work done.

Another project in Helensburgh, to upgrade Kidston Park with new toilets, children's play area and other improvements, added to the capital plan in 2002, was still waiting for Lottery application and outline business case to be completed.

Elsewhere, contingency money for the settlement of contractors' claims at Port Askaig and Rothesay and Oban Airport had seen these projects require more funding from the capital budget, as had the increase in the cost of materials and fuel for road reconstruction projects.

Leader Councillor Dick Walsh said some projects were dependent on match funding from outside sources before they could go ahead.

'My thoughts are that there should only be projects on the capital programme that can be realised in the programme timescale,' he added.

Councillor Ellen Morton said she thought it was important that before a project was included in the programme it was looked at more closely as she sometimes felt that councillors and officials pushed for some projects knowing that there was a feeling that once something had started it had to be finished.

'We have to be clear about the risks and deliverability of a project, because there

Diesel spill ends bad week for fish farm company

IN A week which saw fish farm company Lighthouse Caledonia close its fish processing plant in Stornoway with the loss of 130 jobs, it is also reported that a failure to carry out regular maintenance on a bund surrounding an oil tank has cost the company £12,000 after a spill from its site at Kishorn into a nearby burn.

At Dingwall Sheriff Court last week the company, then called Pan Fish Scotland, admitted spilling diesel on March 1, 2007 after a report was submitted to the procurator fiscal by the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA).

Leak

Officers from SEPA found that the spill had occurred after an empty tank was blown over by wind and broke a pipe connecting to another tank containing diesel. This then leaked into a bund and through a hole in the bund wall.

The company, which has an operation in Cairndow, Long Fyne, announced last week that it is to close its fish processing plant in Stornoway by December 31 this year with the loss of 130 jobs.

Managing director OddGeir Oddson said: 'We deeply regret the job losses at our processing plant in Stornoway. Throughout our first year of operation, we have had to make some very tough strategic decisions to ensure the long-term sustainability of the business in Scotland.'

Happy day with a real Scottish flavour

Children at Oban's Happy House pre-school had a treat last week as part of their St Andrew's day celebrations when three pupils from Oban High School and one from St Columba's Primary entertained them with piping, dancing and accordion playing. The children had spent the week learning about all things Scottish including music, tartan and food, like porridge, oatcakes and shortbread. t49happy01

TO BOOK THIS PROPERTY SPACE CONTACT
The Oban Times & West Highland Times
ON 01631 568000
OR Email: property@obantimes.co.uk
West Coast Property Guide
Sell your property online at our new website:
www.westcoastpropertyguide.co.uk
TO BOOK THIS PROPERTY SPACE CONTACT
The Oban Times & West Highland Times
ON 01631 568000
OR Email: property@obantimes.co.uk

West Coast Property Guide
West Coast Property Guide
West Coast Property Guide
West Coast Property Guide
West Coast Property Guide

FOR SALE OBAN
2 Bedroom Upper Flat
Central Oban
In need of upgrading
Offers over £92,500
Tel: 07823448680
For further details.

ISLE OF ISLAY
SITE FOR SALE
Superb Coastal location with views over Port Ellen Bay and the Mullof Kintyre. Approx 3acres of unspoilt land with outline planning permission for one house and all services.
Attractively priced at £85,000
Tel: 01496 302360 or 07979860084

PROPERTY TO LET

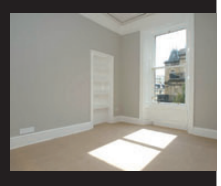
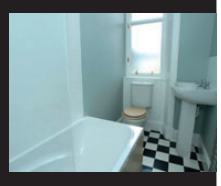
FOR RENT ARDRISHAIG
Newly refurbished 3/4 bedroomed house
Fully furnished, satellite TV central heating.
Telephone 07767622342 or 01546 602676

To Let Ellenabeich, Easdale
1 BEDROOMED COTTAGE
with garden
Fully furnished
No DSS or pets
Tel: 01852 314255

TO LET
Two bedroom ground floor flat in a good tenement in Campbeltown available now.
£300 pcm
References and deposit required.
Telephone 01848 200364

TO LET
Isle of Luing
Furnished 2 bedroom semi detached house
6 months lease
£360 per month plus council tax and bills
Sorry no DSS, no pets
Tel: 01852 314255

NEW TOWN EDINBURGH
2 (1F3) PERTH STREET
EH3 5DP



REDUCED FIXED PRICE £230,000
• Exceptionally spacious and attractive first floor flat
• Desirable city centre location
• Hall, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms and bathroom
• Excellent decorative order throughout including new kitchen, bathroom and carpets
• Completely refurbished throughout including total rewiring and replumbing
• New gas central heating system
Viewing Thursday 7pm-8pm, Sunday 2pm-4pm or telephone agents on 0131 524 3800 for an appointment.
CONNELL & CONNELL WS SOLICITORS & ESTATE AGENTS

THE PROPERTY SHOP
Stewart Balfour & Sutherland
SOLICITORS & ESTATE AGENTS
2 KNOCKNAHA COTTAGES, BY CAMPBELTOWN

NEW PRICE
MID TERRACED COTTAGE
ENTRANCE VESTIBULE
• KITCHEN
• 3 BEDROOMS
SITTING ROOM WITH DINING RECESS
• BATHROOM
REAR GARDEN, EXTERNAL STORE & PARKING
OFFERS OVER £99,000
SOUTH COTTAGE, BALUACHRACH, TARBERT
2 bedroom COTTAGE now reduced to offers over £79,500
All our properties can be viewed on our website
www.sbslaw.co.uk
Tel: 01586 553737

1 AND 2 BEDROOM FLATS TO LET IN OBAN ON STEVENSON STREET
Rent £425 to £500 pcm
(does not include Council Tax or electricity)
Please call Argyll Properties on 01688 302821 or email argyll.properties@btinternet.com

2 BEDROOM FLAT UNFURNISHED, TOWN CENTRE, FORT WILLIAM
dep + ref required
No DSS
£500 pcm + c/tax
tel 07748305350

St Conans Road, Lochawe
Unfurnished 3 bedroom house
Oil-fired Central Heating
Available now
Non Smokers,
References
£550 pcm + C/Tax and Bills
Tel: 01631 710450

Central Oban
One Bed Flat
D/G Gas C/H
Can be fully furnished
Tel: 07704487856

Traditional Cottage Available for rent
Scenic open location north of Inveraray
Two bedrooms, lounge, kitchen, utility room,
Front porch, garage
Rent £100 per week or
£400 per month plus bills
Call chris on 07501 491 564 or chris@oldrecholidays.com

FLAT FOR RENT
Luxury fully furnished one bedroom flat in the centre of Lochgilphead available for long let.
Own car parking space
No DSS
References required
£420pcm + Council Tax
Apply in writing to box number 400, Argyllshire Advertiser, Argyll Street, Lochgilphead, PA31 8NB

To Let
Excellent condition, recent refurb, det 3 dbl bedbungalowonoutskirts Campbeltown. CH, DG, Dbl Garage and good garden. Unfurnished. Avail immediately. Min 6 month lease. Rent £495pcm. No DSS. Contact 07730-956-458 for details.

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

FIRST CLASS ESTABLISHED MUSSEL FARM FOR SALE
On Loch Creran, by Oban
VENDOR FINANCE AVAILABLE
For further information please
tel: 020 7790 6622

To Let - 26 Park Road, Creag Bhan, Oban
Modern semi-detached three bedroom unfurnished dwellinghouse. £600 per month
Three bedroom flat at Lighthouse Buildings for rent,
partially furnished. £550 per month.
For viewing and further details contact
Stevenson Kennedy, Solicitors, Linndhu House, 19 Stevenson Street, Oban PA34 5NA
Tel: 01631 562317

West Coast Property Guide
West Coast Property Guide
West Coast Property Guide
West Coast Property Guide
West Coast Property Guide
West Coast Property Guide

PROPERTY WANTED

HOLIDAY COTTAGES WANTED
ONLY 10% AGENCY COMMISSION until Jan 2011
For details and an Owner Information Pack please contact Karen McWilliams
SCOTTISH Cottages
* Payment in advance
* No restriction on owner bookings
* Sales lines open 7 days/week
* No registration fee offer until Jan 2011
01665 570 715
Email: karen@scottish-cottages.co.uk
www.scottish-cottages.co.uk

16FT ALUMINIUM LIVESTOCK CONTAINER

Made by Gammie of Montrose, complete with sheep decks and Lutton.

£450

Telephone 01786 842153

GOOD BARLEY STRAW
In 4 x 4 Round Bales
Buyer to uplift
Barley & Oats as well
Tel: 01592 890993 or 07768428149

CHICKENS
12 brown egg laying chickens for sale, excess stock, 18 months old, good layers about 330 eggs per year, £4 each.
Telephone 01855 811 150 or 07971 406 271.

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

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

COLLIE CROSS Beardie Pups,
farm reared, from good working parents, ready now
Telephone 01972 510321 (Kilchoan).

Oban Times FARMING

SELLING YOUR FARM STOCK?
The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES
Be seen by over 40,000 readers
Tel: 01631 568000
www.obantimes.co.uk

Blackface sheep arrive at Fort William Auction Mart for last Friday's sale

Gartacharra leads Islay sale

UNITEDAuctions held their last sale of cattle for the year at Islay Auction Mart with a catalogued entry of 602 head.

All classes sold well at rates well up on the corresponding Sale last year with stronger short keeping types in keen demand.

Mr MacGregor, Gartacharra led the top price per head with Charolais cross bullocks which sold at £855 with Uiskentuie Farm closely following at £850, also for Charolais crosses.

Uiskentuie also sold the top pen of heifers per head with Simmental crosses at £755. Neriby Farm led the top priced bullock calves per kilo with an outstanding pen of 300 kilo Limousin calves selling at 186 pence per kilo.

Kintra Farm sold the top price heifer calves per kilo with a top quality pen of Limousin crosses selling at 180 pence whilst Kilbride Farm sold 22 Limousin heifer calves at 176 pence per kilo.

Kinloid Simmentals to 192.1p per kilo at Fort William

DINGWALL and Highland Marts Ltd sold 78 store cattle, 12 adult head of breeding cattle, 32 Over 30 Month cattle and 822 sheep of all classes at its Christmas sale of store and breeding cattle and sheep at Fort William when quality stock proved in short supply and selling at recent high rates, with the remainder, mainly weathered types, being more difficult to cash.

Bullocks averaged 128.9p and sold to 192.1p per kg for 229kg Simmental crosses from No. 2 and 3 Kinloid, Arisaig, and £540 twice for a 470kg Aberdeen Angus cross from Craigard, Banavie, and 407kg Limousins from Gorten, Arisaig.

Heifers averaged 106.9p and sold to 168.1p per kg for a 226kg Limousin from Caolas, Onich, Fort William, and £845 for a 627kg Aberdeen Angus from Auchterawe, Fort Augustus.

A small showing of breeding cattle sold to £660 for a Saler cross in-calf cow from No. 4 Bohuntin, Spean Bridge.

OTM cattle averaged 75.3p and sold to 98.5p per kg for a 675kg Aberdeen Angus cross bullock from Kildonan Farm, Isle of Eigg, and £665 twice for a 696kg Charolais cross from Kinlochmoidart Farm, Acharacle, and a 675kg Aberdeen Angus bullock from Kildonan Farm.

Lambs averaged £18.97 per head and sold to £45 twice for Suffolk crosses from Blargie Farm, Laggan, and Drumbuie, Drumnadrochit.

Feeding sheep sold to £40 for a Suffolk from Crubenbeg, Laggan.

Quality sheep meet with improving trade at Dingwall

DINGWALL and Highland Marts Ltd sold 2,292 store lambs, breeding and feeding sheep at Dingwall last Thursday when stronger, quality lambs met an excellent and improved trade, while longer keeping lambs and all classes of ewes met a similar demand to the previous sale.

Lambs averaged £30.26 and sold to £51 for Crosses from Shop Farm, Scotscalder, Thurso.

Ewes averaged £19.24 and sold to £50 for Texels from Burnside, Jamestown, Strathpeffer.

Feeding sheep averaged £28.26 and sold to £65 for a Texel ram from Penick Farm, Auldearn.

ISLAY United Auctions

Bullocks
Aberdeen AngusX: £700 (2) and £580 Dunlossit Estate £525 Knockrome (M Boyle).
CharolaisX: £855 Gartacharra £850 Uiskentuie £795, £720 and £665 Gartacharra £605 Uiskentuie £565 Kinnabus.
LimousinX: £780, £760, £745, £725, £675 (11) Uiskentuie £660 Kilchiaran £650 Starchmill £645 (5) Uiskentuie £615 Kilbride £595 Kilchiaran £585 Pairc A Chlassan £580 (4) Uiskentuie £570 (2) Ballychattrigan £565 Woodend £560 (2) and £555 (4) Neriby £550 Kilchiaran (3) and Neriby (4) £545 (2) Neriby £540 Woodend and Ballytarsin £535 Mulindry, Ballychattrigan (2) and Woodend £525 Mulindry (6) and Neriby (4) £520 Kintra (3) and Kilbride (6).
SimmentalX: £755 Uiskentuie £705 Island £675 (4) Uiskentuie £660 Glenegedale Lotts £620 (2), £615 (2) and £500 (6) Corrary.
Heifers
Aberdeen AngusX: £600 Craigens £555 (4) and £490 Dunlossit Estate
CharolaisX: £740 and £575 Uiskentuie.
LimousinX: £670, £660, £655 (4), £625 (7) Uiskentuie £590 (2) Mulindry £575 Uiskentuie and Kilchiaran £555 Mulindry (2) and Ballychattrigan (4) £540 Mulindry (4) and Neriby £525 (2) Neriby £520 Kilchiaran £510 (2) Ballychattrigan £505 (10) Neriby.
Prices per kilo
Bullocks
Aberdeen AngusX: 143p (2) Dunlossit Estate
Blonde d'Aquataine: 152p (2) Mansefield (J Porter)
CharolaisX: 172p (6) 14 Mansefield 166p Mansefield (J Porter) 163p (11) 9 Mansefield 161p Gartacharra.
LimousinX: 186p (2) and 183p (4) Neriby 181p (7) Kilbride 180p (4) Neriby 179p (4) Woodend 177p (8) Kilbride 173p Starchmill 172p (2) 14 Mansefield 169p Gartbreck 167p Kinnabus (11) and Neriby (4) 166p (2) Neriby 165p Kilchiaran (2), Ronnachmore (7) and Smaladh (3) 164p Ballytarsin and Neriby (5) 163p Kilbride 162p Pairc A Chlassan and Glenegedale Lotts 160p (3) Kintra.
SimmentalX: 165p (3) Ardfin Estate 158p (2) Corrary
Heifers
CharolaisX: 159p Uiskentuie 156p (4) Mansefield (J Porter)
LimousinX: 180p (4) Kintra 176p (22) Kilbride 172p (6), 166p (4), 164p (2), 162p (4) and 161p (3) Neriby 160p (10) - Kintra 155p (3) - Woodend.
SimmentalX: 155p (6) - Ardfin Estate.

FORT WILLIAM United Auctions

Bullocks up to 250kg – No. 2 & 3 Kinloid, £440, Caolas, 168.2p;
251-300kg – Borlum Farm, Fort Augustus, £430, Gorten, 153.4p;
301-350kg – Kinloid, £515, 159p;
351-400kg – No. 1 Blaich, Fort William, £535, 149.4p;
401-450kg – Gorten, £540, 132.7p;
451-500kg – Craigard, 114.9p.
Heifers up to 250kg – Caolas, £380, 168.1p;
251-300kg – Blarachourainn Estate, Fort William, £340, Caolas, 121.7p;
301-350kg – Crubenbeg, £380, Kildonan Farm, 123p;
351-400kg – Crubenbeg, £450, 110.7p;
401-450kg – No. 6 Stronaba, Spean Bridge, £475, 114.5p;
501-550kg – Auchterawe, £655, 119.5p;
551-600kg – Auchterawe, £680, 119.1p.
In calf heifers: AAX – No. 4 Bohuntin, £540.
In calf cows: SalX – Achluachrach, £565; Lim – No. 4 Bohuntin, £520.
OTM cattle: Inveroy, Roy Bridge, (LimX) 98.4p; No. 6 Scotstown, Strontian, (AAX) 97.5p; Kinlochmoidart Farm, (CharX) 95.6p;.
OTM cattle: No. 6 Scotstown, (AAX), £655; Borlum Farm, (BAX, £595; Caolas, (SimX) £555.
Sheep
Lambs:
Blackface: Blargie Farm, £40; Insh Farm, Spean Bridge, £31.50; Glen Gloy Estate, and Galmore Sheep Stock Club, £30;
SuffolkX – Drumbuie, £40; Blargie Farm, £40; Crubenbeg, £30;
TexelX – Blargie Farm, £44; Mamore, Fort William, £40; Glenfintaig Estate, £32.
Feeding sheep:
Cheviotiot – Kinlochmoidart Farm, £20; Kinlochourn, Invergarry, £19;
Blackface: Mamore, £23; Glen Nevis Estate, and Achadhalachraich, £20; Fassiefearn, £17;
SuffolkX: Borlum Farm, £22.50; Cross: Glen Nevis Estate, £19; Kinlochourn, £17.

DINGWALL Dingwall and Highland Marts

Lambs:
Cheviot – Mid Calder, Thurso, £50; Stitley Farm, Thurso, £47.50; Inverbrora Farm, Brora, and White Lodge, Corrybrough, £38.50;
SuffolkX – Grenville, Kiltarlity, and Stitley Farm, £49; No. 5 Tomich, Beauly, £48; Bruntland, Invergordon, £45;
Blackface – Broomhill Farm, Muir of Ord, £48;
Cross – No. 13 Achintraid, £47; Shop Farm, £46; Cadboll Mount, Fearn, £45;
TexelX – Folly, West Murkle, £46; Braepark, Duncanston, and Folly, £40; No. 5 Tomich, and Teawig, Beauly, £38;
Mule – Balloan, Farr, £45;
BeltexX – Caberfeidh, Glenurquhart, £39;
Blackface – Blargie Farm, Laggan, £34; Laintachan, Nethy Bridge, £31; Balloan, and Teawig, £30.
Ewes:
Cheviot Mule – Bindal, Portmahomack, £43.50;
Cheviot – Bindal, £42.50; Bogburn Farm, Duncanston, £36.50; Glastullich Farm, Tain, £33.50;
Suffolk – Bruntland, £42.50; Coulnagour, Culbokie, £33;
SuffolkX – No. 13 Nether Inshes, Inverness, £39.50; Glastullich Farm, £35; Grenville, £34;
Cross – No. 13 Nether Inshes, £38.50; Balnabeen, Conon Bridge, £38; Corrimony, Glen Urquhart, £37.50;
Mule – Brae Croft, Croy, £33.50; Cadboll Mount, £30;
Blackface – Tulloch Farm, Dingwall, £29; Easter Street, Kiltarlity, and Bruntland, £27; Bogburn Farm, and Ardindrean, Lochbroom, £26;
Lleyn – Corrimony, £26.50.
Feeding sheep:
Texel – Penick Farm, £45;
Suffolk – Coulnagour, £50;
Cheviot – Strathmore Estate, £40;
Cross – Braehead, Ulbster, £25.50.

DRIVE TIMES

MARK 2 GOLF GTI 1.8 8V.

£2,400 o.n.o.
115,000 miles, excellent condition. Taxed and Mot'd. Lots of money spent on this car.
Tel: 07920449727

SAXO 1.6 VTR

£550
T reg 6 months MOT very good condition
PAS electric windows
new Cam belt fitted last year very reliable
Tel: 07525795686

VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.4I 16V SXI 2006

£6250 o.n.o.
3 Door Hatchback, Black, Petrol, Manual, 3x3 point rear seat belts, ABS, Air conditioning, Alloy wheels, Central locking, Cloth seat trim, Tax'd Dec 08, 9 months warranty, 24000 miles. Genuine reason for sale: Company Car allocated.
Tel: 01880 821 119 or 01586 552231

MITSUBISHI PAJERO AUTO 2.8 T.D.

Intercooler, L reg, 115,000 miles, MOT and taxed, just serviced, vgc. Cairndow.
Telephone: 07876053972
£2300 o.n.o.

MERCEDES E220 CDI ESTATE AVANTGARDE AUTO.

£6495 o.n.o.
2002, Silver, 86,000 miles, full MBSH, Towbar, 1 years tax, 1 years MOT, avg 47mpg, a/c c/c, 2 new tyres, extremely comfortable safe car with loads of room, in very good condition.
Phone Alan on 01631 562071, Office Hours.

R REG PEUGEOT 106 GTI

£1800 o.n.o.
79,000 miles, FSH, completely standard, lots of new parts, 11 months mot and 5 months tax, excellent condition.
Tel: 01866 844 212 (evenings) 07765 644713
Would part exchange for toyota hilux

SHORTWHEEL BASE TRANSIT

£4000+VAT
05 plate. 3 seats in back. One years MOT. Trade in/part exchange considered.
Tel: 01631 566553
mobile: 07917 888133

FORD FIESTA

51 Reg, One year MOT, One year tax, 4 new tyres, 43,000 miles, In excellent condition.
Telephone: 01586 552513
£2,500 o.n.o.

DAIHATSU HI JET VAN

1.3 petrol, 2001, Y Reg, 1 previous owner, 44,000 miles, twin side doors, light use, MOT April 09, tax Dec 08, low tax, very economical.
Tel 01369 702578 (office hours) or 07717 340493
£725 + VAT

TOYOTA YARIS T-SPORT VVTI 2003

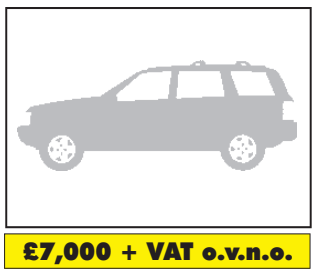
105 BHP 5- door, bespoke leather interior, aircon, sunroof, CD, electric windows, mirrors, split/sliding rear seat, Ave. 41 MPG.
Tel: 01852 500301
Cost new £13,500. Accept £5250 o.n.o.

HONDA XR 125CC 2006 SPEC

Low mileage very good condition.
Telephone: 01681 700 110 or 07918658318
£1250 o.n.o.

DAIHATSU TERIOS 1999

£1800
1300 petrol 4X4, 62000 miles
MOT Sept 09 Tax Feb 09
Tel: 01631 710264

NISSAN NAVARA D22

£7,000 + VAT o.v.n.o.
54 plate, 34,500 miles, 11 months MOT, truckman canopy, tow bar, vgc
Tel: 01852 200259 or 07769717482

A TOW TRUCK FOR XMAS
1999 VOLKSWAGEN TRANSPORTER T4 CREWCAB (4T GVW)

£4950 ono + vat
Fitted with aluminium beavertail, 9000LB Winch with lodar remote control, 4X Chassis lockers, Jump sockets front and rear, vision alert lightbar, work lights etc.. Very LOW Loading angle, very good fuel consumption, in very good condition through-out with 1 years test.
Tel: 0141 8850588

QUADZILLA 300CC ROAD LEGAL QUAD

£2500 o.n.o.
Reg. 57, Road Legal on Car Licence, 6 Months Tax Disc Brakes all round, up to 60mph Hardly Used, Like New.
Tel: 07748947001

2006 RENAULT KANGOO

VERY GOOD CONDITION. WOODLINED. SIDE LOADING DOOR. FSH.
Telephone: 07747 016900
£3950 + VAT

DAIHATSU 4 TRAK 2.8 TD

MOT and tax.
Telephone: 01586 830122 (home) after 6pm or 07788 734140 (mobile)
£1395 o.n.o.

1998 FORD MONDEO HATCHBACK

133K Miles, taxed mot'd until May '09. Full service history, very smooth runner. Includes roof racks and bike rack.
Telephone: 01631 710 711
£600 o.n.o.

FIAT SCUDO VAN

1.9 EL Diesel W Reg Taxed and Mot'd.
Telephone: 07760 138890
£1,000 o.n.o.

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

To advertise your car in Drive Times telephone 01631 568000

Scotland's most established Renault dealer

RENAULT

New and Pre-Reg Renaults ready for immediate delivery

These are just a small selection of cars currently in our showrooms

USED CARS

58 Renault Clio Campus 1.2, 5dr, black, delivery mileage	£8,500
07 Renault Clio dyn S, 1.4, 3dr, black, 10,000 miles	£8,450
07 Renault Megane Dyn dci 106 H/B 3dr, red	£10,750
07 Renault Clio Rip Curl 1.2 3dr Grey 7,500	£7,500
56/07 Renault Clio Dyn 1.4, 3dr, black, 13,500 miles	£7,950
56/07 Renault Megane Dyn dci 130 sport tourer, blue 20,000 miles	£12,250
56 Renault Clio Campus Sport 1.2 3dr Silver 8,000	£5,795
06 Renault Modus Exp, 1.2, blue, 17,000 miles	£6,250
06 Fiat Punto Active 1.4 sport, 3dr, blue, 18,000 miles	£5,995
55 Renault Megane Exp DCI Sp Tourer, green, 29,000 miles	£7,500
55 Renault Scenic Priv 1.6, beige, 15,000 miles	£7,950
05 Renault Kangoo Venture 1.5 dci 80, silver, 29,000 miles	£6,500
05 Renault Scenic dyn Dci 120, 47,000 miles	£6,500
05 Kia Cerato 1.6 LX, black, 32,000 miles	£5,650
05 Rover 25, 3dr, H/B, blue, 39,000 miles	£3,750
05 Renault Clio Dyn 1.2, 3dr, blue, 19,000 miles	£5,650
54 Renault Clio Ext Dci 80, 3dr, blue, 57,000 miles	£4,250
54 Renault Laguna Dyn 1.8 Sport Tourer, red, 45,000 miles	£6,150
04 Renault Clio Dyn 1.2, 5dr, blue, 35,000 miles	£4,850
04 Vauxhall Astra 1,.6 SXI, blue, 42,000 miles	£5,150
53 Renault Megane Priv, 1.9 dci saloon, green, 55,000 miles	£5,350
04 Suzuki Grand Vitara XL7 V6 Auto, silver	**£7,450**
05 Fiat Ulysse Dyn JTD, seven seater, blue	**£9,450**

COMMERCIALS

04 Peugeot Expert 2.0 hdi, 49,000 miles, white	£6,500 plus vat
04 Renault Kangoo SL17 dci, white	£4,350 + vat
53/04 Renault Master DC 1100 LWB H/R, 73,000 miles	£6,750 plus vat
03 Seat Inca 1.9sdi, white	£3,450 + vat
52 Ford Transit Mini Bus, 9 seater, blue	£POA
X Nissan Cabstar Dropside Truck 2.7d SWB	£5,950 + vat

SELECTION OF LOW PRICE CARS UNDER £2000 TO CLEAR
CAR AND VAN HIRE FROM BOTH BRANCHES

W.D. Semple

Approved Renault Dealer
www.wdsemple.com
Motability
Inveraray - Shore Street. Tel: 01499 302150
Lochgilphead - Highbank Park. Tel: 01546 606767

Ben Nevis Motors Ford

THE RS IS BACK

The all new Focus RS is back next year. Ben Nevis Motors have now been given their allocation for this iconic car.

Why not beat the queues and place your order NOW for your 09 registration

Don't Delay Order Today!!!

Your local west highland Ford dealer for new and used sales, service, repair and parts

Ben Nevis Motors North Road
Fort William Tel: 01397 700110

Motability
The leading car scheme for disabled people

OUT IN THE OPEN: THE NEW MINI CONVERTIBLE

Second incarnation of Britain's favourite sun-loving small car ready for launch in spring

The new MINI Convertible is set to make a welcome return to UK roads in 2009, with a completely new version of the British-built favourite due to go on sale on 28 March 2009.

MINI Cooper and Cooper S derivatives featuring innovative engine technologies will be offered at launch, meaning fans of the compact, premium new MINI Convertible are guaranteed performance, frugality, minimal running costs and a unique image as standard. The MINI Cooper Convertible will be priced at £15,995 OTR and the MINI Cooper S Convertible will be offered from £18,995 OTR.

The first-generation MINI Convertible experienced remarkable sales success in Britain and was a best seller in the UK in the small convertible segment between 2004 and 2008. Approximately 164,000 MINI Convertibles were delivered to owners around the world during its lifecycle. Demand for its successor, complete with an array of technological and design advances, is sure to be strong.

Exterior design highlights

The unique aesthetics of MINI are clearly present in the new MINI Convertible. With a raised shoulder line, highlighted by a chrome strip which extends around the body of the car, the new MINI Convertible has a more purposeful and dynamic stance than its predecessor. The low roofline, wheels in each corner and short overhangs at both the front and rear of the car denote the MINI Convertible's sporting intent.

Specific design cues differentiate the Cooper and Cooper S models. Both derivatives feature MINI's trademark hexagon radiator grille and large round headlamps with integrated indicators. The high-performance MINI Cooper S Convertible sets itself apart visually through the presence of an enhanced 'powerdome', which sits 20 millimetres higher than the MINI Cooper's bonnet and houses a large air scoop. At the rear end, large twin tailpipes, a large diffuser in the rear bumper and a two-piece rear fog lamp mark it out.

An hexagonal grid pattern on the radiator grille of the Cooper S is its finishing touch. In contrast, the new MINI Cooper Convertible's grille boasts a chrome frame and three horizontal, chrome-plated bars.

Exclusive to the new drop-top will be two all-new colours to feature on a MINI. Interchange Yellow and Horizon Blue will make their debuts on the second-generation new MINI Convertible. Contrasting roof options add visual appeal to the newcomer, and British customers will be able to pick from Black, Denim Blue and Hot Chocolate when specifying their perfect MINI.

For the first-time in a MINI Convertible, Air Conditioning will be fitted as standard. An added benefit to owners will be that the lockable glovebox will receive cooled air and ensure its contents remain icey, while passengers enjoy the sun.

Top up to top down in just 15 seconds

The automatic canvas roof of the second-generation new MINI Convertible can be fully retracted or closed using a roof-frame mounted toggle switch in just 15 seconds. In the event of a driver being caught unexpectedly by a sudden downpour, this function will fully operate with the car at speeds of up to 20 mph.

As an alternative to the complete top-down driving experience, the full-width of the electric roof can be retracted by approximately 40 centimetres to create the effect of a sunroof. This function can be operated at speeds of up to 75 mph.

VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 BREEZE

£5500 o.n.o.

55 Plate, 12,000 miles only, Alloys, CD, Air con, fsh, immaculate condition.

Tel: 01631 565732

54 HONDA CIVIC 1.7 DIESEL

43,000 miles
MOT and Taxed
5 door hatchback,
alloy wheels
Excellent condition.
Telephone:
01770 600416 or
07732337273

£5400 o.n.o.

SUZUKI ALTO GL

04 plate
39,000 miles
Long MOT.

Telephone:
01770 302448

£2200 o.n.o.

BLACK BMW X5 3.0 D SPORT

2005 Auto, Leather, panoramic sunroof. 65000 miles.
For more details call 01631 710876 or 07769730866

£13,900 o.n.o.

MITSUBISHI CARISMA 1.9TD 02

66,585 miles, taxed and tested, tow bar, excellent condition.

Telephone:
01631 710415

£2,995 o.n.o.

Hazelbank Motors Ltd.

CHRISTMAS SALE

FULLY PREPARED AND SERVICED VEHICLES

	MILEAGE	WAS	NOW
07 Mercedes SL500, 2 dr convertible many extras, a Christmas Cracker.		£47,995	£45,995
2006 2.8L 6 berth camper, many extras	9K	£24,995	£22,995
08 Fiat Sedici 4x4 M/Jet Diesel Dynamic	Delivery miles	£15,250	£11,995
53 Landrover Discovery TD5, many extras	31K	£11,995	£10,995
08 Fiat Doblo 1.3 JTD Family, 7 seats	2K	£12,500	£9,995
54 RX8 195 Sports Car, stunning	30K	£9,995	£9,495
08 Fiat Grande Punto Dynamic, 3dr	2K	£9,650	£7,995
05 VW Golf Diesel, 5dr, silver, sought after	24K	£7,995	£7,495
03 Lexus IS 200S, 4dr saloon, red	41K	£7,995	£7,250
55 Mitsubishi L200 GL 4 WORK LWB D/CAB	46K	£7,600	£7,250
05 Vauxhall Zafira 7 seat Life 1.6L, Silver	15K	£6,495	£5,995
56 Grande Punto 1.2, 5dr, blue,	11K	£5,995	£5,750
55 Renault Clio Dynamique 1.2, 5dr, silver	16K	£5,995	£5,495
06 Fiat Idea 1.4 Active, 5dr, blue	22K	£5,750	£5,250
06 Fiat Panda Dynamic 5dr, silver	13K	£4,995	£4,495
56 Suzuki R Wagon, yellow 1229cc	18K	£4,995	£4,495
05 Punto Dynamic 1242cc, blue	33K	£4,995	£4,495
05 ChevroletTacuma 1600cc SX, a snip	27K	£4,495	£3,995
55 Panda Dynamic 1242cc, blue	27K	£4,495	£3,995
54 Fiat Stilo Active, 3dr, silver	32K	£4,495	£3,995
53 Peugeot 206, 1.2, 5dr hatch,	5K	£3,995	£3,695
2001 Toyota Corolla VVTI S, 1.4L, 5dr	54K	£2,995	£2,495
2001 Renault Megane Dynamique Plus	81K	£2,495	£2,250
2001 Rover 45 5dr, Diesel, blue	65K	£2,375	£1,995
2000 Ford Mondeo Estate, green	106K	£1,750	£1,495
2000 Ford Mondeo Verona, black	95K	£1,750	£1,495

ALL VANS & PICK UPS PLUS VAT
SMALL SELECTION OF VEHICLES, MANY OTHERS AVAILABLE IN STOCK
Merry Christmas to all our customers

Lynn Rd, Oban Tel: 01631 566476
Longrow, Campbeltown Tel: 01586 552320

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

DINGHYS FOR SALE WITH/WITHOUT OARS

Tel: 01631 565005

2-4 persons
The Boat Store, Dunollie Road, Oban,

new car index

HONDA Helensburgh Honda 135 East Clyde Street, Helensburgh Tel.01436 675777 www.helensburghhonda.co.uk	RENAULT W.D Semple Inveraray & Lochgilphead Tel. 01499 302150
ISUZU S & S Services Old Bridge Road, Heathfield, Ayr Tel. 01292 880080 / 880440	SUBARU S & S Services Old Bridge Road, Heathfield, Ayr Tel. 01292 880080/880440
PEUGEOT Struans Peugeot A85 Crieff Road, Perth Tel : 01738 632222 www.struans.co.uk/peugeot	TOYOTA Helensburgh 5 John Street, Helensburgh Tel. 01436 672779 www. helensburgh.toyota.co.uk
FORD Ben Nevis Motors North Road, Fort William Tel. 01397 700110	VOLKSWAGEN Hawco Caol, Fort William Tel. 01397 700900 www.hawco.volkswagen.co.uk
TO PROMOTE YOUR NEW CAR DEALERSHIP PLEASE CALL: 01631 568000	MAZDA Struans Mazda A85 Crieff Road, Perth Tel : 01738 445566 www.struans.co.uk/mazda

NEW BRAVO 2.0 MULTIJET: MORE POWER, LESS FUEL, LOWER EMISSIONS

Fiat has just extended its popular Bravo mid-size hatchback range with the introduction of a more powerful yet more economical and lower emissions engine, demonstrating the Group's commitment to the production of increasingly environmentally-friendly cars.

The 5-door Bravo range will now benefit from a new 165 bhp 2.0 MultiJet unit which features a diesel particulate filter (DPF) and is type-approved to Euro 5 standards, ahead of the 2009 deadline.

The new version, available in Sport and Dynamic specification, is not just 'greener' – it further underscores the liveliness, flexibility and driving pleasure that have always been features of the Bravo. Fiat's new 2.0 MultiJet is a logical evolution of the 1.9 MultiJet, which it will progressively replace. Main benefits are greater performance (torque increased to 360 Nm, and power up to 165 bhp), reduced emissions (down to just 139 g/km) and lower fuel consumption (53 mpg over the combined cycle).

To advertise your car in Drive Times telephone 01631 568000

The Scottish Government

TRANSPORT SCOTLAND

ROADS (SCOTLAND) ACT 1984
THE A82 TRUNK ROAD (GLENCOE VILLAGE TO NORTH BALLACHULISH CYCLE TRACK) (REDETERMINATION OF MEANS OF EXERCISE OF PUBLIC RIGHT OF PASSAGE) ORDER 200

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Scottish Ministers propose to make an Order under section 152(2) of the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984, redetermining the means of exercise of the public right of passage over the lengths of road described in the Schedule hereto.

The title of the order is the A82 Trunk Road (Glencoe Village to North Ballachulish Cycle Track) (Redetermination of Means of Exercise of Public Right of Passage) Order 200[ ].

A copy of the proposed order and of the accompanying plans showing the roads over which the means of exercise of the public right of passage is to be redetermined, together with a statement of the reasons for making the order, have been deposited at the offices of Transport Scotland, Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow G4 0HF; the offices of The Highland Council, Kinlochleven Service Point, Visitor Centre, Linnhe Road, Kinlochleven PH50 4SJ; the offices of The Highland Council, Fort William Service Point, Lochaber House, High Street, Fort William PH33 6EL; Glencoe Post Office, Carnoch, Glencoe, Argyll PH49 4HS; and Ballachulish Post Office, Loanfern, Ballachulish, Argyll PH49 4JB. Those documents are available for inspection free of charge from 2 December 2008 to 13 January 2009, during normal business hours.

ANY PERSON may, within 28 days from 2 December 2008, object to the making of the order by notice in writing, to Susan Bakr, Transport Scotland, Major Transport Infrastructure Projects, Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow, G4 0HF quoting reference RD001679/01. Objections should state the name and address of the objector, the matters to which they relate and the grounds on which they are made.

A C MCLAUGHLIN
A member of the staff of the Scottish Ministers
Transport Scotland, Major Transport Infrastructure Projects, Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow G4 0HF.
November 2008.

SCHEDULE
ROADS OVER WHICH MEANS OF EXERCISE OF PUBLIC RIGHT OF PASSAGE IS TO BE REDETERMINED
INTERPRETATION

In this schedule the following expressions have the following meanings:-

"the plan folio" means the folio numbered RD001679/01 comprised of plans RD016/01 to RD016/06 and entitled "The A82 Trunk Road (Glencoe Village to North Ballachulish Cycle Track) (Redetermination of Means of Exercise of Public Right of Passage) Order 200", signed with reference to this Order and deposited at the offices of Transport Scotland, Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow G4 0HF;

"the existing A82 Trunk Road" means the existing A82 Dalnottar-Inverness Trunk Road;

"the existing B863 Road" means the existing B863 Glencoe Village-North Ballachulish Road;

"point A" means the intersection of the centrelines of the existing A82 Trunk Road and the existing B863 Road shown marked "A" on plan RD016/02;

"point B" means the start of the diverge taper of the access road to the Isles of Glencoe Hotel, Ballachulish, PH49 4HL shown marked " B" on plan RD016/04; and

"point C" means the intersection of the centrelines of the A82 Trunk Road and Old Ferry Road shown marked "C" on plan RD016/06.

1. From a point on the existing A82 Trunk Road 482 metres or thereby south-east of the westernmost corner of the building known as Beechwood, Glencoe, PH49 4HS, to a point 24 metres or thereby south-west of the westernmost corner of the building known as Beechwood, Glencoe, PH49 4HS, generally in an north-westerly then west-north-westerly direction for a distance of 500 metres or thereby as shown by saw-tooth hatching and marked "1" on plan RD016/01 in the plan folio.
2. From a point on the existing A82 Trunk Road 88 metres or thereby west-south-west of the westernmost corner of the building known as Beechwood, Glencoe, PH49 4HS, to a point 98 metres or thereby west-south-west of the westernmost corner of the building known as Beechwood, Glencoe, PH49 4HS, generally in a west-north-westerly direction for a distance of 10 metres or thereby as shown by saw-tooth hatching and marked "2" on plan RD016/01 in the plan folio.
3. From a point on the existing A82 Trunk Road 31 metres or thereby east of point A, to a point 31 metres or thereby north-east of point A, generally in a northerly direction for a distance of 12 metres or thereby as shown by saw-tooth hatching and marked "3" on plan RD016/02 in the plan folio.
4. From a point on the existing A82 Trunk Road 43 metres or thereby south-east of point A, to a point 70 metres or thereby south-west of point A, generally in a westerly, then south-westerly direction for a distance of 108 metres or thereby as shown by saw-tooth hatching and marked "4" on plan RD016/02 in the plan folio.
5. From a point on the existing B836 Road 20 metres or thereby north-north-east of point A, to a point 373 metres or thereby south-west of point A, generally in an south-westerly then west-south-westerly then north-westerly direction for a distance of 388 metres or thereby as shown by saw-tooth hatching and marked "5" on plan RD016/02 in the plan folio.
6. From a point on the existing A82 Trunk Road 73 metres or thereby east-north-east from the easternmost corner of the building known as Pier House, Ballachulish, PH49 4HN to a point 1178 metres or thereby west-south-west of the easternmost corner of the building known as Pier House, Ballachulish, PH49 4HN, generally in a west-south-westerly then south-westerly then north-westerly direction for a distance of 1259 metres or thereby as shown by saw-tooth hatching and marked "6" on plan RD016/03 in the plan folio.
7. From a point on the existing A82 Trunk Road 110 metres or thereby north-east of the northernmost corner of the building known as Village Hall, Loanfern, Ballachulish, PH49 4JB, to a point 95 metres or thereby north-east of the northernmost corner of the building known as Village Hall, Loanfern, Ballachulish, PH49 4JB, generally in an west-south-westerly direction for a distance of 16 metres or thereby as shown by saw-tooth hatching and marked "7" on plan RD016/03 in the plan folio.
8. From a point on the existing A82 Trunk Road 88 metres or thereby north-east of the northernmost corner of the building known as Village Hall, Loanfern, Ballachulish, PH49 4JB, to a point 84 metres or thereby north-east of the northernmost corner of the building known as Village Hall, Loanfern, Ballachulish PH49 4JB, generally in an west-south-westerly direction for a distance of 4 metres or thereby as shown by saw-tooth hatching and marked "8" on plan RD016/03 in the plan folio.
9. From a point on the existing A82 Trunk Road 78 metres or thereby north-east of the northernmost corner of the building known as Village Hall, Loanfern, Ballachulish, PH49 4JB, to a point 69 metres or thereby north-northeast of the northernmost corner of the building known as Village Hall, Loanfern, Ballachulish, PH49 4JB, generally in an north-westerly then westerly direction for a distance of 21 metres or thereby as shown by saw-tooth hatching and marked "9" on plan RD016/03 in the plan folio.
10. From a point on the existing A82 Trunk Road 104 metres or thereby north-west of the westernmost corner of the building known as Village Hall, Loanfern, Ballachulish, PH49 4JB, to a point 133 metres or thereby west-north-west of the westernmost corner of the building known as Village Hall, Loanfern, Ballachulish, PH49 4JB, generally in an west-south-westerly direction for a distance of 31 metres or thereby as shown by saw-tooth hatching and marked "10" on plan RD016/03 in the plan folio.
11. From a point 26 metres or thereby north-east of point B, to a point 689 metres or thereby south-west of point B generally in a south-westerly then west-south-westerly then north-westerly direction for a distance of 721 metres or thereby as shown by saw-tooth hatching and marked "11" on plan RD016/04 in the plan folio.
12. From a point 272 metres or thereby south-west of point B, to a point 302 metres or thereby west-south-west of point B generally in a west-south-westerly direction for a distance of 30 metres or thereby as shown by saw-tooth hatching and marked "12" on plan RD016/04 in the plan folio.
13. From a point 447 metres or thereby south-west of point B, to a point 449 metres or thereby south-west of point B generally in a southerly direction for a distance of 10 metres or thereby as shown by saw-tooth hatching and marked "13" on plan RD016/04 in the plan folio.
14. From a point 938 metres or thereby east-southeast of the westernmost corner of the building known as St John's Church, Ballachulish, PH39 4HP, to a point on the existing A82 Trunk Road 90 metres or thereby east-south-east of the westernmost corner of the building known as St John's Church, Ballachulish, PH39 4HP, generally in a north-westerly then west-south-westerly then north-westerly direction for a distance of 868 metres or thereby as shown by saw-tooth hatching and marked "14" on plan RD016/05 in the plan folio.
15. From a point on the existing A82 Trunk Road 83 metres or thereby east-south-east of the westernmost corner of the building known as St John's Church, Ballachulish, PH39 4HP, to a point on the existing A82 Trunk Road 131 metres or thereby north-west of the easternmost corner of the building known as St John's Church, Ballachulish PH39 4HP, generally in a north-westerly direction for a distance of 171 metres or thereby as shown by saw-tooth hatching and marked "15" on plan RD016/05 in the plan folio.
16. From a point on the existing A82 Trunk Road 146 metres or thereby north-west of the easternmost corner of the building known as St John's Church, Ballachulish, PH39 4HP, to a point on the existing A82 Trunk Road 171 metres or thereby north-west of the easternmost corner of the building known as St John's Church, Ballachulish, PH39 4HP, generally in a northerly then north-westerly direction for a distance of 27 metres or thereby as shown by saw-tooth hatching and marked "16" on plan RD016/05 in the plan folio.
17. From a point on the existing A82 Trunk Road 587 metres or thereby south-south-west of point "C", to a point on the existing A82 Trunk Road 222 metres or thereby south-south-west of point "C" generally in a north-north-westerly then north-north-easterly direction for a distance of 980 metres or thereby as shown by saw-tooth hatching and marked "17" on plan RD016/06 in the plan folio.
18. From a point on the existing A82 Trunk Road 515 metres or thereby south-south-west of point "C", to a point 17 metres or thereby east-south-east of point "C", generally in a north-north-easterly then north-easterly direction for a distance of 517 metres or thereby as shown by saw tooth hatching and marked "18" on plan RD016/06 in the plan folio.
19. From a point 17 metres or thereby north-east of point "C", to a point 229 metres or thereby north-north-east of point "C", generally in a north-westerly, then north-north-easterly, then north-easterly, then easterly direction for a distance of 248 metres or thereby as shown by saw-tooth hatching and marked "19" on plan RD016/06 in the plan folio.

These lengths of road, currently footways, will become cycle tracks, the right of passage being exercisable on pedal cycle and foot only.

TRANSPORT SCOTLAND

To find out more about living and working in argyll & bute visit us @ **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 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: 08/02090/DET
Applicant: Cradingmill Bay Mooring Owners Association
Proposal: Replacement of previously existing seasonal small boat landing stage
Site Address: Cardingmill Bay Gallanach Road Oban Argyll And Bute
Location of Plans: Oban Area Office
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days

Ref: 08/02088/OUT
Applicant: Drimvargie Properties
Proposal: Proposed site for housing development
Site Address: Site At McCaig Road/Lonan Drive Soroba Oban Argyll And Bute
Location of Plans: Oban Area Office
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days

Ref: 08/02089/DET
Applicant: Arqiva Services Ltd (Peter Hayne)
Proposal: Extension and alteration of existing masts to support replacement and new broadcast anennnas; installation of 5 No. additional broadcast transmission dishes onto masts, satellite dishes and ancillary development
Site Address: Transmitting Station Craignure Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Craignure
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days

Ref: 08/01958/OUT
Applicant: Mrs June Henderson
Proposal: Site for erection of dwellinghouse.
Site Address: Grounds Of Lynn House Ganavan Road Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 5TU
Location of Plans: Oban Area Office
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days

Ref: 08/02065/DET
Applicant: Mr Duncan Drysdale
Proposal: Extension to dwelling house
Site Address: Stac An Fhuran Isle Of Lismore Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 5UG
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Lismore
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days

Ref: 08/01873/DET
Applicant: Firm Of J And L Battison
Proposal: Siting of Lodge/Mobile Home
Site Address: Site East Of Cologin Farmhouse Lerags Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 4SE
Location of Plans: Oban Area Office
Section 34 Advert - 14 Days

Ref: 08/01924/DET
Applicant: Mrs Elsie Rhodes
Proposal: Erection of extension
Site Address: Hydro House Bridge Of Awe Taynuilt Argyll And Bute PA35 1HT
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Taynuilt
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days

Ref No: 08/02064/DET
Applicant: Mr Mrs P Maries
Proposal: Erection of dwelling house (Plot 2)
Site Address: Raraig House Raeric Road Tobermory Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute
Location of Plans: Tobermory Area Office
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days

Ref: 08/02052/LIB
Applicant: Duncan Cattanach
Proposal: Alteration and repair of existing building and erection of freestanding porch
Site Address: The Gallery Main Street Tobermory Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute
Location of Plans: Tobermory Area Office
Regulation 5 Listed Bld Consent - 21 Day

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 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.

SCHEDULE - DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION OF PLANS

Ref No: 08/01958/OUT
Applicant: Mrs June Henderson
Proposal: Site for erection of dwellinghouse.
Site Address: Grounds Of Lynn House Ganavan Road Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 5TU
Location of Plans: Oban Area Office
A18 Local Plan Potential Depart Adv (21)
Potential Departure from Policy H025 of The Lorn Local Plan

Area Team Leader Development Control, Planning Services, Lorn House, Albany Street, Oban, PA34 4AR

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 67 Chalmers Street, Ardrishaig and by logging on to the Council's Website at HYPERLINK "http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk" 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: 08/02057/DET
Applicant: Angus MacKinnon
Proposal: Erection of ancillary guest house and garage and installation of sewage treatment plant
Site Address: Land North Of Kilnaughton House The Oa Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA42 7AZ
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Port Ellen
Section 34 and Article 9 Advert 14 Days

Area Team Leader Development Control, Planning Services, 67 Chalmers Street, Ardrishaig, PA30 8DX

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

COUNCILLOR SURGERIES

Councillor Mary Jean Devon (E.W 4 Oban South and the Isles)

Constituents can contact Councillor Devon on Tel: 01688 301215 or e mail – mary-jean.devon@argyll-bute.gov.uk

Councillor Gordon Chalmers (E.W. 4 Oban South and the Isles) Constituents can contact Councillor Chalmers on Tel 01688 302689 or e mail – gordon.chalmers@argyll-bute.gov.uk or gordon.chalmers@btinternet.com

Councillor Donald McIntosh (E.W 4 Oban South and the Isles)

Councillor McIntosh's constituents can contact him on Tel: 07788 882200 or by e mail – donald.mcintosh@argyll-bute.gov.uk

Councillor Donald Macdonald (E.W.5 Oban North and Lorn)

Councillor Macdonald's constituents can contact him on Tel: 01631 566367 or by e mail – donald.macdonald@argyll-bute.gov.uk

OPERATIONAL SERVICES

(VARIOUS STREETS, OBAN) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC/PEDESTRIANS) (HOGMANAY CELEBRATION) ORDER 2008

Argyll and Bute Council proposes to make an Order under Section 16A of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, as amended, which will prohibit vehicles and or pedestrians on various roads as detailed in the Schedule hereto on the occasion of a Hogmanay Street Party on or near those roads.

The Order, which shall be effective when indicated by signs, will be in operation between 1800 hours on 31st December 2008 and 1000 hours on 1st January 2009.

SCHEDULE 1 - PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC PROHIBITION OF PEDESTRIANS (with the exception of emergency services vehicles and authorised vehicles)

Name of Road	Extent of Closure
Lochavullin Drive	The entire length
Lochside Street	The entire length

SCHEDULE 2 - PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC (with the exception of emergency services vehicles and authorised vehicles)

Name of Road	Extent of Closure
Lochavullin Road	From its junction with Lynn Road to its junction with Lochside Street.
Market Street	The entire length

SCHEDULE 3 - PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC (with the exception of emergency services vehicles)

Name of Road	Extent of Closure
Soroba Lane	The entire length

SCHEDULE 4 - PROHIBITION OF PEDESTRIANS

Name of Road	Extent of Closure
Gibraltar Street	From a point 16 metres or thereby from Argyll Square A816 to the boundary with Tesco's Car Park.

(VARIOUS STREETS, TOBERMORY, ISLE OF MULL) (TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT) ORDER 200_

Argyll and Bute Council proposes to make an Order the effect of which will be to introduce new and amend existing waiting and loading restrictions on various roads (as detailed below) within Tobermory, Isle of Mull.

Full details of these proposals, which form the proposed "The Argyll and Bute Council (Various Streets, Tobermory, Isle of Mull) (Traffic Management) Order 200_", together with Plans, existing Orders and a Statement of Reasons for proposing to make this Traffic Regulation Order, are available for inspection during normal office hours Monday to Friday inclusive at the offices of:

(i) Argyll and Bute Council Offices, Breadalbane Street, Tobermory;
(ii) Operational Services, Kilbowie House, Gallanach Road, Oban;
(iii) Argyll and Bute Council Offices, Kilmory, Lochgilphead.

List of roads affected by proposals:

Main Street, Ledaig Branch Road, Springbank Brae, Rockburn Road, Back Brae, Eas Brae

Any person wishing to object to the proposals should send details of the grounds for objection in writing to the Head of Democratic Services and Governance, Argyll and Bute Council, Kilmory, Lochgilphead, Argyll by 9th January 2009.

(ON-ROAD PARKING PLACES AND CHARGES) (TOBERMORY, ISLE OF MULL) ORDER 200_

Argyll and Bute Council proposes to make an Order the effect of which will be to introduce designated on road parking places on various roads (as detailed below) within Tobermory, Isle of Mull. A charging regime will apply to these parking places.

Full details of these proposals, which form the proposed "The Argyll and Bute Council (On-Road Parking Places and Charges)(Tobermory, Isle of Mull) Order 200_", together with Plans, and a Statement of Reasons for proposing to make this Traffic Regulation Order, are available for inspection during normal office hours Monday to Friday inclusive at the offices of:

(i) Argyll and Bute Council Offices, Breadalbane Street, Tobermory;
(ii) Operational Services, Manse Brae, Lochgilphead;
(iii) Argyll and Bute Council Offices, Kilmory, Lochgilphead.

List of roads affected by proposals:

Main Street, Ledaig Branch Road, Rockburn Road, Back Brae

Any person wishing to object to the proposals should send details of the grounds for objection in writing to the Head of Democratic Services and Governance, Argyll and Bute Council, Kilmory, Lochgilphead, Argyll by 9th January 2009.

Andrew R Law, Director of Operational Services, Manse Brae, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8RD

LOCAL AUTHORITY ACCOUNTS (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS, 1985

NOTICE is hereby given that the certified Accounts of Argyll and Bute Council for the year to 31st March, 2008 together with the Audit Certificate, is available for public inspection during ordinary business hours at the undernoted main offices and libraries of the Council.

The Annual Accounts can also be viewed on the Argyll & Bute Council website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk.

Copies of the Annual Accounts will be available to any interested persons on application to the Head of Strategic Finance, Argyll & Bute Council Headquarters, Kilmory, Lochgilphead.

Sally Reid
Chief Executive

OFFICES OF THE COUNCIL:

Council Headquarters, Kilmory, Lochgilphead; Burnet Building, Campbeltown; Dalriada House, Lochgilphead; Manse Avenue, Dunoon; Albany Street, Oban; Eaglesham House, Rothesay; Scotcourt House, 45 West Princes Street, Helensburgh; Argyll House, Tarbert (restricted hours); Jamieson Street, Bowmore; Breadalbane Street, Tobermory; Crossapol, Tiree (restricted hours).

LIBRARIES OF THE COUNCIL:

Manse Brae, Lochgilphead; Argyll Street, Dunoon; Aqualibrium, Campbeltown; Albany Street, Oban; Moat Centre, Rothesay; Barmore Road, Tarbert; West King Street, Helensburgh; Burgh Hall, Cove; Main Street, Cardross; Primary School, Garelochhead; Primary School, Rosneath; Highland Avenue, Sandbank.

N.B. Please check with individual libraries for opening hours.

The Scottish Government

TRANSPORT SCOTLAND

THE A82 TRUNK ROAD (BALLACHULISH) (50MPH SPEED LIMIT) ORDER 2008

THE SCOTTISH MINISTERS hereby give notice that on 26th November 2008 they have made the above Order under section 84(1)(a) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 which will have the effect of imposing a 50mph speed limit on the following length of road:

That length of the A82 Dalnottar – Inverness Trunk Road at Ballachulish from a point 34 metres or thereby east of the west gable of Braehead Cottage to a point 100 metres or thereby west of the centreline of the junction to Lochside Cottages, Ballachulish, a distance of 2042 metres or thereby.

The effect of the Order is as described in The Press and Journal, Oban Times and Lochaber News which were published on 1st May 2008 and Notice 1501/118, Issue no. 26448 of the Edinburgh Gazette published on 2nd May 2008. The Order comes into force on 11th December 2008.

A copy of the Order as made and the relevant plan may be inspected free of charge until 21st February 2009 during normal business hours at Loanfern Sub Post Office, Loan Fern, Ballachulish, Argyll PH49 4HS and the offices of Transport Scotland, Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow G4 0HF.

G EDMOND
A member of the staff of the Scottish Ministers
Transport Scotland, Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow G4 0HF

TRANSPORT SCOTLAND

The Scottish Government

The Scottish Ministers are applying to the Crofters Commission for consent to let 1½ grazing shares in the Anaheilt common grazing, Sunart Estate, to Crawford D Cameron, Crossford, Anaheilt, Strontian. The grazing shares historically pertained to 29 Anaheilt. 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 5th January 2009, specifying your interest in the application and your reasons for objecting. A copy of any representations made will be forwarded to the applicant.

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
TEC Services – The Highland Council, Acharacle Parish Church, Acharacle 08/00410/FULLO	Extension of existing graveyard	Acharacle Post Office Section 34 of the Act (14 Days)
Locheil Logistics Landfill Site, Duisky Kinlochiel, Ardgour 08/00270/FULLO	Installation of renewable energy scheme	Ardgour Post Office Section 34 of the Act (14 Days)

Area Planning and Building Standards Manager, Ross, Skye & Lochaber: Dafydd Jones, Highland Council, Fulton House, Gordon Square, Fort William, PH33 6XY. Tel: (01397) 707015, Fax: (01397) 707022, e-mail: planning.lochaber@highland.gov.uk

---

crofters commission ughdarras nan croitearan

The following decrofting Directions have been granted:

Part Croft

MOSS OF KEPPOCH, ACHRAIG, ARISAIG & MOIDART

Direction dated 28 November 2008 granted to Iain Stewart. Area ext to 0.288 ha.

Conditions: The land is used for a house site. Complete enclosure of the site with a stockproof fence or barrier within 4 months of completion of the proposed development.

Case Number: 4.86.13978

The granting of this Direction may be appealed to the Scottish Land Court, within 42 days from the date of this advert. Information on how to appeal is available from the Crofters Commission.

---

crofters commission ughdarras nan croitearan

John K Lamont and Mrs Carla Lamont are applying to **decroft** part of the croft at Catchean, Kilfinichen & Kilvickeon extending to 0.105 ha for the purpose of providing a site for a dwellinghouse and restaurant. Ref: 4.86.15272

If you consider the decrofting of this area will adversely affect your crofting interests or that of the local crofting community, please make written representations to the Crofters Commission, Castle Wynd, Inverness IV2 3EQ by 22 December 2008 quoting the above case number.

Representations will be copied to the applicant. Comments on any earlier applications cannot be taken into account.

---

crofters commission ughdarras nan croitearan

The following decrofting Directions has been granted:

Croft House Site and Garden Ground

5 & 6 INVEROY, KILMONIVAIG

Direction dated 28 November 2008 granted to John Keenan and Mrs Anne Keenan. Area ext to 0.336 Ha

Condition: Complete enclosure of the site with a stockproof fence or barrier within 4 months of the date of Direction.

Case Number: 4.85.15093

Oban Lorn & Isles Locality Public Partnership Forum
(Forum for local health services)

NHS Highland

Are you interested in health services in this area?

Come and be involved.

The Undercroft,
Church of Scotland Centre, Oban
December 8th 2008
6:40 pm.

Topics in the agenda include :-
Updates on future of Dental Services, Top Floor Review of Oban Hospital and Redesign of Mental Health Services in Argyll & Bute
Renal Services for people living in the area
Palliative Care – the way forward in Oban and the vision for its Hospice

Please more information contact Fiona Sharples on fiona.sharples@nhs.net or telephone 01631 788942

GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE

Donald J MacGillivray trading as D J MacGillivray of Pennygown Farm, Glenforsa, Aros, Isle of Mull PA72 6JN is applying to change an existing licence as follows; To keep an extra 1 goods vehicle and 2 trailers at the operating centre at Pennygown Farm, Glenforsa, Aros, Isle of Mull PA72 6JN. 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 Scottish Traffic Area, J Floor, Argyle House, 3 Lady Lawson Street, Edinburgh, EH3 9SE 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.

TARBERT HARBOUR

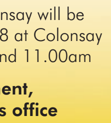
Tarbert (Loch Fyne) Harbour Authority invites expressions of interest from Registered Dive Contractors to tender for appointment to perform dive inspections and routine maintenance within Tarbert Harbour. Responses, addressed to The Harbour Master's Office, Garvel Road, Tarbert, PA29 6TR, required by Friday 19th December 2008

AGM

Lorn Gaelic Partnership

ATLANTIS LEISURE MEETING ROOM

Thursday 11th December 6.30pm



Alan Reid MP

Alan Reid's next surgery in Colonsay will be held on Tuesday 9 December 2008 at Colonsay Village Hall between 10.00am and 11.00am

To make an appointment, please phone Alan Reid's office (01369 704840)

Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES
Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES
Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES
Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES
Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES
Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES
Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES
Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES
Oban Times
Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES
Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES
Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES
Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES
Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES
Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

School roof vandalised

POLICE on Mull are asking for information about vandalism at Tobermory High.

The damage, to the roof of the school, will cost approximately £600 to repair and happened over the weekend of Friday November 21 and Sunday November 23.

Anyone with information about the incident should contact Constable Donald McCuish at Tobermory Police Station or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Bus driver takes ill

A WEST Coast Motors bus driver took ill in Barcaldine last Thursday morning.

The service bus was due to pick up Oban High School pupils from the village and Benderloch but the driver phoned the Oban depot to say he was not fit to drive.

A relief driver was sent out and an ambulance called to help the driver who was taken to Lorn and Islands District General Hospital in Oban before being transferred to hospital in Glasgow.

Irene Monteith and Alison Shaw, who were among the team of seven surveying people in the street. t49surv01

Opinions sought on new centre

MORE than 2,000 people have been directly asked to give their opinion on what Oban needs from a community centre in the town.

On top of 1,100 survey forms filled in at Oban High with help from sixth-year students, and 750 sent out randomly in Oban, seven surveyors were out on the streets of Oban last week.

The survey is being carried out by Community Links Scotland which is in the process of doing a feasibility study and business plan for Oban Youth and Community Association on a new community centre.

The association owns Oban Youth and Community Centre in Soroba Lane, but the building had to close its doors to the public this year.

The association had been in the process of finding funding from the Big Lottery, Argyll and Bute Council and the Scottish government for the feasibility study, which is due to be completed early in the new year.

The survey asks people what they would like to see a new community centre provide, from welfare information to youth activities, from meeting rooms to language classes and from drug and alcohol support to a lunch club.

The survey can also be filled in online until December 12 at www.surveymonkey.com.

Cool response to waterfront plans

LOCHABER people are behind a Fort William waterfront development – but not if it stymies a new supermarket coming to Fort William.

That was the message from the much-awaited public meeting to discuss the waterfront proposals in the council chambers on Monday night. It was standing room only as a series of speakers from the floor indicated they were not prepared to wait several years for a second supermarket to rival the Morrison's store at An Aird.

The shopping issue dominated the meeting, with the audience seeming to favour an out-of-town store, despite council convener Sandy Park and his officials' insistence that the proposed waterfront development would be the only acceptable place for a large new outlet.

Timescales quoted for the development's completion – around 2016 – left many unconvinced the project would become a reality.

Two years have passed since the first meetings and shop displays, and 18 months of consultation then another 12 months for planning permission lie ahead after missives are signed between the council and Fort William Waterfront Ltd.

Work would then start on filling in a small section of Loch Linnhe next to the Old Fort and realigning the A82 to sweep it over the reclaimed land to loop around to the roundabout at Morrison's. Only then would building begin on shops, homes and offices.

Supporters

The plan had its supporters – butcher Tom Wynne felt it was Fort William's best chance to revive its failing High Street – but that view was disputed later when House of Scotland owner Dorthy Strickland told *The Oban Times* she feared a new shopping hub beyond Morrison's would reduce footfall on the High Street even further.

Councillors Bill Clark, Eddie Hunter and Donald Cameron all demanded that retail development in and around Fort William should not be blocked by a waterfront development which was years off.

Councillor Cameron pointed out the council could hardly insist that developers must act on planning permission within five years, then hold out against retail developments near Fort William for a similar or longer period. Because of the planning block 'we lost Aldi', he said. 'We can't keep losing retail developments to this town.'

But Councillor Michael Foxley, the only pro-waterfront councillor to speak, urged everyone to input to the scheme – and slammed reports of supermarkets elsewhere.

He said: 'We have 18 months to comment critically on everything, and that's in advance of the planning process. If we don't like it and the developer can't deliver …if it is not right, it is dead.'

Mr Foxley criticised 'kite flying' about a store at Blar Mhor and pledged no such development would take place there as long as he was council leader, because the ground had been earmarked for the new Belford Hospital.

Man in bus accident

AN ELDERLY man escaped with cuts and bruises after walking into the side of a moving bus on Monday.

The incident happened on Lynn Road, at its junction with Mill Lane, Oban.

The 73 year old was taken to Lorn and Islands District General Hospital and released the following day.

Fishermen rescued

AN OBAN lifeboat crew towed a fishing boat, which ran into trouble, back to safety last Thursday.

The *Avalon* was west of the Gulf of Corryvreckan with three crew aboard when it developed steering problems. Another fishing vessel, the *Sempre Victoria*, attempted to tow the craft, but in bad weather conditions, the line broke free twice. The lifeboat was called to assist around 8.30pm.

Oban coxswain Ronnie Mackillop said: 'It was a difficult sea. We passed a tow line to the *Avalon* and towed her back to Oban.'

West Coast Jobs

www.westcoastjobs.co.uk

Personal Carers Required

A local, experienced homecare provider are currently looking to recruit caring, reliable & flexible individuals for part time work in Oban, Dunoon, and surrounding areas.

- Flexible Hours
- Weekends and Evenings
- Full Training will be given
- Enhanced Disclosure Required - £20 to Applicant

Meet the Manager of Medico at 10am or 2pm on Tuesday 9th December 2008 in the Oban Job Centre.

For more information call 01631 564396 www.medico.co.uk

All applicants will be required to complete a Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) Disclosure. Part of the Nestor Healthcare Group, an equal opportunities organisation.

MEDICO nursing and homecare

MACLEOD

MACLEOD CONSTRUCTION LTD

REQUIRE

JOINERS

FOR WINDOW REPLACEMENT CONTRACTS
APPLICATIONS, IN WRITING, TO -
MACLEOD CONSTRUCTION LTD
KILMORY INDUSTRIAL ESTATE
LOCHGILPHEAD
PA31 8RR.
e-mail jobs@mkmacleod.co.uk

SCOTTISHPOWER

Driver/Guide
Cruachan Visitor Centre

£13,322 - £16,652 (Ref: EW-V110-08)

Cruachan Power Station receives thousands of visitors each year and your role will be to provide them with an interesting and enjoyable tour, from the moment they arrive to the moment they leave. As well as ensuring that guided tours run smoothly, you'll help answer questions, take good care of visitors' safety and welfare, assist them in the Centre shop and café as required and ensure the Centre, coaches and surrounding grounds are clean. You'll also be responsible for training seasonal driver/guides and will take charge of the Centre in the absence of the manager and assistant managers.

A first-class driver of large vehicles (i.e. with a full UK licence and preferably experience of a 24 seat minibus), you'll have excellent communication, organisation and people skills. Flexible and adaptable to different situations and visitors, you must be able to project a positive image of ScottishPower and the Centre at all times.

To apply for this vacancy please go to www.scottishpower.com and visit the 'How to Apply' section of our Careers pages.

If you have any special requirements and are unable to apply via our website please call our HR Department on 01698 396465 for advice on how to progress with your application. Closing date: 18 December 2008.

POSITIVE ABOUT DISABLED PEOPLE

Abbeyfield

Where older people find care in housing

Abbeyfield Ballachulish Society Ltd
Day Care Services (Older People)

Abbeyfield Ballachulish in continuing to improve services are looking to recruit caring and dedicated people who are flexible and can offer commitment to our Day Care Clients.
Day Care operates from Monday to Friday.
If you feel you can meet the challenge we would like to hear from you.
We would particularly like to hear from people who are trained to SVQ level 2/3 in care, although training will be provided.

Day Care Officer 9am-5pm

Part Time Day Care Assistant 5 hours per day.

For an Application Form and Information Pack please contact:
Tel 01855 812950 or email abb.ballachulish@ btconnect.com or at Abbeyfield Ballachulish, Park Road, Ballachulish

Oban Times RECRUITMENT Oban Times RECRUITMENT Oban Times RECRUITMENT
Oban Times RECRUITMENT Oban Times RECRUITMENT Oban Times RECRUITMENT

Lynn of Lorne
Care Home

Benderloch, By Oabn

Require
RGN / RMN

Full or Part Time and Bank
Night duty and day duty

For details contact
01631 720278

As a leading employer in the care field we offer competitive pay and benefits package.

www.choicescare.com

Some of these posts are restricted to men only under Section 7(2) (h) of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975.

CHOICES CARE is an equal opportunities employer.

CHOICES CARE

As a respected provider of community care services UK-wide, our commitment is to supporting vulnerable people to independence through quality service provision.

TEAM LEADER
OBAN

An opportunity has arisen for a Team Leader in our Oban service. Experience of Support Work is essential. Applicants must have a valid driver's licence and should hold or be working towards SVQ III.

SUPPORT WORKERS
LOCHGILPHEAD

We are also looking to recruit Support Workers. Experience preferred, although not essential as full training will be given. We have a particular requirement for male Support Workers. Full time, Part time and bank (relief) work available.

For further information or for an application pack please contact Karen McKenzie on 01631 567650 quoting reference SWOB138.

Oban Times RECRUITMENT Oban Times RECRUITMENT
Oban Times RECRUITMENT
Oban Times RECRUITMENT
Oban Times RECRUITMENT
Oban Times RECRUITMENT
Oban Times RECRUITMENT
Oban Times RECRUITMENT
Oban Times RECRUITMENT
Oban Times RECRUITMENT

www.northlan.gov.uk

North Lanarkshire Council

As one of Scotland's leading local authorities, employing around 18,500 people, we see a great future for our area, take a look at the opportunities below and help us make North Lanarkshire an even better place to live and work.

Learning & Leisure Services

***Clerical Assistant**

Up to £14,667 Pro Rata – (Job Share) – (14 hours) – LLS/009/08/11A

*The successful candidate will be subject to a criminal conviction check through Disclosure Scotland.

We offer a competitive package including a final salary pension scheme, free life assurance and up to 42 days holiday.

Closing date: 19 December 2008.

we are an equal opportunities employer

POSITIVE ABOUT DISABLED PEOPLE

Visit our website to find out more or call 01698 403190 for a recruitment pack

service and people first

NSS
NET SERVICES (SHETLAND) LTD

Net Services (Scotland) Ltd

Require a MANAGER

For a new net service station based in Scalpay south Harris. This facility will wash, repair and antifoul nets for the fish farming industry. The candidate will be self-motivated, be able to work within a small team, have the ability to motivate others, possess good organisational skills and have a strong desire and ability to achieve results without supervision, a good understanding of fish farm cage nets would be a distinct advantage.

Salary dependent on experience and qualifications.

If you are interested in applying for this position, please send an application in writing along with your CV to, David Goodlad, Managing Director, Net Services (Shetland) Ltd. Blacksness Pier, Scalloway, Shetland, ZE1 0TQ.

Scottish Sea Farms

Marine Husbandry Personnel
Isle of Mull

Scottish Sea Farms is a leading local company producing high quality Atlantic salmon for specific UK and international markets. We are looking to recruit self-motivated individuals with a natural aspiration to learn and develop within our dedicated marine production team at Loch Spelve, Isle of Mull.

You'll have at least 2 years aquaculture experience and be able to bring proven skills e.g. fish health, boat skills, mooring or stock appetite assessment. Above all you must be enthusiastic and willing to improve your career through taking initiative and applying training. Salary dependent upon experience and qualifications.

In addition Scottish Sea Farms operates a generous bonus-incentive scheme and a leading occupational health programme. All applicants are required to have a clean drivers licence.

If you'd like to know more please contact our Personnel Department on 01786 445521 to obtain a copy of our job description. To apply please indicate your position of choice, provide a CV, present salary and indicate why you'd like to further your career with Scottish Sea Farms to: Claire Scott, Scottish Sea Farms Ltd, Laurel House, Laurelhill Business Park, Stirling FK7 9JQ

Email: claire.scott@scottishseafarms.com
Closing Date: Friday 12th December '08

CHANGEWORKS RESOURCES FOR LIFE

ENERGY SAVING SCOTLAND ADVICE CENTRE

HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS

Changeworks exists to improve quality of life and to protect the environment.

We work with passion, integrity and in collaboration to develop and deliver innovative projects and businesses in energy, waste and transport that inspire and empower people and communities to make a difference.

Closing date for applications is 5pm Tuesday 16 December 2008

Changeworks was recently awarded the contract to establish and manage the Energy Saving Scotland advice centre for the Highlands and Islands.

We are seeking several talented individuals to deliver this new initiative, funded by the Scottish Government and managed by the Energy Saving Trust. As part of a team of energy specialists, your mission will be to make "Sustainable energy the choice for everyone in the Highlands and Islands".

Outreach Engagement Officer (Ref: OEOHI)

SJC SCALE AP4 (£22,408 – £24,806) plus 8% pension contribution

Based in Oban/Lochgilphead

You will be an enthusiastic self-starter in order to represent the advice centre in your area and provide local services to householders, community groups and businesses. In order to deliver support on energy efficiency, renewable energy and lower carbon personal transport, you will be motivated, able to enthuse others and be confident about engaging with diverse sections of the community. Full and extensive energy advice training will be provided.

This is an opportunity for you to deliver real carbon savings across the whole community through events, home visits and providing information and support. You will be highly organised, able to prioritise your workload and be an excellent communicator to meet the demands of this varied, public facing role. An understanding of, and a passion for sustainable energy is desirable.

www.changeworks.org.uk

This post requires high calibre staff with the drive to succeed.

To request an application pack, please contact **0131 555 4010** or **recruitment@changeworks.org.uk** or visit **www.changeworks.org.uk/jobs.php**

Charity No. SC015144

The Energy Saving Scotland advice network is funded by the Scottish Government and managed by the Energy Saving Trust.

GAS ENGINEER
(EMERGENCY WORK)

Scotia Gas Networks

F.C.O CAMPBELTOWN
£11.07 PER HOUR PLUS STANDBY PAYMENTS

Scotia Gas Networks is a consortium with Scottish and Southern Energy as the major partner. It operates two of the largest regional gas distribution networks in the UK, delivering gas to 5.7 million customers safely, reliably and efficiently.

The duties of this post are multi-skilled and include: mainlaying; servicelaying; emergency/meterwork; installation, repair & servicing of gas appliances and plant duties.

You should have experience in one of the following disciplines: Mainlaying/Servicelaying; Emergency/Meterwork; Installation/Repair/Servicing of Gas Appliances, or Governor Activities – and will be qualified to City and Guilds of London Institute or Scotvec equivalent level in their relevant discipline. Further training will be provided in other SGN activities.

This position may suit a time served plumber.

The work is physically demanding and you need to be able to demonstrate the ability to work in a variety of outdoor environments; use IT field systems and achieve high standards of safety and technical competence. A current driving licence is also essential.

You will be expected to work variable hours and will be required to participate as required in a high frequency standby rota, so you must be adaptable and flexible, have good inter-personal skills and leadership qualities.

Relocation expenses will be considered where appropriate.

To apply, please download an application form from our website www.scotiagasnetworks.co.uk or request one from maria.matthews@scotiagasnetworks.co.uk or alternatively call Maria Matthews on 01293 818086 quoting reference number 89991Ext.

Completed application forms must be returned by close of play on 18 December 2008.

SGN is an equal opportunities employer.

Oban Times RECRUITMENT Oban Times RECRUITMENT Oban Times RECRUITMENT
Oban Times RECRUITMENT Oban Times RECRUITMENT Oban Times RECRUITMENT

Glen Nevis Holidays

Vacancies starting 2009

Working Park Manager

Enthusiastic, capable person to manage our substantial holiday business catering for touring caravans and camping, self-catering holiday caravans, cottages, luxury lodges and shop / reception.
Some experience of practical management, preferably in the holiday trade and reasonable 'hands on' knowledge of property, machinery and services maintenance is also necessary.
Involves general management of the business including direction and motivation of park workforce. Post available for partner if required.
Remuneration package including good housing is available for the successful applicant.

Administrator/Management Assistant

Required for our busy Holiday Park business in Glen Nevis.
General office duties, book-keeping and organising and maintaining systems, records, assessments etc in H.R., H & S, Licensing and other areas of business. Some organisation and supervision of projects and development works. This position will require a self-motivated and practical individual with an enthusiastic 'hands-on' approach to a varied workload.

Assistant Chef/Manager

Due to retirement of our well-liked manager of 25 years we require an enthusiastic chef / manager to assist in the operation of our Restaurant and Lounge Bar in rural West Coast location close to Fort William.
The suitable person will have responsibilities in the operation of all aspects of the business and have a sound knowledge of both catering and bar operation and management. The ability to promote and market our services will be necessary.
The business caters for holiday and local trade seating approx 80 in Restaurant and 90 in Lounge Bar. Currently operating mainly seasonally, the company wishes to develop a year round operation.
Skill, enthusiasm and a strong work ethic will be rewarded with a good remuneration package and conditions.

FOR EACH POSITION: Please apply in writing with C.V. to:
Mr R.J. McCready (Director)
Glen Nevis Holidays Ltd
Glen Nevis
FORT WILLIAM
PH33 6SX
rmc@glen-nevis.co.uk www.glen-nevis.co.uk

1

Telephone 01631 568000 for your paid for advert to run for a SECOND WEEK FREE

BABY EQUIPMENT

BACK CARRIER Mothercare infant back carrier, hardly used, dark red, £20. Telephone 07801 300664.

FISHER PRICE bounce and spin zebra, 1 - 3 years, excellent condition, £20. Telephone 01546 602128.

TOMY BABY backpack carrier, lightweight frame, suit 6month - 2yrs, hardly used, £7. Telephone 01546 602161.

BICYCLES

BATMAN BIKE child's Batman bike, including stabilisers, 10" wheels, very good condition, £10. Telephone 07788 490723/ 01631 562716.

SILVERFOX BICYCLE boys bicycle, suit 10-12yrs, good condition, £45. Telephone 01631 720452.

TRAILER BIKE - Hand built, lightweight 531 frame, 5 speed gears, 5 point fixing, Pannier rack very good condition, £100. Telephone 01397 772430.

BOOKS

ADRIAN MOLE 'The Confessions', £2. Telephone 01546 603704.

ADRIAN MOLE 'The Growing Pains', £3. Telephone 01546 603704.

ADRIAN MOLE 'Weapons of Mass Destruction',£4.Telephone 01546 603704.

ENID BLYTON Mallory Towers set of 6 hardback, £10. Telephone 01546 603704.

HOLLYOAKS BOOK 'Running Wild', £2. Telephone 01546 603704.

BUILDING / DIY

GLAZED UNITS 2 double glazed units in white UPVC - ideal for cold frames etc 54" x 33" approx, £5. Telephone 07733 485482.

SCAFFOLDING for sale, Arisaig, a quantity of second hand scaffolding, complete with battens and hop-ups, ideal for large self-build, will only be sold in one lot, £2,500. Telephone 01687 450623.

WOODTURNING LATH Coronet Major blue, complete with stand, chucks and tools, £180. Telephone 01397 772522/ 07900 447995 Corpach.

CHRISTMAS

XMAS TREE artificial, 6'6", boxed, unused, £10. Telephone 01631 564915.

CLOTHES, SHOES AND ACCESSORIES

AMERICAN BOOTS American Red Wing boots, pull on, size 7, brand new, was £60, now £35. Telephone 07884 240953.

BLACK CROC type wellies, size 5, £4. Telephone 01546 603704.

CHILDRENS JUMPERS 5 hand knitted children's jumpers (new) fit 3-5yrs, each £10. Telephone 01631 571077.

HOGGS BOOTS work boots, size 9, pull on, brand new, brown, £35. Telephone 07884 240953.

RED SPARKLY party shoes, size 4, brand new, £5. Telephone 01546 603704.

SKETCHER TRAINERS pink / white, size 4, brand new, £20. Telephone 01546 603704.

SKI JACKET and trousers, white and red XL, £20. Telephone 01546 603704.

SWEAR PLATFORM shoes, dark blue, size 5, from Schuh, £15. Telephone 01546 603704.

TRESPASS FLEECE jacket, blue / grey, size large adult, £6. Telephone 01546 603704.

COMPUTERS AND GAMES

EYETOY CAMERA and 3 games, play, sport, groove, used with PS2, £10. Telephone 01546 602161.

PLAYSTATION 2 pop idol game, £3. Telephone 01546 606704.

PLAYSTATION 2 dance factory game, £3. Telephone 01546 603704.

PLAYSTATION 2 dance UK xl game, £3. Telephone 01546 603704.

PLAYSTATION 2 dance party game, £3. Telephone 01546 603704.

X ROCKER chair, hardly used, compatible with Xbox 360, £35. Telephone 01499 500692 after 6pm.

CREELS

PRAWN CREELS 90 Medley creels, fair condition, plus 30 older creels, offers when seen, phone after 6pm. Telephone 01397 701385.

DOMESTIC APPLIANCES

BIONAIREHUMIDIFIER similar one in Argos for £59.99, unwanted gift, quick sale hence £25. Telephone 01631 563116.

BOSCH FREEZER 23½" wide, 24" deep, 33¼" high, as new, £49.99. Telephone 07733 485482.

CHARNWOOD STOVE excellent condition with built in back boiler, £49.99. Telephone 07771 712298.

DOMESTIC PETS

ROTWEILER PUPPY Pedigree Rotweiler Puppy, 3 months old, all vaccinations, £450. Telephone 01631 565328.

COLLIE PUPS for sale, farm reared, ready now, £50. Telephone 07748 226203.

COLLIE PUPS black and white, farm reared with children on the Isle of Lismore, will make excellent working dogs or pets, delivery to the main land no problem. Telephone Peter – 01631 760336.

JACK RUSSELL Jack Russell Pup, 9 week old male, well marked, friendly and playful, wormed and well fed. Suitable for pet or working, £150 to good home. Telephone 01546 603770 / 07786152966.

EQUESTRIAN

RIDING BOOTS leather, Hawkins size 5, narrow fitting, very good condition, £49.99. Telephone 01546 603267.

FURNITURE

BEDROOM CHAIRS 2 rust/rose fleck chairs, dralon material, immaculate condition, each, £15. Telephone 01631 563116.

BUNK BED triple sleeper bunk bed, double bed below, single upper, blue steel frame, good condition, £45. Telephone 01631 564954.

COMPUTER DESK corner computer desk with lots of shelves, cherry effect, good condition, 1m x 1m, £45. Telephone 01631 564954.

DOUBLE BED Double fold down bed in good condition, £49.99. Telephone 01631 565328.

HIGH SLEEPER lilac metal high sleeper with desk and single futon chair, very good condition, £49.99. Telephone 01631 564885.

KITCHEN TABLE Kitchen breakfast table and 2 stools, white base with pine tops, excellent condition, £45. Telephone 01631 563303.

SINGLE BED 'Willowbrook' adjustable single bed and massage mattress, £250 ono. Telephone 01852 200237.

SINGLE PINE beds with anti allergy mattress plus bedding, hardly used, £45. Telephone 01546 602684.

SOLID PINE 4 dining room chairs, £49. Telephone 01631 562171.

SOLID PINE round dining room table, £49. Telephone 01631 562171.

TABLE AND CHAIRS solid pine table 5'x3', four beech chairs, good condition, £49.99. Telephone 01586 552183.

TV BENCH flat pack birch veneer TV bench, still in box, £25. Telephone 01631 562455.

GREYHOUNDS

The Retired Greyhound Trust have beautiful dogs and bitches suitable for adoption. These dogs are fully vaccinated and spayed/ neutered. If you feel you could offer one of these ex-racers a home please contact Northern Division on 01470 511705 or 01463 235696. The RGT is a registered charity No 269668. A donation is required. Look forward to hearing from you.

HEALTH AND FITNESS

HOLLYOAKS DANCE workout box set, £3. Telephone 01546 603704.

HEATING, FIRES AND FIREPLACES

ELECTRIC FIRE Fan Dimplex radiator lightweight newish, £20. Telephone 01631 563935.

FAN HEATER small, white, 1000/2000 watts, built in thermal cut off, hot or cold use, £10. Telephone 07733 485482.

HIGHLAND DRESS

PRINCE CHARLIE jacket and waistcoat, 38-40" all wool, seldom worn, £49.99. Telephone 01631 730387/ 07752 300363.

HOME ENTERTAINMENT

BUSH TV 26" TV with remote, £45. Telephone 01631 565079.

FREEVIEW BOX Alba freeview digi box, brand new, never used, £20. Telephone 07884 240953.

PORTABLE TV Alba (not digital) and remote control, £5. Telephone 07733 485482.

PORTABLE TV Sharp, no remote control (not digital), £5. Telephone 07733 485482.

TOSHIBA TV 26", with remote control, £30. Telephone 07733 485482.

HOME FURNISHINGS

CEILING LIGHT triple, with opaque shades, brass effect, £10. Telephone 07733 485482.

DUVET SETS 3 boys' duvet sets, £5. Telephone 07788 490723/ 01631 562716 evenings.

KINGSIZE THROW patchwork throw in cream, green and pink (lovely), matching green velour curtains 66"x72" c/w tiebacks, all in excellent condition, £49.99. Telephone 07733 485482.

LARGE RUG (used) 200 x 295, beige with various patterns, ideal for playroom, £30. Telephone 01631 564364.

STANDARD LAMP tall mahogany stand with pink shade, matching shade for table lamp, £20. Telephone 07733 485482.

THOMAS TANK bedroom accessories, duvet set, curtains, lamp, light shade etc, very good condition, £20. Telephone 07788 490723 or 01631 562716 evenings.

HOME OFFICE

FILING CABINET grey wood, bottom drawer with files and 2 smaller drawers above, on castors, 17"w x 15"d x 26¼"h, £20. Telephone 07733 485482.

JEWELLERY

GOLD BRACELET 'Footprints in the Sand' bracelet (gold), £40. Telephone 01397 773095.

SILVER COATED playboy bracelet, £3. Telephone 01546 603704.

SILVER WATCH Winnie the Pooh watch, silver, in silver presentation box, brand new, £7. Telephone 01546 603704.

KITCHEN AND BATHROOM

BATHROOM CABINET white, 2 mirrored doors, inner shelves, as new, 20" long x 18½" high x 5½" deep, £10. Telephone 07733 485482.

CORNER BATH used but in good condition with mixer tap, £20 Telephone 01631 564954.

SHOWER TRAY 760mm riser shower tray with front panel, brand new and unused, £40. Telephone 01631 564954.

LEISURE AND LIFESTYLE

CHESS SET Celtic design, ivory colour, brand new, in box, bought for £50 sell for, £20. Telephone 01631 563286.

DARTBOARD and darts, £15. Telephone 01546 603704.

PROFESSIONAL DART board in cabinet, £15. Telephone 01546 602542.

SNOOKER TABLE 5ft x 2.5 ft, £30. Telephone 01546 602542.

LIVESTOCK

HAY best quality Timothy, £3.50. D Keate, Kilmelford. Telephone 01852 200500.

POULTRY NETTING, electric, 50 metres, £45. Telephone 07833 383139.

MAIL ORDER

SCOTTISH FIELD CALENDARS, featuring spectacular photography of some of our most scenic lochs, rivers, beaches and mountains. Always a popular gift for family and friends at home or abroad. Order on-line at www.scottishfield.co.uk/calendar 2008.

OBAN TIMES WEST HIGHLAND CALENDAR fabulous views of the West Highlands portrayed in this handy and conveniently sized calendar. Ideal for home offices or as a gift. Order on-line at www.obantimes.co.uk/calendar 2008.

MISCELLANEOUS

MISS SIXTY elixir perfume, brand new, £5. Telephone 01546 603704.

MOBILITY

ELECTRIC WHEELCHAIR Invacare Spectra plus, cost £3,095 new in 2006 will accept £1,000ono. Telephone 01700 821235.

MUSIC, VIDEO'S AND DVD'S

HOME AND AWAY 'Secrets of the City, £3. Telephone 01546 603704.

NEIGHBOURS VIDEOS collection of 4, £10. Telephone 01546 603704.

PRINTING AND STATIONERY

MULTIPURPOSE PAPER - For use on all copiers, laser and inkjet printers. Also available coloured paper and board, sizes to order. Contact Krisp Printing and Stationery, Burnbank, Campbeltown. 01586 554975.

PARTY INVITATIONS - Formal or funny, we will personalise them to your requirements. Contact Krisp Printing and Stationery, Burnbank, Campbeltown. 01586 554975.

TOYS AND GAMES

ATMOSPHERE the video boardgame, £5. Telephone 01546 603704.

CRAZY BABES beads for hair, brand new, £5. Telephone 01546 603704.

DVD GAME Beat the Intro, music DVD game, £4. Telephone 01546 603704.

DVD GAME The Greatest TV Trivia, £5. Telephone 01546 603704.

FAMILY FORTUNES interactive DVD game, £5. Telephone 01546 603704.

GAMES TABLE 10 in 1, very good condition, £49.99. Telephone 01546 603704.

GIRLS CRUSH streak and style for hair, brand new, £10. Telephone 01546 603704.

PENNY FALLS arcade, £7. Telephone 01546 603704.

ROCKING HORSE child's musical rocking horse, very good condition, £8. Telephone 07788 490723 or 01631 562716 evenings.

THE SIMPSONS mosaics jigsaw, brand new, £15. Telephone 01546 603704.

THE SIMPSONS chess set, brand new, £14. Telephone 01546 603704.

TOP GEAR the cars the star board game, excellent condition, £7. Telephone 01546 603704.

TOY GRAB machine, £5. Telephone 01546 603704.

TOY SINGING chicken, £5. Telephone 01546 603704.

TOY SLOT machine, £5. Telephone 01546 603704.

TROLLS large selection, £3. Telephone 01546 603704.

WILD SCIENCE superball factory, brand new, £8. Telephone 01546 603704.

WANTED

WANTED - All types of scrap metal. We uplift scrap cars. Call G Cook, West Coast Scrap Metals on 01499 500638 / Mobile 07787 991636.

PERSONALS

Happy 30th John MacLean 7/12/78

MORRISON

Morag and Alex thank the family for making their 80th birthday special, also cards, gifts and flowers, thanks to all. Thank you also for catering by Soroba House Hotel.

Oban Times PRIVATE CLASSIFIED

Oban Times PRIVATE CLASSIFIED

If you don't sell in the first week, we will insert your paid for advert FREE in the next available issue

LOCAL services

Tel: 01631 568000
THE place to be seen

PLUMBING & HEATING

We install and maintain plumbing systems
We install and maintain all types of central heating
We maintain all types of boilers
We install underfloor heating systems

J M Gillies Ltd
Plumbing & Heating Contractors
Unit 8 Tweedmill
Soroba Road
Oban Argyll
Tel: 01631 565636
Fax 01631 564724
Email Information @jmgillies.co.uk

REMOVALS & STORAGE

MACQUEEN BROS LTD
Removals and Storage
Full Packing Service Available
Glengallan Road
Oban, Argyll
PA34 4HG
Tel: (01631) 564848
Fax: (01631) 570627
e-mail: info@macqueenbros.com

HEATING

ISLAND HEATING COMPANY
CORGI Registered
Based Mid Argyll covering Argyll and the Islands.
Domestic and Commercial Gas, Oil and Solid Fuel
Tel. 07867 846 521
See our website: www.islandheating.co.uk

Oban Times LOCAL SERVICES

CARAVANS

WINTER SALE
25+ USED STATIC CARAVANS from only
★ £1,700 ★
(multiple uses)

NEW STATIC CARAVANS ALSO AVAILABLE
Transport can be arranged
Contact Alex at Loch Awe Holiday Park
07717 582540 or 01866 822666
★ or Keith Campbell 07768 647180 ★
www.argyllholidays.com/vans

ROOFING

Hudson Roofing & Property Repairs
All aspects of roofing & property repairs undertaken
Over 20 years experience ensuring quality & craftsmanship
Telephone 01852 300424

CLEANING

1ST CHOICE CLEANING SPECIALISTS
Carpets and upholstery cleaning at its best!
All work guaranteed
Telephone:
07815 036684
or
01631 720322
01631 720297
Evenings

PAINTER & DECORATOR

JAMES ALLAN
PAINTERS and DECORATORS
For all your interior and exterior needs
Private and Commercial
Tel: 01631 566050
Fax: 01631 566050
Mob: 07887 510101
Email:
jimmyallan02@aol.co.uk
Established for 30 years

SOFT FURNISHINGS

Stitch Nine
SPECIALISTS IN BLINDS AND CURTAINS
Phone and Fax: 01631 710713
Email: info@stitchnine.co.uk
Web: www.stitchnine.co.uk

ACCOUNTANTS

JEAN AINSLEY & Co
Accounts preparation and production. Full book-keeping service. No fee for initial consultation.
Tel: 01631 567007.

COMPUTERS REPAIRS

HOOK DATA SERVICES
Hardware
Software
Advice
Repairs
Consumables
Call in or telephone:
01546 830157
Crinan Harbour
by Lochgilphead

JOINERS & UNDERTAKERS

D & A MUNN
Joiners, Builders & Funeral Directors
Breadalbane Street, Oban
Telephone
01631 562562
or
01631 562203

HAMISH HOEY & SON
Joiners & Funeral Directors
37-39 Stevenson Street, Oban
Telephone:
01631 562269
24-HOUR SERVICE

PERSONALISED CALENDARS
A perfect gift for family and friends
Prices From £2.60
Sample calendars can be seen at
The Oban Times Ltd
Lochavullin Industrial Estate
Crannog Lane, Oban
Tel: 01631 568 000

TURN YOUR UNWANTED ITEMS INTO CASH!
UNDER £50 FREE!

To advertise here's what you do:-

IN PERSON - Fill in the booking form below. Call into one of our four West Highland sales offices with your advert and one of our sales team will take your details. Your advert will appear in the next available issues of The Oban Times, Argyllshire Advertiser and Campbeltown Courier guaranteeing more than 40,000 readers.

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 • No livestock • No business ads or traders • All adverts will appear space permitting • All advertisements must be on a valid coupon • Coupon must be from the previous weeks newspaper

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

YOUR LOCAL WEST HIGHLAND OFFICES:
OBAN : The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB
FORT WILLIAM : The Oban Times, Mamore House, The Parade, Fort William PH33 6BA
CAMPBELTOWN : The Campbeltown Courier, Courier Centre, Main & Longrow South, Campbeltown, Argyll PA28 6AE
LOCHGILPHEAD : Argyllshire Advertiser, Argyll Street, Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8NB

SELL YOUR ITEMS WORTH £50 OR MORE FOR AS LITTLE AS £13.50
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. Call into one of our four West Highland sales offices with your advert and one of our sales team will take your details. Your advert will appear in the next available issues of The Oban Times, Argyllshire Advertiser and Campbeltown Courier guaranteeing more than 40,000 readers.

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 (see coupon on motors page for details

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

Card No. ..... Expiry Date..... Signature.....
Name .....
Address .....
Postcode ..... Tel .....

YOUR LOCAL WEST HIGHLAND OFFICES:
OBAN : The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB
FORT WILLIAM : The Oban Times, Mamore House, The Parade, Fort William PH33 6BA
CAMPBELTOWN : The Campbeltown Courier, Courier Centre, Main & Longrow South, Campbeltown, Argyll PA28 6AE
LOCHGILPHEAD : Argyllshire Advertiser, Argyll Street, Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8NB

Photographic Orders

You can order photographs published in this newspaper

A5 photograph: £4.41
A4 photograph: £6.76

Order from the relevant offices by filling in the coupon below, quoting the code, shown alongside the picture

Name .....
Address .....
.....
.....

Picture code	Date of Paper	A5 No. of copies £4.41 per photograph (inc.vat)	A4 No. of copies £6.76 per photograph (inc.vat)
Total			

Payment can be made in cash or by cheque, (cheques to be made out to Wyvex Media) To cover postage and packing 1 to 3 photos £1.30 extra charge, 4 to 5 photos £1.60 charge. Anymore is an extra £2 charge

Please send/bring your order to:

The Oban Times
PO Box 1, Oban Argyll, PA34 4HB
Tel: 01631 568000

The Oban Times
Mamore House
Fort William, PH33 6BA
Tel: 01397 703003

Campbeltown Courier
Courier Centre
Campbeltown, PA28 6AE
Tel: 01586 554646

Argyllshire Advertiser
Argyll Street
Lochgilphead PA31 8NB
Tel: 01546 602345

The Oban Times PREPAID ADVERTISING RATES

Private Classifieds Lineage Rates
Minimum charge £11.49 + VAT (up to 16 words) thereafter £2.13 per line
Box Number Fee £4.70 (+VAT)

Births, Engagements, Marriages, Deaths and Acknowledgments
Minimum charge £11.06 (+VAT) thereafter £2.13 per line (+VAT)

In Memoriam:
Minimum charge £8.09 (+VAT) thereafter £1.70 per line (+VAT)

Trade Classifieds:
See Trade Classified Page for Rates

Trade Display:
£8.65 per single column centimetre

Recruitment:
£15.25 per single column centimetre

Public Notices:
£9.75 per single column centimetre

Properties
£9.40 per single column centimetre

Private Accommodation to Let/Wanted
£9.40 per single column centemeter
(all rates exclusive of VAT)

Personals:
£6.50 per single column centimetre

Payment: Pre-payment required for advertisements of less than £50 (excluding death notices)

Please make cheques and postal orders payable to
The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB
www.obantimes.co.uk

CONDITIONS OF ACCEPTANCE FOR ADVERTISEMENTS

YOUR attention is drawn to the following terms and conditions which relate to the placing of advertisements in all publications owned by Wyvex Media Limited.
Parties to this agreement are the Publisher, Wyvex Media Limited Limited on the one part and the Advertiser on the other part. The Publisher publishes newspapers, magazines, books and provides advertising space therein or provides for the delivery of advertising materials to the public within these publications.
1 Advertising copy shall be legal, decent, honest and truthful and comply with the British Code of Advertising Practice and all other codes.
2 The Publisher does not guarantee the insertion of any particular advertisement.
3 The Publisher reserves the right to cancel or alter the advertisement by giving reasonable notice.
4 An order for an advertisement shall be deemed to be made on acceptance of the advertisers' order by the Publisher whether placed by telephone, mail, fax or in person.
5 Cancellation of display advertising must be received by the Publisher before the publishing deadline, failing which, the publisher reserves the right to invoice the customer in full for the whole cost of the advertisement.
6 The parties submit to the jurisdiction of the Scottish Courts and Scots Law. In the event of any dispute or action by the Publisher to recover payment from an advertiser, it is agreed that matters will be settled in the Oban, Argyll Sheriff Court or such other Court as the Publisher may choose.
7 The Publisher shall not be liable for any loss or damage occasioned by any total or partial failure (however caused) of publication or distribution of any newspaper or edition in which any advertisement is scheduled to appear. In the event of any error, misprint or omission in the printing of an advertisement or part of an advertisement, the Publisher will either re-insert the advertisement or relevant part of the advertisement, as the case may be, or make reasonable refund or adjustment to the cost. No re-insertion, refund or adjustment will be made where the error, misprint or omission does not materially detract from the advertisement.
8 Errors must be notified to the Publisher in writing within fourteen days of publication. In no circumstances shall the total liability of the Publisher for any error, misprint or omission exceed the amount of a full refund of any price paid to the Publisher for the particular advertisement in connection with which liability arose or the cost of a further or corrective advertisement of a type and standard reasonably comparable to that in connection with which liability arose.
9 The Advertiser/Advertising Agency agrees to indemnify the Publisher in respect of all costs, damages or other charges falling upon the publication as the result of legal actions or threatened legal actions arising from the publication of the advertisement in any one or more of a series of advertisements published in accordance with copy instructions supplied to the publication in pursuance of the Advertiser/Advertising Agency order.
10 Adverts under the value of £75 must be paid on acceptance of order by the Publisher. All advertising on a credit basis must be agreed with the Publisher in advance.
11 Payment of any invoice raised by the Publisher will be due 15 days from the date of invoice or as otherwise directed on the invoice. In the event of non-payment the Publisher may charge late payment interest at a rate of 2% and this is chargeable on a daily basis from the due date until the bill is paid. In addition the Publisher may charge a late payment levy of £10 as an administration fee. In the event of late payment the Publisher reserves the right to disallow any discounts given and to raise an additional invoice for the discount which will be treated as though it has been raised with the original invoice.
12 A request to insert an advertisement assumes acceptance of our conditions.

Published by Wyvex Media Limited, P.O. Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB, (01631) 568000 Fax (01631) 568001 — www.obantimes.co.uk and registered as a newspaper at the Post Office

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 newsagents 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
Lochgilphead
☎(01546) 602345
Fax (01546) 602661
Campbeltown
☎(01586) 554646
Fax (01586) 553006

BIRTHS

FILES - McKENZIE - Andy and Julie are delighted to announce the arrival of Daniel Robert, on November 11, 2008. A little brother for Sean. With many thanks to Oban and Royal Alexandra Hospital Maternity Units.

GILLILAND - David and Donna are delighted to announce the arrival of their son, Kieran Robert, on October 27, 2008. First grandson for John and Iona MacCormick, Mull, and Duncan and Susan Gilliland, Elgin.

TINDAL - PETRIE - On November 22, 2008, to Graham and Sara, a son, Roan. First grandchild for Ken and Janetta, Isle of Iona, third for Ronnie and Margaret, Largs. Thanks to Pauline and staff at Crosshouse.

DEATHS

CHAMBERS - Robert Millburn, peacefully at the Lorn and Islands District General Hospital, husband of the late Chrissie MacPhee, father of Edward and James, loving grandfather of Tonia and Grant, will be sadly missed by all. A funeral service will take place from the Church of Scotland, Glencruitten Road, Oban, on Monday December 8, 2008, at 1.30pm.

HENDERSON - Kenneth Cameron, beloved husband of Peggy (formerly of Kelvin Guest House, Oban), died suddenly and peacefully on November 25, 2008. Cremation in Poole on December 5, 2008, and ashes to be interred in Oban in the spring.

KERSLEY - Peacefully on Thursday, November 27, 2008, at the Lorn and Islands District General Hospital, Oban, John, aged 75 years of An Grianan, Glen Creran, Appin. Beloved husband of Marie and much loved father of Colin and Tony. Loved father-in-law to Shirley and Jackie. Cherished grandfather of Steven, Hannah, Jodie, Hayley, Amanda-Jane and Paul and great-grandfather to Holly. Will be sadly missed by all family and friends. Funeral service at Cardross Crematorium on Tuesday, December 9, 2008, at 1.30pm. Family flowers only please. Donations if desired to Port Appin Surgery.

MACDOUGALL - Colin Rowan, died peacefully at home on Saturday, November 29, 2008. Dear husband of Lesley, much loved dad of David, Donnie, Holly and Kimberley and papa of Cheyenne. Funeral service will take place at Church of Scotland, Kinlochleven, on Friday, December 5, 2008, at 1pm, thereafter to Kinlochmore Cemetery.

MACKENZIE - Suddenly but peacefully, surrounded by his family in the Belford Hospital on Saturday, November 29, 2008, aged 77 years, Willie (piano tuner), beloved husband of Neileen, much loved dad to Wilma and Eilidh, father-in-law to Thomas and Francis and devoted grandpa to Liam and Ceiran. Funeral will be held in the Duncansburgh MacKintosh Church on Friday, December 5, 2008, at 12 noon. Family flowers only, donations to the medical ward of the Belford Hospital and the Special Care Baby Unit, Raigmore Hospital. All friends are respectfully invited.

McNAB - Peacefully at the Belford Hospital on Sunday, November 23, 2008, age 83, Bessie Stewart (née Girvan), beloved wife of the late William, much loved mother of George, Sandy and Agnes and much loved gran and great-gran. Funeral service was held in St Columba's Church, Mallaig, on Thursday, November 27, 2008, thereafter at Bourblach Cemetery, Morar. Sadly missed by all.

MATTHEWS - Peacefully at his home in New York, USA, on November 24, 2008, Harry McEldowney Matthews, aged 82, beloved husband of Catherine and father of Charles, William and James. Harry was an active member of Clan Donald USA, Clan Donald Foundation and a Trustee of the Clan Donald Trust on Skye. He was a passionate and generous supporter of all things Scottish, including the National Trust for Scotland, The Scottish Tartans Society, the Museum of Islay Life, the West Highland Museum and of the Library at the Museum of the Isles, Armadale on Skye. A great Clansman, he will be sadly missed. A memorial service will be held in New York on Thursday, December 11, 2008. For further information call Rob McD Parker on 0131 552 9371.

ROBISON - At the Lorn and Islands District General Hospital, on November 28, 2008, in her 97th year, Ellen Douglas Forbes, MBE, beloved daughter of the late Robert and Ellen and a special friend to the late Margaret France. Much loved aunt to all the family and a loving friend to many and already greatly missed.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

MACINNES - Catherine, Malcolm and family of the late Mary MacInnes would like to thank all relatives and friends for sympathy and kindness extended to them following their sad loss. Special thanks to Hamish Hoey and sons for their caring and helpful arrangements, Rev A MacLachlan for his visits and comforting service, Donnie MacDougall for piping at the graveside, Miranda at Tigh-an-Truish for a beautiful funeral tea, finally thank you to all who gave their last respects and who kindly donated to Isle of Seil Lunch Club and Cruachan ward.

MACKAY - The family of the late Jessie Mackay (MacNiven), of Lochawe, would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for their support, many cards and kind messages of sympathy. We are also grateful to the carers and district nurses for their long term dedication. Thanks to all those who attended St Conan's Kirk or Muckairn Churchyard on November 27, 2008, and to the Rev Liz Gibson for the comforting funeral service. All flowers sent were also much appreciated. Thanks also to the organist, Maud Gray, to Iain MacIntyre for piping and to D and A Munn for their quiet efficiency. Finally, thanks to those family members who tirelessly helped with arrangements and catering.

MACKINNON - The family of the late Nancy MacKinnon would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for their kindness and messages of sympathy extended to them following their sad loss. Special thanks to the doctors and nurses of the Lorn and Islands District General Hospital, Oban. Thanks also to the Rev Dugald Cameron for his comforting service, to D and A Munn for their caring and professional funeral arrangements and to all those who paid their respects at church and graveside. Generous donations amounted to £238.40 for Chest, Heart and Stroke, Oban Branch.

McNAB - The family of the late Cathie (Kitty) née MacAllister, formerly of Cumlodden, Furnace, would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for their kind expressions of sympathy following their recent sad loss. Thanks to staff at Ardfenaig Residential Home, Ardrishaig, for their exceptional care, to Rev Dr Roddy MacLeod for his comforting service, to Donald MacDonald Funeral Directors for efficient funeral arrangements, to the George Hotel, Inveraray, for catering provided and also to all who paid their respects at church and graveside.

MAVOR - Donnie and the family would like to thank most sincerely all family, friends and neighbours for their kind expressions of sympathy, cards, letters, phone calls and floral tributes received following the sad loss of Ina. Sincere thanks to the Rev Richard Corbett for his comforting service in Kilmallie Church, to Theresa and Kevin of John MacLellan and Company Ltd, undertakers, for their professional and courteous funeral arrangements, and to Ian MacKintosh and staff of Corpach Hotel for catering. A special thanks to Matron and staff of Mosspark Nursing Home for the loving care and attention lavished on Ina over the past two years. Finally our thanks to the gravediggers and to all who paid their last respects at church and graveside. The amount of £300 will be donated to Mosspark Nursing Home.

ROEBUCK - Kenneth Lionel. Isla, Alison and families wish to thank most sinerely all relatives, neighbours and friends for their support, expressions of sympathy and flowers received following their very sad loss. Special thanks to Dr and Mrs Latta. We are grateful for the support of the Rev Steve Fulcher and all who attended the comforting service and paid their last respects at the graveside. Our thanks to Bridgend Hotel and Messrs MacAffer for their efficiency. Donations amounting to over £500 were collected for Kilmeny Church.

IN MEMORIAMS

FORTEITH - In loving memory of Iain, who died December 3, 2002.
Few hearts like his, with virtue warm'd
Few heads with knowledge so inform'd
If there's another world, he lives in bliss
If there is none, he made the best of this.
Treasured memories.
- Janice and the children and grandchildren…never forgotten…

GILLIES - In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Graeme, who died tragically in Goa, on December 3, 2006.
Those we love don't go away
They walk beside us every day
Unseen, unheard, but always near
Still loved, still missed and very dear.
Sadly missed.
- Dad, Mam, Scott and Sarah, Kevin and Ross.

KENNEDY - Cherished forever, memories of Eva, a loving mother, granny and nana, who died December 6, 2003.
A daily thought
A silent tear
A constant wish that you were here
Remembered always.
- Emily and Ken, Kathleen, Roddy, Jenna, Iain and Louise and family, Bruce, Mairi and family.

LOGINOV - Remembering with love, a dear husband, dad and papa, Michael, who died on December 3, 2006. RIP.
You are always close beside us
In everything we do
You were our greatest treasure
God's gift to us was you.
In our hearts you will always stay
Loved and remembered every day.
- Joey, Michael, Anne and family.

MACCALLUM - Remembering with love Elaine, who died December 5, 2006, a wonderful wife, mum, sister and grandma.
It's lonely here without you
We miss you more each day
For life is not the same for us
Since you were called away.
- Dougie and family.

MACCALLUM - Treasured memories of Jackie, a loving husband, father and papa who passed away December 9, 1993.
Fondly remembered.
- Jessie and family.

MACEACHEN - In loving memory of Alister, dear husband, father and papa, died December 8, 1998, also remembering loved ones gone before. RIP.
Ten years since you passed away
In our hearts you will always stay
Loved and remembered every day.
- Margaret, Michael, Pauline, Craig and Scott.

MACINTOSH - In loving memory of my dear wife, Morag, who died on November 27, 1979.
Always remembered.
- Inserted by her husband, Ewen and son Hector.

MACKAY - In loving memory of my dear parents, Hughina, who died December 7, 2006, and Alick who died February 28, 1975.
No longer in my life to share
But in my heart you're always there
Both too special to ever forget.
Remembered with love.
- Jean, Roddy, Alexander, Kathleen and Donald Roddy.

MACKENZIE - In loving memory of our dear dad and granddad, Archie, who died December 7, 1998.
Sadly missed.
- Peter, Donna, Isla and Kelly.

MACLEOD - In loving memory of my very dear mother, Mary, also a grandmother, who died on December 7, 2007.
Those we cherish never truly leave us
They live on in the love and kindness
They brought into our lives
Thinking of you always mum and dad - together again forever.
- Love Marianne, John, Euan and Michael.

MACQUEEN - In loving memory of our dear dad, Colin, lost at sea November 30, 1990.
Silent thoughts, memories dear
As time unfolds another year.
Love and miss you always.
- Yvonne, Richard and Michael.

SMITH - In loving memory of our dear mum and nana Jessie.
The love of our life
We love and miss you
More every day x
- Amina, Janet, Mary and families.

TIMMS - Remembering with love a dear mum and nana, Shena, who passed away November 30, 1971.
Also remembering all other loved ones.
The flowers we place upon your grave
May wither and decay
But our love for you who sleeps beneath
Will never fade away.
- Love Catherine, Lachie and family.

WOTHERSPOON - Cherished memories of my husband and our dad, Kenny, who was tragically taken from us on December 7, 1989.
Loved and remembered Forever and always.
- Margaret, Kenneth and Cheryl.

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 Scotland
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, P.O. Box 500, Gillespie Crescent, Edinburgh, EH10 4HZ**

Church NEWS

Please keep sending in the news about your church!
Church News, The Oban Times, PO Box 1
Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB or FAX: (01631) 568001

Strathfillan minister and parishioners receive their eco-congregation certificate from Patrick Harvie MSP. From left, John MacPherson, Moira Robertson, Rev Liz Gibson, Martyn Gibson and Fiona Tickner.

Church celebrates going green

AN ARGYLL churches could get composting toilets as part of efforts by congregations to go green.

The Church of Scotland parish of Strathfillan, covering Bridge of Orchy, Tyndrum and Crainlarich, became the 200th eco-congregation in Scotland last week.

The minister and four representatives of the parish were presented with a certificate by Green MSP Patrick Harvie at a ceremony in at Edinburgh's Storytelling Centre.

The Rev Liz Gibson said: 'The congregation has already come up with a number suggestions, including a compostable toilet and we will investigate further.'

She added that churches offer a unique perspective on caring for the planet, but also face specific challenges: 'We are coming at it from the angle of it's God's creation, and if we care about God, we should care about His creation.

'There are lots of issues to do with the age or the size of the buildings or how often they are used. In theory a church which is only in use part of the week could sell renewable energy back to the grid the rest of the time.'

The network of eco-congregations was set up to help churches tackle environmental issues, with a 'church check up' tailored to religious buildings. Parishes sign up to take practical action and raise awareness in the community.

Rev Gibson added that the linked parish of Glenorchy and Innishail was also working towards eco-church accreditation.

She added: 'Sustainability is a big issue for us and we are looking forward to working with a variety of local groups, including the community trust and the primary school.

'We are delighted to become the 200th eco-congregation in Scotland.'

ECCLESIASTICAL NOTICES

ASSOCIATED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, OBAN
Campbell Street Church
Sunday 7 December 2008
11 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.
Phone-In *'Worship Link'* available
Rev. Archie McPhail MA, MTh
☎(01631) 567076
All welcome

LORN CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
Sunday 10a.m.
St Moluag's Centre
Croft Avenue
Oban
All welcome
Telephone
07876 735 794

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH ANGLICAN COMMUNION
Sunday 7 December 2008
Advent 2
St John's Cathedral, Oban
John the Baptist
Holy Communion 08.00
Sung Eucharist 10.15
Sunday School and Creche
Loop System
Large Print Hymn Books
All welcome
Norman MacCallum, Provost
☎(01631) 562323
Kilbrandon Kirk
Holy Eucharist 15.15
St Columba, Gruline, Mull
Mattins 11.00
St Columba, Bishop's House, Iona
Holy Eucharist 10.00

MEMORIALS

OBAN MEMORIALS
Alistair MacLean
MASTER SCULPTOR
Glenalmu, Soroba Road Oban
Designs and prices on request
LETTERING AND RENOVATING DONE IN ANY CEMETERY
☎01631 563123 563269

STOKES MEMORIALS
Pride, Quality, PQ, Guaranteed, Est 1973
FRASER DOWNIE (MASTER SCULPTOR)
New and Traditional Hand Designed Memorials
Additional lettering, cleaning and renovations
Work carried out in any cemetery
FREE DELIVERY TO ALL ISLANDS
Free Advice and Estimates - Brochures by Request
312-314 Argyll Street, Dunoon
Tel/Fax: **(01369) 702162**
Serving Argyll, Highlands and Islands for over 30 years.

Thought for the week

Woolly hats and shorts

NO ONE can have escaped the fact that winter is upon us – and with a vengeance.

However, recently I was driving along the road with the wind and rain lashing down when two characters were making there way along the pavement.

One countering the wintry blast by seemingly wearing as many layers as possible including an elaborate woolly hat. The other wearing a running vest and shorts - speeding their way through the wind and rain.

It occurred to me that these two characters summed the approach to this time of year and the preparations for Christmas – some race at it and treat it as a marathon while others take a more steady approach and use every means available to them to cope with the situation.

It also serves as a reminder that what we expect to see on a winter's day is warm and cosy not fleet of foot and scarcely dressed – much the same as the first Christmas when all would have wanted the Christ child to be born in a warm, comfortable and safe environment – and yet the one stable part of Christ's appearance was the building he was born in.

We should turn a thought and even an action for those who, at this time of year, are not surrounded with warmth and cosiness but find themselves in want and need – and I don't mean those that are out running!

Major Russell Wyles, Divisional Director of Evangelism, North Scotland Divison, The Salvation Army.

Oban Christingle Service

ANYONE happening to wander passed Corran Esplanade Church and pick up the scent of oranges should trust their nose.

On Friday December 12, at 6.30pm, Kilmore and Oban Church of Scotland are holding what has become an annual Christingle Service.

The service is designed for children and families and will last about 20 minutes. Each child will receive a Christingle, which is an orange with a candle set in it.

During worship beautiful traditional carols will be sung, and each Christingle lit. The evening promises to be one to remember for all the children of Oban.

Minister the Rev Dugald Cameron said: 'It is so important children can experience beauty, wonder and meaning at Christmas. These things stay with you for life.'

Poppy collection raise £3,730

A POPPY collection for the Earl Haig fund in Lochalsh, Glenshiel and Glenelg raised the record sum of £3,733.23.

Poppy collectors this year received a badge and certificate from Poppy Scotland with Morag Mackenzie, Duirinish, receiving one for doing poppy collections for more than 40 years.

Obituary

John W M Bannerman, 1932 – 2008

Dr John W M Bannerman, the 20th century's foremost historian of Gaelic Scotland, has died following a lengthy illness borne with characteristic dignity and courage.

It was entirely fitting that he should die at home at the Old Manse Farm, Balmaha, a great constant of his life. He was born there in 1932, the son of John Bannerman - Lord Bannerman of Kildonan, the renowned Gaelic activist, Liberal politician and Scottish rugby internationalist - and Ray Mundell, a farmer's daughter from Sutherland, to whom he owed his lifelong interest in farming.

They had four children: one of John's sisters was the late Ray Michie, Baroness Michie of Gallanach, Liberal Democrat MP for Argyll and Bute from 1987 until 2001. On his father's death in 1968 John took over the farm, running a flock of Blackface sheep and a fold of Highland cattle.

He did his best to manage the farm in as natural a way as possible while being all too aware that it had to be financially viable. A hobby farmer he was not. He was very conscious that what he had inherited others had created, and that he was only its custodian for generations yet to come. His wish was for a thriving rural community and not a wilderness.

Gaelic was another constant, and at the root of John's other profession. Between school and university he spent an enjoyable year with Ian and Annag MacKinnon in Daliburgh, South Uist, improving his Gaelic and learning from Bean Eardsaidh Raghnaill and others part of the store of traditional songs which he would sing in his fine tenor voice.

Honours

He was one of the first honours students in Celtic at Glasgow University under the first professor of Celtic, Angus Matheson. He continued his studies at Cambridge in what is now the Department of Anglo-Saxon, Norse and Celtic, completing his doctoral dissertation there under Kathleen Hughes.

Following a year in the Celtic Department at Aberdeen, he was appointed as a lecturer in Scottish History at the University of Edinburgh in 1965. From 1968 he divided his week between farming and academe until his retiral as senior lecturer in 1997 allowed him to devote himself full-time to the farm.

As a scholar, John's natural home was the era between the Romans and the twelfth century when the Scottish kingdom first began to take shape. The period had no place in the History departments of Scottish universities until his appointment in 1965.

Dr John W M Bannerman

Over 30 years, by dint of the quality of his scholarship and his influence upon the next generation, it was his achievement to raise the profile of the Gaelic dimension within Scottish history.

For John, early Scottish history had an unambiguously Gaelic focus, and the Gaels were the original 'Scots'. His thesis was the first edition to modern scholarly standards of an extraordinarily complex text relating to the early Gaelic kingdom of Dál Riata (roughly equivalent to Argyll) which he dated to the mid-seventh century.

Brilliant

This was followed by a brilliant demonstration that surviving late-medieval Irish chronicles are all derived from a lost 'Chronicle of Iona' of the seventh and early eighth centuries, stopping abruptly in 740 with the 'crushing of Dál Riata' by the Picts. The fruits of this first research phase were brought together in *Studies in the History of Dalriada* (1974).

John also articulated a powerful vision of the continuity of Gaelic history from Dál Riata forward to the late-medieval MacDonald Lordship of the Isles. The Lordship was central to the second phase of his research, which resulted in his outstanding contributions to *Late Medieval Monumental Sculpture in the West Highlands* (1977), and a groundbreaking study of the premier medical kindred of late medieval Scotland, *The Beatons* (1986). In the third and last phase he concentrated on the central middle ages, the high watermark for Gaelic in Scotland, when it was spoken in nearly every quarter of what is now the Scottish mainland.

It was clear to all who knew John that family and Balmaha came first. Naturally reticent and unassuming, he eschewed many aspects of academic life. Yet his quiet authority made him a very sympathetic and influential teacher, perhaps especially of postgraduates, who regarded him with enormous respect and affection. Not far beneath the reticence were a very convivial nature and passionately held beliefs, especially where Gaelic and Scottish Nationalism were concerned, and the University Staff Club was the scene of many happy nights shared with colleagues and students.

Balmaha

John married Chrissie Dick in 1959, and together they made their home in Balmaha a true haven of Highland hospitality.

His relaxation was his annual holiday in Chrissie's native North Uist with no telephone and no mail, fishing for mackerel from his beloved boat Eilidh, hauling them in just as the tide turned between Aird a' Mhorrain and Boighreigh.

The one great regret in John's life was the early death of two of his daughters, Annag in infancy and Mary who, after Agricultural College, joined him for all too short a time working on the farm. His five grandchildren were a great joy to him in his later years, and it was a proud day when the two youngest, Christina and Jackie, enrolled in Glasgow's Gaelic-medium school, Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu.

A packed Buchanan Parish Church was testament to the esteem and affection in which this true gentleman was held by all who knew him. He is survived by Chrissie and their three children, Kate, Seonaidh and Gilbert. Gus am bris an latha.

DB and M MacG

Gold for Fort girls

Athletics

TWO athletes on winning form were Lochaber's golden girls at the North District Cross Country championships at the weekend.

Isla MacKay and Nicola Meekin won gold medals at the event which also had a full field of Lochaber athletes finishing with a fantastic set of results at the championships in Forres on Saturday, with the team returning with numerous medals.

In the first race of the day Isla MacKay took gold with a strong front run in the under 13 girls 3.2km race in 14 minutes and 29 seconds with Mairi MacRae moving from fifth place up to the bronze medal position in the last 400 metres of the race with a time of 14:50.

In the next race, the under 13 boys, Calum Fraser had a super run of 13:37 finishing in fourth place just outside the medals, with Craig MacLean taking 23rd place (16:25).

In the senior womens 6.4km race Nicola Meekin won senior gold in 25:30 and Dawn Scott won senior bronze and masters silver in 25:47.

And with Jo Schrieber 12th (29.47) and Linda MacEwen 14th (30.34) the ladies took strong Silver Team medals behind Inverness Harriers.

The last race of the day was the Senior Men's 9.6km event where Davy Rodgers ran 33:48 to win a Senior Silver and Masters Gold, and Colin Donnelly ran 34:46 to win a Senior Bronze and Masters Silver. With John Hepburn in 15th (37.27), Bruce Poll 25th (39.23), John Grant 33rd (41.05) and Ken Rumgay 39th (42.30) the men took Team Bronze medals behind Forres and Keith. Davy, Colin and John Hepburn also won the Masters Team Gold Medals ahead of a very strong Forres team.

Shinty club celebrate 2008 trophy haul

Members of Fort William shinty club celebrated this year's trophy haul at the club's annual dinner. Among the trophies won by the club's youth, womens and senior teams were the Camanachd Cup, the Strathdearn Cup, the London Shield and the under 17s national six-a-side trophy. f49shinty01

Stornoway avenge Lochaber loss

Rugby

LOCHABER braved last week's icy conditions to make the long trip to Stornoway at the weekend with an under strength side.

It was no surprise then that Stornoway won by a big margin, cancelling out their heavy defeat at Banavie at the start of the season.

Lochaber are only the second team in the league to make it to Stornoway this season.

The ferry trip involves an overnight stay and a 10am kick-off in order to catch the last ferry back on Saturday.

Injuries and work commitments meant that Lochaber travelled with only 12 players but the home side were delighted to see them and more than happy to lend them players.

Lochaber tackled hard throughout but it was not enough to contain a strong Stornoway side.

Injuries to Martin Davies, Steve McAleer and Richard Moir reduced Lochaber to 12 men in the first half and Stornoway ran in a rake of tries.

However, island hospitality knows now bounds and Lochaber were loaned more reinforcements at half time – late comers from the west of the island who had been delayed by snow and ice.

Lochaber fought valiantly for a try in the second half but to no avail.

As legs started to tire Stornoway ran in a few more tries to win by an impressive 68–0.

The younger members of the Lochaber team Steven Traill, Donnie Macdonald and Rory Mackay all acquitted themselves well.

Calum Moorehouse battled away and took no prisoners at scrum half and Richard Moir did well at fullback and standoff before being forced to retire injured.

Innes MacIvor made his debut at flanker before moving to prop and could be a useful addition to the pack. Lochaber are to play Craig Dunain at Banavie on Saturday, December 6 kick off 2pm.

Lochaber squad:
S Henderson, R Mackay, M Davies, R Mackenzie, D Maclean, S Whitaker, I MacIvor, S Traill, C Moorhouse S MacAleer, E Macleod, P Fronczek, D Macdonald, A Shaw, R Moir D Macleod.

Bowling hots up in week nine

Ten Pin Bowling

IN WEEK nine of the Lochaber tenpin bowling competition the Alley Cats have lost their unbeaten record in the scratch competition.

Lebowski bowled an excellent game and won over the league leaders by two pins in total.

Alley cats remain top of both competitions but are being chased hard. Bowl-Lax are right behind them in the hadicap league by just one point.

Tradewinds are working their way up through both leagues and with the halfway stage just two weeks away, it will be interesting to see what will happen.

All 12 teams entered this year are improving and gaining confidence, and it really is a great atmosphere at the Nevis Centre on Monday evenings.

Top Scorers
Scratch Game

Pam Weller	(Alley Cats)	193
Donald Smith	(Phoenix)	166
Cameron Spraque	(Lebowski)	165

Handicap Game

Donald Smith	(Phoenix)	233
Pam Weller	(Alley Cats)	232
Jamie Currie	(Lebowski)	223

Scratch Series

Cameron Spraque	(Lebowski)	315
Colin Pinkett	(Royal British Legion)	313
Donald Smith	(Phoenix)	308

Handicap		**Series**
Donald Smith	(Phoenix)	442
Les McFarlane	(Phoenix)	407
Joan Barker	(Fairway Fillies)	403

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING
Recycled paper made up 75.5% of the raw material for UK newspapers in 2004

Fraser and mum Elizabeth MacFarlane with the letter they received from Rangers Football Club. t49rang01

Young Fraser earns Glasgow Rangers call up

Football

A YOUNG boy from Oban has been selected to appear for Rangers Football Club.

When young Fraser MacFarlane attended the football coaching summer school in Glasgow, he didn't even know about a 'select' team.

He just attended because he is mad about the game. So, when a letter arrived through his door this week inviting him to play for a select team he said he was 'chuffed to bits'.

Proud mum, Elizabeth MacFarlane said: 'We were really pleased to get the letter. We were singing and dancing around the house. Fraser has been picked from the hundreds of children who attended the soccer schools to go down to Murray Park to play for a select team.'

Fraser, aged 11, said: 'I just want to play for Rangers. I went to see them play Dundee last year and they won 2-1. My mum is a Celtic supporter so I suppose I would play for them as well, if I had to.'

Fraser promised to get in touch with *The Oban Times* when he goes to play for the team early next year.

Ali Young football tables

Football

THE Ali Young winter league 2008-09 futsal tables and futsal standings for Division one

1 Livercaol	8	31-11	24
2 Goon Squad	8	35-13	21
3 Caol United	8	14-6	18
4 Young ones	8	25-14	15
5 Funky Five	8	25-28	11
6 Russels rvs	8	12-14	8
7 Alcan	8	13-24	8
8 Caley boys	8	18-22	6
9 HWE	8	15-36	6
10 Real rotten	8	18-38	4

Results:
Funky Five 5-2 HWE.
Alcan 3-3 Russels rvs
Caley boys 2-3 real rotten
Caol utd 0-2 Livercaol
Young ones 1-3 Goon Squad
Upcoming Fixtures:
HWE v Goon Squad
Livercaol v Funky Five
Real rotten v Caol utd
Russels rvs v Caley boys
Young ones v Alcan

Andy enthralls with tales of Mount Everest climb

Skiing

AT THE recent Lochaber Ski Club AGM, members were enthralled by club member Andy Nelson's talk and pictures.

In March 2006 he had been a member of the army expedition to the West Ridge of Everest, which had been climbed by Americans in 1963 and very few other climbers since.

He described the drive to their base camp through Tibet and the long hard struggle to establish higher camps.

His greatest personal challenge came in establishing Camp 5 at 8000m. Although the summit attempts unfortunately had to be abandoned due to avalanche danger, the positive outcome was that the team all returned alive and friends.

Andy also spoke about his successful ascent of the North Face of the Eiger in October this year. A favourable weather window enabled the trio of climbers to complete the extremely difficult route. Davie Austin, chairman, thanked Andy, commenting that it was particularly interesting to hear of such amazing exploits by one of the Ski Club's members.

Committee elected: chairman, Davie Austin; vice-chairman, Kay Boulton; secretary, Jennie Boulton; treasurer, Rick Hanson.

Committee members: Marian Austin, Chris Baker, Isobel MacKenzie, Andy Nelson, Roddy Wells. Junior representative, Anders Hanson.

THE 2009 FORT William Mountain Festival was launched in spectacular style at the iron bridge over the River Fersit, near Roy Bridge on Tuesday. Mike Pescod, chairman of the Highland Mountain Culture Association Ltd gave a brief overview of the 2009 programme before launching himself, bare-chested and kilted, off the bridge on a rope. The festival runs from March 6-14, 2009.

Another busy Ben Nevis race expected in 2009 event

Athletics

THE BEN Nevis Race Association held its annual general meeting in the Nevis Centre last Monday night.

Chairman Sandy MacFarlane reported on a very successful 2008 race, which had a record field, and attracted some of the best overseas Sky Runners in the world.

Mr MacFarlane went on to report that he expected the 2009 race to be over subscribed once again, showing the continued popularity of the event.

The 2009 race will be held on September 5 starting at 1pm in New Town Park, Fort William.

Entry forms for the race will be available from mid-January on the Ben Nevis Race website.

Current record holders in the popular event are Kenny and Pauline Stewart of Keswick Athletics Club, set in 1984.

Kenny finished the race in one hour, 25 minutes and 34 seconds and Pauline finished in one hour, 43 minutes and 25 seconds.

In the 2008 race first in the mens race was Augusti Roc who finished in one hour, 29 minutes and 12 seconds and in the ladies race, the winner was Angela Mudge of Carnethy Hill Runners who finished with a time of 1:47:12.

Treasurer Campbell Clark, chairman Sandy MacFarlane and secretary George Anderson report another successful Ben Nevis race to the AGM. f48ben01

New record set in the snow at Ben Lora hill race

SNOWY conditions did not prevent a new record being set in the Beinn Lora hill race at the weekend.

The race counts as round four in the Lochaber AC Winter League and has the usual hill race format of basically running to the summit and back again.

In this case its 340 metres of tough climb up steep, rocky footpaths then out on to the heathery hillside for the final slog for the summit before the hurtle back down.

The cold snowy conditions did not hamper Andrew Wright (Carnegie Harriers), who smashed the course record by 44 seconds set by Colin Donnelly (Lochaber AC) in 2006.

But Wright's time of 26:48 only just got him top spot as a charging Ruari Watt (Lochaber AC) was only six seconds down in 26:54.

Athletics

Third was Ewen Thorburn in a very impressive 28:36 in his first hill race.

First female was Eilidh Patterson (Highland Hill Runners) with 34:01 who fought off Fiona McDonnald (Cosmic Hill Bashers) to second place in 35:51. In third place was Nix Forster (Lochaber AC) in 37:18.

The organisers of the racae3 would like to give thanks to the Forestry Commission, Achnacree Farm and Benderloch Village Hall Committee for their support.

The next round in the league is the Black Water Dam race.

This involves good fast running out to the dam and back from Kinlochleven.

The race starts at 11am on Sunday, December 7. Registration from 10am at The Ice Factor.

If you intend to race please be equipped with full body cover just in case the weather is bad.

Category winners:
Male vet 40
John Hepburn (LAC)

Male vet 50
Graham Brooks (LAC)

Male vet 60
Ray Murdoch (LAC)

Female Vet 40
Nix Forster (LAC)

Female Vet 50
Aileen Kitson(LAC)

Girls enjoy rugby day

IT WAS the largest ever turnout of young female rugby players in the north-west when nearly 50 girls travelled to benefit from expert coaching sessions at Nairn Academy.

Katie Verweijmeren, SWRU Youth Coordinator for the Highland region said: 'It was fantastic to have so many young enthusiastic girls taking part and the games showed so much promise and dedication from all the players involved. I would also like to thank all of the coaches who help make the day a huge success.' A friendly match between girls from Plockton High and Nairn Academy saw Plockton High edge the win over Nairn 27-17.

Got a Story?
SEND US THE DETAILS BY VISITING
www.obantimes.co.uk
24 hours a day 365 days a year

Glencoe sailor Chris Cooper.

Glencoe sailor joins national keelboat squad

Sailing

GLENCOE sailor Chris Cooper has joined the National Volvo RYA Keelboat Squad. following his success last year in being invited into the prestigious Volvo Keelboat Squad.

Twenty year old Chris has been promoted from the Regional Scotland and Northern Squad into the elite UK National team in which there are only 15 sailors.

Chris started sailing as a youngster in Glencoe and with the encouragement of family, friends and Glencoe Boat Club was soon running up an impressive sailing curriculm vitae culminating in this latest major boost to his yachting ambitions.

The Volvo RYA Keelboat Programme was launched five years ago to give young sailors aged between 16 and 24 the chance to establish themselves in the world of keelboats whether junior dinghy champions or experienced yachtspeople.

Those selected for the squads enjoy the benefits of unparalleled access to specialist RYA keelboat training and coaching, grants, placement on viable keelboat race campaigns and use of the RYA's own fleet of eight J80s as well as the John Merricks Sailing Trust-loaned TP52.

David Atkinson, RYA Racing services Manager said: 'It has always been that being part of the Volvo RYA Keelboat Programme opens up fantastic opportunities for young sailors to be invited to get involved in higher level big boat activity but as the profile and reputation of the Programme has become further enhanced so those doors seem to be opening sooner for those who want most to make it happen.'

Chris is studying Naval Architecture and Small Craft Engineering at Strathclyde and works hard at fitting his extensive sailing schedule with a demanding academic course.

Next season he is planning to compete in most of the main IRC UK Regattas on a King 40, on which he competed successfully in 2008.

Oban yachtsman wins big at club prizegiving

Sailing

TOP honours for the 2008 season at Oban Sailing Club went to Billy Forteith and his team aboard *Shadowfax*.

At the club's annual prizegiving dinner dance at the Argyllshire Gathering Halls Billy received the club's prestigious rosebowl taking a total of eight trophies for both club races and the first fast aggregate series during the season.

The yacht *Shadowfax* was also raced with considerable success at other regattas including Glencoe, the Round Mull Race, the Round Shuna weekend, the Scottish Series and the Beneteau 31.7 National Championships.

Two other helms also enjoyed success aboard *Shadowfax*; Amy Kincaid won the Ladies Cup with long time crewmember, David Waltho, taking the Crew's Cup.

Colin Crawford's *Nimrod* finished second in the keelboat section after winning the second Aggregate Series in the fast handicap section.

Joey Gough's *Tangle o' the Isles* won the two-handed Hot Toddy trophy and David Walter's *Finesse* the Minot's Light Trophy and the Donald Sutherland Trophy. Eric and Irena Chapman's *Amber Haze* lifted the Elis Tankard.

In the slow handicap section the season saw very close racing between Dave Crisp and Duncan McEachan's *Michael the Minitonner*, Owen Hoey's *Girl Karina* and Alison Chadwick's *Hot Toddy*. The Sadler edged to a win in the first aggregate series with Michael taking the second series.

This year saw a remarkable turn-around in the dinghy section with up to 15 boats regularly on the water in both slow and fast handicap sections.

Oban Sailing Club prizewinners 2008.

Andrew Chapman in his Laser *Zzaapp* was again the top dinghy helm showing his consistency throughout the year.

Andrew won the Port Beag Cup, the D McLeod TV Cup, the Icicle Series, the Mini Regatta 1 and the 1st Thursday Aggregate Fast Adam Davies gave him a good run this year winning the second Thursday Aggregate Fast and the Scotwest Windows Trophy for the best overall performance in all three aggregates. Jamie Chapman also showed his sailing prowess in the slower handicap section in his Topper winning the Gillespie Trophy, the first Thursday Aggregate Slow and the Forteith Refrigeration Trophy, also for the best performance in all three aggregates.

Martin MacDonald made a somewhat dramatic entrance at the prize-giving showing the timing of his dinghy starts was just as close as that of the collection of his trophies!

He had not been expected but after flying back from the Caribbean where he had been working, arrived just in time to hear his name called and collect the Port Beag Plate and the third Thursday Aggregate Fast prize.

Colin Currie was also to the fore in the silverware lifting the second slow aggregate series racing a range of dinghies from his beautiful one-off 'Viking' dinghy built by his grandfather Donald Currie, the renowned Oban boatbuilder, to his Topper and a Mirror dinghy.

Angus Sinclair lifted the prize for the third Thursday Aggregate Slow series and the Malcolm MacKillop Decorator's Quaich for the most improved novice. The Campbell family won the Dinghy Cup and Eric Chapman won the Frostbite Series.

Commodore Joey Gough congratulated all the prizewinners on an excellent season and invited everyone to sail as much as possible next year as well as encouraging newcomers to come along and try their hand at sailing.

The dinner was followed by Neil Sinclair and his band. The occasion also saw the presentation of the Round Mull Race prizes.

Results 2008; Dinghies
Engraved glasses - Peden Family, Harry Stage, Daniel Hoey, Thomas Dalgety, Richard Thomson, Steven Forteith, Dave Roberts, Tim Bleazard, Alison Chadwick, Calum Peden, Gregor Nicol, Andrew Barrington, Charlie Harris, Amy Kincaid, Finn Currie, Angus Scott
Colin Currie - 2nd Thursday Aggregate
Campbell Family - Dinghy Cup
Eric Chapman - Frostbite Series
Angus Sinclair - 3rd Thursday Aggregate Slow
Malcolm MacKillop - Decorator's Quaich
Martin MacDonald - Port Beag Plate, 3rd Thursday Aggregate Fast Trophy
Jamie Chapman - Gillespie Trophy, 1st Thursday Aggregate Slow, Forteith Refrigeration Trophy
Adam Davies - 2nd Thursday Aggregate Fast, Scotwest Windows Trophy
Andrew Chapman - Port Beag Cup, D McLeod TV Cup, Icicle Series, Mini Regatta 1, 1st Thursday Aggregate Fast
Yachts
Engraved Glasses – Rioja, Trip Trapper, Sonateigna Too, Lucky Ned Pepper, Girl Karina, Highpointer
Tangle o' the Isles - Hot Toddy Trophy
Michael the Minitonner - 2nd Tuesday Aggregate Slow
Amber Haze - Elis Tankard
Finesse - Minot's Light Trophy, Donald Sutherland Trophy
Hot Toddy - Shakedown Aggregate Slow, 1st Tuesday Aggregate Slow
Nimrod – Engraved Tankard
Shadowfax – Engraved Rosebowl - Shakedown Aggregate, Tuesday Aggregate Fast, 2nd Tuesday Aggregate Fast, Leicester BS Plate, Dr Ivor Campbell Cup, Sutherland's Law Quaich, RHYC Cup, Oban BC Cup, Billmeir Trophy, Forteith Trophy

Ardrishaig hosts junior shinty development day

ARDRISHAIG Junior Shinty club played host to teams from across Argyll on Sunday for a development day. More than 80 children from clubs in Oban, Lochgilphead, Inveraray, Achahoish and Lochgoilhead took part. Sarah Byrne of Ardrishaig Junior Shinty club, said: 'The day saw an excellent display of shinty from all the children. Thanks must go to the sponsors, G. McNaughton, M & K MacLeod, Slainte Bar and Houston Electrical. A huge thanks must also go to Lewis and Fraser.'

Pictured above are Park shinty team from Oban who played in the Ardrishaig Junior Shinty club development day last Sunday. a49shi02

Six goal thriller as Tarbert sink Kings

Football

SAFL Division One
Tarbert 6
Kings Park Rangers B 1

AN EMPHATIC second half show saw Tarbert collect three league points at Cil Andreis on Saturday.

Player Manager Dougie Guy scored a hat trick with fine strikes by Duncan MacDougall and James Prentice also on target.

Sub Allan Blair also notched a headed goal following good build up play by Prentice to complete the scoring.

Smythe missed a good chance before Guy made it 3-1 with a header. Once again cashing in from a throw, before a composed finish to make it 4 - 1. Prentice ran sixty yards with the ball before finding the net for a great goal.

Tarbert will have to show what they're made of tomorrow (Saturday December 6) when they travel to play league leaders Carlton YM 'B' in Paisley.

Oban Saints Under 19s pictured wearing new training tops granted by the Ryan MacPhail Memorial Fund.

Oban Saints Under 16s pictured wearing new playing kit supplied by Alan Murdoch of new sponsors Mica Hardware.

Spot the SHINTY BALL Competition

WIN £550

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE. . .

All you have to do

We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph opposite. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1.

If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.

The game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void. Prizes will be shared between those submitting correct entries.

If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

Easy to enter

Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to reach "Spot the Shinty Ball" Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB **by 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.

This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:
Mrs Margaret Gracie, Laurel Road, Oban and Ann Scott, Taynuilt

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**

Personalised with matching envelopes, 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@krisprint.co.uk

Saints net four against Duncanrig

Umbro Scottish Amateur League Premier Division
Oban Saints 4
Duncanrig 0

Football

Allan MacKay.

EAST Kilbride team Duncanrig were the visitors to Mossfield Stadium last Saturday for this Premier Divison game and although Saints were certainly not at their best they were good enough to win 4-0 against a much-changed Duncanrig side who look as though they could struggle in the league this season.

The home side almost scored in the first couple of minutes but Rig keeper Callum Chalmers made a great save from a Donald Campbell curler which looked to be heading for the top corner of the net. Saints always looked in control of the game but they needed a goal to settle things down. Ross Maitland came close with a good shot but it went over the bar then Allan MacKay had a header on target but it went straight to the keeper.

The deadlock was finally broken in the 29th minute when Donald Campbell threaded a neat ball through to Allan MacKay who turned Mick Dyer before drilling a low shot past Callum Chalmers into the bottom corner of the net.

Just on the half time whistle Willie Gemmell had a good effort and he was unlucky to see the ball whistle past the post. There was no more scoring with Saints going in at the interval with a slender 1-0 advantage.

Saints increased their lead in the 59th minute with a great goal. Myles McAuley cut in from his right wing berth and raced past three defenders before crossing for Allan MacKay who despatched a first time volley past the helpless Callum Chalmers to make the score 2-0.

The game was killed off in the 81st minute when some good work by Ross Graham in midfield set up Myles McAuley who in turn fed the ball through to Joe Lopez who wasted no time in drilling a well-placed shot past the helpless keeper from 12 yards.

Donald Campbell should have scored the goal of the season when he dummied the ball and the goalkeeper just like Pele did in the 1970 World Cup finals againt Uruguay but when Donald got to the ball he was unlucky to see his net-bound effort hit the post and scrambled clear.

However, he made up for the miss by sending over a perfect cross with five minutes remaining for Darin Bryars to bullet home a header from close range to give Saints a convincing 4-0 victory.

This Saturday the Oban side return to Scottish Cup action with a tough away tie in the fourth round when the take on Paisley and District league champiions Kilbarchan at Ferguslie Sports Centre, Paisley, kick-off 2pm

Tides

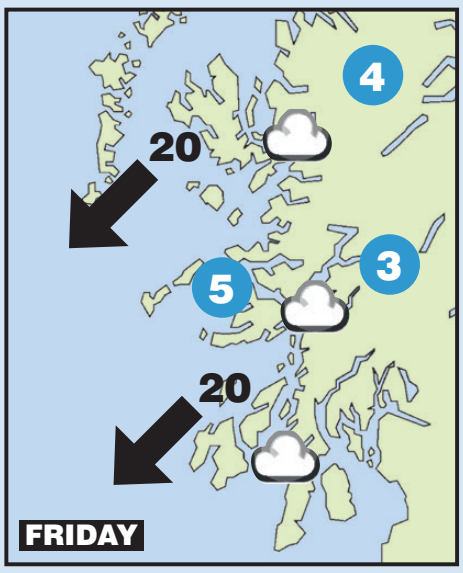
Tide tables for Oban during the week from
Thursday, December 4, 2008
are listed below with differences
for major ports listed beneath.
All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date		am				pm		
Thur	03.21	1.8	09.28	3.4	16.04	2.0	21.30	3.1
Fri	04.06	1.8	10.20	3.3	17.02	2.0	22.25	3.0
Sat	05.02	1.9	11.26	3.3	18.07	2.0	23.34	3.0
Sun	06.07	1.9	12.51	3.3	19.12	1.9	**.**	*.*
Mon	01.02	3.0	07.15	1.8	14.05	3.5	20.10	1.7
Tues	02.17	3.2	08.22	1.6	15.01	3.7	21.04	1.4
Wed	03.12	3.4	09.25	1.4	15.50	3.8	21.54	1.2

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
Expected to be overcast with rain or sleet at times. Winds moderate to fresh north-easterly. Temperatures 0ºC to 5ºC
Friday
Again expected to be overcast with rain or sleet at times. Winds moderate to fresh north-easterly in direction. Temperatures -1ºC to 5ºC.
Weekend Outlook
The weekend is expected to see a mixture of sunshine and showers. Winds north-westerly and moderate in strength. Temperatures -1ºC to 5ºC.

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

Katy with the trophies she has won so far this season.

Champion year for Oban schoolgirl

Motocross

A VERY successful year for Oban motocross rider Katy MacNeill has seen her finish in the top six in four championships.

Katy, aged 15, who attends Oban High School has competed in 27 races over the past year. This is her second year of riding and with her Honda 150cc bike she finished sixth overall in the North East Area Championship, fifth in the Grampian Motocross Club, fourth overall in the Highland Motocross Club.

Katy also won the Highland Schoolgirl Championship Trophy.

Katy said: 'I would like to thank everyone who has helped and supported me over the year, especially my mum and dad, HWR Motocross (Nairn) for keeping the bike running and Bruce and Jean Campbell for letting me practice at their track.'

Lorn team in Scottish Cup

Rugby

A NEW rugby team, an amalgamation of Tobermory and Oban high schools, will take part in the Bell Lawrie Scottish Schools Cup.

'Obermory' will play against Cathkin High School in the Scottish Schools under-18 plate and, if they win, will play either Belmont Academy or Hillhead/Jordanhill in the second round. In the Scottish Schools under-15 Bowl Obermory will play Balerno High School, Currie High School or Harris Academy.

A number of Argyll youth players have been included in the Glasgow North Pathway squads. U15: David Black, Patrick Carmichael, Angus MacCallum, Ciaran Whyte (all Mull); Alex Dunnings (Oban); Ruraidh Aitken (Mid Argyll). U16: Eoghan McLachlan (Mull); Callum McLaughlan (Oban); Craig Tominson (Mull). U17: Finlay Carmichael, Tony Haunschmidt, Sean MacPhail (all Mull). U18: Douglas Swinbanks (Mull); David Hunter (Oban); Scott McColl (Mull).

Sports Hall events return to Oban

Athletics

SPORTS Hall Athletics returns to Oban next Saturday, December 13, when the contest for the Oban area takes place at Atlantis Leisure.

The competition is one of four similar area events promoted by Mull Athletic Club this winter and supported by all the athletic clubs in Argyll.

The Argyll Sports Hall programme includes four area competitions at Lochgilphead, Tobermory, Oban and Campbeltown leading to an Argyll Final at Atlantis Leisure on Saturday, January 24, 2009.

The Mull contest was held in early November and the Kintyre event was last Sunday attracting a large entry of 92 young athletes.

The Mid Argyll contest goes ahead on Sunday, January 11.

The Mull club were successful in obtaining an Awards for All lottery grant to fund the Argyll Sports Hall competitions.

Specialist equipment is used for various running, jumping and throwing events in small arenas and this indoor version of athletics brings the skills and excitement of track and field into sports halls giving youngsters a taste of athletics in a warm and dry atmosphere.

The organisers are hopeful that schools in the Oban area will encourage pupils to take part on Saturday, December 13.

Youngsters are reminded that the Oban contest starts at 12.30pm next Saturday.

Entries will be taken on the day from 12noon.

Age groups are from under nine years up to under17 with ages taken as on September 1, 2008. There will be awards to the first, second and third overall in each age group.

Successful athletes will qualify to compete in the Argyll Final to be held in Oban on Saturday, January 24, 2009.

Teams from Argyll have been very successful over the years in the Sports Hall events, regularly reaching the UK national finals of the event where they have represented Scotland on many occasions.

The area sent two teams to each UK final between the years 2004 and 2006 with the under 13 boys team making it to the UK finals in 2007 with another Argyll team making it to the finals again this year.

In 2006 there were under 15 and under 13 boys teams at the finals, held in the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham.

That year Iain MacDowell won a bronze medal in the long jump while Steven Higson won a silver medal in the high jump.

In 2008 Argyll sent two boys teams to the Sports Hall finals after the under 13 and under 15 boys teams won the Scottish finals.

Next year Argyll will be hoping to send more teams to the UK final of the event, with this year hopefully a girls team making it through.

Daniel Cameron is presented with the Player of the Year caman by club secretary Daniel MacIntyre. t49cam01

Oban player of the year

Shinty

OBAN Camanachd's annual general meeting had its largest turnout in years as the club attempts to get more people involved.

Over 40 people turned up to support the club.

Player of the year was Daniel Cameron, aged 20, who has played for Oban Camanachd for just over two years and has also played for the youth teams.

Club secretary Daniel MacIntyre said: 'I am delighted with the turnout. We are trying to get more people on board and this is the most there has been in many years.'

Young Argyll sailor awarded GBR place

Sailing

A YOUNG Mid Argyll sailor has been awarded a place in a GBR sailing squad in the Topper dinghy class, one of the most competitive fleets in junior sailing with entries in the National championships of more than 300 boats.

Thirteen-year-old Angus Gray Stephens from Lochgilphead has been chosen for the 18-strong RYA National Intermediate Topper Squad for 2008/2009 and will undergo training throughout the winter and into the sailing season.

The Topper class is supported by the RYA as part of its Junior Programme and grassroots of its Olympic pathway for sailors.

Angus learned to sail at Tighnabruaich Sailing School and is a member of Mid Argyll Sailing Club and Tarbert Loch Fyne Yacht Club which had an enviable record among Scottish clubs for producing top Scottish and National Topper sailors.

Lorn shooter is on target

Shooting

LORN Gun Club's clay pigeon shooter Craig McFadyen, aged 17 added another competition win to his belt after taking the Junior Challenge Cup at Loch Ness Gun Club on Saturday.

The current Scottish Junior under 21s DTL champion is continuing to keep up high standard at weekly clay pigeon shoots around Scotland.

Over 35s indoor league results

Football

OVER 35 six-a-side indoor football 2008/09 season, table positions at 28 November 2008.

	Pl	W	D	L	GD	Pts
Emergency	2	2	0	0	14-5	6
Trialists	2	2	0	0	12-4	6
Taynuilt	1	1	0	0	7-2	3
Seil	2	1	0	1	11-11	3
Teachers	2	1	0	1	11-12	3
Own Sails	2	1	0	1	8-11	3
Appin	3	0	0	3	7-14	0
Clan Trees	2	0	0	2	6-17	0

Results: Appin 3 Owen Sails 4, Emergency 8 Teachers 3, Seil 2 Taynuilt 7, Appin 2 Emergency 6, Clan Trees 2 Trialists 8, Owen Sails 4 Teachers 8, Appin 2 Trialists 4, Clan Trees 4 Seil 9.

Sunday leisure leagues

Football

POMPEY FC made it two wins out of two for the new Oban Sunday Leisure Leagues campaign, as they stormed home to a 5-2 demolition of Coasters.

The Rough and Readys have taken an early lead at the summit after their 2-0 success over Waterfront, whilst AC Soroba got off the mark for the new season by seeing off Oban OPPS FC by the same scoreline.

Oban 08 sneaked through 1-0 as they also made it two wins out of two.

Oban Saints youth team results

Football

Saturday's results: Calderbraes BC v Under 13s postponed; Under 14s 5 Barcalomond 1. Saints scorers were Ciaran Jackson, Martin MacPherson, Cameron MacLean and James Buchanan (2). Under 16s 1, Rothesay 1; Under 17s 3, Westerton 2. Netting for Saints were Garry Lord, Rhuiridh Findlayson and James Ford. Johnstone Burgh 7, Under 19s 0.

Saturday's fixtures: Under 13s v Helensburgh; Calderbraes BC v Under 13s (Sunday). Helensburgh v Under 14s; Barrhead v Under 16s. The under 17s and Under 19s have no fixtures this weekend.

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING
Recycled paper made up 75.5% of the raw material for UK newspapers in 2004

HIGHLAND fasteners
Opening Monday 8th December
HIGHLAND FASTENERS
Your local West Highland supplier:
Fixtures
Fittings
Power Tools
Auxiliary Products
and Much More
Makita INDUSTRIAL POWER TOOLS
BOSCH Invented for life
THUNDERBOLT
Opening Hours:
Monday - Friday
7.30am - 5pm
Saturday
8am - 12pm
Tel: 01631 569512
07824804845
6 Mill Lane, Oban