'Family' home for the elderly

By LINDSEY BARRIE

A £730,000 home for the elderly where one of the main aims is to create a family atmosphere was opened at Aboyne yesterday.

During his speech before he officially opened Allachburn Home for the Elderly Grampian Regional Councillor Marcus Humphrey paid tribute to everyone who had been involved in the building of the purpose built home which was constructed as a replacement for the existing home — Pressmor.

He said the home had been designed in such a way to give the residents as much independence and privacy as possible.

He said that Allachburn would provide the necessary care and shelter for long stay residents; it would provide equally good care for short term residents who were there either to be rehabilitated or who came for a holiday to give the relatives they lived with a short break; it would provide somewhere for elderly people living on their own or with relatives to go on a daily basis to receive care and attention and would provide advice to anyone who looked after an elderly person who came across problems.

Allachburn was built on the site of the old station at Aboyne, close to Shops and other centres of activity in the village.

The home all on ground level, is built around a central core providing dining, sitting and activity areas and accommodates 30 residents in single bed-sitting rooms. There are also facilities to provide care for 10 elderly people on a non-residential basis.

A spokesman of the home said it was designed to cater for the needs and moods of individual residents.

One aim is to retain their independence as far as possible by the provision of private bed-sitting rooms, small sitting areas at the extremities of each of the bedroom wings and a large communal sitting area within the central core," said the spokesman.

An effort had been made to create a family atmosphere in the home where residents could hold small parties or entertain guests.

There is also an activities room which has been equipped with workbenches and tools in a bid to encourage residents to take part in hobbies.

Officer in charge of the new home is Mrs Jean Mitchell who was also at Pressmor.

Clash concert called off again

NORTH-EAST fans of top pop group Clash face a double blow following the cancellation of concerts earlier this week when lead singer Joe Strummer vanished.

With still no progress in the bid to find Strummer, a replacement concert due tomorrow night in Aberdeen has been cancelled.

However fans were last night told that tickets would remain valid. The message came from the group's promoters. Regular music who are trying to reschedule Scottish dates on the planned national tour.

Clash were to have played in front of a capacity audience of 1,000 on Monday at Aberdeen's Fusion venue and another concert had been planned for the following night at Inverness.

Both dates were called off after the group's publicist Kosmo Vinyl announced Strummer had vanished, claiming the affair was not a publicity stunt. However, the news came too late for fans, some of whom had travelled to Aberdeen from Montrose, Elgin and Fraserburgh.

A spokesman for Regular Music said: "We have rescheduled the Inverness date for July 24. We are also planning performances at Irvine on July 22 and Edinburgh the following day.

But it has been impossible to fit Aberdeen into a July tour because Fusion is being rewarded at that time and cannot take us.

Instead we are trying to organise a concert some time at the end of May or beginning of June. I would just like the fans to know that everything possible is being done to arrange new performances.

In the meantime the tickets which have been sold will remain valid. Refunds, however, will be available for anyone who wants them, if they return the tickets to the places they were bought.

Ex-manager says firm was 'shambolic'

THE former Scottish manager of an oil company told a court yesterday that he joined the firm to try to make it profitable.

For the first few months of his time at the Aberdeen base of Euramco Oilfield Supply, Robert Gibb, Newtonmore, Methlick, was able to attract lucrative deals for the firm.

He told the jury trial at Aberdeen Sheriff Court that he was out of the company's Bridge of Don offices most of the time looking for business and that the job of looking after day-to-day expenses was not among his top priorities.

Gibb (38), who now works as an offshore drilling contractor, has denied embezzling more than £6000 from the firm between October 1979, and November 1980.

Earlier this week the court heard how Gibb took his girlfriend — now his wife — to Norway for a Christmas break and flew some Aberdeen cricketers home from a match at Manchester, all at the expense of the firm and not authorised by any of his bosses.

Yesterday Gibb stepped into the witness box to give his side of the story and told of the friendship he had had with his former colleagues, even before he joined the firm.

He said Euramco were in direct competition with an electrical supply shop he managed in Aberdeen and often they would help each other out.

I was asked to join the company as it was in a totally shambolic state and to try to re-organise it to make it into a profit-making firm," he said.

He claimed he was never given a job description although it was similar work to his previous experience as a salesman.

When his agent Mr John MacRae asked him about the trips he arranged, Gibb claimed he had been given authority by either or both of his two bosses.

He also told the court about a deal worth about £650,000 which he clinched during a business trip to Barcelona. He claimed he was told his bonus would be £5000, a new company car costing up to £9500 and an all expenses paid honeymoon later.

The trial continues on Tuesday.

Warm tribute to tragic poet

FOR an all-too-brief hour last night the befuddled genius that was Dylan Thomas came to vivid life before an audience at Aberdeen Arts Centre, through the artistry of Robin Richards whose one-man show — "A Shower of All My Days" — evoked powerful images of the well-loved Welsh poet.

The performance, in which letters, poems, stories and extracts from broadcasts are smoothly and skilfully blended, is lent and added sense of immediacy by being presented informally rather than on a stage. We see Thomas, one autumn afternoon towards the end of his life, at work in his shack overlooking the bay at Llaugharne but finding the words hard to conjure up. So he reflects on the past and shares his hopes and fears with the audience.

The seaside summers of his childhood, the days spent at Fernhill Farm, the home of his aunt and youthful Christmas days are all vividly recreated with Thomas's inimitable poetic flourish. We learn how, in early life, he fell in love with words and, in Mr Richards' sonorous tones, these words work their magic all over again, particularly when adjective is piled on adjective to splendid effect. What a wonderful picture is painted when he talks of a rich American's "roly-poly, pearly wife", for instance!

There is sadness, too, in Thomas's realisation on that "the person I have been likes me too much to see me change" and that angel, beast and madman are constantly at war within him.

A Shower for All My Days" is a warm, affectionate tribute to a tragic poet and, like all the best shows, it leaves the audience eager for more. — A.S.

Wine bar plan for Westhill

A CONTINENTAL-STYLE wine bar and bistro could be developed at Westhill in one of the shopping centre units — but the man behind the idea emphasised yesterday that it is still at a very early stage.

Mr Ian Crawford, 14 Oak Crescent, Westhill, said he was trying to get the feelings of residents towards the project.

Mr Crawford has applied to Gordon District Council for planning permission in respect of change of use of an unused shop unit at the centre.

Golden day

ABERDEEN couple Mr and Mrs James and Nellie Low yesterday celebrated 50 years of marriage at their home, 1 Kinord Circle, Bridge of Don. They have a married son and daughter, three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Grampian Hospital Radio

THIS weekend's programmes on this daily radio service at Foresterhill, Aberdeen are:

SATURDAY

7.00 p.m. — G.H.R. News.
7.05 p.m. — Folk Ceilidh — Ian Leith.
7.30 p.m. — Damien McLeod.
8.00 p.m. — Request-Time — Bob Lindsay.
9.00 p.m. — Country Medicine — Bill Donald.
9.55 p.m. — 5 to 10 — Rev. Gerard Hassay.
10.00 p.m. — Closedown.

SUNDAY

4.30 P.M. — RelaxyVous — Bill Grant.
5.30 p.m. — Gilbert & Sullivan Relived.
6.00 p.m. — Back Tracking — Paul Irvine.
7.00 p.m. — The American Stars.
8.00 p.m. — Request-Time — Keith G. Fraser.
9.00 p.m. — Sunday Interlude — Dave Bennett.
9.55 p.m. — 5 to 10 — Rev. Gerard Hassay.
10.00 p.m. — Closedown.

Certificates for library assistants

WELL done! Head of the English and Communication Department at Aberdeen College of Commerce, Mr George Low, congratulates North-east library assistants who have passed their City and Guilds Certificate exams.

Mr Low presents the certificate to Mrs Dianne McManamon, West Lodge, Castle Fraser, Sauchen, as the other recipients look on at the ceremony in the college. Left to right are: Miss Linda Brockie, Fisherie Post Office, Turriff; Mrs Linda McKinley, 26 Whitehorse Terrace, Balmedie; Mrs Linda Christie, 4 Seaton Gardens, Aberdeen; Mrs Irene Hutchison, 25 School Street, Fraserburgh; Miss Hazel Reid, 130 Bankhead Road, Aberdeen and Miss Judith Brinklow, The Coach House, Stoneywood.

Insch Bridge Club pair go nap

WINNERS of Insch Bridge Club's Brewster Cup Mrs E. Brown and Mrs N. Dolnaid (right) are presented with the trophy by Mr William Brewster at the club's last meeting of the season.

Wedding day smiles

LERWICK bride Miss Merle Simpson, 4 King Harald Street, Lerwick, wed Mr Johnny Johnson, Harbourview, Vidlin at St Columba's Church.

May Day holiday has cold outlook

COLD weather looks set to mar the annual May Day spring holiday in the North and North-east.

The Met. Office in Aberdeen forecast the return of "cold, wintry" weather bringing with it winds, showers, and even snow on higher ground.

Many people seem determined to try and escape the weather by heading south. Both British Rail and W. Alexander's (Northern) in Aberdeen said there had been a brisk demand for travel south.

Those staying at home can expect some alterations to bus timetables for city travel on Monday. Grampian Region's transport department have announced that they will be operating on special holiday frequencies from 7 a.m. until 11.30 p.m. at roughly 15 to 30 minute intervals.

There will be no No. 6 bus between Leggart Terrace and School Road. The 4,5 will only run between Castle Street and Woodend before 9 a.m. and the 25 will be on its Sunday early-morning route until 9 a.m.

Tours of the city and suburbs will be available from Shiprow.

Postal services will also be restricted, but the public counter at the Head Post Office, Crown Street, will be open from 9 a.m. until noon on Monday.

Branch offices, town sub-offices and the head postmaster's office will all be closed and there will be no delivery of letters or parcels.

Youth in court

NEWBURGH youth Stephen McKinlay (18), 54 Main Street, appeared at Aberdeen Sheriff Court yesterday charged with assaulting a girl by stabbing her with a knife or similar instrument to her severe injury.

It is alleged that the incident took place on March 15 at 52 Main Street, Newburgh.

No plea or declaration was made and McKinlay was released on bail.

Kennethmont pair's gift

KENNETHMONT FC have marked the fund-raising efforts on behalf of the club by proprietors of the Golden Pheasant, Kennethmont, Mr Stan Morrison and his wife Sandra, who are retiring from the licensed trade. Mrs Morrison is pictured receiving a silver salver from club hon. president Mr Alexander Mitchell (extreme left) as Mr Morrison (centre) and club officials look on.

Holiday time

VIRTUALLY the whole of the North and North-east are taking Monday as a public holiday. Tuesday, May 4, will be marked as an extra holiday in Dundee, Aberchirder, Banff, Macduff, Portsoy, Turriff and Carnoustie.

Reprieve for caravan dweller

A CARAVAN dweller, threatened with enforcement action to move his home at Assater on Shetland's North Mainland, has won another reprieve from Shetland Islands Council.

Instead of being moved he will now be asked to submit a planning application for his dwelling, which consists of several caravans linked together, to the first meeting of the new council.

The council's planning department has been trying to get councillors to agree to take action against the man, Mr Dominic Chiarella, for some time.

At the beginning of last month the issue was deferred and yesterday councillors refused to go ahead with the enforcement order when they received a petition from residents saying that they wanted Mr Chiarella to stay.

The member for the area, Councillor Chris Dowie, described the planning department's proposals as "absolute rubbish". He said that Mr Chiarella had nowhere else to go.

Development status fight goes on

THE Association of Grampian District Councils yesterday reaffirmed their determination that development area status should be retained for all parts of the Grampian area.

Members unanimously agreed to a motion from Councillor William Fraser of Aberdeen City District Council and that the decision should be intimated to the Scottish Secretary and all local M.P.s.

Councillor Fraser said the association had supported the oil industry but their first duty was to sustain and support the areas basic industries. They would be hammered mercilessly by the Government's decision not to include the region in their review of the assisted area scheme.

He said he would like to see all local authorities, both sides of industry, management and trade unions, to apply pressure to get a change in Government policy.

The association are also to try and gather as many facts as possible about the unemployed in the Grampian area and the skills required for vacancies within it. When a report, is ready, they may them be able to make use of the services of the Manpower Services Commission.

Teaching appointments

GRAMPIAN Regional Council's education department have announced two new teacher appointments.

Miss Lesley Grant takes over as head teacher at Echt Primary School. She is currently head teacher at Crossroads Primary Crathes.

The new assistant head teacher at Crombie Primary School, Westhill, Aberdeen, is Mrs Judith Forbes, who teaches at Lumphanan School.

Quarry gets green light

A SHETLAND Islands Council-controlled quarry near Scalloway has been given permission to keep working for another sixteen years — but only if a string of planning conditions are kept to.

The quarry is on a hill to the east of the village.

The quarry has been working for years without planning permission as the council's planning department thought it did not need permission because it was in existence prior to current planning legislation. It turned out that that was not the case and councillors yesterday granted permission retrospectively.

By the time work has finished the quarry will have dug away most of the western face of the hill. One of the conditions is that the council's construction department work inside the hill before removing the slope hiding the quarry from the full view of the village.

Mr Billy Smith, director of construction, told councillors that there were problems with some of the planning conditions but he would do his best to carry them out.

He added that the planning conditions would reduce the life of the quarry by about a third.

Art college staff sweep boards in Shell contest

THREE artists from an Aberdeen art college swept the boards in the Shell Expro Awards at the city's art gallery last night, picking up £2000 in cash prizes.

The awards launched the opening of the 48th annual exhibition of the Aberdeen Artists Society which runs until May 22.

Winner of the premier award of £1000 was Mr Gordon Bryce, Mill of Brotherfield, Skene, a lecturer at Gray's School of Art, Aberdeen, with his painting, entitled "Renaissance".

The two runners-up, who each collected £500 prizes, were Miss Joyce Cairns, 5 New Pier Road, Footdee, Aberdeen, a lecturer at the same college, and Mr Alastair Flattely, Briar Lodge, Westerton Place, Cults, head of Gray's School of Art.

The artists will all receive their cheques at an official presentation ceremony, staged by Shell Expro, at a later date.

Congratulating the winners last night was Councillor George Whyte, convener of the city district council's art gallery and museums committee. He represented Lord Provost Alex. Collie who is attending the Offshore Technology Conference in Houston.

A total of 212 exhibits were submitted for the awards and all were on display at a civic reception in the art gallery last night.

Cove man guilty of making indecent calls

ELECTRICAL engineer Ronald Singer was found guilty yesterday of making a series of indecent phone calls to women, almost all of whom live in the Westhill area.

Sheriff Muir Russell told him at Aberdeen Sheriff court there was ample proof that the calls monitored between July 8 and July 19 last year had come from Singer's home.

During the trial against Singer (26), 11 Earns Heugh Walk, Cove, the court heard that police and phone engineers had tapped calls made from his home.

On one occasion he made two indecent calls to women before going off to a Salvation Army meeting, although his mother claimed he could not have had time to make the two calls.

Sheriff Russell held that Singer was the only one in his house when the calls were made.

He was found guilty of making one call to each of nine women at Westhill and a total of 31 calls on three occasions to a woman who stayed near him at Cove.

One of the charges was that one of the calls was grossly offensive.

Sheriff Russell deferred sentence on Singer, who is engaged for social inquiry and psychiatric reports. He was ordered to appear on May 20.

'No' to taxi advertising signs

ABERDEEN taxis are not to have advertising signs on their roofs.

An application from the Taxi Owners Drivers Association to a special meeting of the licensing and general purposes committee of Aberdeen City District Council for permission to use the signs was declined yesterday.

The trade itself does not want a standard taxi sign for all cabs in the city.

A letter from the Aberdeen Licensed Taxi Trade representatives was before the committee stating there was no support for a new standardised roof sign.

The main arguments against it were it would take away the identity of different companies, and would also add to a crippling cost at this time of recession.

A representative of the trade told the meeting it would only add an excessive and unnecessary financial burden on the trade at this time and we do not need it.

The committee agreed to discuss the matter later.

Yesterday's meeting was the first to be held by the committee with representatives of the taxi trade and is expected to become an annual event.

Red Cross appeal

THE Aberdeen branch of the Red Cross have launched an appeal for volunteers to help with their annual fund-raising week, due to start tomorrow.

Anyone who can help should contact Mrs M. Michie, Queen Mother House, Claremont Place, Aberdeen, or phone 24464 before 12.30 p.m. during the week.

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