# The Oban Times
## & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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**Demand A82 Upgrade!**

**WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?**
**See page 7**

## Fire ravages council farm building

TWENTY firefighters battled for more than three hours to control a blaze which ravaged a derelict farm building in Lochgilphead.

Kilmory Home Farm has substantial damage following the fire on Saturday morning.

The firefighters came from stations in Lochgilphead, Inveraray, Minard and Ardfern.

The blazing Argyll and Bute Council-owned building was spotted by workmen travelling on the A83 between Ardrishaig and Lochgilphead at around 1.45am.

A joint investigation between Strathclyde Police in Lochgilphead and Strathclyde Fire and Rescue is underway.

Kilmory Home Farm is the subject of a review by the council, which is considering uses for the buildings.

A community organisation, the Kilmory Home Farm Project Group, was formed in 2006 to save the farm and regenerate it for community.

• For more on this story see this week's *Argyllshire Advertiser*.

## Island pupils fly home

SCHOOLCHILDREN from Coll and Colonsay made it home last weekend after successful negotiations between Argyll and Bute Council and island parents.

Scholar flights which were previously divided between the pupils, have been increased to two, allowing children from both islands to make the air trip home at the weekends.

A spokeswoman for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'There has been a positive uptake of the Colonsay scholar flight.'

Oban Distillery as portrayed by Renfrewshire artist Sara Mead.

## Whisky art collection will be auctioned

A COLLECTION of paintings of Scottish distilleries will be auctioned for charity in the New Year.

Diageo's Friends of the Classic Malt commissioned the 13 paintings, each by a different artist, as online greeting cards on their website www.malts.com.

Oban, Lagavulin, Caol Ila and Talisker are among the distilleries which were twinned with a contemporary Scottish artist.

Diageo's Charles Allen said: 'We wanted to involve Scottish artists in celebrating visually, and each in their own unique fashion, the special places where our single malt whiskies are distilled.'

# Money down the toilet

## Seil residents say £8m sewerage scheme is a waste of public cash

By LOUISE GLEN-LEE

A SEWERAGE project underway on the Island of Seil costing £8 million has been condemned as a 'horrendous waste of public money'.

Working out at possibly £80,000 per household involved, it was claimed this week the project should never have been approved.

Opponents say it will still fail to achieve what it is supposed to do – prevent untreated sewage flowing into shellfish rich waters around the island.

Locals believe that work on such a scale should be confined to an urban/city area, benefiting many more households.

There will also be an annual cost to the taxpayer of £93,000 to maintain the system – almost £1,000 per household.

This week Highlands and Islands MSP Jamie McGrigor said: 'I share my constituents' anxieties over the costs.

'There seems to be a lot of confusion as to Scottish Water's reasons for inflicting mess and disturbance on the island. Seil is hardly an urban community.

'This is taxpayers' money, but many were kept in the dark as to why this operation was started in the first place.

'Scottish Water must offer an explanation or questions will be asked of the Scottish government and Audit Scotland.'

Seil GP Dr George Hannah believes less than 100 houses will benefit from the scheme. 'This is an incredible waste of taxpayers' money,' he told *The Oban Times*.

'A much simpler, cheaper system could have been used. I've written to the ombudsman – there should be a public enquiry into this project.

**'Septic'**

'No provision has been made for the fact some dwellings are occupied only a few weeks in the year – leading to inadequate flow and standing sewage becoming septic and malodorous.

'There has also been no environmental impact study on the effect of increased discharge which was previously sent into Seil Sound going onto a tidal mudflat.

'The fact that several residents have been upset and surprised at the extent of the works on the island also implies there has been insufficient consultation.'

Dr Hannah and Mr McGrigor said some houses on Seil will still be unable to benefit from the new system, requiring the continuing use of septic tanks and reed beds before effluent is discharged into the sea.

Sally Robertson, of Balvicar, said she has been waiting since February for Scottish Water to meet with her. It is undersood that Scottish Water is still seeking permission to cross a piece of private land before laying pipes into her home.

Houses that cannot be brought into the system are being offered what many wanted initially – a septic tank and a reed bed system at a cost of less than £5,000 per household.

A spokesman for Scottish Water said the project would benefit a total of 160 properties in the Clachan Seil and Balvicar areas of Seil, though the system could take up to 200.

He said that public meetings were held prior to the project starting, including an open day at the site office.

He added: 'The Scottish Environment Protection Agency identified a need for environmental improvements which would be delivered through first time sewerage provision for the Clachan Seil and Balvicar area.'

# Islanders' 'unacceptable risk'

PATIENTS on Lismore are being subjected to 'unacceptable risks' by the lack of a nurse to provide a service out of hours, it is claimed.

A meeting held to discuss healthcare cover on Lismore, last week, has left islanders unclear about procedures for medical emergencies during evenings and weekends when there is no nurse on the island.

A review of nursing provision, held over the last few months and a further meeting held last week has come to nothing, it is claimed.

Chairman of Lismore Community Council John Carmichael said: 'We have 180 people on the island, many of whom who are elderly. During the night or in stormy weather it can take some amount of organising to get a nurse, doctor or ambulance to the island.

'The island lies six minutes from Port Appin, or 50 minutes from Oban, by boat. If there is an emergency then a first responder could be coping with a medical situation that is far from their knowledge.

'We are being placed at unacceptable risk.'

NHS Highland failed to comment.

# Staff vote for pay cut to help secure firm's future

EMPLOYEES at a leading seafood supplier have agreed to take a temporary pay cut and sacrifice their Christmas party to help secure the firm's future.

Cairndow-based Loch Fyne Oysters Ltd, founded 30 years ago this week, employs 122 staff providing luxury foods to Loch Fyne Restaurants across the country and by mail order.

**Cost-cutting**

January pay packets at the employee-owned firm will be six to eight per cent less, after a majority of staff voted to accept cost-cutting measures proposed by the company's board. The pay cut, which affects staff at all levels, will be reviewed after three months.

Spokeswoman Virginia Sumison said the suppliers of oysters, salmon and game were affected by a downturn in the restaurant trade.

She said: 'Our priority is to hold on to our core staff. Rather than burying our heads in the sand, it is a question of being prepared. It is partly because we are employee-owned that we always consult with our staff.'

She said the plan to reduce overheads and running costs would help the company through a tough economic period. 'The home delivery part of the business is doing fine, but a big part is supplying the restaurants and as people are eating out less and spending less, the restaurants are cutting back on expansion plans.

'One of the reasons we have been so successful is local support and the more of that we can get the easier things will become.'

Managing director Bruce Davidson said the level of Christmas orders had been 'excellent'. He added: 'With the strength of the Loch Fyne brand and our well established customer base in the UK and overseas, we are confident that we are a sufficiently broad-based business to navigate these turbulent times.'

## No progress in Jura ferry row

AFTER months of disrupted sailings and debates, islanders on Jura are no further forward with their ferry service, despite two meetings with ferry owner Argyll and Bute Council and the ferry operator, ASP SeaScot.

The ferry stub at Port Askaig cannot be used at certain tide levels and the new Port Askaig linkspan, part of the pier's £13 million development, cannot be accessed when the CalMac ferry is in port. This causes disruption and cancellations.

In July a heated public meeting between ASP, the council and community members ended with Jura Community Council chairman Willie MacDonald saying: 'We are not expecting miracles but we expect something.' However, at a follow-up meeting last Monday, islanders were told their service would carry on as it is.


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# Distillery delights in huge sales growth

DESPITE a national economic downturn, Islay's whisky industry, which relies on export trade, has exceeded sales figures for the year.

Bruichladdich Distillery sales are up 17 per cent on 2007 figures worldwide, with its UK-wide figure growing by an average of 30 per cent.

The figure has surprised those in the industry who have found two recent duty rate rises hard to swallow.

Bruichladdich Distillery CEO Mark Reynier said: 'We would like to think the rise in sales is down to our innovative approach, the complexity and variety of our whisky. But it may just be that people are fed up with the gloom and are drowning their sorrows!'

Meanwhile, Dr Bill Lumsden, head of distilling and whisky creation at The Glenmorangie Company, who is behind many of Ardbeg Distillery's new whiskies, has picked up one of the industry's top awards for the third time.

**Honour**

Dr Lumsden was named Industry Leader of the Year at the recent Malt Advocate Awards. He said: 'It is a great honour to receive this award for the third time. These awards are highly respected across the world.'

A Lagavulin whisky has added to the growing list of awards already gained this year by Islay malts.

Lagavulin 21 year old was named top single malt at this year's Malt Maniacs awards. The awards are decided by an international jury of 11 malt whisky experts. The success of the limited edition bottling is Lagavulin's eighth award at international competitions this year.

The Malt Maniacs awards follows the successful showing of Islay malts in whisky expert John Murray's Whisky Bible, which named Ardbeg Uigeadail as the world's best.

## Tobermory set to have meters by April

# Island parking charge anger

PARKING charges are to be introduced in an island village if a council plan gets the go ahead.

Tobermory Main Street will have metered system introduced on April 1 next year if an order by Argyll and Bute Council to restrict parking goes ahead. The controlled area will include the area from the Hydro Electric Shop all along the waterfront to the Mishnish Hotel.

Parking will be restricted during the busy tourist period until September, during the hours of 10am until 4pm.

Mishnish owner Robert MacLeod said: 'It is a complete nonsense to charge for parking. I hope that they have considered Main Street residents when making these plans. Will there be a permit for residents or will we not be allowed to park outside our houses?

'It is very sad that in a time of financial hardship for many small businesses that the council's only solution is to ask residents for more money. Maybe it is time to think about a one-way system on the street.'

The council plans will see Main Street residents pay £37.50 a year for a parking permit.

Councillor Gordon Chalmers believed that something needs to be done on the busy street.

'I have been both a business owner and a worker on the Main Street and the parking situation is desperate at times,' he said.

'This parking meter and restriction order is one solution, but I am hoping that residents of Tobermory and users of Main Street parking will get writing to the council with their ideas.

'People should make representations to the council by the January 9 deadline. It would be good if people could think of objections other than they do not want to pay for parking.'

**'Hectic'**

Councillor Mary-Jean Devon said: 'The plans had a mixed response at the community council meeting. Some people are happy that the hectic parking situation is going to be resolved while others are up in arms about any charges being introduced.

'Parking meters are already in place in various locations throughout the island including Fionnphort, Bunessan and Craignure.'

**'Maybe it is time to think about a one-way system'**

**– Mishnish Hotel owner Robert MacLeod**

From left, Domhnall Iain MacDonald, Joseph Thompson, Sian Donkers and Oisìn Buckley in Inverness Royal Academy Library before the debate.

# Benbecula pupils do well in first debating contest

FOUR Benbecula teenagers have been highly commended by the judges in the 'Law Society of Scotland' National Debating Competition.

The Sgoil Lionacleit pupils were helped to prepare by Ms M F Morrison, PT guidance, and Mr I Hogg, physics, who was also the driver to the competition in Inverness. Mr Hogg also helped with specialised information on nuclear power, which was the group's debate topic.

Debate teams have to be able to read their speeches convincingly, engage in questioning and rebuttal and one member of each team has to be able to write a reply speech in three minutes flat as the conclusion.

Both heats were closely fought with Domhnall Iain MacDonald and Sian Donkers beating the team from Inverness Royal Academy and Joseph Thompson and Oisìn Buckley narrowly losing against the girls from the Nicholson Institute.

However, they were highly commended by the judges and told they had done very well for their first ever attempt.

The group is looking forward to going to the next heat, and hopes to hold a debate within the school to fundraise for the trip.

Oisìn said: 'We are grateful to our teachers for taking us and for our English class for helping us by taking part in the 'mock' floor debate as the opposition.

'The competition was a great experience, and we were all given a competitor's prize of a flash drive. Very handy for saving our next speech!'

# Birthday lights for castle

TOROSAY Castle on Mull, pictured above, has celebrated its 150th birthday by installing spotlights on the main tower.

The castle completed in 1858 is still used as a home after five generations of the same family.

Current owner Chris James said: 'The spotlights on the tower highlight the beauty of the building at night and we are very pleased with the result.'

# Flight firm taken to task

A WESTERN Isles councillor is demanding to know why customers of Loganair, the franchise partner of the Highlands and Islands main air services provider Flybe, are offered only half the loyalty points given to Flybe passengers.

**'Discrimination'**

Accusing the airline of 'blatant discrimination', Councillor Manford said costs to island travellers are already high enough without them having to fly twice as often as their mainland counterparts to earn free flights.

Councillor Manford's daughter, who lives on the mainland, told her father about the discrepancy. Flybe's 'rewards4all' scheme offers a free return flight for every 16 points earned, with a one-way economy flight earning one point of the Flybe service – but only half a point on Loganair franchise routes.

Councillor Manford said: 'I have asked senior officials with Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to investigate why this is the case, to see if anything can be done about it.'

A spokeswoman for Flybe said the issue was a matter for Loganair.

Loganair's spokeswoman said: 'Rewards4all is an excellent programme that is open to everyone. It is still a generous scheme with one point for a return ticket and two points for an Economy Plus ticket.'

# Islay and Jura CVS sells base

THE headquarters of Islay and Jura Community and Voluntary Service is to be sold after more than 20 years. Instead of moving to new base, the organisation will become portable, visiting island communities more often.

The organisation's annual general meeting agreed to accept an offer of £100,000 for the sale of Highfield last month. The buyer is Argyll Community Housing Association, which will provide more rented housing for Bowmore workers plus one wheelchair accessible flat, if planning permission is granted.

**Accessible**

CVS executive officer John Davidson said the change would allow them to be more visible and accessible to all communities.

The radical plan will see money from the building's sale providing free meeting space and improved internet facilities at village halls across the islands.

Mr Davidson said two community halls were already providing broadband services for the benefit of locals and visitors.

'We are going into the ether, with a web-based and portable presence.

'We think that it would be a benefit for many of the small communities.'

Mr Davidson added that by going around villages on a regular basis, people will be able to meet them and save on transport costs.'

# Co-op dividend for high school

THE RECENT extension to Bowmore Co-op has produced an unexpected benefit to green-fingered pupils at Islay High School.

Morris and Spottiswood, the company responsible for the extension and refurbishment of the store, has donated their storage container to Islay High, which will use the unit as a potting shed for its rural skills students.

Freddie Bell, a teacher at the school, says the donation will ensure the sustainability of vocational skills that have been introduced in the last three years.

He added: 'As part of our Schools of Ambition programme, we have been running a number of vocational courses which have helped pupils in a variety of courses such as hospitality, hairdressing, construction and rural studies, including horticulture.'

# Islay to be tidal energy leader

THE island of Islay is to lead the way in the development of tidal energy.

A survey carried out in the Sound of Islay in June found the area an ideal site for tidal energy harvesting with a total energy resource of around 500 megawatts.

The island's tidal resources are concentrated to the west of the Rhinns of Islay and the Oa peninsula in the Sound of Islay where there is a manageable five-knot tidal stream, sea bed depths greater than 20 metres and proximity to the national grid.

The trust is a community-owned charity, the main purpose of which is to distribute funds generated by renewable energy projects for the benefit of the community.

The trust will lead the development of a small-scale tidal energy project to demonstrate its commercial viability.

**Opportunity**

The project offers an opportunity to test new technology and has a target date of 2011 for installation in the Sound of Islay.

Speaking at an informal meeting of the Islay Energy Trust in Bowmore recently, Dr Alan Owen of Robert Gordon University in Aberdeen said the project would lead the way with the introduction of new technology.

Dr Owen said: 'The system by which electricity is supplied to Islay, Jura and Colonsay operates via a single undersea cable from a point near Tayvallich.

'At present, National Grid capacity is constrained. This is an issue for the Scottish and Westminster governments. A solution without additional investment in hardware is technically possible.'

IET chairman Philip Maxwell said: 'The project would use local labour and businesses whenever possible to install and maintain the tidal energy devices.

'The devices would be constructed to suit the installation site and steel fabrication facilities would be needed. Boat hire, divers and transport would be required creating opportunities for local people.'

# Tobermory treasure hunt sparks memories for Seamus

WHILE the long-running search for Tobermory's Spanish galleon continues, *The Oban Times* is seeking to shed light on this picture of a 1950s expedition.

It was contributed by Seamus MacInnes of Tobermory. His brother Archie was one of the crew that searched the ship, sunk there in 1588, reputedly laden with treasure. Seamus understands the salvage boat was a navy landing craft called The Maggie and it used an iron grabber to dredge the silt for artefacts.

He reports they found pieces of dark wood, a cannon and cannon balls. He said the dark wood in particular suggested it was the wreck of a ship made of African oak, favoured by King Philip of Spain, possibly the San Juan de Sicilia or the Duque di Florenzia.

Seamus said previously he had doubted there was a galleon down there: 'No one had found anything. I thought it was just like the Loch Ness Monster. I thought it was for the publicity.'

The crew of The Maggie pictured in the 1950s, according to Seamus MacInnes of Tobermory.

Now he is certain there is gold: 'Every time the Duke of Argyll was looking he was spending a power of money. He wouldn't have done it unless he knew there was some treasure.'

Last year, the 13th Duke of Argyll restarted the search with an intensive investigation of the seabed to locate the shipwreck. A boat returned to the bay last month to continue the survey. Locals report it appears to be searching one small area of the bay intensively and seems fixed in one spot.

# Calendars put Mull in the picture

A CALENDAR to raise funds for a church centre on Mull is going on sale this week.

*Salen, Then and Now* features pictures from the early part of the 20th century contrasted with modern day pictures of the island village.

Organiser Clifford Moisey said: 'The building, hopefully complete by Christmas, will have a large meeting room and small meeting room, a vestry and a high standard kitchen with disabled access to the whole premises.'

'The church is always available for community use and it is hoped that the new church centre will be a great building for community groups.'

Calendars can be purchased from Ruth Moisey on 01680 300473

Look out for your **FREE CALENDAR** in our Christmas Eve edition

The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

## Harbour front hope for dental centre

OBAN Dental Access Centre is hoping to make its home near the harbour front within nine months.

NHS Highland says it wants to convert the former Harbour Bowl complex on Shore Street into a state-of-the-art dental facility for west coast patients.

David Whiteoak locality manager for the NHS trust said: 'We are in negotiation with the owners of the building to transform the former bowling alley into a dental access centre.

'Once negotiations are complete it will take around nine months to transform the building. We have had a very positive meeting with the owners and it is hoped that this project will soon be underway.'

## Dalmally and Tarbert gain water upgrades

TWO water treatment works in Argyll have been upgraded in projects with a total cost of more than £300,000.

Scottish Water has just completed upgrades to treatment works at Tarbert and Dalmally to improve performance and allow the company to continue to meet regulations on water quality.

The work at Tarbert, which cost more than £200,000 included the provision of new pumps, valves and associated pipework. The company also completed a £92,000 upgrade of Dalmally Water Treatment Works.

**'Important'**

Chris Toop, Scottish Water's regional manager, said: 'This important project at Tarbert is another example of how we are seeking to improve our efficiency and deliver first-class services and value for money to customers wherever they live in Scotland.

Scottish Water has also announced that its household water and waste bills for 2009-10 will rise by 3.7 per cent, 0.5 per cent below inflation.

Chief executive Richard Ackroyd said: 'We believe these charges are a fair deal for our customers in these difficult economic conditions.'

## New piping from Argyll firms

TWO ARGYLL companies have helped to create a new type of piping that has been installed in a £1.3 million hydro-electric development.

Barcaldine-based Fusion Marine and Adrian Laycock Ltd, Easdale Island, helped to install 1.8 kilometres of polyethylene pipe for Coignafearn Estate, near Tomatin, Inverness-shire.

One of the key features was the butt-fusion welding technique used by Fusion Marine to join pipe sections. Compared to conventional steel piping, it is effectively one continuous length of pipe where the joints are virtually seamless.

The installation was made to replace the estate's dependence on oil for power and heating.

## Tarbert playpark to be moved

A TOTAL of £23,500 will be spent to move and improve Tarbert playpark to a higher, drier location.

Equipment will be moved from its current, waterlogged site 100 metres up the hill and new swings and a fence installed. The work is due to be completed by March 2009.

Councillor Anne Horn was glad to hear of the move but expressed concern that the slide will remain in place as it is often surrounded in mud.

# Allotments group says it needs room to grow in Oban

OBAN COULD reap 'huge' benefits from setting up allotments, say campaigners, but the council has so far failed to find funds to support them.

Just two months after forming, Oban Allotment Association has grown to 40 potential allotment holders.

Founder member Adam Hughes met Oban councillors to seek their support. He said: 'While positive of the idea, they were adamant that there was no funding available. They were quite happy to work with the association and put in manpower and effort but said they have no money to allocate to allotments.

'I realise the council has other priorities but I feel for a relatively small outlay that Oban could have a huge municipal benefit.'

The association will continue to seek land and funds to move ahead, despite councillors' lukewarm reaction. Dr Hughes is due to meet officials to identify any potential sites in council ownership, while the association seeks grants from other sources.

While they are also talking to private landowners to get them off the ground, the association would prefer the allotments to be on public land. Dr Hughes said: 'I think it is important that it remains as a public amenity, that way it has more longevity.'

Positive discussions have also taken place with Scottish Natural Heritage about a community garden alongside allotments.

In October, Scottish environment minister Richard Lochhead announced plans to make it easier to turn unused public land into allotments and gardens.

### New chief promises more officers will be placed in the community

# No decision on shortage of Oban police

Chief Superintendent John Thomson meets Oban police inspector Neil Wallace on his first working visit to the town. t49sup01

ARGYLL'S top police officer has promised more high visibility policing and more officers in the community but failed to say how many new officers the short-staffed Oban office will receive.

Chief Superintendent John Thomson, commander of Strathclyde Police's Argyll, Bute and West Dunbartonshire Division, was in Oban last Monday and Tuesday. It was his first working experience of the Argyll area, an area he said he was 'proud' to work in.

On the subject of staffing, Chief Supt Thomson was aware police in Oban and Lorn are seven officers short, although a new police officer will join the team in April.

Chief Supt Thomson said there were 22 extra police officers coming into the division, eight of which will definitely be deployed into West Dunbartonshire, as the council there has funded those posts.

The division will share the remaining 14 government-funded posts, depending on demand.

**Resources**

'We need to look at where our officers are needed and we need to focus resources,' said Chief Supt Thomson. 'For example, I realise that in Oban the population fluctuates in the summer months.'

There was effusive praise for the work already being done by Argyll's police officers from the new chief superintendent, who replaced Mitch Roger two weeks ago.

'In Argyll we have excellent officers who produce exemplary results and the staff are highly motivated. The volume of complaints here is low and the ratio of satisfied customers in surveys is high, compared with many other places in L Division.

'We are looking to formalise the community policing model so we can respond better to spontaneous events. In Argyll it will be a case of formalising what we already do with aplomb. We have a good public mandate and support from the community.'

Across the division, Chief Supt Thomson said he wanted to 'focus his resources' so they can respond quickly to public need.

# ACHA affordable housing plan frustrated

CONSTRUCTION at a site for affordable housing in Oban will be delayed further after a grant funding application to the Scottish government was turned down for a second time.

Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) planned to build an eight-unit housing scheme in Croft Avenue after demolishing the old buildings and clearing the site in February this year.

However, the association's funding application for £88,000 per unit has been turned down, following a previous refusal for £107,000 per unit.

The government's housing association grant rate was reduced from £107,000 per house to £73,000 earlier this year but ACHA claims assurances were given that flexibility would be shown to rural areas with higher costs.

ACHA has 528 outstanding applications for rented accommodation in Oban alone.

Alistair MacGregor, the association's chief executive, said: 'We were assured flexibility would be applied but that just hasn't happened.

'We are now in a position that a desperately needed affordable housing project cannot go ahead unless there is some give from government officials.

'At a time when we are being encouraged to do all we can to work with government to meet housing need and to stimulate the building industry, this is hugely frustrating.'

Argyll and Bute MSP Jim Mather, minister for enterprise, energy and tourism, said: 'I have spoken to the minister and he tells me that the situation is not as black and white as it has been portrayed by ACHA management. Indeed, he tells me that his department is awaiting a formal resubmission of the scheme and is open to hearing of developments that would make the project work for ACHA, householders and the interests of the wider public.

'For my part, I am working with the sector in Argyll and Bute from construction companies to registered social landlords like ACHA to investigate all possible ways in which we can both improve the supply of affordable housing and give the local house building sector a much needed boost in these difficult times – as was evidenced by my very useful meeting with the 68 members of sector in Kilmun recently.

'This approach is working well, binding us together, creating cooperation and collaboration, involving the communities minister in positive debate and delivering an early and substantial share of the accelerated funding for social housing to Argyll and Bute: with last week's tranche being a further £680,000.'

# Mull wind farm rejected

A PROPOSED wind farm on Mull was rejected at a public meeting last week.

The farm would have seen eight to 12 turbines erected near Dervaig.

In what was called 'a very close call', objectors to the project by Dervaig Renewables, which already runs the North of Mull Woodland Trust, won the day.

Mull is the natural habitat for a number of rare species including the white tailed sea eagle, yet RSPB officer Dave Sextant confirms that the society was not opposed to the project.

He said: 'Dervaig Renewables has consulted with the RSPB since day one. As an organisation we look at every wind farm on an individual basis. Despite this project being on Mull, where a great number of protected species are, it was a small scale project and the society supported it.'

The project was rejected largely on grounds of obscured views and economic impact on property prices.

Directors of Dervaig Community Renewables Trust released a statement to say: 'The community of North West Mull narrowly voted against proceeding with a proposed community wind turbine project.

'64 per cent of the population attended the meeting and the vote was 85 for and 90 against with one abstention.

'Directors of the Dervaig Community Renewables Trust, who developed the proposal and organised the meeting, expressed disappointment at the outcome and confirmed that they would now abandon the project.'

**Stunned**

Councillor Gordon Chalmers was stunned at the outcome. 'I believe that this was a good community project that was small enough to be managed locally and bring in a small income to the community. I am disappointed that it did not find a way forward.'

He added: 'I would like people to take a fresh look at this project.'

Meanwhile, *The Oban Times* understands that a bigger project by a leading electricity supplier is being considered for the island. It is believed that the un-named company has sent engineers to the island to investigate building a wind farm.

## £14,000 grant will help Citzens Advice Bureau

AN ARGYLL advice service struggling to find volunteers is hoping funds for a development worker will help.

ARGYLL and Bute Citizens Advice Bureau has been awarded a £14,000 grant by the Lloyds TSB Foundation for Scotland, which allocates a small percentage of the bank's profits to charities.

Manager Geraldine Day said the post was essential to finding and retaining personnel for the advice service. 'We are delighted with this support. Volunteers are vital to the sustainability of our service. We offer comprehensive training, and often volunteers use the CAB as a stepping stone to paid employment.'

The Rev T. Alastair McLachlan looks on as David Kilpatrick unveils the benefactors plaque in commemoration of the refurbishment of the Kilninver Church. t49church01

## Congregation shows strength and spirit

KILNINVER Church may be small, but the congregation of the 18th century building have proved they have the biggest hearts by raising £47,000.

The minister of Kilninver Church, Alistair MacLachlan, said: 'People might say that a small church like ours should just be closed, and parishioners could go elsewhere. But this church is more than a place for worship, it is a sign to the many thousands who pass the door each year that God is here for us all.'

At the rededication service, held on the first Sunday in advent, a plaque was unveiled showing just how far the work of the small church had reached. Donations from the city of Bogota, in Colombia and the USA joined those from almost every house in the area.

Despite the winter weather a good congregation turned out to the service. Peter Cross who had been at the heart of the works on the church was unable to be there due to an operation but was remembered, as was Georgina Dalton who was stuck in her house due to the icy weather.

The shelves are empty at Woolworths Oban following the announcement of the company's closing down sale. t51wool01

## Shelves empty quick as crowds flock to Wooworths' closing down sale

THE SHELVES at Woolworths in Oban and Fort William are almost bare after hordes of customers took advantage of the company's closing down sale, which began last Thursday.

Last week administrators announced they could not find a buyer for the company, which has 815 stores throughout the country.

**Deliveries**

It is understood that the stores could close as early as Christmas Eve and will not receive any more deliveries.

Woolworths Oban manager Andrew Wilkinson said the first days of the sale were 'really busy'.

Stores face closure after Woolworths failed to manage its reported debt of £385m.

## Man who called police had drug

A MAN who called the police was found to have cannabis resin, Oban Sheriff Court heard last week.

John Gibson, aged 32, of 10D Colonsay Terrace, Oban, last week pled guilty to breaching the peace and possession of the drug on September 27 and was fined £550.

The court heard that Gibson phoned 999 in a state of agitation after he was kicked out of his cousin's house.

## £150 fine for racist abuse

AN OBAN man who was overheard by police shouting racial abuse at a Polish man has been fined £150.

Oban Sheriff Court heard last week that police had been attending another incident early in the morning on September 13 when they heard Iain Files, of 49A Combie Drive, swear at a Polish man.

Files, aged 21, admitted the racially aggravated breach of the peace.

## Youth kicked man on head

AN OBAN youth knocked a man to the ground and kicked him on the head, damaging his dentures.

The victim also suffered grazes to his face, Oban Sheriff Court heard last week.

Martin MacKinnon, aged 17, of Flat 6, 5 Drimvargie Terrace, pleaded guilty to committing the offence in George Street, Oban, at 12.45 am on August 24.

Sheriff Douglas Small said the attack could have resulted in brain injury to MacKinnon's victim.'

He deferred sentence for reports until January 6.

## Speeding driver banned

AN OBAN driver who admitted driving at 98mph has been banned for driving for two months and fined £200.

At Oban Sheriff Court last week, James Woolnough, aged 44, of Swallows Craig, said he was overtaking a slow-moving campervan when he broke 60mph speed limits on the A85 near Tyndrum last September 12.

## Trio arrested in Oban

THREE people were apprehended at 1.50am on Sunday morning for disorderly conduct in Tweedale Street, Oban.

## Man in custody over break-in and theft

A MAN appeared at Oban Sheriff Court last Thursday after allegedly stealing £1,000 and drugs from Oban Veterinary Practice.

Oban man Stuart Wilson, aged 34, has been remanded in custody awaiting trial.

The alleged break-in occurred between Tuesday and Wednesday last week.

## Man denies endangering helicopter

A BULGARIAN man has denied endangering the lives of a Royal Air Force rescue helicopter crew and a casualty by shining a laser pen into the cockpit.

Rosen Rodoslavov Romanov, aged 21, of 46 Camesky Road, Caol, is due to stand trial at Fort William Sheriff Court on the charges which are alleged to have occurred on November 1 this year at Caol Shopping Centre. Mr Romanov pled not guilty when he appeared at Fort William Sheriff Court last week and trial was set for February 20 next year.

## Take care near canal

BRITISH Waterways Scotland (BWS) is urging residents to take care near the Caledonian Canal this winter.

It warns of ice dangers on towpaths, bridges and locksides and on the canal itself if it freezes over. 'Visitors should never attempt to walk on the ice,' said BSW general manager David Lamont.

'Children should always be accompanied by an adult when they visit their local canal and should be made aware of the potential hazards.'

## Dead man identified

POLICE have confirmed the identity of a man found dead on a beach near Eoropie, Ness, Isle of Lewis, on Sunday November 30 as Alan Charles Coyle, aged 48, of 33 Inchmyre, Kelso.

A report has been submitted to the Procurator Fiscal. There do not appear to be any suspicious circumstances, police said.

Newsdesk
01631 568000

Showstoppers stars hit the heights with 'Follow the Yellow Brick Road' in the Nevis Centre on Saturday night. f51show01

# Thousands flock to Showstoppers' spectacular

**LOCHABER Showstoppers' production 'Follow the Yellow Brick Road' hit all the right notes in four sell-out performances last week in the Nevis Centre.**

**More than 500 children from Lochaber schools attended Friday afternoon's matinee and around 1,150 people enjoyed the three evening shows, which ended with Saturday night's finale before an enthusiastic audience. Showstoppers' president Sheena Coull – aka Wilma, Wicked Witch of the West - thanked the public for their 'tremendous' support. It was one of our best ever pantomimes and a great show,' she told *The Oban Times*. 'We are all tired but absolutely delighted that everyone enjoyed it.'**

**The basic script was written by 17-year-old Ryan Laskey from Fort William and adapted by director Julie Evans. Musical directors were Karen Thomsom and Susan Munro. Other main cast members were Shannon Brown, Dorothy; Iona Brown, Toto; Claire Brewer, Scarecrow; Stephen Carruthers, Tin Man; Joy Napier, Lion, and Elspeth Napier, Glinda, Good Witch of the North.**

# Call for Highland Council to lead new ferry campaign

PROVOST of Lochaber councillor Allan Henderson is calling on Highland Council to lead the campaign for a new ferry service between Mallaig and Lochboisdale.

The move follows the Scottish government's rejection of South Uist community landowners Stòras Uibhist's plan to use the former Caledonian MacBrayne ship *Claymore* for a daily service on the route.

Mallaig Community Council, Lochboisdale Community Council and Stòras back the plan, while Barra and Vatersay representatives are also demanding daily sailings to the mainland at times which link with public transport for onward journeys. Opinion is mixed on Barra, Vatersay, South Uist and Eriskay on whether Oban or Mallaig is the best option for improved ferry services.

Western Isles Council intends to consult all affected communites on the issue. Councillor Henderson said Stòras was attempting 'to augment' existing services by creating a daily link to the mainland from Barra and South Uist, a right, he says, that 'everyone should expect in the 21st century'.

'A better service for all would make it possible for people and businesses to survive in island communities,' he said.

Barra, Vatersay, Eriskay and South Uist councillor Donald Manford said he was 'delighted' to hear another local authority could lend its backing.

## Mine closes

SEVEN of the 11 employees at Lochaline's silica mine will be made redundant tomorrow (Friday).

Tarmac UK chiefs briefed representatives from Highland Council, HIE, Morvern Community Council and local MP Charles Kennedy in Inverness on Monday that no buyer had yet been found and the mine will officially close on December 31. The four remaining employees will be retained on care and maintenance duties for six to eight weeks. **See page 9**.

# Loch Linnhe seabed fee fury

## Pensioner's anger over Crown Estate charges

Exclusive: By STEPHEN NORRIS

A FORT William seafaring pensioner has hit out over Crown Estate fees imposed on small boat owners on Loch Linnhe.

John Silver, aged 77, of Douglas Place, Plantation, has sailed the loch's waters for more than 50 years in assorted craft, more recently in his 13-foot fibreglass dinghy *Ceol Mara*.

Mr Silver pays £45 for his mooring near the Crannog restaurant to Achintore Moorings Owners Association (AMOA), which takes a £10 administration fee for collecting the £35 Crown Estate charge.

Mr Silver has no quibble with the association but feels strongly that at his age having to pay the crown rent for a tiny piece of seabed is unfair.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'I've been involved with boats on that loch for half a century. That's what bugs me – I am not just on the water at weekends trying to make a nuisance of myself. I do quite a bit of sailing and fishing.

'It's a heck of a lot of money just for a wee dinghy. The drift is that the water is free but if you put something on the bottom you have to pay for it. The seabed is theirs - the water is ours. A fellow comes round from the Crown Estates in a RIB [rigid inflatable boat)] and if you have not got a proper tag on your mooring they have the authority to sink it or fine you £1,000 - but when you reach my age I honestly believe you should not be charged.

'All I have got is a little block of concrete and a chain attached to it, yet I'm charged for that. When you reach 70 you get a free TV licence, so why should I not be allowed to go out on the loch without paying for the privilege? It's only a wee fibreglass boat with a wee diesel engine and a couple of sails.'

AMOA secretary Bob Aitken confirmed the Crown Estate took money for around 50 moorings - £1,750 annually.

'We have no say in the matter whatsoever,' he told *The Oban Times*. 'The Crown Estate decides what to do and we do what we are told.'

A spokesperson for the Crown Estate said the fee represented 'excellent value for those who wish to take part in a leisure activity'.

Asked if the Crown Estate would be receptive to a plea for a fee cut from the AMOA, she said: 'They would have to approach us with that argument.'

Members of Oban High School's bands and music groups feature on a new CD. t52cd01

## High school music CD unveiled

TALENTED Oban High School musicians unveiled a new album at their annual Christmas Cracker Concert last week.

The CD, entitled Viva Oban High, celebrates the school's recent concert tour of Barcelona. Principal music teacher Morven McKerrell said: 'The CD includes the wind band, pipe band, string group, choir and various other instrumentalists and includes favourites such as Highland Cathedral. The design by Deeva Design looks amazing.'

The CD is on sale for £10 in Alba and from the school. A full review of the CD will appear in a future edition of *The Oban Times*.

# Taynuilt initiative bids to cut out use of plastic carrier bags

Taynuilt residents, traders and councillors display their Taynuilt Turning the Tide cloth bags.

TAYNUILT is leading Argyll's battle to reduce landfill waste with the launch of an initiative to cut out the use of plastic bags in the community – the first small village in Scotland to do so.

An environmental awareness group, Taynuilt Turning the Tide, launched its Plastic Bag Free Project last Saturday in the village.

The group has given two Fairtrade cloth bags to all households in the Taynuilt Community Council catchment area to use for shopping.

Taynuilt Turning the Tide volunteer Maggie Brotherston said: 'It is estimated that each cloth bag will save its owner using at least 1,000 plastic bags in their lifetime, so it is hoped that the project will save up to 1.5 million bags from going to landfill from the Taynuilt area. This project can only help reduce that figure, as well as Taynuilt's carbon footprint.

'Pioneering traders in the Taynuilt area have given a commitment to reduce the consumption of ubiquitous plastic bags by encouraging shoppers to use their cloth bags.

'It has been great seeing everyone walking around the village with their new bags.'

Taynuilt Primary School pupils have made drawings for the project after the children heard a presentation explaining the concept of recycling.

The Plastic Bag Free Project has been funded by Community Recycling Network for Scotland with support from North Argyll Community Trust and Taynuilt Community Council.

## 'Business as usual' at Lochaber smelter

THERE are hopes that Rio Tinto Alcan's Lochaber Smelter will not be affected by parent company Rio Tinto announcing its intention to cut 5,500 jobs worldwide.

The company said last week that an announcement on where the jobs would be lost would not be made until the new year, but it also announced that a £45 million investment in the Lochaber Smelter, which employs 167 people, will go ahead.

A Rio Tinto Alcan spokesman told *The Oban Times*: 'We simply don't know how, if at all, this announcement will impact on the UK business. The Lochaber Smelter however is in great shape. Rio Tinto has made some tough decisions but it's business as usual at Lochaber.'

A statement by Rio Tinto said the measures are a response to the rapidity and severity of the global economic downturn.

# Christmas fair boosts hall funds

The Kilmallie Hall committee enjoy their break after Saturday's Christmas fair. f51kilmallie01

KILMALLIE Hall fund is £687 to the good after its annual Christmas fair on Saturday.

Twelve craft and food stalls and tea and home-baking in the back hall all contributed to the total.

Fort William butcher Robert Henderson and his wife Jessie raised around £200 at their game and home grown vegetable stall.

Hall committee chairman John MacDonald and treasurer Jimmy Smith thanked everyone for their support, and all the volunteers who had put in so much time getting the hall ready.

# Sheriff admonishes woman given quantity of drugs by dying sister

A WOMAN who admitted possessing nearly a kilo of amphetamine given to her by her dying sister has been admonished at Fort William Sheriff Court.

In an unusual move, the Procurator Fiscal accepted that Jean McCartney, aged 41, of 91 Kennedy Road, Fort William, took possession of the drugs from her deceased sister and was not dealing.

Defence agent Gerald Sweeney said the case was 'novel and unique'.

Procurator Fiscal Fiona Murray said police had received a tip off in October last year that drugs were within 91 Kennedy Road. Ms McCartney showed them a bedroom cupboard with a carrier bag containing more than £9,000 of amphetamine in £10 amounts.

'After being given the drugs by her sister, she gave the drugs to someone to dispose of, but they were not disposed of and she took them back into her own house. It's a dealer amount within her home,' said Ms Murray.

Mr Sweeney said Ms McCartney found 'contrary to her agreement' the drugs had not been destroyed and 'threw them into the back of a wardrobe and left them there until contact with police'.

'Certain members of the community must have been aggrieved at being deprived of the items,' he said.

Admonishing Ms McCartney, Sheriff Douglas Small accepted she was 'not involved' in distributing drugs.

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

AN INNOVATIVE fundraising idea by an Oban optometrist has earned Specsavers a top award.

Ken MacDonald, director of Specsavers, convinced many of the Scottish branches of the opticians to have a 'Donation Day' where all profits, £80,000, were given to Vision Aid Overseas.

A spokeswoman for Specsavers said: 'Ken is the real driving force behind this initiative, the pilot scheme that he led last year, was a fantastic way for the company to raise money. Shops opened on a Sunday which is not normally a trading day for many of the stores.

'It is no surprise that Ken won the award because he has first hand experience of the situation in Africa. He knows just how much difference every penny makes to people all over Africa.'

❐ ❐ ❐

AHEAD of its 10th birthday early next year, the dance band Skipinnish is planning extensive interior work to its Oban ceilidh house.

Band members Angus MacPhail and Andrew Stevenson, who won the title of Scottish Dance Band of the Year at the Scottish Trad Music Awards last week, will also record a 10th anniversary CD live at the ceilidh house. And Scottish dance band legend Robbie Shepherd hosted his Take the Floor radio programme from the venue this week.

OBAN Rotary Club president David Finlayson, pictured right, last week handed over a donation of £500 to support the work of Quarriers Rooftops, which helps local homeless youngsters.

Project manager David Lyon told members: 'The funds raised will go directly to the young people we are working with, who are setting up their own home for the first time.' t50rot3

ACUMEN director stands down and hits out at policymakers

# Mental-health activist resigns over service 'cuts'

A MENTAL-health activist has resigned from a group that helps to shape mental health policy, claiming it powerless to halt what he sees as cuts in the Oban and district mental health budget.

Lawrence Nugent, who stood down as a director of Argyll and Clyde United in Mental Health (ACUMEN) last month, delivered a parting shot to his fellow directors and the mental health policymakers in the area.

He claims the service, which seeks to give mentally-ill patients more independence, is creating a 'revolving door' effect whereby patients leave hospital but lack the necessary support to stay in the community.

**'Reduced'**

He said: 'Over the past six years the transport, social and recreational services in mental health in Oban and the surrounding area have been reduced. I have been raising this issue for too long and nothing is being done about it.'

Mr Nugent, also a member of Oban Mental Health Forum and former chairman of the Glasgow Forum on Disability, says the One Step Up Project in Argyll Street, a mental health day service, is not worth going to after years of neglect and only one member regularly uses it, which costs the service £150 per day. He also claims it has been more than two years since club members were taken on an outing.

'The One Step Up club used to give people a reason to get out of the house but now it is easier to have a cup of tea and stare at the four walls in your own home than have a cup of tea at One Step Up and stare at the walls there,' he said.

'To think these people used to have a seven-seater people carrier that took them to Highland games and places like Mull.'

**Invitation**

Argyll and Bute Council has stressed the overall budget for mental health has not been cut and that Mr Nugent had not responded to an invitation to meet with the council's head of adult care.

A spokeswoman for the council said: 'The One Step Up Project is not being cut but will be involved in redesign as part of the wider mental health redesign. This will improve the service, not damage it. The focus is on moving from simply maintaining individuals to helping with integration into the wider community and greater independence.'

ACUMEN told *The Oban Times* it would discuss Mr Nugent's comments at its next full board meeting on January 7.

## Man cut up bank card to stop partner going out

A MAN who cut up a bank card to stop his partner going out for the evening has been put on probation for nine months

At Oban Sheriff Court last week, Iain MacColl, of 25 Lora View, North Connel, admitted shouting abuse, throwing his girlfriend's purse and destroying the bank card at a house in Benmore View, North Connel.

Fiscal Scott Simpson told the court the 41 year old had been recuperating after surgery. He had been drinking on September 27 when the argument arose.

Defence agent Thornton said: 'This was a minor domestic dispute between two partners, the sort that takes place every day. There was no violence.'

Sentencing MacColl for a breach of the peace, Sheriff Douglas Small said he would benefit from a period of probation.

## Trees are lit up in memory of lost loved ones

THE LIGHTS on the trees at Oban's Corran Halls were lit up last week as a memorial for those who have lost loved ones in the recent past.

At the annual Friends of Oban Hospice Light up a Life ceremony, around 60 people gathered to mark the passing of their relatives and friends.

Dr Mac Armstrong spoke about the support plans for an in-patient hospice have received from members of the community as well as the day hospice already running.

**'Opportunity'**

'We have always said that what we do is just a start,' he said, referring to recent news that there was now the opportunity to have a permanent hospice in Oban's hospital.

'But the main reason we are here tonight is to remember our loved ones and particularly loved ones you have lost in the last year; to remember all the ways in which their lives lit up ours and continue to do so,' he said.

As well as carols, there was a reading of a poem by vice-chairman of Oban Hospice Ltd Ian Kerr, a solo by Taynuilt's Audrey Paterson, a prayer by the Rev Bill Gray, and the playing of Highland Cathedral by members of Oban High School Pipe Band.

The Rev Bill Gray, Margaret MacLean, chairwoman of Friends of Oban Hospice, Dr Mac Armstrong, chairman of Oban Hospice Ltd and Ian Kerr, vice-chairman of Oban Hospice Ltd, outside the Corran Halls at the Light up a Life 2008 ceremony. t51light01

Light up a Life raises funds each year through donations for names and a few words to be included in a book of condolence, which will be in Oban Library until January 5.

An earlier PowerPoint presentation explained more of the Friends of Oban Hospice's work and what the new in-patient hospice would consist of. The former Nelson Ward at Lorn and Islands District General Hospital is to be used as a two-bedroom hospice with a relatives' room, quiet room, therapy space and day room and, if feasible, a separate entrance to the unit.

So far the friends have raised £33,993 – £10,000 through Light up a Life donations – towards the £230,000 project which will include partnership working with Macmillan Nurses and the NHS.

## Drink driver banned

AN OBAN man who drove while more than twice the legal alcohol limit has been banned from driving for 18 months and fined £75.

Andrew Cain, aged 27, of 6G Colonsay Terrace, decided to take out his car after an argument with his wife, Oban Sheriff Court heard last week.

A contract worker who drove the morning after a drinking session and caused an accident has been banned from driving for 18 months and fined £675.

Jason McTaggart, aged 23, 19 Pathhead, New Cumnock pled guilty in Oban Sheriff Court last week to charges of careless driving with more than the legal alcohol in his system on the A816 at 9.30am on November 29.

His vehicle was in collision with a car on a tight bend, resulting in both cars ending up in a ditch.

Sheriff Douglas Small said: 'It is very fortunate that you did not kill the other person.'

## Jail warning for Oban man

AN OBAN man on a Drug Treatment and Testing Order has been warned he will be locked up if his offending behaviour continues.

William Burns, aged 28, Room 6, Donmar Lodge, pled guilty at Oban Sheriff Court last week to stealing items to the value of £255 from two cars in Lochavullin Drive, Oban on July 10, while on bail. The court heard that Burns was on a drug rehabilitation programme ordered by the court.

Sheriff Douglas Small told him: 'Against my better judgement I am going to allow bail while the court prepares reports. I will have no hesitation in remanding you if you come before me again. You do not know how close you were to being remanded today.'


Nollaig Chridheil agus Bliadhna Mhath Ùr le BBC ALBA.

**Bith nad phàirt dheth!**

**Monday 22nd *Tuesday 23rd *Wednesday 24th**
**17.30 | Fear nam Miorbhail -** Animated feature in three parts recounts the life of Christ.

**Monday 22nd**
**22.30 | Firinn is Feise -** Personal stories of conflict between sexuality and spirituality in the Highlands.

**Wednesday 24th**
**20.15 | Carols at Kelvingrove -** Cathy MacDonald introduces a programme of carols, poetry and bible readings from the Kelvingrove Art Gallery in Glasgow. Guests include Gaelic choirs from the Glasgow area, pupils from Glasgow's Gaelic School, and singers Maggie MacInnes, James Graham and Fiona MacKenzie.

**21.00 | Grampian - Toradh nam Bliadhna -** Nostalgic look at back at Gaelic TV on STV and Grampian, with Norman Macleod and Patsi Mackenzie.

**23.00 | Seirbheis Nollaig - bho na h-Eileanan - Beannachdan na Nollaige as na h-Eileanan le leughaidhean, laoidhean is ceòl. Seirbhis Nollaige ecumeniceach ann an Eaglais a Naomh Peadar an Dalabroig le leughaidhean, laoidhean agus ùrnaighean. A-measg an luchd-ciuil tha Julie Fowlis, Mairead Stiùbhart, Pòl McCallum, Iain Dòmhnallach, an còmhlan The Flying Fiddles agus oileanaich-ciuil òga as a'sgire.** A very special Christmas event - an ecumenical service from St Peter's Church, Daliburgh. Hosted by Father Roddy MacAuley, with prayers and readings from the Rev John Smith and Rev Iain MacAskill. Soloists Julie Fowlis, Margaret Stewart and Paul McCallum are accompanied by local group The Flying Fiddles and by young musicians from Lews Castle College, Benbecula. Sgoil Lionacleit senior choir and the Daliburgh congregation sing your favourite Gaelic carols, as piper Iain MacDonald welcomes in Christmas Day. Repeated on Christmas Day 16.20.

**Thursday 25th**
**19.00 | Runrig - City of Lights** - A classic concert from 1990 featuring Gaelic rock band Runrig.

**20.00 | An Ceasnachadh -** A powerful drama on the removal of the Stone of Destiny. The story of the removal of the Stone of Destiny from Westminster Abbey by a group of students is well known. This drama offers an insight into the personal and political motivations of one of those who took part, Kay Matheson.

**21.30 | Seachd - Inaccessible Pinnacle. Tha gille òg a'lorg Ian thirinn na sgeòil.** A young man discovers that the truth is in the story. "Gorgeously-realised blend of magic realism and family drama" THE HERALD.

**Friday 26th**
**21.00 | Diomhair -** Once secret official papers reveal the dealings of successive governments with the Home Rule movement and the SNP. The story of how successive Labour and Conservatives Governments up until the 1970's worked behind the scenes to discredit the Home Rule movement and the SNP - as revealed through once secret papers now available from official archives.

**Sunday 28th**
**18.30 | News Review -** The BBC ALBA News team take a look back over the year.

**Monday 29th**
**21.00 | Trusadh – A' Ruith le Raonaid.** Following gender change surgery Rachel sets herself a new challenge to run 5 Scottish marathons

**Tuesday 30th**
**21.00 | Craobh nan Ubhal. A' toirt urram do an t-seinneadair ionmholta traidiseanta Floraidh NicNèill.** Celebrating the life and music of Flora MacNeil, one of Scotland's greatest exponents of traditional Gaelic song.

**Wednesday 31st**
**18.00 | Gruth is Uachdar – Pròg ram 1. Beatha gille òg anns na Hearadh ro am an darna cogaidh.** A timeless rite-of-passage story about a young boy in a remote community.

**19.00 | The Trads** - Winners Concert - As the dust settles on this year's Trad Awards Ceremony, we join Julie Fowlis at the Arches in Glasgow, as she presents an exclusive line-up of award winners for an outstanding one-off concert.

**22.30 | Sìm MacCoinnich. A' cuimhneachadh air Sìm. A' comharrachadh beatha agus obair Shìm MhicCoinnich.** A celebration of the life and work of well loved actor Simon Mackenzie.

**23.30 | Bliadhna Mhath Ur! Tha Tony Kearney , Mòrag Dhòmhnallach agus na h-aoighean aca a' cuir fàilte air 2009. Tha còmhlan Julie Fowlis, Our Small Capital, Alan Dòmhnallach & Mairead Stiùbhairt, Griogair Labhraidh agus Na h-Òganaich a -measg na bhios cuide ri Tony agus Mòrag airson fàilte a chuir air 2009 le cèol , dannsa, sùil air ais agus air adhart agus beagan plòidh. Agus co aig a tha fios co eile a dh'fhaodadh nochdadh aig an doras mas bi an oidhche seachad. Beò cuideachd air BBC Radio nan Gaidheal.** Tony Kearney and Mòrag MacDonald invite you to a special Hogmanay celebration with music from the Julie Fowlis Band, Our Small Capital, Allan MacDonald & Mairead Stiùbhart, Gregor Lawrie, Na h-Òganaich and many more. Also on BBC Radio nan Gàidheal.

**Thursday 1st January 2009**
**18.00 | Gruth is Uachdar - Pròg ram 2. Is e bhliadhna 1937 a th'ann agus tha Fionnlaigh air a shlighe chun an Tairbeart airson na làithean-saora.** It's 1937 and Finlay travels to Tarbert for his holidays.

**20.00 | Coinneach T.** For 25 years, Kenny Thomson has been conductor of the Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association. This programme follows Kenny through the highs and lows of 2008, a landmark year for both him and the choir.

**21.00 | An Iolaire. Sùil às ùr air dè dh'adhbhraich call na h-Iolaire, far an do chaillear còrr is 200 òganach air oidhche na Bliadhn' Ùr 1919 's iad a'tilleadh dhachaigh bho'n Chogadh Mhòr.** The moving story of one of Britain's worst maritime disasters, the loss of more than 200 sailors just yards from shore, as they returned home to Lewis & Harris on New Year's Day 1919 having survived the Great War.

**Friday 2nd**
**23.00 | Ann am Bàta, Nam Aonar.** Niall Iain MacDonald attempts to row the Minch against all the odds.

www.mgalba.com BBC ALBA - Sky 168 Freesat 110 www.bbcalba.co.uk

## Light moment

A POLICE car was brought to a halt by a passerby in the pedestrianised High Street, Fort William on Saturday afternoon.

Onlookers watched as the man walked in front of the car, held up his hand in a stop sign – and pointed out to the officers that one of their side lights was not working.

'It was hilarious really,' a shop manager who witnessed the scene told *The Oban Times*.

## Youth choir to hold auditions

THE NEW Highland Youth Gaelic Choir (HYGC) will be holding auditions on January 10 and applications are now being invited from pupils studying at any of the region's secondary schools.

The HYGC will have its first rehearsal weekend on January 16 and 17. It is hoped that the choir will attract enough applicants to have around 30 members initially.

## Man in court over robbery attempt

A MAN appeared on petition at Inverness Sheriff Court on Monday in connection with an alleged attempted robbery at Malt Hurst filling station, Newtonmore, last Thursday.

Alasdair Walker, aged 26, of 10 Loch na Leoba, Newtonmore, made no plea or declaration and is due to appear at Inverness Sheriff Court on December 23.

Mr Walker is charged with assault and robbery, and also faces two charges of attempting to pervert the course of justice.

## £630 raised for school

JOE WILSON, the recently retired 'jannie' at Lochyside Primary School and his musical family have raised £630 from their charity CD ' Bottle Tops'.

The cash will be split equally between Room 13 at Lochyside Primary School, the school itself and Lochaber Action on Disability.

Through *The Oban Times* Joe thanked everybody who bought the CD, which is still on sale from outlets in Lochaber.

## TV dates for Gaelic singer

GAELIC singer Margaret Stewart, originally of Upper Coll, Back, on the Isle of Lewis, is to make TV appearances over the festive season.

She will perform on BBC Alba's Watch Night service on December 24 at 11pm, which is repeated again on Christmas Day, on Hogmanay in The Trad Awards Winners' Concert on BBC2 Scotland and also BBC Alba's Hogmanay Show, broadcast live from Stornoway.

Margaret, a National Mod gold medal winner, won the Gaelic Singer of the Year title at the Scottish Traditional Music Awards ceremony in Glasgow earlier this month. She lives in Nairn.

# Skye-born businessman hopes to follow in footsteps of MSP John Farquhar Munro

A SKYE-BORN businessman will contest the Ross, Skye and Inverness West constituency for the Liberal Democrats at the next Scottish parliament elections.

Members chose 37-year-old Alan MacRae as their man to fight the seat held by Lib Dem MSP John Farquhar Munro, who is standing down when the present parliamentary term ends in 2011.

Mr MacRae was chosen from a strong field of five candidates from a range of backgrounds across the Highlands and Islands.

Mr MacRae said it was a 'privilege' to have been chosen as candidate.

'I was born and raised in this area – it means a lot to me to have this chance to fight for its future,' he said. 'It is also an exciting challenge to follow in the footsteps of John Farquhar Munro, Charles Kennedy and Danny Alexander – as well as the late and much-missed Lord Russell Johnston before them.

'The Highlands are experiencing a difficult time as the aftermath of the banking crisis continues to hit our economy. I will work hard to show how liberalism in action through a more powerful Scottish parliament can help the Highlands, and ensure we take full advantage of recovery when it comes.'

MSP John Farquhar Munro said Mr MacRae had fought a 'very energetic' campaign to win the selection and looked forward to working with Mr MacRae to ensure the constituency continues to have a strong Highland voice.

Ross, Skye and Lochaber MP Charles Kennedy said Mr MacRae would be 'a major asset' to the Highland Liberal Democrat team.

# West Coast fishermen warn of second Clearances

THE MALLAIG and Northwest Fishermen's Association is warning of 'a second Highland Clearances' if EU plans for fishing grounds off the west coast are not scrapped.

Secretary John Hermes told *The Oban Times* on Tuesday that EU proposals to impose a 'grid' system on West coast waters was unworkable and would mean a tie-up of the entire prawn boat fleet – around 300 vessels.

During two days of talks, which start today in Brussels, a proposal to close down cod, haddock and whiting fishing is also on the table.

**Restrictions**

The measures add up to the toughest restrictions to be potentially imposed on Scottish western coastal waters.

Asked if he had a message for Euro fisheries ministers, Mr Hermes said: 'My answer would be that if they get away with this proposal it will herald the second Highland Clearances. It will kill the fishing industry for no good reason.

'They say there is a problem with the stocks, but we have the methodology to deal with the problem.

'We have put forward our proposals and hopefully they will see things from our point of view and work with us to implement our counter proposals.

'With Europe, nothing is easy with them – they seem to work in a micro bubble, the science on the west coast is very patchy.

'The grid system does not work in the west coast fishing grounds and we've proved that. We question a lot of the conclusions they reach from that science.'

Mr Hermes said Mallaig and Northwest fishermen were proposing square mesh panels and real time closures to reduce discards.

'That would mean that if there's a certain amount of discarded small fish then that area would be closed for a time and the fishermen would move into other areas, Mr Hermes told *The Oban Times*.

EU scientists maintain that stocks of white fish are so low off Scotland's west coast that trawling for white fish should be banned altogether.

Prawn fishing makes up the bulk of catches at ports like Mallaig and the EU ban, if implemented, could also wipe out onshore processing jobs.

Fisheries minister Richard Lochhead has branded the proposals as 'outrageous' and will oppose the EU moves during the negotiations.

Iona Campbell, Katie Kennedy and Mairi MacRae of class 1H: looking forward to their science day out. f51dolphins01

## Class 1H are natural champions

CLASS 1H are the first year science champions at Lochaber High School after winning a natural world competition.

The school's eight first-year classes each had to research then do a presentation on one Highland plant and animal – and IH came top.

The class wins a science day out of their choice.

One pupil jokingly suggested a trip to see the 'animals' at Euro Disney – but school budgets suggest otherwise!

# Fuel steam ahead!

## Lottery funding boost for Glenuig £600,000 filling station and shop bid

GLENUIG Community Association has been awarded £5,175 Big Lottery funding towards finalising an ambitious bid to build a new shop and filling station – aimed at ending massive journeys for fuel.

GCA will lodge the £600,000 bid in time for next February's Big Lottery grants round, and hopes to hear soon after that if its plan for the full-time shop and 24-hour fuel station, to be built on their existing sites, can go ahead.

**Successful**

The initial funding will allow GCA to conduct a feasibility study, complete a business plan, update the website and visit communities where similar initiatives have been successful.

The remote Moidart community has been without a fuel station for years, while the present shop is run by volunteers and only opens 16 hours a week.

With no petrol or diesel outlet nearby, Lochailort, Glenuig and Roisbheinn residents often use up two gallons of fuel simply getting to Fort William to fill up. The community has been campaigning since 1999 for better services.

Now the go-ahead association aims to follow the success of similar enterprises elsewhere in the Highlands, and is in the process of buying the required land from Samalaman Estate.

**Confidence**

A Glenuig team has already visited Shetland and is planning trips to community enterprises in Uig on Lewis and Sleat to share best practice, ideas and information.

GCA adviser Julia Whitaker told *The Oban Times*: 'The idea is to learn from them and build confidence in the community that we can do what other communities have successfully done, and achieve something for ourselves. We are drawing up a very tight business plan which proves this is sustainable.

'At the moment residents in Glenuig and surrounding areas have to travel huge distances just to get fuel.'

GCA director Jon Kelly said he was 'delighted' with the award enabling GCA to complete its funding application, and thanked the Big Lottery Fund for its support.

## Marine leisure business is looking forward to 2009

A LOCHABER marine leisure business is busy completing an upgrade in time for the start of the 2009 season.

Arisaig Marine Ltd is developing a new harbour office with a waiting area, wildlife interpretation displays and information about the Small Isles – in addition to new shower and laundry facilities for visiting yacht owners and a small chandlery and gift shop.

The first phase of the project, comprising a new workshop and small slipway, has already been completed.

Established over 30 years ago by Murdo Grant, Arisaig Marine has been run for the last five years by his daughter, Susan Grant and fellow director, Graham MacLellan.

Ms Grant said that they would have been unable to progress their development plans had it not been for assistance from Highlands and Islands Enterprise, which granted £42,000 towards the expansion plan.

She said: 'Our present buildings were nearing the end of their life and were in drastic need of replacing. The new development is vital to our sustainability as it will help draw in new yachts and retain existing ones.'

# Death crash motorist admits careless driving

A FORMER Lochaber councillor has admitted driving without due care and attention on the A82 and causing an accident in which a 77-year-old woman was killed.

George Bruce, of Albyn Drive, Corpach, admitted driving without due care and attention on the A82 at North Ballachulish by driving onto the opposite carriageway and colliding with another vehicle whereby Ellen Thorpe, a rear seat passenger, was killed.

Mrs Thorpe's husband, Andrew Thorpe, suffered internal injuries and required surgery and her daughter Angela Thorpe, who was driving the car, was airlifted to the Southern General Hospital in Glasgow with multiple fractures in her right leg.

Fort William Sheriff Court heard last week that on July 12 this year the Thorpe family had set off from their home in Galashiels to go on holiday to Dornie near Kyle.

George Bruce set off from Corpach with his wife to drive to Dumfries, the court heard. At 2.45pm the cars met on a left-hand bend at North Ballachulish where witnesses saw the Bruces' car suddenly cross the centre white lines into the northbound lane.

Defence agent Hamish Melrose said Bruce, a health and safety adviser with clients in the construction and whisky industries, had been driving for 45 years.

**'Inattention'**

Mr Melrose said: 'He fully accepts the conclusion in the accident report which can find no other cause for the collision other than driver inattention.

'Speed was not an issue. He was travelling in a line of traffic, there was no thought at all of overtaking.

'The accident took place on a straight stretch of roadway going into a left hand bend. Instead of taking the bend, for some inexplicable reason he has literally gone straight on.

Sheriff Douglas Small told Bruce: 'You have pled guilty to driving without due care and attention and in sentencing on this charge I have to have regard only to the quality of driving at the time – I cannot consider the consequences.'

Bruce was fined £400 and had eight penalty points placed on his driving licence.

Sheriff Small added: 'I would like to express the sympathies of the court to Ellen Thorpe's family.'

## Ballot next month will decide Rum's future

THE Isle of Rum could be in community ownership by February – providing its tiny population votes for the change.

Land and assets worth around £250,000, including the island's community hall, village shop, tearoom and campsite are to be transferred from owners, Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) to the 29-strong community after a ballot in January.

The transfer will allow the Rum Community Trust to develop visitor accommodation and designate land for crofting.

Environment minister Michael Russell said: 'The planned transfer of land and property in Kinloch Village and Glen will provide a platform for development of a thriving and sustainable community.

'It will create opportunities for local enterprise while improving the facilities and services available to visitors to the island.'

Andrew Thin, chairman of SNH, said: 'This is a key step in the establishment of an independent community and economy for the island and we look forward to working closely with the trust on its future plans.

**Heritage**

'This will also allow SNH to get on with the business of managing the island's outstanding natural heritage and working with the community to enhance the visitor experience.'

Rum has been owned and managed by Government conservation agencies since 1957. It passed from the Nature Conservancy Council to SNH in 1992.

## Cuts to Arisaig surgery times will be reviewed

A DECISION to reduce surgery times at Arisaig Health Centre is to be reviewed in six months' time.

A public meeting last week attended by Arisaig Community Council and Mallaig and Arisaig Medical Practice also heard that there is no move to close the health centre in Arisaig.

The meeting was arranged after an announcement last month that surgeries on Thursdays in Arisaig would be stopped because of the number of appointment times not being used.

Members of the community council were also angry over the absence of community involvement in the decision to make reductions.

Dr Iain Gartshore said he was to review the decision to reduce the hours after hearing that a number of new houses being built in Arisaig would soon increase the population and would need to be taken into consideration.

**Transfer**

He also emphasised that he had no intention of closing the Arisaig surgery and, to demonstrate this further, he agreed to transfer some of the evening appointments from Mallaig to Arisaig.

Community councillor Lesley Benfield said the general feeling was that if the community wanted to maintain a good number of surgery times in Arisaig then it needed to use the centre.

## Post offices overcharging

PEOPLE are being overcharged by some local post offices for posting letters and parcels, according to the Trading Standards team of Argyll and Bute Council.

Following a series of checks at post offices last month, Trading Standards officers found that people in Argyll and Bute were being overcharged by a substantial 81.1 per cent for a large letter posted.

The cost should have been 90p but was actually charged at £1.63.

As of 2006, all letters taken to post offices are priced according to both size and weight.

A total of 125 letters and packets posted by Trading Standards officers at 120 post offices in 14 local authority areas across Scotland resulted in overcharges at 30 per cent of the post offices visited, the largest being in Argyll and Bute.

Overall, there was an average overcharge per item of 12 per cent.

A council spokeswoman said: 'I'm sure most people would view these figures as unacceptable.

'It appears that in these failures many of the staff in post offices are not measuring letters or packets prior to charging customers.

'The inaccuracies we have detected tie in with the items being placed in higher, incorrect price bands.

'It was very obvious during the checks that many of the counter staff were using their personal judgment to size the letters rather than actually measuring them.

'A decision on whether formal enforcement action is required will be taken once we have met with the Post Office. We will also be seeking assurances that immediate steps will be taken to remedy this.'

## It's party time for senior citizens club

Nether Lochaber Senior Citizens Club held its annual Christmas party this week with James and Maria MacDonald of Onich Hotel providing the use of the hotel and the Christmas meal for the second year. The club has also received donations this year from Corran Bunk House, Stuart MacLean and Nether Lochaber Community Council. f51sen01

# Ex-soldier's £4,000 damage to bar

SENTENCE has been deferred on a former soldier who caused £4,000 worth of damage to a Roy Bridge hotel bar.

John James Keenan, age 20, of 56 Upper Inveroy, Roy Bridge admitted assaulting police officers, disorderly conduct, vandalism and breach of the peace at the Roy Bridge Hotel on September 14 this year.

Fort William Sheriff Court heard last week that as staff approached the main door to lock up for the night the accused, who had been drinking in the bar since around 9pm on Saturday, September 13, forced his way into the bar and demanded alcohol.

Procurator fiscal Fiona Murray said: 'He then became aggressive and abusive and challenged staff to fight. Staff tried to pacify him but he got behind the bar. As staff phoned police smashing sounds could clearly be heard in the background.

'Five police officers attended the hotel and confronted the accused who appeared to be extremely violent and intoxicated. As police drew their CS spray the accused picked up an empty bottle and threw it at a police officer, missing him narrowly.'

Defence agent Hamish Melrose said: 'He had too much to drink. He was in the Highlanders infantry battalion but had to leave because of personal difficulties.'

Sheriff Douglas Small deferred sentence until February 5 to find out the exact loss to the hotel owners and proposals as to how the accused is to pay back the damages.

# Millions for A82 upgrade but criticism of timescale

Fergus Ewing, MSP for Inverness East, Nairn and Lochaber.

Demand A82 Upgrade campaign chairman, councillor Brian Murphy.

## Decades of campaigning

LOCHABER MSP Fergus Ewing welcomed the announcement saying it was the culmination of decades of campaigning on his part.

He said: 'I have campaigned all my life for a fair deal for the Highlands, to improve our road and rail links.

'For the first time ever we now learn of major plans for the north which include the A9, A96 and A82 - all vital arteries.

'It is a huge sign of the SNP government's support for the Highlands that we have done so well out of this announcement.'

HIGHLAND councillor Brian Murphy, chairman of the Demand A82 Upgrade campaign, said campaigners could be 'reasonably pleased' that their case had been recognised but said the group would now be seeking a meeting with Stewart Stevenson and Transport Scotland as soon as possible.

He said: 'We are quite pleased that the case for upgrade has been accepted but there are concerns about the lack of detail in the review, the funding for specific projects and the timescale. We will be seeking a meeting with the minister to get clarification of what it all means but this campaign is there for the long haul, we're not going to go away.'

AT THE Scottish Parliament last week transport minister Stewart Stevenson promised between £100 and £250 million to upgrade the A82 but there was criticism in the west Highlands that the proposals are too vague and have no timescale.

As part of a national Strategic Transport Projects Review (STPR), Mr Stevenson announced between £100 and £250m to 'significantly improve the standard of the A82', reducing accident rates, accident severity and cutting journey times on the major trunk route into the west Highlands.

Other routes in the west Highlands, the A83, A85 and A828 are also included in a separate national £100-£250m Route Management Project to ensure roads are safe and suitably maintained for expected levels of traffic.

This work may include realigning sections of road, junction improvements, creating two plus one lanes and stretches of dual carriageway.

The A82, A87, A830 and A887 are also included in another national project to ensure safer overtaking opportunities with improvements including hard strips for farm traffic, road realignments and junction improvements to improve safety and reduce severe and fatal accident rates.

Funding for the A82 is to include a 'general upgrade' of the route with measures such as road widening at selected locations between Tarbet and Inverarnan and between Corran Ferry and Fort William. Climbing lanes and overtaking lay-bys are also to be added accompanied by road realignments, junction improvements, hard strips and safety cameras to create safer overtaking opportunities and more reliable and safer routes.

Over the last few years campaign groups, the A82 Partnership and the Demand A82 Upgrade saw political unity in the west Highlands as communities and political representatives united behind calls for an upgrade to the road which they described as the 'most dangerous in Britain'.

The campaigns were focused on making sure Mr Stevenson included the A82 in this year's STPR which commits the government to spend £2.5 billion on 29 transport projects which will be delivered between now and 2022. There was a cautious welcome to the plans from the Demand A82 Upgrade campaign with its chairman, Fort William councillor Brian Murphy, saying there was concern over the lack of detail in the announcement and the timescale.

There was also a muted welcome to the plans for the A82 by the government's transport agency for the Highlands, Hi-Trans, which in a statement said that there was concern over the limited commitments to improve the A82. The statement said: 'The commitments to improve the A82 do not appear to be of sufficient scale to be the catalyst to deliver economic growth at the rate the west Highlands and islands desperately need.

Members of the Demand A82 Upgrade campaign; Highland councillor John Laing, chief inspector John Chisholm, haulier Ally Ferguson and Argyll and Bute Council transport spokesman Duncan MacIntyre at the launch of the Demand A82 Upgrade campaign at Inverarnan in March this year. t51cam02

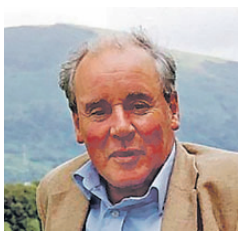
'The other strategic routes west of the A82 which serve large areas of the Highlands and islands, are simply to be managed on a route by route basis with no substantial investments to improve access identified.'

Stewart MacLean of the A82 Partnership said that the group's initial objectives had been achieved but there was concern over the timescale.

He said: 'We cannot allow construction to slip too far into the 2012 to 2022 period that this review covers.

'Whilst the government has accepted the arguments in respect of road safety, no mention is made of the importance of reduced journey times which is the basis of the well-researched economic argument put forward by the campaign.

'The economic argument has been accepted on other routes and so it is difficult to understand why the case of the A82 is not recognised. We will continue to pursue this.'



Highlands and Islands Conservative MSP Jamie McGrigor.

HIGHLANDS and Islands Conservative MSP Jamie McGrigor said that the SNP had broken its promises to the people of the west Highlands.

He said: 'There is an enormous discrepancy in the costing for the A9. If the lower cost was achievable more money could be spent on projects like the A82, where much more needs to be done than has been announced, and for roads like the A83 which serves the communities of South Argyll and Kintyre. For many years this has been an appalling, accident-prone road especially the section between Ardrishaig and Tarbert which is notorious. But this vital road is only listed for general repairs rather than realignment and upgrading.

'People in Argyll will rightly think this is scandalous and ask why this new government is not delivering its promises to them. This strategic transport review is high on intentions but low on delivery statistics.'

ARGYLL and Bute Council transport spokesman, councillor Duncan MacIntyre, who is also chairman of the government's Highland transport agency Hi-Trans, said: 'It appears at first sight that record levels of investment could be made to our transport network although this could perhaps be better focused and we look forward to working with our local government partners to ensure the appropriate interventions are progressed as soon as possible to support the government's national purpose.'

Argyll and Bute Council transport spokesman Duncan MacIntyre.

*'We look forward to working with our local government partners to ensure the appropriate interventions are progressed.'*

# Water project ends raw discharges into scenic loch

BY DAVID WALKER

THE PRACTICE of discharging raw sewage into Loch Gilp is to end with the completion of a three-year, £15 million series of projects by Scottish Water.

These included the upgrading of a pumping station and the installation of two new storm overflows marking the completion of a new waste water system in Lochgilphead and Ardrishaig.

The new collection and transfer system, which includes an upgrade to the Kilmory Waste Water Treatment Works (WWTW) completed earlier this year, will substantially improve the natural environment by putting an end to the discharging of raw waste water into Loch Gilp.

The new system, which includes improved storage and additional pipes, will reduce the frequency of discharges to the loch in storm conditions, which are authorised by the Scottish Environment Protection Agency.

It will also significantly improve the quality of effluent to meet the requirements of European rules by providing screening for the first time. In addition, the new system will reduce the risk of the sewer network surcharging in storm conditions.

Christopher Toop, Scottish Water's regional manager, said: 'We are delighted to be nearing completion of these important projects in the Lochgilphead and Ardrishaig area.

'This is a very beautiful and sensitive part of Argyll and our substantial investment in a new waste water system will help to improve the natural environment in the Lochgilphead and Ardrishaig area.'

In the most recent improvements to the system, the treatment of waste water from Lochgilphead has been improved by a £3m upgrade to the Paterson Street pumping station, the provision of two new storm overflows in the village's Front Green and Peddie Bank and new pipework at a combined cost of more than £1.5m.

The upgrade to the Kilmory WWTW, the provision of three other pumping stations along the south shore from Ardrishaig to Lochgilphead, and a new sludge treatment centre at Lochgilphead were completed earlier this year at a cost of more than £10m. Waste water from Ardrishaig, which was previously untreated, is now treated and taken via the collection and transfer system for treatment at Kilmory.

Brian Martins, project manager for the two storm overflow projects, said: 'At Front Green, which is a local beauty spot, there was concern about the reinstatement of the green, footpaths and hard landscaping but this was done as requested by local councillors who inspected the work in September and were very pleased.'

Caol nursery children and primary one to three pupils got a Christmas treat when Eden Court Theatre brought its production Midgie Nation 2: Winter to the school. 'Smudge' and 'Widgie' had their young audience in stitches as they tried - not very succesfully - to get some sleep for the winter! f51midge01

## Islay

Your correspondent is Susan Campbell: 01496 850215

### Broadband service by satellite for Kilchoman area

MANY internet users in the Kilchoman area of Islay have been unable to access a broadband service via BT phone lines, because they live and work too far from the Port Charlotte telephone exchange between Bruichladdich and Port Charlotte.

The Scottish government, having promised 'broadband for all', only belatedly realised that just because all Scottish telephone exchanges had been broadband-enabled, there were still householders and businesses in outlying areas which were unable to access the service.

The Scottish government has been working to rectify this situation, and this autumn some Kilchoman residents got together and registered their interest with the government's Broadband Reach Programme, in the hope of being able to connect to the internet with satellite broadband.

If 10 residents or businesses in an area currently out of reach for broadband by phone line or cable are interested in receiving broadband, they can register with the Broadband Reach Programme.

Kilchoman residents who had registered have now received application packs and as long as 10 households and/or businesses in the area order the service from Avanti Communications plc, it is hoped that the satellite broadband service will be up and running within the next month.

### Gaelic for children and parents

A UNIQUE partnership between Islay's Ionad Chaluim Chille Ìle and the Ballycastle Community Development Group Pobal an Chaistil is set to create waves on both sides of the North Channel with a new programme for parents who wish their children to acquire Gaelic.

Sheena MacKellar, Gaelic Tutor at Ionad Chaluim Chille Ìle, said: 'Islay is only 20 miles from the coast of Antrim, and we share a common language and culture.

'In the past 12 months both our communities have been rebuilding these historic connections and we have discovered that Gaelic has faced very similar challenges on both sides of the channel. However, people throughout Scotland and Ireland have renewed their commitment to the process of language renewal.'

Dr Réamaí Mathers, chairperson of Pobal an Chaistil and one of the programme developers explained: 'The similarities between Islay and North Antrim are striking, with parents in both areas expressing a will that their children should acquire a knowledge, fluency and love of our language. We found that in Islay, as in Antrim, parents who do not have the language often feel unsure about what they can do to give their child the benefits of a rich Gaelic culture.'

These discussions led to the idea of the 'A' Fosgladh Dorsan', Opening Doors Programme, which was then developed with the support of Argyll and Bute Council and Bòrd na Gàidhlig. The basic format of the programme supports non-Gaelic speaking parents in a fun and simple way. Parents are able to play a key role in their child's journey towards fluency and also help give a positive and open outlook towards Gaelic, other languages and cultures.

Sheena said: 'The course is based on the sound principals of spending quality time with your child, discussing issues and reading stories with them about Gaelic culture and other topics.

In this way the parents can demonstrate their own commitment and openness to different cultures and to our own Gaelic culture and language. One of the key benefits of the programme is that it encourages more parent-led reading within the home. Research has shown that children who come from a home where reading is encouraged and regularly practised tend to do better in education.'

The programme is already being used successfully in Ballycastle, and the Islay launch was held at Ionad Chaluim Chille Ìle on Wednesday November 26. Brian Wilson, who has had a long involvement with Gaelic on Islay, chaired the proceedings. Those attending were given a free copy of the A' Fosgladh Dorsan CD and brochure and a range of other useful aids. For further information contact 01496 810818 or email fios@ile.ac.uk.

### 'Meat Islay' developments at Avonvogie

'MEAT Islay' food marketing scheme has made a positive start, and about 30 farmers have now used the new abattoir at Avonvogie.

Also proving useful is the cutting service provided by Neil Campbell Butchers in Port Ellen.

Among recent developments are a new mobile cutting facility and cold store, intended as a temporary measure until the permanent Meat Islay industrial processing plant and kitchen is built. The mobile vehicle can be used at farmers' markets, demonstrations or for courses and workshops in meat-handling and preparation.

Also, 'Meat Islay' has been experimenting with recipes in the testing kitchen, and has been trying out traditional ways and new recipes to make black puddings and to use offal and steak-and-kidney in pate, terrines and pickles, with a view to future commercial production.

'Meat Islay' now provides a courier service, delivering meat on the mainland for less than £20 and so expanding the scope for Islay-produced meat to reach potential markets in the whole of the UK.

### Placebook Scotland

*THE OBAN Times* readers may be interested in a new website which is concerned with landscape and the essential 'sense of place' which influences local communities.

The project, Placebook Scotland at www.placebookscotland.com, is sponsored by the Scottish government, the National Trust for Scotland and Scottish Natural Heritage with the aim of 'celebrating the relationship between the people of Scotland and the places which mean something to them'.

Creative contributions of photographs, videos, music and writing are welcome from everyone - individuals, both amateur and professional, schools and organisations.

Uploading to the site is free and simple and the contributions will form an important record of what people think and feel about Scotland's places.

### Christmas party

BOWMORE children's Christmas party will be held in Bowmore Hall on Sunday December 21 from 2pm to 5pm.

### Outback Art opens

AN EXHIBITION of 'Works in Progress' by Carol Andrews will open at Islay's new art gallery developed by Petra Pearce at Sanaigmore farm in the Rhinns.

The exhibition opened on Sunday December 14 and is open daily from 11am - 4pm.

# Caol car boot cash boosts MS society

Fay Houghton, left, manager at Caol Community Services, and Liz MacMillan handed over a £1,000 cheque to local MS society members last week. Liz ran a series of car boot sales and raised £829, then CC Bar Services, based in the community centre, made the total up to £1,000. Fay told *The Oban Times*: 'We're delighted. All the money we raised will stay locally, which is what we wanted. The society has caravans at Nairn and the money will mean local members and their carers will be able to have a much needed break.'

## Scalpay

Your correspondent is D Morrison: 01859 540217

### Water

THANKS to Comhairle nan Eilean for its achievement in renewing the pipes for fresh drinking water for all households on Harris.

### Tweed

WHAT is to become of looms now idle?

People just don't get the same supplies of threads to weave with for the production of tweed in Scalpay.

### Call again next summer

'CALL again next summer' is the message to all yachts and pleasure cruisers.

They are very welcome to call into the harbours off the Western Isles.

### Deliveries

ONE of the vans which has supplied groceries in recent years has discontinued doing its rounds.

The butcher's van is also off at the moment. The fishmonger's van has been off for a two-week holiday.

### Mini-market closed

THE MINI-MARKET shop on the island is now vacant after it closed.

It is the last of the traditional shop buildings on Scalpay and has been falling into disrepair.

A building of concrete and asbestos roofing, it had been used as a grocers and general store. It will possibly be left to Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to get it demolished.

### Weather

RECENT high winds and continuous rain have made it nearly impossible to work the land.

The winds also affect ferry movements across the Minch and prevent local boats from venturing far from home shores.

### Fishing

A FEW herring have been netted in the bays of Harris.

Cuddies are being hooked by rod and line by the shores both sides of the sound.

Fishermen are sometimes able to catch a day's worth of mackerel for creel bait.

However, fewer shellfish are being caught.

When small lobsters are caught in creels and are under the required size for market, they are thrown back in to allow them to mature. However, there are not many lobster about.

### 'Alex the Boat'

MORE than 100 years past, a native of Kyles, Scalpay, Harris, called 'Alex the Boat' would ferry anyone who asked him across the Sound of Scalpay.

Alex had a cobble he would row across from Harris to Scalpay. One day Alex rowed a man across and when the passenger disembarked on the Scalpay side he only thanked Alex but did not give him a tip. Alex immediately replied: 'Do not thank me, I have a cwt bag full of those already!'

### Remains

ANYONE interested can trace the old decaying frames of sailing vessels which can still be found on beaches in the Western Isles.

They were steam drifters beached on Scalpay to be left to the elements.

### Ship to shore

SHIP to shore messages by mobile phone are prominent in our age, it seems.

Fishing boats in trouble of some kind can get in touch by such means.

### Chickens

IT CANNOT quite yet be referred to as a renewal of poultry keeping on the island, but one household keeps a few hens.

### Peat banks

RELICS of peat banks can be seen in places in the Western Isles.

# Christmas party fun

The children's Christmas party in Kilchrenan Village Hall, organised by the local branch of the Scottish Women's Rural Institute, was a huge success with Santa making an appearance and presenting the children with presents. Pictured is George Gilbert from Inverinan who nearly shook Santa's hand off! The hall was decorated with lovely paintings of the Twelve Days of Christmas. These paintings were kindly donated by the art class which is held every week in Kilchrenan and organised by June Raven who is also president of the Women's Rural in Kilchrenan.

# Tiree spotlight on careers and enterprise

TIREE High School hosted a careers and enterprise event on Wednesday November 26.

Pupils from primary five to fifth year took part in the event.

The pupils benefited from talking to a host of people from the community and the mainland about careers, community projects and setting up a business. The effort people put into their stalls was fantastic and the comments pupils made about the event really showed their appreciation. There was a variety of 'freebies' and prizes on offer.

Daniel Haynes, of second year, said: 'It was good and gave good advice.'

Thanks are extended to MacLennan Motors, Tiree Renewable Energy Limited, Tiree Environmental Action and Recycling, An Iodhlann, Tiree Rural Development, NHS nurses, Chocolate and Charms, airport firefighters, Careers Scotland, Argyll College, Elephants End, teaching staff, the Navy, MacKinnon Builders, MacKinnon Haulage, John Bowler at the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, PSYBT, fishermen Neil MacPhail and Sandy MacIntosh and Cameron Smith.

Thanks also go Tiree High School support staff for helping with the organisation and to third year home economics pupils Nicola MacClounnan and Rachel Hamilton and canteen staff for providing and helping with the lunch for guests.

# Edinburgh Argyll Association

EDINBURGH Argyll Association held its ceilidh on Saturday November 15 in St John's Episcopal Church hall, West End, Lothian Road, Edinburgh.

Fear an taigh for the evening was Peter Campbell, Stirling/Islay. The programme opened with president Mabel Munro Rowan welcoming the company in Gaelic and English.

Piper Andrew MacIntyre played lively tunes on his bagpipes. Gaelic singer was Sheena Walker, Falkirk, whose fine mezzo soprano voice delighted the audience. The accompanist was Elizabeth Stewart.

On accordion was Linda Campbell who was joined by Mike Turpie, playing his small bagpipes. This was a pleasant combination of the music of Scotland.

A breath of fresh air was added to the programme with the Kay Bayter dance group, aged seven to 16 years. One of the Scottish Country dances was 'The Christmas Tree' depicting the fairy lights flashing.

Peter Campbell entertained with favourite ceilidh and Gaelic songs.

In the audience were people from Belgium, Ireland and Hawaii, all enjoying the Highland Scottish culture.

Tea and goodies, as usual, were a 'treat' at the Argyll, for all the members and friends.

Votes of thanks were given by president Mabel Munro Rowan to all the artistes and to the committee and helpers for the splendid spread at tea time and those who donated raffle prizes.

There will be no ceilidh in December, but a special meeting was due to take place for members and friends on Monday December 1 in the Methodist Church Hall, Nicolson Street, Edinburgh. This was an important meeting to decide on the future of the Argyll association.

It is now in its 73rd year and attendance has dropped drastically.

The association wishes members and friends of the Edinburgh Argyll Association and readers and staff of *The Oban Times* 'Nollaige Chridheal agus 'Blìadhna Mhath Uire'.

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# Lochnell pupils' winning card designs

Two Lochnell Primary School pupils recently won prizes in a Sustrans Christmas card design competition. They are pictured wearing some of the prizes they won in their goody bags.

### Around the Rurals - Killin

FIONA Inglis, president, welcomed everyone to the December meeting.

Mrs Inglis welcomed the speaker for the evening Maureen Harrison, chief executive of the Sick Kids Friends Foundation.

Maureen gave a wonderful talk about this charitable foundation, which provides support for the families of sick children in Scotland, including money for new equipment, training, accommodation for families, scanners, drop in centres for the sick children and much more. It was an educational and interesting talk which was greatly enjoyed by everyone. Maureen finished with a question and answer session, and had a selection of Christmas cards for sale. The vote of thanks was given by Jane Brown and tea and sandwiches were served by the hostesses. The evening concluded with business matters.

Competition winners: Photo: 1 Fiona Inglis; 2 Cathie Reid; 3 Jenny Huntley. Gingerbread Man: 1 Margaret Galloway; 2 Cathie Reid.

# Houses only on site of demolished hotel

A BID by councillors to keep a prime development site in Strontian for part commercial use has failed.

Miss K Proctor applied to the Ross, Skye and Lochaber planning committee on May 6 for permission to build two houses on the site of the demolished Sunart Hotel, which was destroyed by fire in 1998.

Planners recommended approval at the meeting, but councillors wanted the front of the site retained for a hotel or restaurant development and refused permission on the grounds that the application was 'premature' and should be kept for a mix of commercial and housing.

Ms Proctor appealed to the Scottish government and was successful, the Reporter finding councillors were 'unreasonable' in maintaining a wish for a replacement hotel on the site.

Following a site inspection and assessment of written submissions, ministers found in Ms Proctor's favour and granted outline planning consent, subject to conditions.

## Lismore

Your correspondent is Pauline Dowling: 01631 760293

### Armistice week

A WEEK of events in Lismore Gaelic Heritage Museum marked the 90th anniversary of WW1 with an exhibition of Lismore's war on display in the exhibition room and WW1 food available in the café.

Events opened with illuminating stories of Lismore WW1 volunteers told by Ailsa Clark and her husband David, both historians with a keen interest in their subject and a great knowledge of Lismore's contribution. This was very well attended. Many of those present had their own stories from their parents and grandparents.

On Sunday November 9 the Rev Roderick Campbell led a service of remembrance in the church followed by lunch in the café and on Remembrance Day islanders gathered at the war memorial outside the church to remember Lismore's dead.

Standing in the light drizzle and listening to David Garrett playing a lament on his pipes, it was not difficult to imagine what a cataclysmic time it must have been for islanders fighting and nursing as well as those waiting for news which was, sadly, almost all bad. Laurence Binyon's familiar and moving words from his famous poem 'For The Fallen' were spoken by Valerie Livingstone and the Rev Roderick Campbell expressed the hopes of everyone that the lessons of the pity and pain of war would be learnt.

# Christmas party fun for Plantation senior citizens

Plantation Community Association held its annual senior citizens Christmas dinner at the Alexandra Hotel, Fort William, on Saturday afternoon. Organiser Linda Marshall was Santa for the day, and was helped in her duties by one of the 'elves' - her daughter. f50planny01

### Sponsored silence

ON FRIDAY November 28 primary school children did a sponsored silence on the Lismore to Oban ferry in aid of Kilts for Kids Day 2008.

This event is organised by Children 1st which has worked for more than 120 years to try to give every child in Scotland a safe and secure childhood. The idea is to wear something tartan for the day and as the children were going to a St Andrew's Day Dance in Oban on that day they decided to do something extra and thought this was a worthwhile cause for which to raise money.

### Book week

A WEEK of literary events has been enjoyed at the museum.

Monday was storytelling with Freda MacGregor telling folk tales of old Lismore and Appin and Malcolm MacCorquodale recalling in vivid detail the holidays he spent with this grandparents and uncles and aunts at Port Ramsey.

Tuesday was poetry reading with some original poems and favourite poems brought along by others. Play reading on Wednesday was great fun and then on Thursday and Friday Waterstones were in the museum doing a brisk trade. Also available was a comprehensive selection of second hand books in the library.

Saturday was a fun day for children led by Laura Cook who for some time has been organising a Saturday Gaelic youth club.

Lismore Youth Theatre and Argyll Walking Theatre journey back in time.

# A moving journey back in time

AS PART of the Armistice celebrations, Argyll's unique Walking Theatre together with Lismore's Youth Theatre took a moving journey back through time telling the story of those Lismore lost and those whose lives were never the same.

All inspired by real victims of both the clearances and WW1, it was written by Sadie Dixon Spain.

As those taking part moved about outside the museum and the reconstructed cotters' cottage it was not difficult to travel back and to feel the shock of getting eviction letters and to feel the fervour of those keen to enlist as soldiers and nurses.

Later they heard what had actually happened to them and to those who lived on with their grief.

Sponsored by the Heritage Lottery Fund, the work is a collaboration with Lismore Heritage Centre and The Walking Theatre Company and everyone is looking forward to their future productions during homecoming week in 2009.

## Kilchrenan

Your correspondent is Marilyn Henderson: 01866 833201

### Stacain windfarm inquiry

THE INQUIRY into the proposed 14 turbine windfarm at Stacain on the Duke of Argyll's estate has finished.

The venue for the inquiry was the George Hotel, Inveraray, where Wind Prospect (Stacain) Limited and Argyll and Bute Council defended their stance that the windfarm should go ahead.

At two previous hearings, Argyll and Bute councillors went against the wishes of their planning department who recommended it for refusal.

Scottish Natural Heritage and Avich and Kilchrenan Community Council agreed with the planners that this was an inappropriate site for a windfarm and witnesses gave evidence to the Principal Inquiry Reporter David Russell, MA (Hons), MPhil, MRTPI, who will report back to Scottish Ministers. Avich and Kilchrenan Community Council was represented by John Campbell QC who, in his closing statement, said:

❒ It is contrary to development plan policy.

❒ It is unsupported, even by the most vigorous renewables national advice and guidance.

❒ It will not be certain to yield the benefits it predicts.

❒ It delivers no visible or tangible local benefits other than the possibility of construction work.

❒ It is overbearing and dominant to its neighbours and has a serious and major landscape and visual impact on the proposed site and on its neighbours across Loch Awe in particular.

❒ It contributes to a potentially significant adverse cumulative effect from the proliferation of windfarms on both sides of Loch Awe.

❒ It will have a significant effect on a protected species, and, if designated, on a pSPA.

❒ It has the potential to adversely affect the area's tourism businesses.

The result of the inquiry should be announced some time in the new year.

## Killin

Your correspondent is Judy Forster: 01567 820298

### Cinema trust

FRIENDS of the Birks Cinema Trust, who are campaigning to revive the old cinema in the Square, Aberfeldy, held their annual general meeting in the Locus Centre.

The group hopes to make a Lottery application to fund the creation of a new cinema in the shell of the 1930s building and last year commissioned local architect Robin Baker to draw up preliminary plans. One of the factors that emerged from the group's contacts with the Lottery advisor is Aberfeldy's possible need for a development trust.

## Lochaline

Your correspondent is Alistair Scoular: 01967 421285

### Jobs fight continues

EFFORTS continue to save the jobs of Lochaline Silica Sand Mine's 11 employees, nine of whom live within the village, while two others travel daily from the east side of Loch Linnhe.

But there is no indication of a possible change by the mine's owners, Tarmac Northern Ltd, which has stated that the 30-day consultation period will end with the closure of the mine on Friday December 19.

The attendance at Morvern Community Council's (MCC) December meeting was boosted by some of the mine employees and members of the public who were eager to hear about the recent meeting in Lochaber House, Fort William, between the community council's office bearers, representatives from the Highland Council, Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) and Tarmac. Chairman Iain Thornber stated that it was put to the two Tarmac representatives that they might wish to postpone the closure of the mine. Not only was this request made from MCC but also from HIE which could then make enquiries about the accounts and various other items to do with operations at the mine.

He also stated that he had been in touch with Charles Kennedy MP and Fergus Ewing MSP who had contacted Scottish government enterprise minister Jim Mather MSP. Charles Kennedy had replied: 'I have contacted David Weston, the chief executive of Tarmac, to ask him to intervene for the mine at Lochaline so that options for the future can be explored. I do hope that it will be possible for the closure date to be delayed so that the community and the workforce will have time to pursue a viable future for the mine.'

Secretary Robin Smart said he had been following up investigations into Tarmac's operating accounts. There had been a loss with the Lochaline side of the company, but sustained demand for silica sand still exists. 'As the losses are not what they are reported to be, we have done some intensive work as to how we could reduce the outgoings of the mine in order to bring back some kind of reasonable system that could be in profit. So there is a business case for the mine to stay open, we just have to get this across to Tarmac, or any potential buyer,' said Mr Smart.

But the chairman then stated: 'Jim Mather had talks with Tarmac and HIE today (Thursday December 4) and Tarmac again reiterated its intention to close the mine on Friday December 19, due to the continuing losses, declining prices and the high cost of investment required at Lochaline. Jim Mather has made Tarmac fully aware of the corporate social responsibility and Tarmac has agreed to support staff affected - 21 per cent of Lochaline's 18-65 age group - but the decision still remains the same – the mine will close on December 19.

# Beachd Ailein

'S E GOIRTEAS a chinn fhèin as miosa do gach neach! Nach minig a chuala mi mo sheanair ag aithris mar a thuirt bodach àraid a bha gabhail aig an t-tughadh air mullach an taighe aige fhèin air feasgar fiadhaich nuair a thàinig cailleach a bha na nàbachd a dh'iarraidh cobhair air. Agus gun teagamh ged a tha ùpraidean an t-saoghail a' bualadh oirnn uile, tha a h-uile neach le trioblaidean a shaoghail bhig fhèin cuideachd.

Àm aighearach a th' anns an Nollaig dhan mhòr-chuid agus nach math an cothrom air sonas a-measg chàirdean is eòlaich. Ach tha cuid ann dha nach bi an Nollaig seo idir cho tlachdmhor toilichte. Bìdh mòran fo iomagain an dràsta airson iomadach adhbhar – eadar dragh mu airgead is cosnadh, dìth slàinte, neo àite fuirich.

Agus taobh a-mach na rìoghachd againne tha na miltean fhathast a' bàsachadh le dìth bìdh is uisge. Tha gach dealbh a nochdas den chloinn a tha an cruadal mar sin nan dìteadh air cogais nan dùthchannan 'beairteach' (a bha beairteach co-dhiù!), ach 's dòcha gu sònraichte nan dìteadh air cearrallas luchd poileataigs a dh' fhàg gum bheil a leithid de shuidheachadh fhathast againn anns an t-saoghal.

Bheil dad ann as urrainn dhuinn a dhèanamh dha na daoine truagh sin?

Ann an saoghal a tha dol bun os cionn cha b' iongnadh dhuinn aig amannan a bhith a' faireachadh gun chumhachd smachd air ar cuid fhèin gun fhiachadh air a bhith beachdachadh air èiginn dhaoine eile.

Ach aig àm far am bheil sinn uile a' cosg barrachd theagamh na aig àm eile den bhliadhna, nach biodh e iomchaidh not neo dhà a thoirt seachad dha carthannas a tha a' dèanamh cobhair air an fheadhainn aig am bheil fìor fheum air taic.

Chan ionndrainn sinne an t-airgead, ach dhaibhsan air am bheil èiginn bidh e na fhurtachd mhòr.

*Christmas is a time for happiness and for enjoying the good company of friends and family.*

*But for some this Christmas will not be a good experience with concerns about employment, health and homes casting shadows over many people's lives.*

*Beyond this country there will be many thousands dying from hunger and thirst, with the images of starving children a condemnation of the 'wealthy' nations of the world, and perhaps most of all a condemnation of the politics which have failed to eradicate such poverty from the world of the Second Millennium.*

*When world economic structures are in turmoil it is not surprising for us, at times, to feel our own affairs are out of our control and thoughts of assisting others might be far from mind.*

*But at a time of year when most of us spend more than normal, a pound or two to charities which truly aim to help people in need would not be such a burden.*

*Such a sum would probably go virtually unnoticed by us, but for those in real need it will be a most welcome gift.*

**Ailean Caimbeul (*Allan Campbell*).**

**You can email - ailein@obantimes.co.uk**

**Get your Christmas Dinner Free at Lidl**

Lidl are offering all Oban Times readers a fantastic Christmas competition in celebration of: Lidl Winning Products at the Quality Food Awards

**5 x £50 Vouchers to be won**

**Simply answer the following question:**

*How much does the Nick Nairn Cook School Budget Lidl Christmas Banquet for 6 cost per head?'*

Send your entries to the Lidl Competition, The Oban Times, P.O Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB by 12 noon Monday 22nd December

Usual Oban Times' rules apply

**OBAN'S SEASONAL OPENING TIMES**

Lidl Oban Open Boxing Day Midday to 6pm

Lidl Oban Standard Opening Times; Mon- Sat 8 – 8 Sunday 10 – 6

**Nick Nairn and Lidl:**

# Christmas dinner on a budget

CHRISTMAS is a season for over-indulgence, but more and more it's our purse strings as well as our belts that are feeling the strain, with price comparison site mysupermarket.co.uk showing that the average Christmas dinner will cost between £72.97 and £82.04 this year.

A major reason for the expense is that nowadays so many of us rely on pre-prepared food, where much of the cost is in preparation and packaging with only a small percentage being attributed to ingredient costs.

However, choose the right produce and invest a little time and effort in the kitchen, and you could find that you are saving hundreds of pounds throughout the year! To prove how much getting into the kitchen can save you, the Nick Nairn Cook School have designed a Christmas banquet for 6 which costs just £4.98 per head.

'Most opt for turkey at this time of the year, however with turkey prices at a premium you can spend less and get a better quality bird by opting for a good chicken, grouse or pheasant,' advises John Webber, head tutor at the Nick Nairn Cook School.

Nick Nairn has chosen to base his menu on products bought from Lidl, with Lidl's emphasis on optimum quality produce and fresh, healthy fruit and veg at low prices complimenting Nick's passion for promoting healthy eating in Scotland.

Nick says 'This gourmet Christmas dinner shows that investing in cooking skills will save you money immediately. There's no need to shy away from indulgence if you cook things from scratch. A ready made celebration meal for 4 from any supermarket would easily set you back £80, but at £4.98 per head, this will save a fortune.'

**Menu**: Warm potato cakes with smoked salmon, crème fraiche and roe, Nick's perfect roast chicken with chestnut stuffing and steamed marmalade pudding. - for your free copy of the receipe contact Fiona at *The Oban Times*

**Oban's seasonal opening times**

Lidl Oban Open Boxing Day Midday to 6pm

Lidl Oban Standard Opening Times; Mon- Sat 8 – 8 Sunday 10 – 6

Mull seasonal delivery schedule: Available on 18,19,20,22,13, 24 and 30th of December with usual delivery times resuming week commencing 05/01/09

## The Highland Council

### Service Arrangements for Christmas and New Year

The Highland Council Service Points and administrative offices will close at **4pm on Wednesday 24 December 2008** and re-open on **Monday 5 January 2009 at 9am.**

**BURIAL ADMINISTRATION**

Please contact your local Funeral Director who will advise of procedures.

**FERRIES**

Corran Ferry – No service 25 & 26 December 2008 and 1 & 2 January 2009

Camusnagaul Ferry – No service 25 & 26 December 2008 and 1, & 2 January

**LIBRARIES**

**Ardnamurchan Library; Caol Library; Fort William Library; Kinlochleven Library; Knoydart Library; Mallaig Library – All closed 25 & 26 December 2008 and 1 & 2 January 2009.**

**Further changes to library services are as follows:**

**Ardnamurchan –** No evening openings (7-9pm) on Tuesday 23 or 30 December 2008.

**Fort William –** closed 3 January 2009. Early Closing 29 & 30 December 2008 (4pm)

**Kinlochleven –** closed 24 December 2008. Early Closing 31 December 2008 (4pm)

**Knoydart –** closed 24 & 27 December 2008 and 3 January 2009

**Mobile Library –** Off the Road – 25, 26, 29, 30 & 31 December 2008 and 1 & 2 January 2009 inclusive.

**Please contact your Local Library for details:**

Ardnamurchan 01397 709226 • Caol 01397 702829 • Fort William 01397 703552

Kinlochleven 01855 831794 • Knoydart 01687 460253/01397 703552 • Mallaig 01687 460097

**REFUSE AND KERBSIDE RECYCLING COLLECTIONS**

No collections 25 December 2008 nor 1 and 2 January 2009.

Refuse Collection Service and Kerbside Recycling will change as follows:-

**Normal Collection Day: Changed to:**

Monday 22 December changed to Saturday 20 December

Thursday 25 December changed to Monday 22 December

Monday 29 December changed to Saturday 27 December

Thursday 1 January changed to Monday 29 December

Friday 2 December changed to Saturday 3 January

Please ensure your bin or box is out for collection on the above dates.

*** Please note that there will be no brown bin collection from Monday 29 December 2008 to Friday 2 January 2009.**

**West Ardnamurchan refuse/recycling collection days remain unchanged.**

**Recycling Centre, Ben Nevis Industrial Estate, Fort William –** Open 10am to 4pm Monday to Sunday, except for 25 December 2008 and 1 & 2 January 2009

**The rural mobile skip service will not operate on 25 December and 1 & 2 January 2009.**

**BULKY COLLECTIONS/UPLIFTS OF FRIDGES/FREEZERS –** will not operate between 22 December 2008 to 2 January 2009 inclusive. Re-start on Monday 5 January 2009.

**NATURAL CHRISTMAS TREES**

Will be uplifted as part of the kerbside recycling service. Please leave the tree beside the brown bin on your normal collection day.

**REGISTRAR (FORT WILLIAM)**

**Closed** at 1600 on 24 December 2008 until 9 am on 5 January 2009.

Registrar will be on telephone standby on 01397 700298 and can be contacted on 29, 30, 31 December from 10 am –12 noon. Office will be opened for emergency registrations only.

Please note Inverness Registration Office will be open for usual business from 9 am – 12.30pm on 29, 30, 31 December 2008. Their telephone number is 01463 239792.

**PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF LAW: A BIRTH OR DEATH (TAKING PLACE IN SCOTLAND) CAN BE REGISTERED ANYWHERE IN SCOTLAND.**

**LOCHABER LEISURE CENTRE**

Closed 24 – 26 December 2008 (inc) and 1 & 2 January 2009.

Lochaber Hydrotherapy Pool closed 22 December 2008 to 4 January 2009.

**EMERGENCY NUMBERS**

Social Work – 0845 769 7284

Housing – 0845 700 2005

TEC Services (Roads/Flooding/Lighting) – 0845 769 7284

**This information is available from the home page of our website: www.highland.gov.uk**

**Lochaber House, Fort William PH33 6EL**

The Oban Times
& West Highland Times

# Commission needs common sense

RATHER than a devastating ban on all fishing off the west coast of Scotland a common sense approach, like that shown by the employees of Loch Fyne Oysters this week, is needed to navigate troubled waters.

If they go ahead this week the European Commission proposals to preserve white fish stocks in west coast waters could have the effect of closing down the fishing grounds for good.

The knock-on effects maymean an end to fishing in this part of Scotland as well as the loss of hundreds of support jobs in onshore industries such as fish processing and marine engineering.

The EC plan smacks of using a hammer to crack an egg.

The commission proposes taking away the livelihoods of thousands of people in an effort to preserve stocks of cod and haddock while the efforts of the people who know best, the west coast fishermen, have been totally ignored.

The same fishermen have used pioneering initiatives that have had tangible results in stock conservation but their work in this area has been ignored by the EC in favour of controversial scientific studies.

With fishing leaders warning that the EC plan is 'politically and economically' unacceptable, the EC must use commonsense this week and listen to the fishermen.

Staff at Loch Fyne Oysters agreed to take a temporary pay cut to help secure the firm's future after a downturn in the restaurant trade.

The European Commission could do with a similar dose of common sense.

## Glasgow Letter

### Clydebank ceilidh

WHEN did you last attend a function where the age difference between the oldest and the youngest participant was more than 70 years?

Not often, I am sure, especially one without very young children, but this was the case at the recent ceilidh at Clydebank. In the chair for the evening was John Angus MacLeod, originally from Harris and now resident in Largs, while the piper for the evening was teenager Andrew Caulfield.

During the preceding week John Angus celebrated his 89th birthday so well done to him and he did well as a chairman. Throughout the evening it was evident from his many anecdotes that he had lost no enthusiasm for the Gaelic language for which, throughout his life, he has been a prolific writer, tutor and ambassador.

Here's another question and one I was asked many times during my geography teaching career. What is Clydebank famous for? Shipyards, of course, but John Angus pointed out that sadly it is now more a 'hip yard' town with the Jubilee Hospital located in the town and the shipyards silenced many years ago.

Although a throwaway and amusing comment, it sums up the problems faced by our local associations with the demise of manufacturing and the lack of employment opportunities for young Gaels in the Central Belt.

John Angus ensured that the ceilidh lived up to the usual homely Clydebank standard. The evening started with the talented piping of the aforementioned Andrew and the Gaelic singers for the evening were Sheena Walker, Mary C MacLean and Iain Carmichael.

I often praise the accompanists, on this occasion Norma MacDougall, for their skills in coping without any advance warning as to what songs the artists might sing and once again Norma did just that. She did exactly the same with John MacMillan, from the Bearsden Fiddlers, but I think she may have been able to rehearse with the Scot's songs singer for the evening who just happened to be husband Alasdair.

A highlight was the singing of a 'drunken' duet, complete with actions, performed by Alasdair and Iain while another was the appearance, as an addition to the programme, of Murdo MacDonald from Barra, a great supporter of the association.

Murdo's presence, while on a visit to Glasgow, sums up the affection the Clydebank ceilidh has for so many people. My message remains the same. If you stay in or around Glasgow head to the monthly ceilidh in Clydebank. Be prepared, however, as they seem to get more than their fair share of inclement weather!

### Stirling ceilidh

ALTHOUGH not a full house, the appreciative audience at the recent Stirling branch of An Comun Gaidhealach ceilidh was treated to an evening of versatility by the folk group from the local Gaelic choir.

Don MacKenzie, a member of the group, was in the chair for the evening which also had Duncan MacDonald singing old Gaelic favourites.

The Cluaran Dancers were in their usual fine form and the association was pleased to welcome back young piper Craig Sutherland, from Crieff, after his trip to Canada where he gained overall fifth position in his competition and first place in the 6/8 march. Well done Craig.

### Diary dates

WITH the festive season imminent, I have no information about functions so here is some advance information.

Helensburgh and District Highlander's Association will again host its Hogmanay Dance in the Geilston Hall, Cardross, with Stuart McKeown's Band and on Friday January 9 the Comun Taobhan-Iar Highland Ball will take place in Milngavie Town Hall from 7pm to 1am.

For more information on this event or to reserve tickets telephone 0141 772 4932.

### Pub scene

BALLOCHMYLE will be playing in the Park Bar on Friday with Gunna Sound on both Saturday and Sunday.

In the Islay Inn it will be Parting Glass on Friday and Stewart MacFarlane on Saturday.

**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.

# *The Oban Times in Afghanistan*

Former Oban resident Kenny Smith keeping up with the all the local news while serving in Kandahar, Afghanistan. We would like readers to send in photographs of *The Oban Times* being read in far flung places '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*

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### Injustice to Chinook pilots

Sir,

I refer to the report in last week's paper, in particular, the comment attributed to Jim Mather: 'I think it is time to exonerate the pilots', which could be misleading.

There was never any evidence to suggest the pilots were in any way to blame for the accident and they should never have been held responsible in the first place. This was made clear at a Fatal Accident Inquiry held before a Scottish Sheriff.

Yet the Air Force authorities, for reasons best known to themselves, attributed the blame to the pilots.

Many prominent people, not least the late and much-missed Ray Michie, have campaigned for 14 years for justice for the tragic pilots. However, we can all take great comfort from the latest unjust and nonsensical announcement. Given that there was no evidence against the pilots in the first place and that the authorities now say there has been no new evidence, then clearly this will be regarded by all fair-minded people as a total exoneration for the two pilots.

**Graeme Pagan, Oban.**

### Leave Oban Bay alone

Sir,

How great it is to read all about the wonderful bay of pontoons Oban is to get.

Is that really what everyone wants or Oban needs? I doubt it.

What will happen to 'Bonnie Oban Bay' which was so much sung about in the distant past? It will definitely not be bonnie or even decent with a load of pontoons spread like a rash. Surely other areas could have been extended to save Oban bay being ruined. Do yachtspeople really need to just simply step into the town or could they not manage to travel a short distance?

*The Oban Times* recently published a lovely photo of Oban bay with Councillor MacIntyre in the foreground. It showed what a spectacular view the area has.

By all means get a road somewhere into the town with the money provided but for Heaven's sake leave the bay because Oban is nothing without it. Has no-one even given that a thought?

**A disappointed former Oban resident, name and address supplied.**

### Macmillan thanks

Sir,

I would like to thank all readers who have supported Macmillan Cancer Support in any way throughout 2008.

Regardless of the current economic climate, Macmillan is committed to raise funds to help local people living with cancer and thanks to the generosity of your readers donations to our charity have remained consistent. Without this generosity Macmillan would not be in the position to provide essential medical, emotional, practical and financial support at a time when it's needed most.

Many thanks once again and best wishes over the festive period.

**Fiona Hawthorne, Fundraising Manager, Highlands and Moray.**

### Work needed at tower

Sir,

Regarding the article in *The Oban Times* about tourist signs for visitors, I would suggest that part of the funding should be used to upgrade the view indicator at McCaigs Tower.

As a frequent visitor to the tower, it is an embarrassment to observe the fading indicator panel. The panel should be reprinted using light proof inks and the above should be taken into account when designing the new signs.

**T Robertson, Oban.**

## Islay Letter

### Community in mourning

TWO OF the island's churches were filled to overflowing last week for the funeral services for the three victims of a fatal road accident that occured at Uisgentuidhe Strand on the Bridgend to Portnahaven road in the early evening of December 2.

Those who lost their lives in the accident were 38-year-old local farmer and agricultural contractor Dugald MacTaggart of Lyrabus, his 10-year-old son Jamie, and 47-year-old Port Charlotte engineer Neil MacFadyen.

Dugald and James' funeral service, attended by several hundred mourners, was held in Bowmore's Round Church on December 9. It was conducted by the Rev Steve Fulcher who referred to the support received by the bereaved families from a shocked and grieving community and went on to stress that no-one was to blame for the accident whose aftermath was beyond the comprehension of finite minds.

Dugald, a devoted and proud husband and father, and Jamie, a popular pupil at Port Charlotte Primary School, were later interred at Kilnave cemetery.

The following morning further large crowds of mourners from near and far gathered at St Kiaran's Church, Port Charlotte, to pay their final respects to Neil MacFadyen, a popular Rhinns resident and a volunteer member of the local unit of Strathclyde Fire and Rescue Service.

The service was again led by the Rev Steve Fulcher who described Neil, who was unmarried, as an unassuming and helpful person of considerable creative and mechanical skills.

Colleagues from the fire service acted as pall bearers and Neil was laid to rest at Kilchoman cemetery.

A tragic accident of this magnitude impacts on the whole area and leaves a sense of sadness and loss throughout the island. In the midst of seasonal festivities the pain and grief of the afflicted families are in the hearts and minds of the islanders and these feelings are shared by many far beyond Islay's shores. An online book of condolences has been opened on www.blogislayinfo.com.

### Bowmore panto

SNOWMEN and sweeties, teddy bears and gypsies were among the characters who filled the stage of Bowmore village hall when the local primary school presented its pantomime version of 'Little Red Riding Hood' last week.

The big bad wolf, and a vegan to boot, was not wholly bad when compared to Knuckler, Bruiser, Fingers and Basher who eventually got their come-uppance as happens in all good panto scenarios.

'Little Red Riding Hood' and 'Foxy' charmed, the supporting players acted with verve and confidence and the Gaidhealach input came from the 'Wee Willie Winkies' from the school's Gaelic unit. The theme from 'Star Wars' burst forth and the songs of Abba provided the musical background and gave a name to the much put-upon 'Grandma Mia'.

This was an exuberant performance greatly enjoyed by the participants who all acted their little socks off. Musical director was Douglas MacTaggart, scenery assistance came from Brian Palmer and the production was mounted by the 'in house' Wild Wonderful Company, comprised of primaries six and seven pupils.

And did the capacity crowds who attended both performances enjoy themselves. Oh yes they did!

### Inn's gold star

THE OWNERS and staff of Bowmore's Harbour Inn are the proud recipients of the VisitScotland gold star which recognises the exceptional standard of hospitality, service and cuisine provided by the island hostelry. 'Mine hosts' Carol and Neil Scott were delighted to receive this prestigious award which highlights the outstanding efforts of a dedicated and hard working team.

### Christingle

CANDLES glowed and tinsel glittered at the eighth annual Christingle service held in the Round Church on Sunday afternoon.

The event was hosted by locum and Church of Scotland Reader Angela Stather and session clerk Marian Senior. The service theme concentrated on light and the popular carols were sung lustily by the congregation which included island children and members of local uniformed organisations.

Earlier in the day the children from the Round Church's junior church 'Footsteps' performed their Nativity presentation before proud parents and supporting members of the congregation during morning worship.

### Good wishes

CONGRATULATIONS to Portnahaven Mod gold medallist Dougie Gillespie and his wife Mairi who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on December 6.

The happy couple were married in Riddrie in 1958 and now live in the Ballieston area of Glasgow. Meal ar naidheachd and keep singing!

Reaching a similar nuptial milestone are Cathy and Bobby Brown of Port Ellen. A celebratory cruise is in the offing to add to the golden wedding high jinks. Bon voyage.

Finally, a joyous Christmas to everyone who reads these meagre jottings and every blessing in the New Year. Mar sin leibh.

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

# A View From The Tower

**By McCAIG**

### Nothing innovative

AFTER a mammoth gestation, the Scottish government's Strategic Transport Plan was published last week to a flurry of trumpets.

But there was little enthusiasm from MSPs, other than Alex Salmond's Cabinet Secretaries, Ministers and spokespersons who, of course, have to echo 'His Master's' voice.

I was expecting at least some recognition that our road, rail and ferry services will, perforce, be very different to what we have currently.

But not if one studies this document.

It is geared to the same priorities as we have now and are so out of date as to be untrue.

By the end of the next generation the priorities will be entirely different. Climate change and the conservation of such fossil fuels as are left will require to be the imperatives.

Whether we need a new Forth Bridge will be on the back burner! It certainly won't and should not be the project that gobbles up the majority the money available for transportation for the next 30 years.

But neither should the building of new and relief roads. Given the vast amount of fossil fuel needed to carry all our goods by lorry, van and car, never mind the transportation miles, we should be rethinking our lifestyle and looking at using trains, even steam ones as there seems to be plenty of coal available, if not the miners to get it out of the ground.

### Put freight back on the railways

BUT DON'T look to First ScotRail to do anything as revolutionary as provide a proper freight service on the West Highland lines.

I understand there is a problem even now with switching supermarket supplies and taking petrol, diesel and oil by rail from central Scotland to Oban but nothing is going to be done about it.

Let's face it nothing is going to be done for the West Highland lines full stop. When the chief executive of First ScotRail came to Oban to mark some anniversary or other her speech was the most negative I've heard in many years.

Referring to the future development of the rail network in Scotland, she bluntly said that there would be no money for new rolling stock, for line improvement, more trains, or anything else. When I asked why she had bothered coming as she had nothing to offer she reckoned I was being rude.

I reckoned I was being a serious journalist who could not see the sense of a jaunt to Oban to watch Councillor Duncan MacIntyre unveil a plaque, press flesh, feed us and deliver not a single promise of any improvements.

Those of us who have been supporting the upgrading of the A82 got nothing out of Stewart Stevenson's goody bag.

All that is in the report regarding the A82 has been in the public domain for some time.

This totals £16 million - not a small sum in itself - but pales into insignificance when one considers that the Transport Minister Tavish Scott was able to offer £90 million for the real upgrading of the West Highlands main transport artery when he was a member of the last coalition administration.

### Recession? Blame the media!

'IT'S Christmas, stop being so - expletive deleted - pessimistic!'

The bosses and bankers are looking for a scapegoat to turn the wrath of the unemployed away from them. One hypocritical company chairman said a few days ago that the air of gloom and doom among those who have lost their jobs or are about to do so was all the fault of the media.

If we didn't report the ever-increasing totals of the unemployed, the potentially unemployed, and those on invalidity benefit but reckoned to be work shy, these would vanish overnight.

Not even the most liberal with the truth economist would support that doctrine and it isn't one that Gordon Brown or Alastair Darling would dare to support.

However, now that the Bank of Scotland is to be swallowed up by Lloyds TSB maybe those bankers who are going to lose their jobs will be a little more sympathetic to those ordinary working chaps who already have through no fault of their own but through the greed of those who thought 'toxic mortgages' were a jolly profitable wheeze.

As the big names in the top echelon of HBOS collect their redundancy we'll be happy to recite their misdemeanours so that the ordinary chap will realise whose fault it is that their employer can't keep them as his bankers won't help him.

### Fred Hall - a hard act to follow

EVERY so often I meet a cop who is just outstanding at what he does.

The newly-retired Chief Inspector Fred Hall, who has been in charge of the policing of Oban, Lorn and the Isles for all too brief a period, is one such.

He has been a very public figure since he came to Oban a couple of years ago. No wonder he is so slim as 'pounding the beat' brought his superb fitness but also a much closer rapport with his public.

However, he is retiring in Oban so his example will be there for all to see especially his successor who will have a very hard act to follow.

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.

Argyll tradesmen play a key role in award-winning cottage with treehouse theme

# A credit to its craftsmen

Donald and Susie Hutchison on The Treehouse's spiral staircase, supported by the building's oak tree central feature. t42tree01

Story by EUAN PATERSON

IT HAS been described as 'a listed building of tommorrow' but a new octagonal, self-catering cottage in Appin has been built with a simple theme in mind – a treehouse.

While many of us will cast our minds back to our hastily constructed and precariously positioned tree huts, with protruding nails and rotting 'floors', Donald and Susie Hutchison have realised their treehouse fantasy, with no expense spared.

The Treehouse cottage, which stands in Donald and Susie's Kinlochlaich Gardens, is a credit to the west Highlands, proving the area's construction workers, tradesmen and decorators are capable of creating unique and world-class structures.

The octagonal Treehouse sits in the orchard of Kinlochlaich Gardens in Appin and is proving a romantic location for self-catering visitors.

Such is the quality of The Treehouse that its builder Angus Reid Evans, from Speyside, has won the New Homes category at the UK Master Builder of the Year Awards.

But it has been Argyll tradesmen and craftsmen who have complemented the award-winning builder. Interior design was completed by Jane Blanchard, Andrew MacIntyre provided the wood stove, Willie Martin did the painting, Mark the Spark did the electrics, Paul Beard did the plumbing and drainage, Mike Windhamwright was the landscaper and Robin Baker was architect of the development.

Outside of Argyll, Ballachulish slate was used for the roof, which was the responsibility of slater Robert Farquhar from Fort William.

One of the most important jobs came down to Forres timber merchant Sven Skatum, who trawled his local woods to find the perfect spine for The Treehouse's central feature.

**Practical**

This feature, standing firmly from floor to ceiling in the middle of the property, is an oak tree, which is cemented rather than rooted into the ground. It not only gives The Treehouse credibility, it has a practical use and supports one third of the building's weight.

Donald explained: 'It was important for us to use as many local people as we could on this development. We run businesses in this area and it is important that we support each other.'

Donald remains tight-lipped over the project cost but admitted: 'It was quiet a lot of money, but money well spent. We didn't want to penny pinch and it makes a huge difference.'

The attention to detail in the property – Donald and Susie's sixth self-catering cottage – is evident, from the commanding presence of the large tree feature, wrapped by a spiral staircase, to the 'waney edged' skirting boards, which could be best described as untrimmed timber.

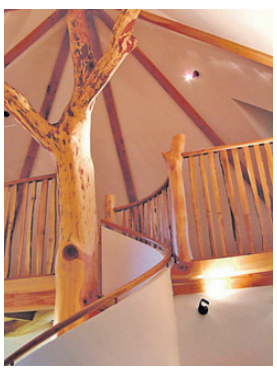
Positioned in Kinlochlaich's orchard, The Treehouse fits in well with its environment and, were it not for its crisp-clean lime rendering and polished finish, would look as if it had been there for centuries.

Donald said: 'A fellow owner of self-catering cottages came to see it and gave me the best compliment yet. He told me it was a listed building of tomorrow.'

The couple built The Treehouse for family and friends to stay in but quickly saw its potential in the self-catering market. It has one bedroom downstairs but further sleeping space upstairs.

Susie said: 'We have been renting it out for a year now and we have had four honeymoons and other special occasions, such as anniversaries. One man even proposed to his partner here.'

An imperative feature of the building process is the eco-friendly extras within The Treehouse.



Another view of the The Treehouse's beautiful spiral staircase.

The kitchen area is compact but very attractive.

The interior is made almost entirely of native wood and the building is insulated by pulped newspaper, a method known as warmcell. The inner wall is protected from the elements by a wall made from Heraklith board, a product that resembles Shredded Wheat. It also keeps in the heat, meaning one small storage heater warms the whole property.

Whether The Treehouse will become a listed building of tomorrow is a cause for speculation. One thing for sure is it has raised the bar for new builds in sensitive areas and, considering rising fuel and energy costs, its environmentally-friendly features may soon be the norm.

# Crianlarich hotel changes hands

A LANDMARK hotel in Crianlarich has been sold for the first time in 30 years.

The Highland Heritage coach tour company's Crianlarich hotel, formerly owned by Oban's Ian Cleaver, has been sold to Geaspar Byrne and his family, who owned and ran The Colonsay Hotel on the island for 20 years.

The 36-room Victorian Hotel is undergoing an exterior repaint from the Highland Heritage livery and will open in mid-March as The Crianlarich Hotel to catch the start of the 2009 tourism season.

Geaspar, aged 30, who works in investment banking in the leisure and hotel industries, is the driving force behind the family's venture.

His parents, Kevin and Christa, bought the Colonsay Hotel in 1978, having run a hotel at Cashel in Tipperary, Ireland, and ran it until 1998.

Kevin said: 'I was looking for the ideal location to reach by public transport because I thought people would stop using cars as much – I got that completely wrong!'

He and Christa were asked by Geaspar to bring their experience to the Crianlarich Hotel venture, along with his brother and sister, Maghnus, based in Hong Kong, and Sophie Furze in Stirling.

'I have been looking for an opportunity to try and start building up some sort of hotel estate and I happened to come across the Highland Hotel in Crianlarich for sale,' said Geaspar.

**'Fantastic'**

'It is in a fantastic location and satisfies a lot of the criteria to support a management team. Crianlarich is quite a big brand name; it is in signposts more than 100 miles away.

'There is walking, fishing, Munro bagging and winter sports and there are also local people, living in the west coast, who might want to pop in for a meal.'

He said they hoped to maintain the coach business while opening the hotel up to passing trade and those looking for a base from which to explore the area. It sits at the junction of the A82 one of the main routes from Glasgow and A85 from the central belt, is one the biggest hotels in the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park, the sleeper train from Euston, London, stops at the station and the West Highland Way runs through the village.

Geaspar said there was a lot of goodwill in the industry for their venture and they hoped to interact more with the village.

All the family is pitching in to get the hotel ready for spring, with Kevin dealing with the website and marketing, Christa organising food, housekeeping and laundry services, Sophie working on the interior and Geaspar overseeing everything, including the accounts and staffing.

Mr Cleaver is to concentrate on his other hotels specialising in coach tour holidays, including the Alexandra Hotel in Oban, Royal Hotel and Ben Doran hotel in Tyndrum and the Dalmally Hotel.

Volunteers came from as far away as America to volunteer on the dig at Kilmartin House Museum.

# Ancient bead found on dig near Kilmartin

A TWO thousand year old glass toggle bead has been found on an archaeological dig near Kilmartin House Museum.

The green bead is known as a toggle because of its unusual shape. The bead has no perforation and would have been sold to be sewn onto clothing with a thread that had been first wrapped around its middle, which is narrower than the rest of the bead.

The toggle is thought to be from the Iron Age and more than 2,000 years old.

The site the group are excavating at Dun, near Achnamara has now been closed for the winter and excavations will continue in the spring.

## 25 Years Ago

# Those Were The Days

The Oban Times

Thursday December 15, 1983

### West coast seaweed success in wound dressing

A NEW medical dressing made entirely from seaweed collected from the west coast has been developed by a Scottish scientist.

Called *Steriseal Sorbsan*, the wound dressing dramatically reduces the time it takes for difficult wounds to heal and even treats formerly incurable wounds successfully, according to its developer Dr Tom Gilchrist of Strathclyde University bio-engineering department.

Dr Gilchrist said: 'The west coast of Scotland is rich in a variety of brown seaweed whose healing purposes have been part of coastal folklore for centuries. It was used by sailors to heal blisters and was directly applied to the forehead to ease migraine attacks.

'We aren't sure why the algenic acid in seaweed has a beneficial effect on healing but studies carried out during World War Two show that seaweed rapidly stems bleeding and that it's completely safe to leave inside the body because it's made up of sodium and calcium elements already in the body.'

### Floods in Oban

THERE was extensive flooding in parts of Oban on Tuesday night with Dunollie and the foot of Miller Road in particular suffering badly.

The fire brigade was called out at around 8.30pm to attend to flooding on the roadway outside Richard Court which brought traffic to a standstill.

Following heavy rain it is understood that a bridge across the burn outside the high school became blocked and water overflowed the banks.

Houses on Soroba Road had to use sandbags in attempts to keep out floodwater as high as two feet in places.

Police were in attendance at the scene and traffic was reduced to a single lane. The road was still flooded on Wednesday morning but the water level had fallen considerably.

### Long serving coastguards

TWO members of HM Coastguard auxiliary service in Oban were presented with long-service medals on Thursday.

Mr Jimmy Devine and Mr Johnny Donn were presented with the medals for 20 years service in the auxiliary by Mr Iain Huntington, regional controller for Clyde Search and Rescue.

The presentation took place after a coastguard exercise at Ganavan in which Mr Huntington had played the part of a survivor.

### Surgery access a road hazard, doctor argues

AN OBAN doctor has claimed that it is only a matter of time before one of his patients has an accident outside his surgery.

Dr Alasdair Beatton says there is a chronic shortage of parking space and the congestion makes access to his surgery for emergency services quite impossible.

Dr Beatton's allegations are contained in a letter in which he requests Argyll and Bute District Council to sell him ground at nearby Dalriach Road to allow him to build a new surgery.

But the request led to disagreement at last week's meeting of the district's tourism leisure and recreation committee.

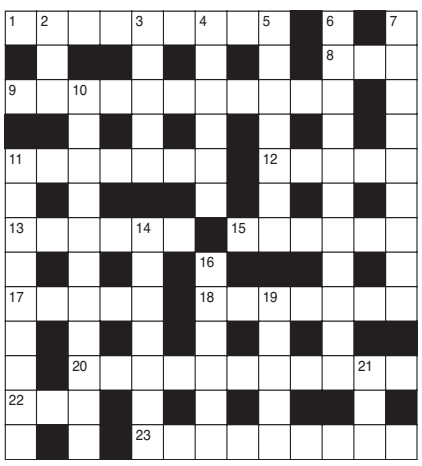
## The Oban Times GENERAL KNOWLEDGE DOUBLE CROSSWORD No. 566

**ACROSS**

1. Arm of the North Sea between Denmark and Norway (9)
8. '— on a Tower', novel by Thomas Hardy (3)
9. 1980 novel by Stephen King (11)
11. The — palm is planted throughout the tropics for its fruit (7)
12. Charles, actor whose films include The Golden Child and Last Action Hero (5)
13. The — Elysées is a major boulevard in Paris (6)
15. The season including the four Sundays preceding Christmas (6)
17. Betulaceous shrub or tree of the genus Alnus (5)
18. In the game of real tennis, the sloping buttress on one side of the receiver's end of the court (7)
20. 1924 Olympic men's 400m champion (4,7)
22. The part of a cereal plant that contains the seeds, grains or kernels (3)
23. See 4 Down.

**QUICK CLUES ACROSS**

1. Agreement (9)
8. Possess (3)
9. Cast down (11)
11. Resident (7)
12. Bring into line (5)
13. Come back (6)
15. Placid (6)
17. Rank (5)
18. Mean (7)
20. Bright (11)
22. Choose (3)
23. Interminably (9)



**SOLUTIONS TO LAST WEEK**

**GENERAL KNOWLEDGE - Across:** 1 The Navigator; 7 House; 8 Otago; 9 All; 10 Beau Ideal; 11 Little; 12 Staffa; 15 Plus fours; 17 Old; 18 Osman; 19 Lepus; 21 On The Prairie.

**Down:** 1 Thomas Lipton; 2 Abu; 3 Iceman; 4 Agonistes; 5 O'Hare; 6 Cool Hand Luke; 7 Holst; 10 Bullfinch; 13 Fools; 14 Burlap; 16 Unman; 20 Pea.

**QUICK - Across:** 1 Contemptible; 7 Pedal; 8 Dunce; 9 Cat; 10 Reinforce; 11 Thrust; 12 Enrage; 15 Reconcile; 17 Ova; 18 Stuff; 19 Gawky; 21 Unilaterally.

**Down:** 1 Caricaturist; 2 End; 3 Pallid; 4 In defence; 5 Liner; 6 Degenerately; 7 Pater; 10 Resentful; 13 Agony; 14 Midget; 16 Churn; 20 War.

**DOWN**

2. Type of carp that can be up to a metre long (3)
3. Industrial city in North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany (5)
4, and 23 Across. 1940 film, first in a series starring Bob Hope and Bing Crosby (4,2,9)
5. Green long-horned grasshopper of North America (7)
6. 'Dr. —', 1964 film by Stanley Kubrick (11)
7. 'The —', 1963 novel by John Fowles (9)
10. Actor whose films include Pretty Woman and Breathless (7,4)
11. Crested Australian parrot with a greyish-brown and yellow plumage (9)
14. Anthony, actor who played Norman Bates in the film Psycho (7)
16. Joseph, Soviet leader who died in 1953 (6)
19. In Greek mythology, a princess of Colchis who assisted Jason in obtaining the Golden Fleece (5)
21. Prehistoric bronze trumpet, specimens of which have been found in Danish peat bogs (3)

**QUICK CLUES DOWN**

2. Scull (3)
3. Laud (5)
4. Flight of steps (6)
5. Save (7)
6. Thoughtful (11)
7. Deceitful (9)
10. Contingency (11)
11. Course (9)
14. Favour (7)
16. Wan (6)
19. Banish (5)
21. Nothing (3)

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From Friday 19th December for 7 days

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL | Cert 12A DAILY 6.15, 9.00 | 95 mins |
| INKHEART | Cert PG DAILY 2.00, 6.30, 8.45 | 106 mins |
| THE TALE OF DESPEREAUX | Cert U DAILY 12.00, 2.00, 4.15 | 88 mins |
| MADAGASCAR 2 | Cert PG DAILY 11.40, 4.00 | 89 mins |

FROM SATURDAY 27th DECEMBER
AUSTRALIA - 12A • YES MAN - 12A

## At the Cinema

The Day The Earth Stood Still
CERT '12A'

20th Century Fox's contemporary reinvention 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!

Inkheart
CERT 'PG'

A young girl's father has the power to bring characters from books to life by reading those books aloud. When a power-hungry villain from a rare children's fable kidnaps the man, his daughter bands with a group of friends both real and imagined to set things right. This beautiful fantasy adventure based on the novel by Cornelia Funke stars Brendan Frasier and an effortlessly capable British cast. For those depressed about an extremely large Potter sized hole this Christmas this may just help you survive.

The Tale of Despereaux
CERT 'U'

Once upon a time, in the faraway kingdom of Dor, there was magic in the air and raucous laughter aplenty. But a terrible accident left the king broken-hearted, the princess filled with longing and the townsfolk despondent. Until Despereaux Tilling was born. A brave and virtuous mouse, who is simply too big for his small world. Though tiny, wheezy and saddled with comically oversized ears, he refuses to live a life of weakness and fear, believing he was destined to be celebrated in the tales of chivalry he so adores. This beautifully animated fairy Tale is voiced by an incredible cast including Matthew Broderik, Robbie Coltrane, Dustin Hoffman, Kevin Kline, Christopher Lloyd, William H. Macy, and Sigourney Weaver and is an adaptation of the award winning children's bestseller.

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.

# Young Oban dancers come highly commended

Toni Russell with her young Highland dancers at the prizegiving. t51ton01

FOR THE first time since it started in 2002, every Highland dancer at the Toni Russell School of Dance received a highly commended award this year.

The girls were presented with their awards at a prizegiving in the Caledonian Hotel last Friday. The dancers also received certificates to mark their successful medal tests. The dance school has dancers from Tiny Tots to Scottish Award Two level. Many of the dancers perform at the Caledonian Hotel in the summer months.

# Call for Highland volunteers

A CHARITY organisation is calling on people in the Highlands and Islands to start their New Year resolutions early by considering volunteering.

Volunteer Development Scotland say that volunteering is a great way to give back to the community and support others.

Recent research has also suggested that doing regular volunteer work dramatically improves life expectancy and vitality more than any other activity.

George Thomson, chief executive of Volunteer Development Scotland said: 'It's fantastic that people think about offering their time to help others over the festivities. However, it would be great for people of the Highlands and Islands to think beyond Christmas to ensure the goodwill continues throughout the year.

'We would therefore encourage everyone to add volunteering to their resolutions list to enrich their own lives and the lives of others in 2009.'

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
Neptune, which has had such a testing influence the last part of the year, comes up trumps this week forging fine links to both Mars and Venus. This planet can be about dreams, but if yours are to be met, finding a new job, or feeling secure in the one you have, will be your perfect Christmas gift. Yet, this can also be a special time romantically Aries. Call me for your love scope in full…

**TAURUS** (Apr 21 - May 21) ☎ 090 6612 4521
TAURUS Apr 21st - May 21st
Right up to the wire of Christmas itself, there can be a lot of discussions about your worldly situation. These may include your parents, or if you have older offspring, it can be you supporting them. You might also fancy time away from your usual haunts. This is because new places can seem to take on much greater appeal than for many a year. Call now for more astral advice…

**GEMINI** (May 22 - June 21) ☎ 090 6612 4522
GEMINI May 22nd - Jun 21st
Your imagination can be fantastic this Christmas, so if you find yourself racking your brains about buying a late gift, have faith, you'll probably come up with a super idea that'll hit the jackpot. If you're solo, a magical moment can be acted out under the mistletoe, but even if this doesn't come to anything lasting, you're likely to savour the moment! Call me now for your love scope in full…

**CANCER** (June 22 - July 22) ☎ 090 6612 4523
CANCER Jun 22nd - Jul 23rd
In the nick of time for Christmas, the Sun powers into your sector of relating. This will give you that extra diplomacy to tune into the needs of your hosts or visitors. Yet try not to get frazzled about the arrangements, this is the time to put the emphasis on people. Let the small details look after themselves. It'll be less stressful and more enjoyable! Call me for your in-depth forecast…

**LEO** (July 23 - Aug 23) ☎ 090 6612 4524
LEO Jul 24th - Aug 23rd
Being peaceful can seem especially important. If you're with those that really matter to you, this will prove comforting and everyone can seem in the mood to let petty differences be. Usually, you take on quite a bit of the burden for pleasing others, but if folk pitch in to help you, rather than feeling this is invading your space, you can welcome it. Call your Leo prediction line for more…

**VIRGO** (Aug 24 - Sep 23) ☎ 090 6612 4525
VIRGO Aug 24th - Sep 23rd
You always seem to burst into form just in time for Yuletide, but this year, your ruler Mercury and Pluto have been giving you a head start. So, when it comes to leading the celebrations, you can be up for it. Yet don't be too self-sacrificing if you have people visiting, remember to delegate if need be Virgo. This is the season of giving, so give to yourself too. Call now for more astral advice…

**LIBRA** (Sept 24 - Oct 23) ☎ 090 6612 4526
LIBRA Sep 24th - Oct 23rd
This can be one of the most romantic Christmases you've ever experienced, and before you scoff, don't be too quick to dismiss the potential for this magic Libra. However, this does require you to be less logical and more in touch with your own feelings. Perhaps you cover your true needs under a veneer of humour and silky charm. Will the true you emerge? Call for your love scope in full…

**SCORPIO** (Oct 24 - Nov 22) ☎ 090 6612 4527
SCORPIO Oct 24th - Nov 22nd
Your perfect Christmas sees you dreaming of snuggling up in front of that proverbial roaring log fire, or if you're lucky, a real one. Feeling settled and peaceful will mean more than high jinx. Will this be how it unfolds? Maybe, but just as easily you can find yourself inviting neighbours in or being given a last minute invitation to indulge in warmed mulled wine. Call me now for more…

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov 23 - Dec 21) ☎ 090 6612 4528
SAGITTARIUS Nov 23rd - Dec 21st
The good old traditional features of Christmas take on greater appeal. Rather than be active and move freely around family and friends, this year you may be more inclined to stay put, put your feet up and make merry. Your willpower can be rock bottom, so all your best intentions to stick to a diet could crumble as you nibble on those mince pies! Call me now for more news and advice…

**CAPRICORN** (Dec 22 - Jan 20) ☎ 090 6612 4529
CAPRICORN Dec 22nd - Jan 20th
The Quarter Moon can see you let an issue get under your skin. Chances are, you won't be the only one, but try to count to ten because as the Sun passes into your sign on Monday, frayed nerves can make way for a more comfortable mindset. However, your system is going to be particularly sensitive this year. Be aware of this before you overimbibe. Call me for your in-depth forecast…

**AQUARIUS** (Jan 21 - Feb 19) ☎ 090 6612 4530
AQUARIUS Jan 21st - Feb 19th
You can be the one who makes the thoughtful gestures. This may be to support your favourite charity by turning out for carol singing on a freezing cold night, to inviting waifs and strays around for Christmas lunch. But don't be too sacrificing Aquarius, and if you need to find a few moments of complete peace and quiet, do so with a clear conscience. Call your prediction line for more…

**PISCES** (Feb 20 - Mar 20) ☎ 090 6612 4531
PISCES Feb 20th - Mar 20th
There can be inevitable tensions between different age groups at this time of year but you can be the one who soothes and smoothes - not least because of your ability to tease yourself. Romantically, a very special card or gift can be given to you, or be given by you. A secret tryst may also occur but if so, do be sure of what you're getting into. Call now for more astral advice…

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

# Fire fighters raise cash for charity

Fire fighters Alan Robinson, Dougie Black, Kevin James, Ian Sales-Mossop and Mike Clifford were among the crews from Oban Community Fire Station out on the streets on Oban on Saturday for more than five hours collecting for The Fire Fighters Charity, the fund that helps fire fighters who have been injured in the line of duty or bereaved families of fire fighters.

A total of £1,090 - £90 more than last year, was collected from generous locals and visitors to the town. 'I'd like to thank all those who made donations,' said Dougie Black of Red Watch. t50fire01

# Santa comes early to Nether Lochaber Hall

CHILDREN from Onich and North Ballachulish enjoyed their Christmas party in Nether Lochaber Village Hall on Saturday, December 6.

Around 30 children played party games and sang Christmas songs until Santa's arrival at 5pm. The handing out of presents was a big hit, as ever. 'The look on the children's faces was a treat, they were absolutely gobsmacked,' said organiser Ann Marie Cameron.

# Oban Rotarians celebrate with Charter Dinner

The recent Charter Dinner, celebrating 59 years of Oban Rotary Club, was held in the Regent Hotel with 74 members and guests enjoying a splendid meal followed by dancing to the music of Fraser and Ryan McGlynn. Pictured at the dinner are, back row, left to right: Graham Innes, Jim Stewart and John Goodall. Middle row, left to right: Sheena Kilcolm, Fiona Innes, Janette Finlayson and Tom Kilcolm. Front row, left to right: President David Finlayson and District Governor Catherine Stewart.

Local Producers Christmas Fayre
Thursday 18th December
VICTORY HALL
Benderloch
10 am to 3 pm
LOTS of PRESENTS
LOTS to EAT
Every First / Third Thursday
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Dec 20th, 21st & 22nd
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Inverawe, Taynuilt. T: 01866 822808

## COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD

**An Comunn Gaidhealeach**
Meur Cruachain
**Oidhche Bhuntata Rosta**
(Baked Potato Night)
Saturday 20th December at 7.45pm
In Taynuilt Village Hall
Piper Aaron Hossain, Mairi MacArthur (Mod Gold Medallist), Taynuilt Primary School Choir, Lorne Young Fiddlers, Fyne Barber Shop Chorus, Taynuilt Swing Band, Paddy Shaw – accordion, Isla Sinclair Dancers, Bodach na Nollaige (Santa), Fear an Taighe: Murdo Iain MacDonald.
Admission £3 Members and Children £2

**Rotary Club of Oban**
*Christmas Carol Service*
**Corran Halls, Oban**
**Sunday 21st December**
3.00pm
Join local community and school choirs in welcoming Christmas
**Donations to Children 1st and Erskine Hospital**

**Oban and Lorn Lions Club**
VISIT SANTA AT Tesco Store, Oban Sunday 21st December 11am till 3pm

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## 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 18th December**
New Local Producers Market, Victory Hall, Benderloch, 10am – 3pm. Every first and third Thursday 01631 720223.

**Friday 19th December**
Lord of the Isles - Framed

**20th, 21st & 22nd December**
Christmas Shopping Extravaganza - Inverawe Smokehouse, Taynuilt

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

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FOR THE ISSUE OF THURSDAY DECEMBER 25th
MONDAY 29th DECEMBER 2PM
FOR THE ISSUE OF THURSDAY JANUARY 1st
PLEASE NOTE – Our offices will be closed on Thursday 25th & Friday 26th December and Thursday 1st & Friday 2nd January

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# Social Scene

To buy photos, contact The Oban Times office on **01631 568000**

OBAN and District Fiddle and Accordion Club welcomed a big crowd to the Argyllshire Gathering Halls, Oban to enjoy a clubn night with special guests the Michael Philip Scottish Dance Band.

Michael Philip was making a welcome return to Oban, having paved the way for a successful music career at a competition in the town 20 years ago. The musical 'Fifer' appeared at the Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival in 1988 where he won the junior accordion competition.

However, the young talent at the Oban club's disposal was not outdone by their more experienced artists and accordion players Scott Sinclair, Craig MacFadyen and Murray Willis demonstrated they also have bright futures on the music scene.

The Lorne Junior Fiddlers, led by Donald Harrison, Taynuilt, also kept audience toes tapping with an assured performance.

The Lorne Junior Fiddlers. t50fid07

Above: Freddy MacKenzie, Mary MacKenzie, Margaret Forbes, Christine MacPherson and Elspeth Cameron. t50fid06

Michael Garvin on the accordion. t50fid02

Left: The Michael Philip Scottish Dance Band. t50fid04

Donald MacDonald and James Fraser. t50fid03

Christine Pearson, Anne MacFadyen and Alec MacKenzie were in charge of the raffle for the night. t50fid12

Oban Hogmanay Homecoming Street Party

Oban hogmanay 2008

Red Hot Chilli Pipers

Skerryvore

Tickets from www.obanhogmanay.co.uk
Corran Hall Box Office & Oban Filling Station
From 19th December online tickets will be available for collection at Oban Filling Station
31st December 2008 Tesco Car Park
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THE WORKS OBAN HIGH SCHOOL PIPE BAND
Mod Gold Medallist - Angus Smith
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Tickets - £11.50 Children 5-12 - £ 6.50 Children under 5 – Free
Licensed Event - No Carry Outs • Gates Open 9.00 pm

## Your personal Christmas greetings

MAGGIE MACKECHNIE wishes all family and friends a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

JEAN AND GILBERT MCKECHNIE, Ben Dorran, won't be sending cards, however wish all friends a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all friends in Oban, Lismore, Lochawe, Dalmally and anyone who knows me. Cheers all. JAMES MACARTHUR

TOM FILES AND FAMILY wish all friends and neighbours the Seasons Greetings

To mum and dad have a very merry Christmas and a prosperous new year love Euan, Innes and Rowan

To all family and friends Best Wishes
JAMES, RONA, RACHEL, KELLY, SARAH, MULL

NEIL, LORRAINE, AMANDA AND RUAIRIDH MORRISON, Mull, wish family and friends a very Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

TRIXIE MCINTYRE wishes all friends, family and neighbours a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

FLORA MACINNES, Glencoe, wishes everyone a Happy Christmas and a peaceful and good New Year.

Happy Christmas to all my relatives and friends from JOYCE THOMSON, Oban

BETTY MACEACHEN, Gowrie Villa, Oban, would like to wish family, friends and neighbours a peaceful Christmas and a good New Year.

I am unable to write Xmas cards this year due to failing eyesight. I would like to wish my friends and neighbours a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. JESSIE MACDONALD, Onich.

Happy Christmas and a good New Year to all my family, friends and neighbours. - DONALD ARCHIE, Dunmar Court.

MOIRA AND IAN MACINNES, Glen Innes, Croft Road, Oban, will not be sending Christmas cards this year, but would like to take this opportunity to wish all relatives, friends and neighbours a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

NESSIE BOYD presently in Oban Hospital is unable to send Christmas Cards this year, but wishes all her friends and family a Merry Christmas and best wishes for the New Year.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all friends and neighbours. From ALISON AND DONALD MACKENZIE

SEASONS GREETINGS
To all friends and family from John Bell, 2 Sinclair Drive, Oban

KATIE WEBSTER, North Argyll House, Oban, would like to wish family and friends a peaceful Christmas and a healthy New Year.

Seasons Greetings with lots of love to my family and all my friends who know me. ARCHIE MAXWELL

Happy Christmas to all my friends and family From JEAN WHYTE, Benderloch

Happy Christmas and New Year to all family and friends from Ruth and Kenny Martin, Bunessan.

JEAN MACKINNON will not be sending Christmas cards this year. Jean and family would like to thank all friends and neighbours for the many phone calls, cards and enquiries during her stay in hospital. Happy Chrsitmas and New Year to you all.
9 Creagan Park

CAMPBELL AND MARGARET MACLEOD would like to wish everyone that knows them, all the very best for 2009. 14B Glencruitten Drive, Oban

Due to ill health MARGARET WHELAN will not be sending cards, but wishes her relatives and friends good wishes for 2009. 3 Firth Court, Croft Avenue, Oban.

IAIN MACKECHNIE wishes all family, friends and neighbours a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Selma, Tobermory.

CHRISSIE AND HAMISH YEOMAN. To all family and friends, wishing you a Merry Christmas. All the best for 2009.

Happy Christmas to all my relatives and friends ANNE MARIE AND RAYMOND WALLACE (formerly Pennygate Lodge, Mull)

CREINA JACKSON, Lochaline would like to wish everyone a peaceful Christmas and a good New Year

COLIN AND LORNA CAMPBELL will not be sending local cards this year. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all neighbours, friends and family.

MAY MCLAINE
Seasons Greetings to all friends. Sorry I am not able to contact you individually.

WILLIE MADEJ wishes his family and friends a Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year, especially the Calendar Girls in Oban High School

SACHY WACHY
Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from all your ex-colleagues
*Christmas is not a problem*

RENA MCLENNAN
Happy Christmas to all my relatives and friends

Seasons Greetings to family and friends From RON, LORRAINE AND ANDREW. BALURE OF SHIAN

MORAG MACFADYEN 6 Laggan Rd.
I won't be sending Christmas cards so would like to wish all my family and friends a Merry Christmas and all the best for 2009. Best wishes to you all.

DANNY KENNEDY would like to wish all his family, friends and neighbours a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. 2 Fisher Row, Inveraray.

Happy Christmas to all my friends and family from JEAN BUCHANAN, Benderloch.

EILIDH AND DAVID TURNBULL would like to wish all their family and friends a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Kenneth and Janet Stewart send best wishes to their friends on Coll for a Happy Christmas and New Year 2009.

ANN MACKENZIE and family would like to wish our family and friends a Merry Christmas and a good New Year (formerly of Dalintart Drive)

## Music proves common language

### Our Work and Music comes to Oban

CHILDREN from Zambia and Oban found a common love of music when a fundraiser and journalist from Kilmichael Glassary made a meeting between the two groups possible.

Marian Pallister, an award winning journalist and author, was inspired to create opportunities for young people in the west African country of Zambia after attending a conference in 1999. She said: 'When I went to an HIV/AIDS conference, on behalf of Christian Aid, I realised the immense poverty that there was in the country. There were few opportunities for children, especially for those who had a parent who had either suffered or died from HIV.

The charity, MALI, that grew out of Marian's commitment to Zambian children gained charitable status last year and its work is growing with the commitment and support of Argyll people and organisations.

The trip to Scotland from Zambian involved 15 boys and two adults, many of whom had never travelled before. They visited schools in Oban, Lochgilphead, Tarbert and Campbeltown to explore the theme of their trip – Our Work and Music.

Marian said: 'These boys were able to come to Scotland, thanks to big sponsors such as JoLoMo and the Scottish Arts Council, companies like CalMac and Western Isles Council and private donations from Our Lady of the Assumption and Saint Medden in Troon but it would never be possible without the kindness of host families.'

## Taynuilt nursery raises cash for hospice

TAYNUILT nursery children celebrated St Andrew's Day by enjoying some Scottish traditional food and dancing.

Children paid £1 to wear a funny hat to the party raising £20 for the Oban Hospice Light up a Light Appeal.

## Pupils help charities with decorations

THREE Oban High School pupils raised money for two local charities through a school enterprise initiative.

Shonnie MacIsaac, Jack Miller and Niall Williams made Halloween decorations and sold them to pupils and staff raising £65 for Oban Riding for the Disabled and the Royal National Lifeboat Institute.

P1/2 winner, eight-year-old Megan Stewart with PC Tony Hannah of Fort Augustus Police Station

## Motorists put in the picture at Invergarry

INVERGARRY Primary School children have designed their own leaflets asking motorists to take care when driving through their village.

Invergarry sits on the busy A87 to Skye, and the community has expressed concerns to police that cars and lorries frequently ignore speed limits, which drop from 40mph to 20mph during the school day.

In response, Northern Constabulary and Glengarry Community Council challenged pupils to design a poster or leaflet conveying the message they would like to give to motorists who speed past their school.

The community council chose three winning designs, with one being made into an information leaflet for drivers.

Local police officer PC Tony Hannah presented the prizes at Invergarry Primary School last Monday afternoon.

'The winning leaflet will be handed out to all motorists stopped by police in an effort to inform them about the fears of the community regarding speeding through the village,' PC Hannah told *The Oban Times*.

# Lochaber school business group go to town

## Pupils' wood and wares go to Highland Trade Fair

SIX BRIGHT sparks from Lochaber High School took their wares to Inverness town centre on Saturday to a Highland Trade Fair in the pedestrian precinct.

Erin MacDougall, Joanne Gillanders, Eileen Innes, Laura MacCallum, Stephen Cooper and Alexander Wilkie were at their stall selling their own handcrafted wooden pens, bracelets and necklaces – the product of four months of hard work since forming their own limited company, 'Wood 'N' Stuff'.

Since starting up Lochaber High in August under a Young Enterprise Scotland initiative, Wood 'N' Stuff opened a company bank account with RBS, which provided start up cash of £70.

Its young directors hold weekly board meetings in the school's seminar room to plot product and sales strategies.

Roddy MacPhee, of Lochaber Business Development Services, based at Lochaber College, lends his expertise on costings and marketing, while Jamie Ball of Corpach-based All Round Signs provided the company banner for the Inverness sales day.

For many students from the 14 participating Highland schools, Saturday marked their first experience of selling to the public.

'We act just like a business – we buy our raw materials, make a product and sell it for a profit,' Laura MacCallum told *The Oban Times*.

Wood 'N' Stuff aims to turn a profit by April and prove its directors have what it takes to succeed in the cut-throat world of business. The team crafted all their products in the school workshop.

After helping Mary's Meals the Dalmally children play in the snow

## Dalmally packs its bags for Africa

PUPILS at an Argyll school packed their bags for Africa this week.

However the children from Dalmally Primary School are not jetting off to the sun over the festive period, they are supporting a project to help fellow students in countries like Malawi and Uganda.

Mary's Meals, run by Argyll charity, Scottish International Relief, is running a backpack project where pupils in Scotland give Christmas gifts such as jotters, pencils and spoons to send to students in Africa.

The pupils in Dalmally also wrote letters describing snow and how to make a snowman.

Head teacher George Kay said: 'We know that in poor countries owning the essentials can be the key to accessing education, and when some of our children have equipment, and schoolbags, to spare they are happy to help, learning about another culture and community at the same time.'

Mary's Meals feeds thousands of children in Malawi, Uganda and Liberia and has been involved in disaster relief efforts in Burma which was struck by Cyclone Nargis in May this year, and Haiti which has suffered flooding.

# Rockfield's own Strictly Come Dancing

IT WAS Strictly Come Dancing with a Scottish twist at Rockfield Primary School last week.

Forty-two primary seven pupils performed their best country dances in the school's hotly-contested dancing competition.

Judges Sylvia Clark, Elaine Thomson and Marian McCuish were looking for emotion, drama and plenty of bounce from the contestants, but unlike the television show, there were no scathing comments.

Live accordion and fiddle music was provided by Michael and Joanie Garvin.

After heats and a nail-biting dance-off, the winning pair was Christopher Budge and Laura Broadfoot. Runners-up Nass Ahmed and Megan MacAllister, along with Helen Stage and Matthew Kelly in third place, all won festive chocolate trophies.

The twinkle-toed youngsters will also don their dancing shoes for a ceilidh next week. It replaces the annual primary six and seven disco.

Take your partners: contestants in Rockfield Primary School's Strictly Come Dancing competition t51danc1

Rockfield Primary School primaries one to three took part in the school's nativity play last Thursday, where a retiring collection was taken for North Argyll Young Carers. t51roc01

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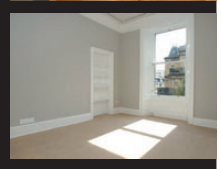
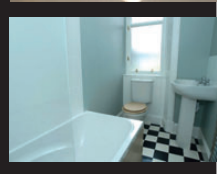

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Aquaculture & Fisheries

## Regional Development Officer

**Salary from £22,292 to £28,520 subject to experience**

Working with wild fish and aquaculture to facilitate a sustainable future for the Scottish salmon industry

A vacancy has occurred for a Regional Development Officer (RDO) in Lochaber and Skye. The successful candidate will be one of a mutually supportive network of four RDO's, covering the Western Highlands and Islands of Scotland, under the Tripartite Working Group (TWG) Programme. The post holder will be located with the Lochaber Fisheries Trust based in Fort William.

This multi-tasked role offers a unique opportunity for a dynamic individual with an open mind, negotiating skills, and a compelling personality to develop co-operation, build on improving fish health management and promote best practise in both the wild fish and aquaculture sectors. A fisheries biology degree is highly desirable but not essential. Candidates should have a good working knowledge of fish farming and wild salmonids, excellent IT skills and a full driving licence.

The job includes establishing and facilitating joint Area Management Groups, monitoring and promoting Area Management Agreements, data collation and interpretation, farm visits, wild fish monitoring and project management. The Regional Development Officer will report to a Regional Steering Group and Project Manager of TWG

Candidates should be self-motivated, enthusiastic and seeking a challenging job that will make a difference!

More information and a full job description is available from:- jacgrierson@aol.com

Applications with CV to the above Email address by 4th Jan 09

Gleaner oil and gas

Applications are invited for the following post: -

**SERVICE ENGINEER**
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The Managing Director, Gleaner Oils Ltd
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**MASTER**

We have a permanent full time vacancy based in Cowal for a suitably qualified and experienced Master or Boatmaster to serve on board our fleet of Class V passenger / vehicle ferries operating on the Firth of Clyde between Dunoon and Gourock.

Ideally qualified to minimum STCW CoC II/3 Master <500gt, however, UK MCA Grade 1 BML or equivalent new BML, Tier 1, Level 2, would be considered.

Previous experience of passenger vessel operations, coupled with proven shiphandling skills and a sound appreciation of safe maritime working practices are required.

Please apply in writing enclosing your c.v. to

Graeme J Fletcher, Technical Director, Western Ferries (Clyde) Limited, Hunter's Quay, Dunoon, Argyll PA23 8HJ.

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Fort William

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To cover Maternity Leave
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Please contact Kim between 9am – 1pm Mon –Fri
**01397 701177**

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Please apply in writing to Pine Trees Leisure Park, C'O George McNaughton, Site 20, Kilmory Industrial Estate, Lochgilphead, PA31 8RR. Email gmn@ukonline.co.uk

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## Importance of financial help for crofters and farmers to save rare bird highlighted

# Corncrake recovery stalls as 2008 statistics show fewer than previous years

After several good years, corncrake numbers in 2008 have fallen

THE number of corncrakes in their core strongholds declined in 2008 after years of sustained increase, with the unmistakeable 'crex' call of the male bird being heard less than last year.

The corncrake remains a conservation success story, but this year's decline highlights the importance of well funded schemes to help farmers provide the valuable habitat that this shy little bird needs.

The total core population of calling males dropped by just under eight per cent - from 1,236 in 2007 to 1,140 in 2008.

Corncrakes migrate to Scotland in late spring from sub-Saharan Africa, and spend the summer breeding in the tall grass and herbs that they use for cover. Since this type of habitat has largely disappeared from the mainland due to changes in agricultural practice, the charismatic little long necked bird has found strongholds in the Hebridean and Argyll islands.

Coll, Tiree, Iona, Colonsay, Oronsay and Islay, along with the Outer Hebrides, make up the vast majority of the UK population due to continuing traditional mixed grazing techniques by crofters and farmers.

Since 1993, when RSPB Scotland began a corncrake recovery programme - working with farmers and crofters to produce corncrake-friendly hay meadows and field margins - the population of calling males rose from just 446 in the UK core areas, up to a high of 1236 in 2007. However the decline seen this year - though small - shows that there is no room for complacency.

**15-year success**

Paul Walton, RSPB Scotland Species Policy Officer said: 'The corncrake management scheme has been a real Scottish conservation success story for the past 15 years.

'It was great that we were able to report increases year on year, as scientific lessons from studying the birds' decline were put into practice by farmers and crofters on the ground.

'However, the decline we've seen this year is worrying, and should serve as a warning to the Scottish Government that if we want to preserve these great wee birds then we need to ensure that there are sufficient funds available for targeted agri-environment options such as those that benefit corncrake.

'The new Rural Priority scheme includes all the right ingredients. We must now work on ensuring good applications are being put forward and accepted.'

Crofters and farmers can apply to the Scottish Government's Rural Development Contracts, which provide excellent land management incentives for corncrake.

Additionally, Scottish Natural heritage (SNH) runs a corncrake management scheme which farmers can apply for in areas protected under EU law, and an additional RSPB, SNH and Scottish Crofting Foundation scheme makes payments available for those who cannot access the main schemes, but who have corncrakes on their land . These schemes help farmers manage their hay or silage fields sensitively for corncrakes, including waiting to cut the fields until after the main breeding season.

However, there is a real danger that species like corncrake will suffer if funding for these environmentally beneficial forms of farming is not maintained or ideally, increased. Agri-environment funds need to be sufficiently large as well as accessible to farmers and crofters in the key corncrake areas to allow the continuation of appropriate management.

## Woodhall Blackfaces are Stirling champions

UNITED Auctions sold 4,642 prime sheep including 3,605 lambs averaging 122.5p/kg at Stirling last Thursday.

Prior to the sale there was a show of Blackface lambs with the champion coming from McAskill, Woodhall which later sold to £60 (136p).

The reserve champion came from Burnshot and sold to £57 (133p).

Texel lambs from Guardswell sold to £68 with Suffolks from Mollandhu to £61.80.

Prize list

Class 1

1st Shaw, West Lethans

2nd Reilly, Tullochmhor

3rd Dawson, Beannie

Class 2

1st Little, East Bracklinn

2nd Murray, Glengoulandie

3rd Paterson, Dunruchan

Class 3

1st McAskill, Woodhall

2nd Braes, Burnshot

3rd McLaren & Wood, West Bracklinn

Champion

McAskill, Woodhall

Reserve Champion

Braes, Burnshot

## Barcaldine Home Farm heifer is Oban Christmas Show and Sale champion

CALEDONIAN Marts sold 1,107 suckled calves, store, breeding and Over 30 Month cattle at their annual Christmas Show and Sale at Oban Livestock Centre last week.

Judge Andrew Dunn, Redhall Farm, Gargunnock selected a 310kg Limousin heifer from Ewan McGillivary, Barcaldine Home Farm as champion which later sold at 31,200 to the judge.

Reserve champion was a 340kg Charolais bullock from DW Semple, Dippen, Carradale, which sold at £1,050 to Drew Hyslop, Balluskie, Barrhill.

**Show results**

Mainland calves:

Bullocks

1 D W Semple, Dippen - 340kg £1,050 to Drew Hyslop, Barrhill.

2 D MacDonald, Ferlochan - 330kg 3740 to Mr MacDougall, High Milndovan, Cardross.

3 E McGillivary - 260 £800 to B Harper, Greenwells, Falkirk

Heifers

1 E McGillvary 310kg - £1,200 to A Dunn, Gargunnock

2 D MacDonald, Ferlochan 300kg - £680 to H Campbell, Ledcharrie, Luib

3 B Campbell, Achnacreebeg - 390kg £670 to A Shand, Cortiecram, Ellon.

Island calves

Bullocks

1 J McInnes, Culbhuirg, Iona - 345kg £590 to D Low, Pittenkeerie

2 D MacDougall, Tirfuir, Lismore - 330kg £550 to D Low, Pittenkeerie

3 I Campbell and Son, Glengorm, Balvicar - 300kg £580 to D low.

Heifer

1, 2 and 3 D McCormick, Baligarve, Lismore 320kg, 365kg, 320kg £610, £560, £510 to A Murray, Lurgan, Aberfeldy, Ross farms, Gorebridge and RS Kinloch, Wester Coldrain.

Champion pen of 4 bullock calves

A Ritchie, Barbreck, Ardfern - 400kg £720 to A Shand, Ellon

Champion pen of 4 heifer calves

J and J MacPherson, Balliemenaoch, Dalmally - 260kg 3480 to R Laird, Dowally, Dunkeld.

Over 30 Month cattle sold to 120p per kilo for a Shorthorn cross from Saulmore, Connel.

Overall champion at Oban Christmas show and Sale was a Limousin heifer calf from Ewan McGillivary, Barcaldine Home Farm t50wint04

Reserve champion at Oban Christmas show and Sale was a Charolais bullock calf from DW Semple, Dippen Farm, Carradale, Kintyre t50wint01

## Dearest trade of the season for lambs at Islay Auction

UNITEDAuctions held their last sale of the year for all classes lambs and sheep at Islay Auction Mart when 2,765 were sold.

All classes, in keeping with current trends, met the dearest trade this season with Suffolk cross lambs from Ballivicar selling at £65 per head.

Ballivicar also sold Cheviot crosses at £62.50. Texel crosses from Carrabus sold to 126 pence per kilo whilst the annual consignment of Blackface lambs from Kilchiarn sold to £43 per head and to 114 pence per kilo.

A pen of Texel cross feeding ewes from Windyedge sold at £53.50 per head, and this stronger type of ewes proved short of buyers requirements.

A feature of the sale was the consignment of 336 Suffolk store and short keeping lambs from Octofad which sold to £59 per head, 123 pence per kilo and averaged £48.80 per head.

## Port of Ness Angus bullock is Stornoway champion

DINGWALL and Highland Marts sold 27 cattle and 309 sheep of all classes at its Christmas show and sale at Stronoway last Thursday.

The prime cattle champion judged by Mr I W Scott, 34 Newmarket, Stornoway, was a 595kg Aberdeen Angus cross bullock from No. 12 Lionel, Port of Ness, realising 260p per kg and £1547 to W. J. Macdonald, Butchers, Francis Street, Stornoway.

The reserve award went to a 625kg Aberdeen Angus cross heifer from No. 1 Gress, which realised 200p per kg and £1250 also to W. J. Macdonald.

The champion award for prime sheep, also judged by Mr Scott, was 45.5kg Beltex crosses from C. Macleod, Crobeag, Steinish, which realised 175.8p per kg and £80, with reserve going to Cheviots also from Crobeag, realising 150p per kg and £75.

Prime bullocks averaged 161p and sold to 260p per kg and £1547 for the champion, a 595kg Aberdeen Angus cross from No. 12 Lionel.

Prime heifers averaged 179p and sold to 200p per kg and £1250 gross for the reserve, an Aberdeen Angus cross from No. 1 Gress.

Prime lambs averaged 95.3p and sold to 175.8p per kg and £80 gross for the champions, a pair of Beltex crosses from Lighthill.

Store bullocks sold to 130p per kg for an Aberdeen Angus from No 43 Habost, Ness, and £455 for a Charolais cross from No. 9 Fivepenny, Borve.

Store heifers sold to 108.7p per kg for a Limousin from Lighthill, and £320 for a Limousin from No. 5 Rhenigidale.

Store sheep sold to £35 for Cheviot ewes from No. 13 Cross Skigersta Road, Ness

## Laggan Texel crosses lead Dingwall sheep sale

DINGWALL and Highland Marts Ltd sold 1,280 store lambs, breeding and feeding sheep at Dingwall last Wednesday when all classes of lambs and ewes showed an increase in value on the strong trade of the last sale.

Lambs averaged £29.70 and sold to £55 for Texel crosses from Blargie Farm, Laggan, Newtonmore.

Ewes averaged £25.25 and sold to £50 for Beltex from Braes of Coulmore, North Kessock.

Feeding sheep averaged £21.03 and sold to £34 for Blackface wedders from Viewbay, Munlochy.

## Bullocks to 178.2p at Stirling

UNITED Auctions sold 659 store cattle, suckled calves and young bulls, 124 breeding cattle and 1,735 store and feeding sheep at Stirling last Wednesday.

Bullocks averaged 151.2p and sold to 178.2p per kg for a Charolais cross from Townhead and £960 for a Charolais cross from Threepwood. Heifers averaged 149.6p and sold to 172.5p per kg for Charolais cross from Townhead and £950 for a Charolais cross from Threepwood.

Cast cows averaged 95.6p to 151.5p and £1,095 for a Limousin cross from Herries.

Continental lambs from South Mains sold to £52.50 with Mules from Claonaig selling to £43.

## Heifers to 193p at Perth

UNITED Auctions sold 205 store cattle and 670 sheep at Perth last Friday. Bullocks averaged 150.2p and sold to 175.4p per kg for a pen of 342kg Simmental crosses from Tealing Home Farm and £835 for a 630kg Limousin cross from South Arditie. Heifers sold to 193p per kg for a 420kg Limousin cross from Monzie Farms and £1005 for a 640kg Limousin cross, also from Monzie Farms.

## Market reports

### OBAN
### Caledonian Marts

Bullocks

£940 Balmackillichan, £915 Garraron, £850 Dunadd, £810 Barbreck, £750 Achnacreemore, Dunadd and Craignich

Heifers

£1,000 Barcaldine, £720 Balmackillichan, £700 Barbreck, £665 East Hynish, £640 Ferlochan.

Breeding cattle

Heifers in-calf: £870 Kilmahoe, £650 Dunolliebeg

Cows in-calf: £740 Balmackillichan, £600 Baligarve

OTM

£700 Saulmore, £680 Feall, £620 East Hynish

### ISLAY
### United Auctions

SuffolkX: £65.00 Ballivicar £59.00, £55.50 and £54.50 Octofad £54.00 Eorrabus £50.50 and £47.80 Octofad £45.50 Coillabus and Duich.

TexelX: £58.00 and £56.00 Carrabus £55.00 Gartloist £53.50 Octofad £50.00 Carrabus £48.00 Balaclava £46.50 Octofad £45.50 RSPB, Kinnabus.

Cheviot: £62.50 Balivicar

Cross: £50.00 Duich

Mule: £48.00 Eorrabus

Blackface: £43.00 Kilchiaran £41.80 Dunlossit Estate £40.00 Kilchiaran £37.00 Carn £36.80 Duich £36.50 Coillabus £35.50 Kilchiaran £35.20 Ballychattrigan £35.00 Leorin and Dunlossit Estate.

Jacob: £32.20 Ardlussa Estate.

Ewes

TexelX: £53.50 Windyedge

Cross: £46.50 Kilchiaran

Blackface: £20.50 Kilchiaran

Prices per kilo

Lambs

SuffolkX: 123p Octofad and Eorrabus 121p Octofad 120p Duich.

TexelX: 126p Carrabus 125p Gartloist 124p Octofad 123p Balaclava 122p Carrabus.

Cheviot:123p Kilbride

Cross: 116p Scarrabus

Blackface: 114p Coillabus, Scarrabus and Kilchiaran 113p Dunlossit Estate 111p, 110p and 108p Kilchiaran 108p Dunlossit Estate and Duich.

Jacob: 107p Ardlussa Estate.

### DINGWALL
### Dingwall and Highland Marts

Lambs:

SuffolkX – Blargie Farm, £54; Shewglie, Glenurquhart, £48;

TexelX – Teanluick, Beauly, £54; Camultmuir, Kiltarlity, £50; Strone Farm, Banavie, £45.50;

Blackface – Mid Fearn, Ardgay, £46; Drynie Farm, Dingwall, £45.50; Blargie, Laggan, £37.50;

Cross – Drynie Farm, £44; Shewglie, £43; Mid Fearn, £40.50;

Cheviot – Suisgill Estate, Brora, £41.50; Strone Farm, £38; Keoldale, Lairg, £37.

Ewes:

Beltex – Braes of Coulmore, £49;

TexelX – Little Kildrummie, Nairn, £48; Viewbay, £45.50; Invertromie, Kingussie, £41.50;

Cheviot – Viewbay, £45.50; Charleston, North Kessock, £40; Camultmuir, £38;

SuffolkX – Little Kildrummie, £45; Dell of Killiehuntly, Kingussie, £34;

Cheviot Mule – Braes of Coulmore, £39;

Mule – Charleston, £37.50;

Blackface – Shewglie, £31; Garrogie Estates, Whitebridge, £28; Viewbay, and Dunlichity Farm, Farr, £27.

### PERTH
### United Auctions

Bullocks up to 250 kgs Old Spittal £310, 131.9p;

251-300kgs Old Spittal £465, 161.5p;

301-350kgs Tealing Home Farm £600, 175.4p;

351-400kgs Old Spittal £595, 156.6p;

401-450kgs West Park £755, 173.6p;

451-500kgs South Ardittie £755, Gasconhall 156.6p;

501-550kgs Mid Lodge £800, 150.1p;

551-600kgs South Ardittie £800 142.9p;

601-650kgs South Ardittie £835, 132.5p.

Heifers up to 250kgs Old Spittal £375, 153.1p;

251-300kgs Tealing Home Farm £390, 132.7p;

301-350kgs Monzie Farms £475, 141.8p;

351-400kgs North Strathy £620, 161p;

401-450kgs Monzie Farms £830, 193;

451-500kgs Monzie Farms £940, 192.7p;

501-550kgs Monzie Farms £930, 178.8p;

551-600kgs Monzie Farms £1005, 157p.

Cast cows: Lethangie (Cha) £935; Horselaw (Sim) £845; Bogtonlea (AA) £835

Sheep

Lambs;

Kincraigie (Suff) £50; Shieldrum (Tex) £37.20; Torloisk (BF) £38 (Chev) £35.50

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# SEAT ACCESSORIES: PACKED WITH VALUE THIS CHRISTMAS

With last-minute present buying now in full swing, 'credit crunch' or no credit crunch, SEAT is reminding drivers of its latest range of extra-special Christmas treats for their cars.

The Spanish brand, buoyed by the successful launch this year of an all-new version of its big-selling Ibiza and eagerly anticipating the arrival of its new Exeo saloon early next year, is offering a range of high value styling and protection packs for its entire model line-up: new Ibiza 5dr and Ibiza SC, Leon, Altea, Altea XL, Freetrack 4 and Alhambra.

The latest accessory deals include a handy Protection Pack for the new Ibiza, adding high quality tailored carpet mats, a robust protective boot tray and neat front and rear mud flaps for a bargain £204.50 RRP, including fitting.

Ibiza buyers keen to underline their individual motoring taste can also opt for the smart Style Pack which, at £295.50 RRP including fitting, adds a colour-coded dashboard decorative kit, eye-catching chromed door mirror caps, bespoke handbrake and gearknob covers, and a handy two-metre auxiliary lead for connecting iPods or MP3 players to the car via the standard AUX-in socket.

Similar Protection and Style packs for other SEATs offer, depending on model, a variety of useful and elegant additions including flexible load liners, roof bars, door mirror covers, door and sill mouldings and interior trim additions.

The good news for SEAT owners interested in adding one or more of these high value packs to their cars is that they are guaranteed to save at least a full ten per cent over the standard fitted RRP at participating dealerships.

An added bonus, offered free of charge for each pack buyer, is a free reflective vest and warning triangle (worth £25.00 RRP). The kit, designed to keep SEAT buyers safe and legal should the worst happen when they're out on the road, applies to each purchase of a Style or Protection pack.

Nigel Griggs, Head of Aftersales at SEAT UK, explained the appeal of the new offers: 'We know many SEAT buyers are keen to add extras to their cars, either at the time of first registration or later on.

'This new collection of accessories has brought together the most popular additions, making the process both easier and more affordable for our customers.

'We think that for new car buyers the ability to add a Style or Protection pack to their SEAT, incorporating the cost into their monthly finance payment, will prove particularly attractive.

## new car index

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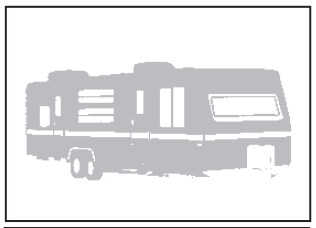

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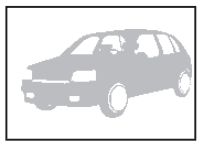

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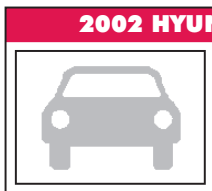
## 2002 HYUNDAI 1.3



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**Telephone: 01586 552489 (after 6pm)**

**£1,200**

## VERY SMART SPEEDBOAT 1 YEAR OLD, MARIAH SX18

**£14,200 for quick sale**

140hp 3L Inboard Merc
Well equipped including 4 months old GPS & VHF. Very good road trailer

**The Boat Store, Dunollie Road, Oban, Tel: 01631 565005** 2

## VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.8 SRI

Silver 5 dr 07 plate only 19,417 miles Alloy Wheels Air Con Trip Computer Sport Mode CD Player Remote Central Locking

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Low mileage very good condition.

**Telephone: 01681 700 110 or 07918658318**

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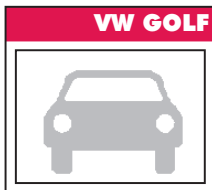
## VW GOLF ESTATE



Turbo Diesel Y Reg 132,700 miles, full service history, one owner from new, economic spacious estate.

**Telephone Pat on 01631 710 838**

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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 No: 08/02168/DET**
Applicant: NHS Highland
Proposal: Extension to surgery and alteration to locum house
Site Address: Surgery Ulva House Bunessan Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute PA67 6DG
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Bunessan Isle of Mull
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days

**Ref No: 08/02169/MIN**
Applicant: Mr Andrew Sutherland
Proposal: Winning and working of minerals (hard rock) renewal of 98/01260/MIN
Site Address: Barrachander Quarry Kilchrenan Taynuilt Argyll And Bute PA35 1HD
Location of Plans: Lorn Area Office
Section 34 and Article 9 Advert 14 Days

**Ref No: 08/02135/DET**
Applicant: Mr And Mrs MacPhail
Proposal: Proposed erection of dwellinghouse
Site Address: Site East Of Tigh Bhan Glen Forsa Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute PA70 6HE
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Dervaig
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days

**Ref No: 08/02132/DET**
Applicant: Mr And Mrs H MacPhail
Proposal: Proposed alterations to byre
Site Address: Byre Adjoining Tigh Bhan Glen Forsa Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute PA72 6JN
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Dervaig
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days

**Ref No: 08/01350/OUT**
Applicant: Ian Davenport
Proposal: Site for erection of dwellinghouse
Site Address: Land North Of Hynish Air View Crossapol Isle Of Tiree Argyll And Bute
Location of Plans: Tiree Area Office
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days

**Ref No: 08/01598/OUT**
Applicant: Gordon Lumsdaine
Proposal: Site for erection of dwellinghouse
Site Address: Plot 4 Fountainhead Bunessan Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Bunessan Isle of Mull
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days

**Ref No: 08/02144/DET**
Applicant: Fiona Macinnes
Proposal: Alteration of existing cottage
Site Address: Willow Cottage Tirulla Kintra Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute PA66 6BT
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Fionnphort
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days

**Ref No: 08/02146/DET**
Applicant: West Highland Housing Association Ltd
Proposal: Proposed housing development
Site Address: Site East Of Taynuilt Hotel Taynuilt Argyll And Bute PA35 1HW
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Taynuilt
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days

**Ref No: 08/02166/MIN**
Applicant: John Maclachlan Quarries Ltd
Proposal: Extraction of hard rock within area consented under 97/00325/MIN
Site Address: Quarry Upper Soroba Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 4SD
Location of Plans: Oban Area Office
Section 34 Advert - 14 Days

**Ref No: 08/02147/DET**
Applicant: Northstar Properties Ltd
Proposal: Redevelopment of ruin to form dwelling house and extension of existing track
Potential departure from Policies RUR1 and RUR2 of Mull, Coll and Tiree Local Plan
Site Address: Site South Of Ardchiavaig Uisken Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Bunessan Isle of Mull
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days

**Ref No: 08/01819/DET**
Applicant: Mr Angus John And Mrs Pamela MacColl
Proposal: Erection of dwellinghouse
Potential Departure from
Site Address: Site South East Of Home Farm Glengorm Road Glengorm Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute
Location of Plans: Tobermory Area Office
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days

**Ref No: 08/01785/DET**
Applicant: Oban Community Council
Proposal: Erection of interpretation board
Site Address: Dunollie Lighthouse And Tourist Viewpoint Corran Esplanade Oban Argyll And Bute
Location of Plans: Lorn and the Isles Area Office
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days

**Ref No: 08/02150/OUT**
Applicant: Mr Alexander Dawson
Proposal: Site for erection of dwelling house - renewal of 06/00004/OUT
Site Address: Land South Of Achnacarron Kilchrenan Argyll And Bute
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Taynuilt
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days

**Ref No: 08/02158/LIB**
Applicant: A Gascoigne
Proposal: Minor changes to position of exterior door and window
Site Address: Misty Isles Ellenabeich Isle Of Seil Oban Argyll And Bute
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Balvicar
Regulation 5 Listed Bld Consent - 21 Day

**Ref No: 08/02084/LIB**
Applicant: Mark Luty
Proposal: Installation of satelite dish
Site Address: Oban Times Buildings Corran Esplanade Oban Argyll And Bute
Location of Plans: Oban 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: 08/02147/DET**
Applicant: Northstar Properties Ltd
Proposal: Redevelopment of ruin to form dwelling house and extension of existing track
Potential departure from Policies RUR1 and RUR2 of Mull, Coll and Tiree Local Plan
Site Address: Site South Of Ardchiavaig Uisken Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Bunessan Isle of Mull
A18 Local Plan Potential Depart Adv (21)

**Ref No: 08/01819/DET**
Applicant: Mr Angus John And Mrs Pamela MacColl
Proposal: Erection of dwellinghouse
policies RUR1 and RUR2 of the Mull, Coll and Tiree Local Plan.
Site Address: Site South East Of Home Farm Glengorm Road Glengorm Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute
Location of Plans: Tobermory Area Office
A18 Local Plan Potential Depart Adv (21)

**Area Team Leader Development Control, Planning Services, Lorn House, Albany Street, Oban, PA34 4AR**

Any letter of representation the council receives about a planning application is considered a public document.

Please therefore note that representations will be made available for public inspection and, under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act, will be copied on request. They will also be published on the council's web site.

The author of such a representation is solely responsible for its content and accuracy.

Anonymous representations will be "shredded" and those marked confidential will be returned to the sender. Neither will be taken into account when the application is being considered.

Details of representations we receive on planning applications can be viewed on the council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/publicaccess

### TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 POST INQUIRY MODIFICATIONS TO ARGYLL AND BUTE LOCAL PLAN

Certified copies of the Post Inquiry Modifications to the above named Local Plan will be available for inspection free of charge between 27th November and 23rd January, at the locations listed below during normal opening hours.

The Post Inquiry Modifications together with the Report of the Public Local Inquiry into Objections to the Modified Finalised Draft Local Plan can also be viewed on the Council's web site www.argyll-bute.gov.uk. CD copies of the proposed modifications are also available on request. For further information or a copy of the proposed modifications please contact the Development Policy Unit on 01546 604140.

Representations on the Post Inquiry Modifications should be sent to Fergus Murray, Development Policy Manager, Argyll and Bute Council, Kilmory, Lochgilphead, PA31 8RT, or by using the Development Policy link on the Council's web site to arrive before 5pm on the 23rd January 2009. Representations should be made in writing, stating the name and address of the Representee, the modification number to which they relate and the grounds on which they are made. Please note that representations can only be made on the Proposed Modifications, and will only be considered where they relate to issues which have not already been considered by the Reporters at the Public Local Inquiry. All representations are a matter of public record, and will be scanned and placed on the Council's web site.

**Oban, Campbeltown, Helensburgh, Dunoon and Rothesay Libraries and at Argyll and Bute Council Headquarters at Kilmory, Lochgilphead, reception.**

### REFUSE COLLECTION ARRANGEMENTS FOR CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR

#### OBAN & LORN

## REFUSE COLLECTION

Areas normally collected on Thursday 25th December will be uplifted on Saturday 27th December and areas normally collected on Thursday 1st January will be collected on Saturday 3rd January.

All other collections will be as normal.

PAPER & CARDBOARD RECYLING

There will be no collections on Thursday & Friday 25th & 26th December and Thursday & Friday 1st & 2nd January.

CIVIC AMENITY/RECYCLING SITE – MOLEIGH

The site will be closed on Thursdays 25th December 2008 and 1st January 2009 and will be open from 9am – 2pm on Fridays 26th December 2008 & 2nd January 2009.

## MULL & IONA

REFUSE

Areas normally collected on Wednesdays 24th and 31st December (Ross of Mull) will be uplifted on Tuesdays 23rd and 30th December . Areas normally collected on Thursdays 25th December and 1st January (Gribun, Spelvie & Craignure) will be collected on Wednesdays 24th and 31st December. All other collections will be as normal.

PAPER & CARDBOARD RECYCLING

Commercial Glass Collections will take place on Wednesday 24th December.

Paper and Cardboard Recycling Collections for 29th, 30th and 31st December will take place as normal. Collection for Thursday 1st January will take place on Monday 5th January 2009

CIVIC AMENITY/RECYCLING SITE – GLENGORM

The site will be closed on Thursdays 25th December 2008 and 1st January 2009

#### LISMORE

Collections as normal

## 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

## CONTRACT OPPORTUNITY SOCIAL ENTERPRISE SUPPORT

The purpose of the contract is to assist the Argyll and Bute Social Enterprise Partnership in the development of a stronger 3rd Sector to deliver more public services in its area.

For further details and contract documentation please contact

**Jim McCrossan, Community Learning and Regeneration Manager, Argyll and Bute Council**
**Tel: 01369 708543 e-mail: jim.mccrossan@argyll-bute.gov.uk**

**The deadline for requesting contract documents is Tuesday, 30 December 2008. The closing date for submission of tenders is 12noon on Friday 30 January 2009.**

## OPERATIONAL SERVICES

### (VARIOUS STREETS, OBAN) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC/PEDESTRIANS) (HOGMANAY CELEBRATION) ORDER 2008

On Monday 15th December 2007, Argyll and Bute Council, made the above named Order under Section 16A of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, as amended, which prohibits 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. |

**Andrew R Law, Director of Operational Services, Manse Brae, Lochgilphead, Argyll**

## THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL

### NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF REPLACEMENT OF: LOCHABER; SKYE AND LOCHALSH; AND BADENOCH AND STRATHSPEY (PART)*; LOCAL PLANS

### TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

### WEST HIGHLAND AND ISLANDS LOCAL PLAN# PLANA IONADAIL NA GÀIDHEALTACHD AN IAR IS NAN EILEAN & RELATED REVISED ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

The Highland Council have prepared the Replacement of the above named local plans.

Certified copies of the Replacement of the Plans and the Statement mentioned in section 12(5) of the Act, have been deposited at:

- Area Planning & Building Standards Offices at Gordon Square, Fort William; Kings House, Portree, Isle of Skye and 100 High Street, Kingussie;
- Planning & Development Service, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness
- Highland Council Service Points at: The Acharacle Centre, Morrison Place, Acharacle; Old Quarry Industrial Estate, Broadford; 2 Lochside, Dunvegan; Lochaber House, High Street, Fort William; The Aluminium Story Visitor Centre, Linnhe Road, Kinlochleven; Main Street, Kyle; Main Street, Lochcarron; Mallaig & Morar Community Centre, Mallaig; Tigh-na-Sgire, Park Lane, Portree;
- All Lochaber, Lochalsh and Skye Libraries and Post Offices;
- Achmore Village Hall, Achmore; Duror Stores, Duror of Appin; Elgol Village Hall, Elgol; Glenuig Hall, Glenuig; Kilmuir Village Hall, Kilmuir; Laggan Village Hall, Laggan; Onich Stores, Onich;
- Canna Primary School, Isle of Canna; Macdiarmid Primary School, Carbost, Skeabost Bridge (documents available from 3.30-5.00pm on weekdays only); and;
- via The Highland Council's web-site at www.highland.gov.uk/whilp

The deposited documents are available for inspection free of charge during normal opening hours.

**Objections to the Replacement of the Plans should be sent in writing to the undersigned before 5pm on 13th February 2009.** Objections should state the name and address of the objector, the matters to which they relate and the grounds$ on which they are made.

Stuart Black – Director of Planning and Development
Highland Council Headquarters
Glenurquhart Road
Inverness IV3 5NX 19th December 2008

This Deposit Draft (December 2008) version of the Plan supersedes the versions published as the Deposit Draft (December 2007) and the Pre-Deposit Draft (May 2008). We are writing to those who submitted representations on those earlier drafts and asking them to consider and indicate which remain unresolved and are maintained and confirmed as representations to the new Deposit Draft (December 2008).

A copy of the Revised Environmental Report, required under The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Scotland) Regulations 2004, that relates to the Replacement is available at: Planning & Development Service, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness or via The Council's web-site at www.highland.gov.uk/whilp. Written expressions of opinion on the Environmental Report are also invited to the address below before 5pm on Friday 13th February 2009.

* (The part of the Badenoch and Strathspey Local Plan area affected is that land west of Kinlochlaggan, close to Loch Laggan and the A86.)

# (This plan represents a merger of the replacements of the Skye and Lochalsh Local Plan and Lochaber Local Plan).

$ (Grounds should be stated in full given that future additional submissions will only be permissible at the discretion of the Scottish Government Reporter).

## 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 by the dates listed below.

| Applicant Name & Development Address Reference Number | Proposal Description | Location where application may be inspected & reason for Advertisement |
|---|---|---|
| P.O.K Catering Ltd T/A Café 115, 113-115 High Street, Fort William 08/00476/FULLO | Outdoor seating area for Café 115 | Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office Section 34 of the Act (12/01/09) |

**Area Planning and Building Standards Manager, Ross, Skye & Lochaber: Dafydd Jones, Highland Council, Fulton House, Gordon Square, Fort William, PH33 6XY. Tel: (01397) 707015, Fax: (01397) 707022, e-mail: planning.lochaber@highland.gov.uk**

To find out more about living and working in argyll & bute visit us @
**www.argyll-bute.gov.uk**

Argyll & Bute COUNCIL

## SPORTS COACHING CONFERENCE 2009

Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th February
Oban High School

Coaching Qualifications in a number of sports
Coach Support Workshops
Running Sport Workshops for Club Committees and Event Organisers
Child Protection Courses and First Aid for Sport
Personal Development Courses

Sports Coaching Argyll & Bute 2009

**For full details and a copy of the programme contact; Willie.young@argyll-bute.gov.uk telephone 01631 572189.**

**Go to www.argyll-bute.gov.uk and download a programme and application form or pick up a programme from any Sports Facility or Active Schools Co-ordinator.**

CROFTERS COMMISSION
UGHDARRAS NAN CROITEARAN

Mr and Mrs S McLean are applying to **decroft** part of the croft at 4 Murlaggan, Kilmonivaig extending to 0.15 ha for the purpose of providing a site for a dwelling house. Ref: 4.86.15461

Mr and Mrs S McLean are applying to **decroft** part of the croft at 4 Murlaggan, Kilmonivaig extending to 0.15 ha for the purpose of providing a site for a dwelling house. Ref: 4.86.15462

If you consider the decrofting of these areas will adversely affectyour crofting interests or that of the local crofting community, please make written representations to the Crofters Commission, Castle Wynd, Inverness IV2 3EQ by 5 January 2009 quoting the above case number. If you are interested in the tenancy of the croft, please advise the Crofters Commission as above.

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 have been granted:

**Croft House Site and Garden Ground**

196 Arivegaig, Ardnamurchan & Sunart
Direction dated 10 December 2008 granted to Mrs Margaret A Laing. Area ext to 0.136 ha.
Condition: Complete enclosure of the site with a stockproof fence or barrier within 4 months of the date of the Direction.
Case Number: 4.85.15034

2 & 4 Shielfoot, Ardnamurchan & Sunart
Direction dated 10 December 2008 granted to Miss Alexandra Duncan. Area ext to 0.146 ha.
Condition: Complete enclosure of the site with a stockproof fence or barrier within 4 months of the date of the Direction.
Case Number: 4.85.15036

CROFTERS COMMISSION
UGHDARRAS NAN CROITEARAN

The following decrofting Directions have been granted:

**Part Croft**

10 Blaich, Ardgour

Direction dated 15 December 2008 granted to Vincent Bohn. Area ext to 0.303 ha

Condition(s): The land is used to provide a site for two dwellinghouses. Complete enclosure of the site with a stockproof fence or barrier within 4 months of completion of the proposed development.

Case Number: 4.86.11796

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.

**Proposed Sublet of a Croft**

Gwen Sheriff is applying to the Crofters Commission for consent to sublet the croft at 17 Cleadale Isle of Eigg to Neil Robertson of 13, Cleadale Isle of Eigg.

If you have any objection to the proposal, you may submit representations in writing or other permanent form to the Crofters Commission, Castle Wynd, Inverness IV2 3EQ by 15 January 2009 specifying your interest in the application and your reasons for objecting.

A copy of any representations will be forwarded to the applicant.

**Proposed Assignation of a Croft**

Ian Gillies, crofter is applying to the Crofters Commission for consent to assign the tenancy of the croft at; 3 Kirkapol, Isle of Tiree, Argyll, to Adam Milne of Old Schoolhouse, Scarinish, Isle of Tiree, Argyll.

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 15th 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.

**Proposed Let of a Croft**

William James McArthur is applying to the Crofters Commission for consent to let the tenancy of the crofts at ½ 6 Halistra and 5 Upper Halistra, Waternish to Mr J Brodie. 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 15 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.

**Proposed Assignation of Grazing Share(s)**

William James McArthur, shareholder is applying to the Crofters Commission for consent to assign the tenancy of the grazing share(s) in the Halistra common grazing pertaining to the croft at 5 Upper Halistra, to Mr J Brodie of 5 Halistra. 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 15 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.

## ABBEYFIELD OBAN SOCIETY LTD charity no SC021090

After some 27 years the Society is dissolving and distributing its assets.

During that time the society has operated a very successful Abbeyfield house, but following the growth of sheltered housing and changes to care of the elderly within the community, it was decided to manage the closure of the house and thereafter to redeploy the assets - for the benefit of older people in the local area.

After careful consideration, and in agreement with the various regulatory bodies, it has now been decided to dissolve the Society and to distribute the funds.

In taking this decision, the Society is required by the Housing Scotland Act 2001 to distribute the funds to one or more registered social landlords, or Housing Associations, active in the care of the elderly. Accordingly, the majority of the funds have now been distributed to Bield Housing Association Ltd for the express purpose of providing services to the elderly in Oban & North Argyll, on the agreed condition that the funds are used for capital projects only such as new builds or developing existing housing and/or social care units.

A separate fund, resulting from a bequest by a former resident Ronald Clarke, has been distributed to 3 local charities also active in the care of the elderly.

**All the funds have now been distributed:**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Registered Social Landlords:** | |
| Bield Housing Assoc. Ltd, charity no SC006878 | £570517.85 |
| Abbeyfield Scotland Ltd, charity no SC012549 | £20000.00 |
| **Local Charities:** | |
| Oban Hospice Ltd, charity no SC029299 | £3233.31 |
| North Argyll Carers Centre, charity no SC001960 | £3233.31 |
| Alzheimer Scotland, Oban & Lorn Branch, charity no SC022315 | £3233.31 |

The Society wishes to record its appreciation to all those who have supported its work over the years, and is pleased to have been able to distribute its assets for the continuing benefit of residents within Oban and North Argyll.

British Waterways Scotland

**Notice to Mariners**
**Crinan Canal**
**Holidays and Winter Works**

**Closure from Wed 24th December 2008 at 1pm to Sun 15th March 2009 inclusive**

British Waterways wish to advise that the Crinan Canal will close to traffic at 1pm on Wednesday 24th December 2008 for the Christmas and New Year Holidays.

The canal will remain closed until Monday 16th March 2009 to permit essential engineering works to be undertaken at Lock 15, Crinan Basin, Lock 10 and 11.

During this time the Crinan Basin and the Dunardry locks will be drained.

Stop planks will also be placed across the entrance to Lock 15.

Therefore, craft will be unable to make any use of Lock 15 or Crinan Basin during these works. The canal will also be closed to transit vessels.

British Waterways apologise for any inconvenience caused but require to carry out the works to remedy the ill problems which were experienced during the 2008 season.

**Crinan Canal Office, Pier Square, Ardrishaig, Argyll PA30 8DZ**
**Telephone 01546 603210**

Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

# Telephone 01631 568000 for your paid for advert to run for a SECOND WEEK FREE

## ANTIQUES AND COLLECTABLES

PORCELAIN DOLLS 2, each £15. Telephone 01631 563226.

PORCELAIN HORSES 2, each £20. Telephone 01631 563226.

## BABY EQUIPMENT

BABY BUGGY three wheeler, very good condition, £40. Telephone 01631 563226.

HIGH CHAIR as new, £10. Telephone 01631 710373.

TRAVEL COT Graco travel cot, very good condition, £20. Telephone 01631 710394.

WOODEN COT white, no mattress, £20. Telephone 01631 563226.

## BICYCLES

GENTS BIKE old style Raleigh bike, needs some TLC, £39.50. Telephone 07770 623486.

MOUNTAIN BIKE Gents edge reflex mountain bike, front and back disc brakes, 21 speed, full suspension, brand new, £100. Telephone 07979 520792.

## BOOKS

PETER MINSHALL 'Whispering Children' (signed copy), £6.99. Telephone 07780 601561.

## BUILDING / DIY

ASSORTED TOOLS including power drill, saw and jigsaw, miscellaneous hand tools 50p to £10. Telephone 07923 538743.

CONTIBOARD 3 lengths, alder finish, one 9ft two shorter and other lengths, donation to charity. Telephone 01631 562734.

GYPROC two sheets, unused, ex Buildbase, £20. Telephone 07825 778175.

## CD'S, DVD'S AND VIDEOS

FRIENDS VIDEOS series 1 - 8, £30. Telephone 01631 563930.

## CHRISTMAS

HOLLY WREATHS 2 hand made fresh holly wreaths, can deliver Oban area each £15 call after 6pm, £15. Telephone 01631 710521.

## CLOTHES, SHOES AND ACCESSORIES

BENCH JEANS 34 waist, 32 leg, brand new, £40. Telephone 07884 240953.

BLACK JACKET Helly Hansen, as new, medium, £40. Telephone 01631 564536.

LADIES CARDIGAN new, size XXXL, £10. Telephone 01631 563226.

NAVY JACKET Helly Hansen, as new, small, £30. Telephone 01631 564536.

## DOMESTIC APPLIANCES

ELECTRIC COOKER very good condition, £40. Telephone 01631 710373.

FRIDGE FREEZER fridge freezer, £30. Telephone 01631 710373.

FRIDGE FREEZER small, £30. Telephone 01631 710373.

LARDER FRIDGE Bosch, excellent condition, can deliver Campbeltown area, £49.99. Telephone 07707 977208.

MICROWAVE OVEN as new, £20. Telephone 01631 710373.

TEASMAID, £10. Telephone 01586 553355.

## DOMESTIC PETS

COLLIE PUPS for sale off working parents. Telephone 01631 710261/ 07879 831652.

GUINEA PIGS Baby Guinea pigs for sale, male and female, each £10. Telephone 01838 400251.

SPRINGER SPANIEL pups for sale, £200. Telephone 01586 830269.

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BUNK BEDS lilac steel bunk beds, new mattress on top bunk, bottom bunks unfolds to double with futon, excellent condition, £49.99. Telephone 01855 821482.

CABIN BED very good condition, £30. Telephone 01546 870255 /07503 170166.

COFFEE TABLE round, 24" with two semi round 12" nesting tables, £40. Telephone 01586 553355.

DINING TABLE round wooden dining table and 4 matching wooden chairs, £45. Telephone 01631 563771.

FOOTSTOOLS Ikea, Red Leather, 2, £10 each. Telephone 07854 658204.

SINGLE BED antique pine sleigh single bed and mattress, one year old, as new, £49.99. Telephone 07876 186966.

SINGLE DIVAN with HB, excellent condition, £45. Telephone 01631 563381.

SINGLE MATTRESS 6 months old, very good condition, £30. Telephone 01546 870255/ 07503 170166.

THREE PIECE SUITE wooden frame, newly covered in green and rust draylon, very comfortable, excellent condition, £49.99. Telephone 01855 821482.

TV STAND wooden corner TV stand light oak with drawer and storage, £20. Telephone 01586 553355.

VIDEO RACK wooden video rack, holds 36 cassettes or 72 boxed cds, £20. Telephone 01586 553355.

WOODEN CHEST dark solid wood chest, 38x20 good condition, £49. Telephone 01631 720036.

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AIR WALKER good condition, folds for storage, £30. Telephone 01631 563930.

EXERCISE BIKE V-Fit exercise bike - with calorie and counter meter - good xmas present, £25. Telephone 01631 720036.

EXERCISE CYCLE V Fit, little used, £20. Telephone 01586 553355.

ROWING MACHINE good condition, £20. Telephone 01631 563930.

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HALOGEN HEATER swivel, £5. Telephone 01586 553355.

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SONY TV Trinitron 26" complete with stand, video player, DVD player and freeview box. Offers. Telephone 01586 553355.

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SIGNET RING gold, size Z, £40. Telephone 01631 563226.

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BATHROOM SUITE cream, WC, bath and pedestal, good condition, £40. Telephone 01397 712352 /07849 924344 after 6pm.

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## POWER TOOLS

CHAINSAW Husqvarna 254 chainsaw, good working order, ideal for firewood, £150. Telephone 01586 553469 /07909 991388.

## PRINTING AND STATIONERY

CHANGED ADDRESS? - Self adhesive labels to inform your family and friends of your new address. Contact Krisp Printing and Stationery, Burnbank, Campbeltown. 01586 554975.

Business Cards, Compliment Slips & Headed Paper - Every professional business should have them. Contact Krisp Printing and Stationery, Burnbank, Campbeltown. 01586 554975.

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SHOP FITTINGS dish washing machine, £20. Till, £35. Glass display cabinets x 2, £20 each. Wooden display cabinet, suitable for shop, £30. Telephone 01631 710698.

## TOYS AND GAMES

BOB THE BUILDER vehicles, good condition, each, £1. Telephone 01631 564364.

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SCRAP METAL All types of scrap metal. We uplift scrap cars. Call G Cook, West Coast Scrap Metals. Telephone 01499 500638/ 07787 991636.

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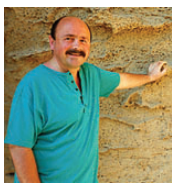
## PERSONALS

Happy 60th Birthday Kenny

On Saturday 20th December



Love from

Sheena, Kenneth, Lynn and Billy and lots more love from Aaron to his Senair

Mum and Dad

George and Valerie MacLeod

Married on December 23rd 1983

Congratulations on Your Silver Wedding Anniversary

Lots of Love

Amanda, Yvonne and Corinne

x x x

CARLYNN AND STEPHEN COX

would like to thank all their family and friends for the gifts received on the occasion of their marriage.

MACKENZIE

Mary and Stewart MacKenzie and family would like to thank everyone for the huge amount of support shown to us during what has been a difficult year. We have been overwhelmed by the number of cards, flowers, letters, telephone calls and text messages received and all the kindness shown. God Bless and we wish you all every happiness during 2009.

The Rev Archie Lamont, 8 Achlonan, Taynuilt, is not able to send Christmas cards this year but nevertheless wishes all his relatives and friends warmest Christmas greetings and happiest of New Years.

Gu robh math agaibh uile – beannachd, buaidh is piseach.

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**Evenings**

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*Telephone*
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or
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**HAMISH HOEY & SON**
*Joiners & Funeral Directors*
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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

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**To advertise here's what you do:-**

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

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

**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
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| | | | |
| | | | |
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| 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

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**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**

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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:**
£6.5 0 per single column centimetre

**Payment:** Pre-payment required for advertisements of less than £50 (excluding death notices)
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**www.obantimes.co.uk**

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## BIRTHS

**McLAUGHLIN** - A beautiful daughter, Freya Beth, born to Briony (Liddell) and David on December 10, 2008, in Edinburgh, a first grandchild and step grandchild for Stella and Donald Leitch, Kilchrenan.

**WILSON** - At Wishaw General Hospital, on December 9, 2008, to Craig and Laura (née Devine), a beautiful daughter Lia. Thanks to all staff in attendance. First grandchild for Kevin and for Audrey, Oban.

## DEATHS

**MACFARLANE** - At home on December 11, 2008, Elsie, beloved wife of the late Hugh (of Tiree), loving mother of John, and much loved sister of Robin. Funeral service took place at Cardross Crematorium on December 17, 2008.

**MACKINNON** - Peacefully, at Abbeyfield House, Ballachulish, on December 4, 2008, Mary Stewart, aged 88 years. Beloved wife of the late Donald MacKinnon, much loved mother of Priscilla and Stewart, dear mother-in-law, granny and great-granny. Sadly missed. RIP.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

**DEVINE** - Flora and family would like to express their sincere thanks to all relatives and friends for their kind and generous support during their difficult days. They also thank Canon MacKay and St Columba's Cathedral choir for the lovely service, together with Hamish Hoey and Sons for the splendid funeral arrangements and Soroba House Hotel for the after service catering. Your cards, flowers, gifts and letters of condolence are very much appreciated.

God Bless You All.

**HENDERSON** - The family of the late Charles Henderson would like to express their appreciation of the kind expressions of sympathy and condolences extended to them following their sad loss. Thanks to the Rev Richard Begg and Rev Iain Macleay for their comforting service. Andrew Simpson, Bobby Corson, Allan Henderson, the West Highland Hotel, doctors and staff at the Mallaig Medical Centre and the medical ward, Belford Hospital. Donations raised the amount of £818 for the Belford Hospital and Highland Hospice.

**MACDOUGALL** - The family of the late Annie MacDougall wish to thank all friends and relations for their kind expressions of sympathy at our sad loss. Thanks to Rev S Graham for his comforting service, to Mrs Grainger for playing the organ and to Iain for the funeral arrangements. Special thanks to the caring staff at Dunaros Home. The sum of £160 was collected and will be donated to Dunaros Home.

**MACINNES** - The family of the late Donald MacInnes would like to thank all Donald's friends, relatives and neighbours for their kind expressions of sympathy, cards, flowers and phone calls following the passing of Donald on December 1, 2008. Special thanks to ambulance personnel, staff at A and E department, medical ward of Belford Hospital. Thanks Also to Rev Richard Corbett for his comforting service and Mike McFall for professional services. The retiral collection in favour of Medical Ward, Belford Hospital raised £780.

**MACKENZIE** - Neileen, Wilma, Eilidh and families wish to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for the many kind expressions of sympathy extended to them in their recent sad loss of Willie. Grateful thanks to the ambulance boys, staff of A and E, Dr Haussain and nurses of the Medical ward, Belford Hospital, Rev Donald MacQuarrie and the Rev Charles Tongue for their sincere and comforting service. Also thanks to Miss MacIntyre for playing such beautiful music, to the doctors and all staff of the Tweedale Surgery, special thanks to Ewen, Kevin and Theresa for all their help, efficiency and compassionate handling of the funeral arrangements and also the Alexandra Hotel. Thanks to all who paid their last respects to Willie from far and near both at the church and graveside and who so generously donated over £800. Thanks to you all. 22 Henderson Row, Fort William.

**ROBISON** - The family of the late Ellen Douglas Forbes Robison MBE wish to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for their kind expressions of sympathy received during their recent sad loss. Special thanks to the Reverend Dugald Cameron for his kind words, to all who paid their last respects at the church and graveside and to Gordon, Audrey and Margaret for their contributions to the service - a tribute to this special lady.

## IN MEMORIAMS

**BRYSON** - In fond and loving memory of a dear mother and grandma, Maria, who died December 22, 2006.
Sadly missed along lifes way
But in our thoughts every day.
- Clint, Carol and Jodie x

**CAMERON** - In loving memory of Alastair, a dear husband, father and grandpa who passed away December 18, 1990, also remembering loved ones gone before and after.
Forever in our thoughts.
- Helen and family, Strontian and Morvern.

**DUFF** - Remembering our son, Stuart, who died on December 18, 2000, age 26.
Miss and love you always.
- Mum and Dad xx

**MACDONALD** - Treasured memories of Peggy, a loving wife, mum, granny and great-granny, who died December 21, 2007.
Loved and remembered every day.
- Donald Archy and Family.

**MACINTYRE** - Treasured memories of a beloved father, father-in-law and grandfather Archibald (Baldy) who passed away on December 17, 1989.
Forever in our thoughts.
- Iain, Jane, Caroline and Boyd, Edinburgh.

**MACLACHLAN** - In loving memory of my beloved husband, Allan, who died December 22, 1998.
Quietly remembered every day.
- Ann, Benhiant, Kilchoan.

**MACLACHLAN** - Special memories of a much loved dad, who died December 22, 1998.
Always in our thoughts.
- Love Hugh, Rosemary, Nan, Alisdair and families, Kilchoan.

**MACPHAIL** - Cherished and everloving memories of my beloved mother Morag MacDonald who died on December 17, 1987, my dear sister Margaret Christie who died suddenly on January 10, 1988.
Deep are the memories and precious they stay
No passing of time can take them away
Remembering also loved family members gone before and since.
- Chris, South Uist.

**McKIERNAN** - In loving memory of a special dad, Jim, who passed away on December 21, 2007.
Always in our thoughts.
- With love from Catherine, Diane and Alan.

**McKINNEY** - In loving memory of a dear sister, Marjorie, who died December 15, 2003.
Gone but will never be forgotten.
- Pat and Malcolm.

**NICOLSON** - Treasured memories of our dear mother and grandmother Christina Stewart, who died December 19, 1985, also Mima Macaulay our dear sister and auntie and precious mother of Donald Angus and Shirley Ann who died December 30, 1989.
Time passes, memories stay
Quietly remembered every day.
- Sadly missed by all the family.

**PILKINGTON** - In loving memory of May, a dear grandmother to Debbie and Allan Fraser, wife of the late Jim Pilkington (Strontian) and mother of the late Liz MacIntyre.
At rest in the everlasting arms.

**YOUNG** - Treasured memories of Iain James, our dearly beloved son who died December 27, 1997.
Loved and remembered today and every day.
- Mum and Dad.

## CHURCH NOTICES

**SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH ANGLICAN COMMUNION**

**Thursday 18 Dec 2008**
**St John's Cathedral, Oban**
Service of Lessons and Carols .....19.30

**Sunday 21 December 2008**
**St John's Cathedral, Oban**
Holy Communion ..... 08.00
Sung Eucharist ..... 10.15
The children will tell the Christmas Story
Loop System
Large Print Hymn Books
All welcome
**Norman MacCallum, Provost**
**☎(01631) 562323**

**St Columba, Gruline, Mull**
Festival of nine lessons and carols ..... 11.00

**St Columba, Bishop's House, Iona**
Holy Eucharist ..... 10.00
*Advance Notice*
**Wednesday 24 Dec 2008**
**Christmas Eve**
**St John's Cathedral, Oban**
Crib Service "Let's go to Bethlehem ..... 15.30
Midnight Eucharist.... 23.15
*The Bishop*

**Thursday 25 Dec 2008**
**Christmas Day**
**St John's Cathedral, Oban**
Said Eucharist ..... 09.30
Family Eucharist ..... 11.00

**St James' Ardbrecknish, Cladich**
Holy Eucharist ..... 11.00
*The Bishop*

**St Columba, Gruline, Mull**
Holy Eucharist ..... 11.00

**LORN CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP**
**Sunday 10a.m.**
**St Moluag's Centre**
**Croft Avenue**
**Oban**
All welcome
Telephone
**07876 735 794**

**ASSOCIATED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, OBAN**
**Campbell Street Church**
**Sunday 21 December 2008**
11 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.
Phone-In *'Worship Link'* available
**Rev. Archie McPhail MA, MTh**
**☎(01631) 567076**
All welcome

# Congregational Church Hall hosts annual sale of work

MINISTER Ken Hunter was full of Christmas cheer when he opened the annual sale of work at the Congregational Church Hall, Oban.

The event was well attended raising much needed funds. Ken explained: 'Everything we raise today stays in the church. Unlike other churches, what we make in this church pays for all the work that we do.

'We are very busy, especially over the Christmas period, but we always have time to welcome new members and visitors to the church.

'There is a big surprise planned for advent and we will be telling everybody about it when it is all confirmed.'

T49cong01

# Blessed Mary MacKillop goes 'home' to Australia

A SCULPTURE of Blessed Mary MacKillop has 'come home' to the North Sydney (MacKillop) Campus of Australian Catholic University (ACU National).

Mary's parents were born in Argyll and emigrated to Australia. Mary, born in Melbourne in 1842, founded the Congregation of the Sisters of St Joseph in South Australia in 1866. She moved to a cottage in Mount Street, North Sydney, in the 1880s and died in 1909. Her shrine has been visited by three popes, including Pope Benedict XVI during World Youth Day 2008.

Unveiled on November 13 2008 by Archbishop of Sydney His Eminence Cardinal George Pell AC, the sculpture portrays Mary towards the end of her life, in a wheel chair with her dog, an Australian terrier, on her lap.

'I particularly asked that she be depicted in her later years,' ACU National Vice-Chancellor Professor Greg Craven said. 'She knew this house, knew this garden. We see this as the Blessed Mary MacKillop coming home to MacKillop Campus.'

He said he hoped staff, students and people passing by would 'have the opportunity to reflect and pray in the presence of this site'.

Cardinal Pell described Mary as 'a woman who valued education immensely and worked consistently and well with people most in need of it'. Beatified by Pope John Paul II on 19 January 1995, Mary is expected to be Canonised following proof of a second miracle.

At the unveiling, Sisters of St Joseph Congregational Leader Sister Anne Derwin RSJ spoke of Mary's belief 'that education was the only way to relieve poverty' and of her 'journey to Rome alone by ship' in 1873 so as 'to be able to share the resources of the Sisters where they were needed'.

She described Mary as a symbol for Australians who believed in 'a fair go for all', also popular internationally, particularly in East Timor, Peru and Scotland among 'people of faith, people of suffering and people of goodness'. 'She went about daily life in the most ordinary ways, filled with kindness and generosity,' said Sister Anne.

Sculptor Linda Klarfeld described Mary as 'an incredible woman' who 'dared to believe in her dream'.

'What I found most inspiring about her, was her faith and courage,' Linda said. 'She was criticised, excommunicated by the bishop and undermined. But she never felt angry or bitter toward anyone. And even years before her death, when she was in a wheel chair and suffering ill health, she kept getting reinstated as Mother Superior because people had so much faith in her.'

# Confirmation Sunday for eight youngsters on Barra

THERE was a special day for Castlebay Parish on the Isle of Barra in the diocese of Argyll and the Isles recently.

Not only was it the first Sunday of Advent, but it was also Confirmation Sunday for eight young parishioners.

The children, who are all pupils at Castlebay Primary School, are pictured with parish catechist Sr Maire Tighe SND and parish priest, Fr Michael Hutson. Because of his recent retirement, Bishop Ian Murray delegated Fr Michael to celebrate the Sacrament on his behalf.

A celebration tea party was held for the children in Castlebay Hall after the Mass, making it an extra special day.

# Obituary

## James Robertson 1922 - 2008

THE DEATH of James Robertson, Hawthorn Cottage, Plockton at Raigmore Hospital on November 9, Remembrance Sunday, saddened his many friends.

He was 86 years old. Jim, as he was known to all, was born in Edinburgh and attended Bellview School. After the World War II started, he volunteered for the RAF and was selected for pilot training, learning to fly in a De Havilland Tiger Moth, before graduating in June 1942 to Harvards, Mustangs and Kittihawks.

He became a sergeant pilot with 260 Squadron flying out of Cutella Vasto near Anzio.

In a night raid in March 1943 when his American built Kittihawk, carrying a single bomb, was hit by flak over enemy lines he successfully crash-landed and managed to find cover in nearby trees. However, the woodland turned out to be a German stronghold.

A local couple Paulo and Natalina Palombo and their six children lived nearby and had spotted Jim. Paulo brought a wheelbarrow with logs in it. Underneath the logs was a plate of macaroni with fried bacon on top, which was enjoyed by Jim as he had not eaten for three days.

He remained there for the next three months as he was unable to move because of the enemy, but he was looked after by the Italian family until he eventually escaped and made contact with US forces and then made it back to the UK.

In 1997, then 74, Jim travelled to Italy to an old people's home, 25 kms south of Rome, and had a very emotional reunion with Natalina who was then 95 and had been widowed 20 years previously.

After the Italian experience, he returned to active flying in 1944 this time in Spitfires and Tomahawks. In 1945, as a warrant officer, he piloted a Gloster Meteor Jet as one of 270 airmen in a victory flypast over London led by a Spitfire flown by Group Captain Douglas Bader the legendary legless pilot.

Afterwards Jim took up work with the Air Training Corps eventually gaining promotion to flight-lieutenant, as well as maintaining a strong commitment to the Scout movement.

He was also a Sunday school teacher and youth club organiser. He trained as a financier working with several Edinburgh blue-chip companies before taking up an appointment with the Bank of Scotland share register in Queen Street.

On retiral Jim and his wife May moved to Plockton to help run the village shop which was owned by his daughter Brenda and son-in-law Douglas. Sadly May died in 1993.

The flying bug never left Jim and he was delighted, when a few weeks ago, a visitor took him up in a Tiger Moth and they flew over the village.

Jim was a member of the Lochalsh Branch of the Royal British Legion Scotland and a regular attender of the Armistice Parade, so it was fitting that he should pass away on Remembrance Sunday.

Jim was a well-loved character in Plockton and young and old loved to meet him out on his walks with his dog Tara. He was always cheery and full of humour. He

will be much missed in the village. A large crowd attended his funeral service in Plockton Church of Scotland where Jim regularly attended. The service was conducted by the Rev Ben Johnstone, organist was Catherine Will and Jim's son Douglas paid a moving and excellent tribute to his father.

A collection was taken for Crossroads Care and raised Â£650. Burial took place at Balmacara New Cemetery where Douglas Strachan played the Last Post on the bugle as the coffin was lowered into the grave and poppies covered the coffin.

Sympathy is expressed to Jim's son Douglas and daughters Brenda and Anne.

CMcR

# William Robertson 1921 - 2008

THE Isle of Tiree lost a kenspeckle figure following the death of Willie Robertson on October 23, 2008.

He was born in 1921 at the Lighthouse Station on the Island of Erraid, near Iona, where his father was keeper. He was the second youngest of a family of three brothers and two sisters.

After various lighthouse postings the family settled in Oban, were he spent his childhood.

On leaving school he became an apprentice joiner with D & J MacDougall and when 18 he joined the RAF for wartime duty, serving in various parts of England and the Azores.

On demob he returned to Oban and applied his joinery skills to building new homes.

Meanwhile, his parents had retired to Lochaline and when his father died Willie moved to support his mother and eventually met and married Betty, from Kilchoan.

Willie Robertson

In 1953 Willie and Betty, along with baby Leslie, moved to Tiree where Willie worked on the radar station at Ben Gott.

Later he reminisced about how lovely the weather was when they arrived and about how beautiful the island was. He said at the time he never wanted to leave - and rarely did.

When the work at the radar station and airport was completed he turned to his real love and became a lobster fisherman until he retired 20 years ago.

Willie was a keen sportsman and in his younger years played shinty for Oban Camanachd.

In his seventies he took up golf, a sport he said he regretted not taking up earlier. His competitive streak from shinty carried in to this ball game as I'm sure his golfing buddies will testify!

He enjoyed watching golf, boxing and tennis on television and his criticisms of a below par sporting performance paled compared to his comments on the actions of the politicians of the day.

He was a great dad to Leslie, Margie and Jull and latterly his great grandsons have enjoyed his love and attention.

His passing will leave a void, but he will always be remembered.

He is survived by his wife Betty, three children and one brother, Davie, to whom our sympathy goes.

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**Oban Hospice Ltd**
**The Croft**
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New Champions of Champions Cup could start plastic park pilot

# Shinty clubs encouraged to play on plastic

## President may move traditional boundaries as young players leave South shinty due to lack of competitive matches

Parhaps the Camanachd Cup Final may yet be played on an artificial surface if a pilot scheme proposed by the president of the Camanachd Association proves successful Picture - John MacTavish

Shinty

Champion of Champions Cup match will be played on February 22 2009 - the teams and venue are still to be confirmed

SHINTY'S new Champion of Champions Cup to be held in February could be played out on an artificial surface as the sport pilots a scheme which could become more widespread in the future.

Gaelic TV channel BBC Alba is set to broadcast the maiden event and, so far, the ruling Camanachd Association have been keeping plans under wraps.

However, speaking to *The Oban Times*, association president Duncan Cameron confirmed that talks are underway to host the match on a synthetic park.

And the competing clubs will be asked their opinions on a smaller-sided game, potentially played to altered rules.

The brave move follows prior comments issued by Cameron that the Camanachd Association must investigate the use of plastic, with unpredictable weather and poor parks often causing fixture havoc.

The 2008 programme, just finished, has run closer to the published timetable than recent years but problems still existed in the early part of the season.

This will be the first time such a move has ever been attempted.

The Association is to seek advice from Fort William and Scotland centre Niall MacPhee on the way forward; the player currently working for a leading synthetic park supplier in England.

'It might be that the Champion of Champions game brings in the idea of using artificial pitches, revealed Cameron.

'We are trying to negotiate with different people at present and it would also only be fair to consult with clubs because they would need to agree the type of hybrid game that could be played on the surface and have time to practise.

'We were anxious that this was an occasion that was worthy of television coverage.'

Meanwhile, Cameron has also disclosed that Oban Camanachd's appeal for a revised youth set-up in the south is being debated at the sport's Inverness HQ.

Oban Camanachd Club secretary Daniel MacIntyre wrote to local MPs and MSPs recently warning that having only three games in the U-14 and U-17 south leagues would drive kids away from shinty.

While commenting that finding a solution to what is a complex problem that has been affecting south shinty for sometime cannot be done on a single-club basis, Cameron conceded there is now a need to address the old boundary divisions of north and south in order to keep young players in competitive matches.

'This is something we need to look at. The idea is to get young people playing shinty. I think there needs to be a breaking down of the old idea that a young player must play for one club in one area and can't play anywhere else.'

# Lovat v Strathglass pops up twice in cup draws

## Camanachd Cup : MacTavish Cup: Balliemore Cup: Sutherland Cup: Bullough Cup: Strathdearn Cup

Shinty

CAMANACHD Association president Duncan Cameron and MSP John Farquhar Munro, this week made the draws for next season's shinty cup competitions including the preliminary and first rounds of the Camanachd Cup.

Premier league Strathglass and former Premier league side Lovat have been drawn against each other in both the Camanachd Cup and MacTavish Cup, with Lovat gaining home advantage for both senior cup ties.

The draws were as follows:

**Camanachd Cup 2009**
**Preliminary Round April 4**
Tayforth v GMA
**First Round April 18**
Ballachulish v Beauly
Skye v Kilmallie
Inverness v Kinlochsheil
Caberfeidh v Kilmory
Tayforth/GMA v Lochcarron
Lovat v Strathglass

**MacTavish Cup**
**1st Round March 28**
Lovat v Strathglass
Fort William v Skye
Newtonmore v Kilmallie
Caberfeidh v Lochaber
Inveress v Beauly
Kinlochsheil v Kingussie
Byes
Glenurquhart and Lochcarron

**Balliemore Cup**
**1st Round April 11**
Ballachulish v Kilmory
Lochcarron v Skye
Inverness v Strathglass
Kinlochsheil v Tayforth
Kilmallie v Beauly
Caberfeidh v Oban Celtic
Byes
Lovat and Glasgow Mid Argyll

**Sutherland Cup**
**1st Round April 11**
Glengarry v Lochaber
Inverness v Fort William
Kinlochsheil v The Scots
Kincraig v Strachur
Strathglass v Taynuilt
Aberdeen U v Bute
Beauly v Glenurquhart
GMA v Lochaber
Skye v Lovat
ColGlen v Kyles Athletic
Lewis v Aberdour
Lochside Rovers v Kingussie
Boleskine v Newtonmore
Glenorchy v Lochcarron
Bye
Caberfeidh

**Bullough Cup**
**1st Round May 30**
Ballachulish v Inveraray
Strachur v Taynuilt
Bute v GMA
The Scots v Aberdiour
Byes
ColGlen, Glenorchy, Kyles Athletic and Lochside Rovers

**Strathdearn Cup**
**First Round April 25**
Skye v Beauly
Glengarry v Glenurquhart
Lewis v Fort William
Kinlochsheil v Inverness

# Lancaster lead pool league

Pool

Oban Pool League
Sponsored by Tennants and Oban Filling Station

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Lancaster | 9 | 16 |
| Markie Dans | 10 | 14 |
| Lochavullin A | 9 | 12 |
| Balmoral A | 9 | 12 |
| Lochnell | 9 | 10 |
| Claredon | 9 | 10 |
| Cellar | 9 | 8 |
| Kelvin | 9 | 6 |
| Lochavullin B | 9 | 6 |
| Gluepot | 9 | 4 |
| Balmoral B | 9 | 4 |

Carpet bowls

THE LORN Championships were held last Saturday at Kilmore.

Singles winner - N McCorkindale, Kilmore. Runner-up A MacKay, Cairnbaan.

Doubles winners - J Barnham and Sandy Black, Benderloch. Runner-up - A MacKay and C MacLean, Cairnbaan

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Cairnbaan | 3 | 22 |
| Kilmore | 3 | 22 |
| North Connel | 4 | 19 |
| Benderloch | 3 | 15 |
| Easdale | 3 | 6 |
| Connel | 3 | 4 |
| Taynuilt | 3 | 0 |

# Braeview date for annual Beauly v Lovat clash

Shinty

THE annual Lovat Cup challenge match between Beauly and Lovat will be played Braeview Park, Beauly on Friday, January 2 with throw-up at 1.00pm.

Refereeing this year will be Ron Kennedy from Newtonmore. Everyone is welcome and there will be a snack bar open serving hot food and drinks.

First Shinty

**Oban Primary**
**First Shinty Leagues**
Second Round results
C league
Salen 0 Park Spark 3
St Columbas 0 Rock Roc 1
Park Ardoran 0 Rock Rov 4
Salen 1 St Columbas 2
Rock Roc 0 Park Ardoran 0
Rock Rov 0 Park Sparks 0
Park Ard 1 St Columbas 0
Park Spark 1 Rock Rocket 0
Salen 0 Rockfield Rovers 1
St Columbas 0 Park Sparks 2
Rock Roc 0 Rock Rov2
Salen 0 Park Ardoran 2
St Columbas 0 RockRov 1
Salen 0 Rockfield Rockets 0
Park Ardoran 0 Park Sparks 1

B league
Dunollie 1 St Columbas 0
Salen 0 Achadh na Creige 3
Dunollie 6 Salen 0
Ach/na Creige1 St Columba1
St Columbas 1 Salen 0
Ach/na Creige 2 Dunollie 2

A league
St Columba 3 Park 2
Rockfield 1 Park 0
St Columbas 1 Rockfield 2
St Columbas 0 Park 3
Rockfield 1 Park 0
St Columbas 1 Rockfield 1

A league

| | P | W | D | L | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Rockfield | 8 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 18 |
| Park | 8 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 15 |
| St Columbas | 8 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 15 |

B league

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dunollie | 6 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 17 |
| Ach/Creige | 6 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 14 |
| St Columbas | 6 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 11 |
| Salen | 6 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 6 |

C League

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Rockfield Rov | 10 | 9 | 1 | 0 | 29 |
| Park Sparks | 10 | 8 | 1 | 1 | 27 |
| Park Ardoran | 10 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 18 |
| Rockfield Roc | 10 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 17 |
| St Columbas | 10 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 15 |
| Salen | 10 | 0 | 4 | 6 | 14 |

**DUE TO THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS SPOT THE SHINTY BALL WILL RUN FOR 2 WEEKS**
**Entries to be in by Monday 29th December 12noon**

# Spot the SHINTY BALL Competition

**WIN £650**

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:**
**J MacSween, Broadford, Isle of Skye and D MacCormick, Tullibody, Alloa**

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_____

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# Lochgilphead future's bright

**Football**

LOCHGILPHEAD celebrated double success when two teams finished first and second in the Oban Express Senior Autumn League.

The Oban-based competition for senior primary school pupils was played over 10 games with the victorious Lochgilphead Tigers, in their bright orange strips, winning all their games and not conceding a goal. It was the first time the title had gone to a Lochgilphead team.

Tigers needed only one win from their final three games last Sunday but ended up winning all three.

Runners-up were Lochgilphead's second team, the Panthers, who edged Oban teams Spartans and Rovers in the last minute of the final games, into second place.

Rovers and Spartans both had the runners-up spot in their grasp at times but Tigers' defeat of Rovers 2-0 in their final encounter allowed their fellow Mid Argyll boys to steal second place by a single point.

At close of play the boys were presented with their medals by Lukasz Bigus, a former member of the league committee, who is returning to his native Poland this Christmas. Also stepping down is Stuart Gibson, who has been the league's chairman for the last two years.

The league now enters its winter shutdown. The senior split-league challenge will take place on January 11.

**Final standings**

| | P | Pts |
|---|---|---|
| Tigers | 10 | 30 |
| Panthers | 10 | 21 |
| Spartans | 10 | 20 |
| Rovers | 10 | 20 |
| Cobras | 10 | 17 |
| Appin | 10 | 15 |
| Lochnell | 10 | 11 |
| Saints Boys | 10 | 8 |
| Dunbeg | 10 | 7 |
| Stoddy Boys | 10 | 4 |
| Stoddarts | 10 | 3 |

Lochgilphead Tigers and Panthers celebrate their successful season. t51ftb01

## Oban Saints youth results

**Football**

LAST Saturday's results: Helensburgh 1, Under 13s 12. Scoring for Saints were - David Beaton (4), Allan MacPhee (2), Rory Bruce, Ally McKerracher, Robert MacIntyre and Lewis MacLeod.

Blair Thistle v Under 14s postponed; Under 16s 0 v Scotstoun Reds 4; St Andrew's BC v Under 17s, postponed; Under 19s 0, Moorcroft 9.

The Saints youth teams now take a well earned break and will return to action after the festive holidays.

The Under-13s and Under-14s are presently sitting on top of their respective divisions in the Dunbartonshire Development League and hopefully they can keep up the good work.

The Under 16s are in fifth place, the Under 17s third and the Under 19s in fifteenth place in the Paisley and District Youth League.

## Badminton double win

**Badminton**

OBAN Badminton Club had a double success at the Argyll Cup Level Doubles at Atlantis Leisure.

The competition, held on November 30, saw Oban win the ladies and gents competition to comfortably retain the title.

Last year the team won the trophy for the first time.

## Saints cup tie off again

**Football**

LAST Saturday's Foster's Scottish Amateur Cup fourth round tie between Kilbarchan and Oban Saints due to be played at Inchinnan was called off for the second week in a row.

The game has been called off twice already so, if it doesn't go ahead this weekend, the likelihood is that the tie will be transferred to Oban on Saturday, January 10.

## Tides

Tide tables for Oban during the week from
**Thursday, December 18, 2008**
are listed below with differences
for major ports listed beneath.
All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

| Date | am | | | | pm | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Thur | 03.31 | 1.0 | 09.31 | 3.6 | 16.27 | 1.4 | 22.07 | 3.2 |
| Fri | 04.24 | 1.2 | 10.27 | 3.4 | 17.26 | 1.6 | 23.14 | 3.0 |
| Sat | 05.21 | 1.4 | 11.35 | 3.2 | 18.32 | 1.8 | ** ** | ** |
| Sun | 00.35 | 3.0 | 06.22 | 1.5 | 13.01 | 3.1 | 19.42 | 1.8 |
| Mon | 01.45 | 3.0 | 07.29 | 1.7 | 14.15 | 3.1 | 20.46 | 1.8 |
| Tues | 02.42 | 3.1 | 08.39 | 1.7 | 15.09 | 3.2 | 21.37 | 1.7 |
| Wed | 03.28 | 3.3 | 09.41 | 1.7 | 15.50 | 3.3 | 22.18 | 1.6 |

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Ardrishaig | -5.35 | Lochboisdale | +0.30 |
| Campbeltown | -5.30 | Mallaig | +0.25 |
| Crinan | -0.47 | Portree | +0.55 |
| Islay Port Ellen | 2.00 | Tobermory | +0.16 |
| | | Dover | +5.30 |

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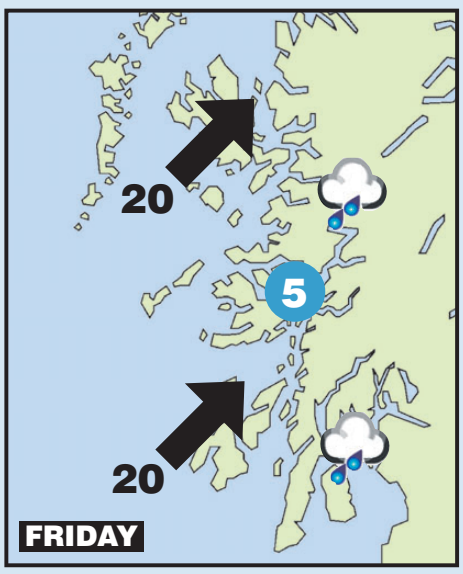


## the weather

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**Thursday**
Is expected to be overcast with rain at times. Winds moderate south-westerly. Temperatures 3ºC to 8ºC

**Friday**
Again expected to be overcast with rain at times. Winds moderate south-westerly. Temperatures 2ºC to 9ºC.

**Weekend Outlook**
To be overcast with further rain or drizzle at times. Winds southerly or south-westerly and moderate. Temperatures 1ºC to 9ºC.

**Ferry Crossings/Sea States**
**Oban to Barra/South Uist** - Moderate
**Oban to Coll/Tiree** -As above
**Kennacraig to Islay** - As above

# Oban put best boot forward

**West League Division One**
**Oban Lorne 12**
**Loch Lomond 9**

**Rugby**

OBAN Lorne closed the points gap on their league rivals in a match that turned out to be a battle of the boots with Oban full back Gary McEwan kicking all 12 points in this deserved victory.

While missing a number of players including Louw, Rimmer and Van Zyl, the men in green had a strong starting line up comprising of both Michael and Martin MacDonald and both Smith brothers, along with a return for Del Robertson in the front row.

Missing Mark MacQueen at stand-off allowed Chris MacDonald to reunite his Oban High School half-back partnership with Graham MacEachan. The game started well for Oban who were keeping the ball and controlling the breakdown with aggressive rucking and the experienced hand of Laurie at the back row.

It was the boot of captain McEwan that opened the scoring, a penalty from the breakdown allowed Oban to take the lead 3-0.

Young David Hunter was causing problems for the Loch Lomond lineout and the better run of the ball was controlled by Oban who took another three points via McEwan's boot before the half time whistle.

Craig Nicholson made a welcome comeback as a blood replacement for Hunter.

Nicholson has been playing in Sweden and showed he still has the physique to cause problems at the lineout.

The Oban Lorne defence had to battle on their try line in the closing stages to secure victory. t51rug01

Changes at half time brought on Downie for Robertson. The second half started well and Oban continued to push for a try. Tempers were fraying and the discipline of both teams was tested. Lomond were able to kick back a penalty for an infringement in the ruck bringing the score to 6-3.

Once again Oban rallied and played some strong running rugby with good breaks from Smith and Robin MacQueen. Once again Oban were at the mercy of the referee who awarded another penalty at the breakdown which brought the score to 6-6.

Despite losing MacDougall to the sin bin, every Oban player raised their game and created the opportunity for McEwan to take the lead from a penalty just outside the 22.

With the game going into the final minutes Loch Lomond were able to equalise with a penalty kick, 9-9.

With five minutes to go Oban's hard work and pressure paid off when awarded with a penalty on the 22 yard line. MacEwan settled himself and in his lethargic style he stroked the ball over between the posts to give Lorne a 12-9 win.

Next Saturday sees Cumnock visit Glencruitten in the Scottish Plate competition, kick off is at 2pm, all spectators are welcome.

Shaun Sinclair and Chris Hamill in action. Picture by Writtle Photographic

## Oban team's driving ambition

**Rallying**

IN THE final race of their maiden season of racing, driver Shaun Sinclair and co-driver Chris Hamill won their class and finished fifth overall from 80 starters in the Armstrong Galloway Hills Rally at Castle Douglas. The result has spurred them on to complete a full Scottish Championship next season.

The performance at the Galloway Hills Rally means the Oban team, who compete in the Group N four-wheel-drive class, finished just outside the top ten in the overall County Saab Scottish Rally Championship.

## Oban conference to encourage budding coaches

**Coaching**

IN A bid to boost the number of coaches in Argyll and Bute, the council is hosting a coaching conference in Oban High School on February 7 and 8.

The event is the second of its kind in the county and will allow volunteers, with or without previous coaching experience, to participate in sports coaching awards.

Sports represented include team sports such as football, rugby, netball and shinty as well as outdoor sports like cycling, kayaking and orienteering. There will be new courses in golf, cricket and weightlifting.

For more information contact Willie Young on 01546 604121.

# Young athletes lay down markers for Argyll final

**Athletics**

FIFTY-five young athletes entered the Sports Hall Athletics competition held at Atlantis Leisure in Oban last Saturday.

This event was one of four local area competitions held in Argyll this winter, promoted by Mull Athletic Club and sponsored by an Awards for All lottery grant.

Paddy Dunne from Rockfield Primary won a closely contested under-11 age group ahead of Craig MacIntyre, also from Rockfield, and Harvey Ferguson of Lochnell. Paddy won the high jump, vertical jump and javelin.

Craig excelled in the running events winning the two-lap race in 27.6 seconds and the four-lap in 62.7 and his win in the speed bounce with 66 jumps in 30 seconds was close to the Argyll age record.

**Dominated**

Rebecca Hay from Park Primary dominated the under-9 girls contest winning six out of the eight events. Rebecca's best performance came in the high jump clearing 0.9 metres and she may have gone higher if time allowed. Alyssa Usher from Luing and Hannah Teape shared the runner-up position.

Ben Coates, Park school, was the under-11 champion winning four events. Ben cleared 1.15m in the high jump followed by 5.18m in the standing triple jump and 17m in the javelin. Ben was the under-9 winner at the same competition last year and second overall at the Argyll final in 2007. Ben's father Iain was an outstanding athlete in the local highland games circuit over 20 years ago.

Daisy Williams from Bunessan was a clear winner in the under-11 age-group. Daisy won five events, excelling in all the jumping events and especially in the high jump with 1.15m and standing long jump clearing 1.96m, only one centimetre behind the Argyll record held by Ruth Semple from Southend.

Cullen McClymont from Craignure won the under-13 contest, just three points ahead of Ruairidh MacKinnon from Oban High School. The Mull boy won the high jump, triple jump and speed bounce outright and shared first place with Ruairidh in the vertical jump. Kelly Lamont from North Connel was the under-13 girls champion winning ahead of Anmol Arshad from Oban.

Kelly won five events and particularly impressed in the two-lap and four-lap time trials.

Colin Campbell travelled north from Lochgilphead to get some extra competition and ended up winning the under-15 contest against a strong group of local boys. Colin won the high jump, long jump, vertical jump, two-lap race and shot putt. In the latter event he threw 10.84m, well clear of the rest.

**Contest**

Ian McDowall from Salen on Mull was under-17 winner after a close contest with Fraser Brydon from Oban. Ian has been Scottish under-15 Sports Hall champion for the last two years so Fraser was always going to have a hard time to match the Mull boy. Fraser won the shot putt and vertical jump, while Ian won the other six events and set a new Argyll age record in the speed bounce recording 92 jumps in 30 seconds, adding one jump to the long standing record held by Mark Barrett from Campbeltown.

Successful athletes from Saturday will now qualify to take part in the Argyll final to be held at Atlantis Leisure on Saturday, January 24. The final will start at 1pm with registration from 12noon. Qualifiers will be advised by letter through their schools in January.

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