

# FROM FAMILY ALLOWANCE TO PENSION BOOKS

OBAN sub-postmaster Donald Kerr has seen a lot in more than 30 years in the Mossfield Post Office.

From stamping pension books in the seventies to selling home and car insurance in the naughties, Donald has done it all and his efforts have been recognised by the Post Office in the shape of a 20-year long-service award.

Donald explained: 'My parents Donald, who was known to most people as Dodo, and Jean bought Mossfield Post Office in 1972 and I started there full-time when I left school in 1975.

'I took over as sub-postmaster in 1985 and have been doing it ever since.

'I've been here so long people who used to come in for their family allowance are now collecting their pension from me!'

Since Donald's parents bought the business, it has undergone a series of changes but the Post Office, which was highly commended in the 1994 Post Office of the year awards, has been the one constant for customers.

At various points since 1972 the Combie Street shop has sold sweets, cigarettes and even wool.

Donald and his staff - Mamie Nicholson and Sherryl Peter, now sell greeting cards and the premises are home to a watch and clock repair service.

The Post Office counter has



*Oban's Donald Kerr received an award in recognition of his 20 years of service as sub-postmaster at Mossfield Post Office.*

always been within the shop somewhere, though even that service is beginning to change.

'The game has changed so much in my time,' said Donald.

'It used to be that people would come in and it would just be a case of stamping their books and handing over the money, but new technology started to take hold in 1993 and now it's all about PIN numbers and trying to sell customers insurance.

'All the work we do wouldn't be possible without Mamie and Sherryl and I'm very grateful for the support they've given me over the last few years.'

Donald said that Mossfield Post Office started life in Miller Road before moving and becoming Soroba Road Post Office in the 1960s.

In the 1970s the shop moved again, but this time it was only a short hop across the street to its current premises.

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*Wee errors can happen in all publications. A church magazine carried the announcement: 'Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days'.*