



Coronavirus cash boosts for Argyll responders



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MAKE THE SWITCH

All quiet at COVID mobile test centre

by Kathie Griffiths
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Oban hospital's car park has been on the front line of COVID testing this week.

Soldiers wearing protective masks have been manning a drive-through testing station for people worried they might have the virus.

The military-run stations can cope with 300 appointments a day but the number of tests carried out in Oban on Tuesday by midday was reported to be just 13.

The tests were only for symptomatic key workers, workers showing symptoms who could not work from home and anyone over 65 with symptoms, as well as household members from all those groups with possible coronavirus.

A spokesman for the Scottish Government said there was no specific target of tests per location and that appointments had been available by



postcode through the UK Government's self-referral website.

The car park site was decided by local and regional resilience partnerships in collaboration with NHS National Services Scotland and HM Forces, he added.

Mobile testing units, initially set up to run five days in each place but constantly under review, are only to comple-

ment NHS health boards' own testing to meet people's needs, including island communities, said the government spokesman.

The Oban Times was told the previous testing station in Dunoon was more of a hot spot, experiencing more people presenting themselves with symptoms.

The soldiers from 2nd Battalion The Royal Regiment

Soldiers from 2nd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland manned the mobile testing unit in the hospital car park this week.

of Scotland based in Penicuik, just south of Edinburgh, were staying at The Royal Hotel which has become a base for essential workers staying in the town.

On the unit's first day on Friday, The Oban Times was told the soldiers could be in Oban for one week, possibly two depending on demand but by Tuesday evening the plan was to pack everything away ready to move elsewhere.

Official figures released on Tuesday by the Scottish Government showed there were 322 confirmed cases of the virus in the NHS Highland region, taking in Oban, Lorn and the Isles.

Turn to page six.

Paul pogos for charity



Staff and clients at Oban's Multiple Sclerosis Centre are jumping for joy after eight-year-old Paul Gillespie decided to pogo and walk 50kms to raise money for their vital work. For the full story, turn to page four.


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OT

Cost of coronavirus to council soars to £3.8m

The coronavirus outbreak could cost Argyll and Bute Council up to £3.8 million, a report this week has warned, writes Ellis Butcher.

Estimates to the end of next month predict both a major drop in income with an unexpected spike in spending.

Vital savings targets for the year agreed in February have also been knocked out of kilter, according to a report going to the council's business continuity committee (BCC) on Thursday.

Responding to the pandemic has caused 'considerable' cost pressures for the council, but local authority chiefs admit pinning an exact price on it is difficult.

Independent councillor Kieron Green, a member of the BCC who represents Oban North and Lorn, has warned that the overall financial hit to the council may not be 'entirely clear' for some time because no one can say how long lockdown could go on for.

Figures for the first quarter of the financial year suggest the local authority forecasts council tax collection to be down £600,000 and rent arrears up £15,000. It expects to spend £270,000 providing 'additional support' to homeless people.

With shops and businesses shut for months, the council also expects to see a £459,000 reduction on fees for collecting commercial waste.

There would also be a £410,000 shortfall in school meal income, and planning fees are expected to be down £188,000.

Furthermore, income from piers and harbours is tipped to fall £450,000. Ferry income is forecast to be down £116,000 and a series of charges related to the fishing industry – from fish landings to fish export certificates – will also be down as fleets remained tied-up.

Parking charges could plunge by £150,000.

A report said: 'Dealing with the impact of COVID has been, and continues to be, very challenging for the council.'

The Scottish Government has already handed £895,000 to the council from a 'hardship fund' and the UK Government has proved £155 million to Scotland for distribution across its councils, although Argyll and Bute does not yet know what its share will be.

The council report added: 'If no additional funding is distributed to councils this will have a detrimental impact on the council's general fund which will mean we require a financial recovery plan.'

However, COVID-19 has seen the council find savings estimated at £772,000. It has not spent as much on items such as utility bills because of the closure of council properties and fuel costs are down, among others.

Grassroots groups celebrate cash boost

by Ellis Butcher

ebutcher@obantimes.co.uk



Grassroots volunteer groups which swung into action in the wake of coronavirus look set to get a cash boost.

Thousands of pounds from the Scottish Government is on its way via the Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) to eight local 'community anchor' organisations.

One of those is Oban Communities Trust, which owns and runs The Rockfield Centre, and is to receive £33,672 to share out.

Beneficiaries include Hope Kitchen, North Argyll Carers and Oban Rotary. Others include groups representing Kerrera, Seil and Easdale, Dalavich and Kilchrenan, Dunbeg, Connel and Taynuilt.

The aim is to help dozens of smaller local groups who stepped up to the plate as the crisis hit, from dishing up meals, organising groceries and prescriptions, providing support to the vulnerable in their areas.

Mull & Iona Community Trust will receive £50,000 to share out and £35,000 is going to Appin Community Development Trust to distribute. A further £17,000 is heading to Colonsay



Lyn Connelly of The Rockfield Centre celebrates the win for Oban's community groups

Community Development Company; £5,009 to Dalavich Improvement Group and £10,000 to Development Coll.

The Isle of Luing Community Trust will receive £5,000, with £4,250 to Kilniver and Kilmelford Community Trust.

Lyn Connelly, of The Rockfield Centre, told The Oban Times: 'The response from Oban and the wider community has been and continues to be amazing.'

'We are delighted to be playing our part by getting this fund out to the community groups and organisations doing vital work across the area.'

Moray Finch, general

manager of Mull and Iona Community Trust, said volunteers and groups had shown inspirational commitment.

'This fund will, I hope, provide a sense that their efforts are recognised and valued not just on the islands but throughout local and national government.'

Peter McDonald, senior development manager with HIE, said Oban Communities Trust and local community groups had helped deliver lifeline help to the most vulnerable among the 16,000 residents in the greater Oban area.

'HIE is distributing the Supporting Communities

Fund on behalf of the Scottish Government. It'll help anchor groups to co-ordinate and deliver their responses over the coming weeks and months,' said Mr McDonald.

The government is making an initial £10 million available to community anchor organisations with a further £10 million pledged.

Communities Secretary Aileen Campbell said the community response to COVID-19 had made a 'huge difference', adding: 'This inspiring work is proving essential to our nation's resilience. We are working fast to get that support to where it is needed most.'

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Police tyre slasher 'reckless'

Two police vans parked outside the station in Oban have had their tyres slashed.

Police Scotland said the vandalism had put the vehicles out of action. Inspector Mark Stephen added that the offender had shown a 'complete disregard' for the safety and welfare of others.

The incident on Albany Street happened some time between 10.45pm on Saturday and 2.30am on Sunday, Police Scotland said.

Insp Stephen added: 'This type of behaviour is reckless and irresponsible.'

'These vehicles are used to respond to people in urgent need of assistance and to carry out such an act shows a complete disregard for the safety and welfare of people living in the area. Enquiries are continuing to trace whoever is responsible,' he added.

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Magic NHS and true love helps Johnny beat COVID

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk

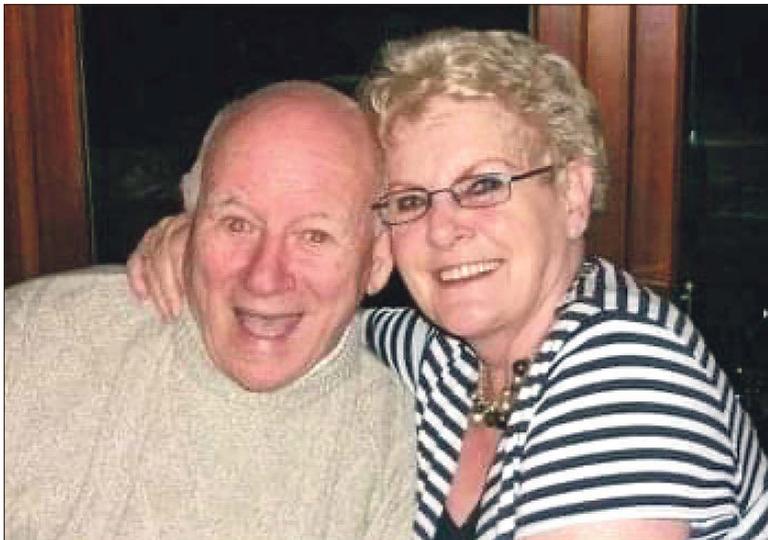


A great-grandad back home after battling COVID-19 says doctors and nurses 'worked wonders' to save his life.

Johnny MacAllister, who spent four weeks in Oban hospital's coronavirus ward, also credited true love for pulling him through.

Despite being so ill at times he wished it was 'all over', the 80-year-old from Lynn Court says determination to be well enough to celebrate 60 years of marriage to his childhood sweetheart stopped him from giving in to the draining virus.

Mr MacAllister, who started with an irritating cough and was tested twice before it showed positive, is hoping the pandemic will be over in time for a big family party in October when he and wife Ann mark their diamond wedding anniversary.



The couple, who have 11 great grandchildren, were 13 when 'the flame was lit' and they fell in love.

Mr MacAllister, who lost his sight in the 1980s, is longing to be reunited with Ann who has Alzheimer's and lives at Eader

Glinn Care Home.

'There were times in hospital in the early days when I just wished I would die so it was all over but the nurses and doctors did wonders for me. They were magic, just out of this world.'

'Thinking about Ann also got me through. I'd do this all over again just to be with her, the flame was lit as soon as I saw her all those years ago and we fell in love,' he said.

But until the crisis clears, Mr MacAllister's three-times-a-

Johnny MacAllister and his true love Ann who will be married 60 years in October.

week visits to his wife are on hold. He has been told to keep shielding at his Bield Housing home in case he gets infected again.

For the time being his callers are his NHS helpers, the carers who make his meals and grand-daughter Cheryl Bryers who drops off shopping.

The family have been told that although Mr MacAllister could be immune from the virus now there is no guarantee it could last.

'Coronavirus took everything out of grandad and very nearly took him from us. We're lucky he's home making great progress physically and back up on his feet, but there's still the emotional trauma that needs repairing, too, when people like him have come so close to death.'

'The amazing NHS continues to look after him well and we will forever be in its debt,' said Cheryl.

IF IT'S URGENT, IT'S URGENT

GP surgeries and hospitals are still here for you.

If you have an urgent, non-coronavirus health concern, please don't wait. Promptly seek help for emergencies, present possible cancer signs and attend immunisation appointments.

OT

Council cash supports community

Oban Community Council has donated £3,000 to help keep NHS workers safe and families fed, writes Kathie Griffiths.

A donation of £1,000 has been given to Oban High School toward making visors for front line workers and another £1,000 has gone to Benderloch-based Owen Sails for materials it needs to keep making scrubs and gowns for medical staff.

The community council also gave £1,000 to the Hope project in Soroba Road in memory of volunteer stalwart Jessie Scott who died in April from COVID-19. The money will be used to help send out food boxes to people in need.

Community councillors have also applied to SSE power company for £3,000 to help fund making more PPE for the community.

Community council chairman Marri Malloy said: 'Even though the community council is not meeting for now we are still supporting the town as best we can.'

Oban building firm calls in administrators

by Ellis Butcher
ebutcher@obantimes.co.uk



The biggest construction firm in Oban has gone into administration with up to 20 redundancies and implications for local sub-contractors.

Directors at family-run building company Neil McGougan Ltd officially called in administrators on May 5 with employees told last week.

Accountancy firm Campbell Dallas has been appointed and will try to find a buyer for the firm's assets of plant equipment, vehicles and tools.

The well respected business was established 34 years ago by Neil McGougan of Taynuilt, who remained a director and majority shareholder, with son Craig as project manager, and mum Jan as company secretary.

Neil Forsyth, head of insol-



The company's Sinclair Drive depot.

veny and restructuring for Campbell Dallas, told The Oban Times the McGougans had made 'strenuous efforts' to save the firm but were no longer able to meet its outstanding liabilities.

'I have spoken to the directors and the family and it would be correct to say they did everything they possibly

could to keep it going and avoid going into administration,' said Mr Forsyth.

He said they were extremely 'conscious' of the impact it would have on local employees and local sub-contractors, including joiners, electricians and heating engineers, which benefited from major contracts won by the firm.

Campbell Dallas pledged to do 'all it can' to recover monies owed to people.

The company had suffered from not being able to trade or generate cash flow since lockdown, he said. Construction was ordered to stop following the coronavirus outbreak, with pressure growing on the government for a rethink.

'This is a very difficult time for the construction industry across all of Scotland and I believe they are the biggest building firm in Oban, well-known and well-regarded,' said Mr Forsyth.

'Twenty employees have been made redundant, it is not trading and we are seeking a buyer for its assets of plant equipment, vehicles and tools.'

Lesley McInnes, chief executive of the West Highland Housing Association, paid tribute to the firm.

'We have had a relationship going back since 2004 and in that time it's obviously always been a very good, positive relationship,' said Mrs McInnes.

'They offered good workmanship and the association is very sad to learn about this, both for the employees, the family and all the sub-contractors.'

'A lot of the sub-contractors are local who we know and have a relationship with as a community organisation.'

The Oban Times has approached the family for comment.

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OUT NOW!



Interim junior doctors Andreas Day, Craig Osborne.

Oban hospital welcomes new graduates to help on front line

Three trainee doctors have joined the front line team treating COVID-19 at Oban hospital, writes Kathie Griffiths and Britt Doughty-Godchaux.

The interim junior doctors who arrived early as first-year graduates at Lorn and Islands Hospital are just some of the nursing and medical students nationwide who are being asked to give up the last few months of training so they can bolster the ranks of already qualified colleagues fighting the virus.

Instead of completing projects for graduation and not starting work until August, the three have been hired to spend their first three-month leg of first-year graduate training here in Oban.

It is not unusual for the hospital to train students from across Scotland and the UK at different stages of their medical education but starting their medical career early was unexpected for these new recruits until the coronavirus struck.

James Warne from Glasgow had to cut short a research project in Australia when lockdown began there. His thesis on paediatric diabetes should have lasted several months, but only two weeks into it he was on a plane home.

Despite cancelled graduations, parties and plans for Euro2020, Craig Osborne from Ayr – together with his



Interim junior doctor James Warne.

two colleagues – feels lucky to be here in Oban.

Andreas Day from Taynult, who has already done some of his anaesthetics training at Lorn and Isles, and is happy to be close to home at a time like this, said: 'The Oban hospital is really friendly and has a nice atmosphere.'

The recruits will be supporting hospital staff and 'lending a hand' where needed.

'Though the three have begun shadowing work this week to become acclimated to systems and ways of working, regular staff and the students alike feel confident everyone will soon be part and parcel of the work that goes on daily at the hospital,'

Pogo Paul has charity jumping for joy

Pogo boy Paul Gillespie is making leaps and bounds raising hundreds of pounds for charity, writes Kathie Griffiths.

The eight-year-old, who is a Park Primary pupil, jumped at the chance to put the pogo skills he has been practising in his backyard during lock-

down to good use.

This month he is pogoing and walking 50kms in aid of Oban's Multiple Sclerosis Centre where his auntie Nik MacKechnie is manager.

Paul set himself a target of £200 but has already reached the grand total of £500 to help the centre in Glencruitten

keep up its good work. Proud mum Emma Gillespie said: 'He's seen lots on TV about people raising money for the NHS and he wanted to do something to help his auntie help people.'

'He wanted to pogo all the way but I think there'll be some walking too!'

Paul's auntie Nik said: 'I think he's wonderful. It's lovely he wants to help people.'

Anyone wanting to make a donation to support Paul's big pogo challenge can go to his Justgiving link at [justgiving.com/crowdfunding/emma-gillespie?utm_term=7dv-3vG9Qe](https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/emma-gillespie?utm_term=7dv-3vG9Qe)

By staying at home, you're saving lives. Let's not undo it now.

To protect ourselves and our NHS the advice in Scotland is staying very much the same. This is because the evidence is telling us it's too early to make significant changes.

So the only change to the advice in Scotland is that you can now go outside to exercise, near your home, more than once a day. You should continue to stay two metres apart from others outside your household and wash your hands when you get home. You're doing a fantastic job of following the advice.

Let's not undo it now.



gov.scot/coronavirus

OT

All quiet at COVID test centre

Continued from page one. NHS Highland will not give numbers of cases in the Oban area because it says patient confidentiality would be put at risk.

According to latest figures from the National Records of Scotland, in the lead up to May 3 the health board saw 88 deaths registered since the start of the outbreak mentioning COVID-19 on the death certificate.

Out of those 88 deaths, 55 were in Argyll and Bute Council's area. With a population of 86,260, Argyll and Bute is the second largest local authority by area in Scotland, including 23 inhabited islands.

Among the 55 local authority deaths, 21 were in care homes, eight were at home and 26 in hospitals.

Kilmore 100 Club

Club winner of £100 for April was C Scott, while May winner was R Craig.

Oban doorstep walks – what's your favourite?



by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Doorstep walks are setting the pace for a new community project encouraging people to make the most of their town.

The Oban Walks Project is the brainchild of Iwan Roberts who is on furlough from his job as operations manager at the town's Atlantis Leisure Centre.

His dentist wife Lindsey is also behind the project and is in talks with Healthy Options and Bid4Oban about spreading the word of people's favourite walks.

More and more people are out and about as part of their daily exercise during lockdown

Iwan and Lindsey Roberts on one of their favourite walks near their Oban home.

'We've been discovering new walks of our own near where we live.'

and Iwan and Lindsey hope to harness that enthusiasm for the outdoors and keep it going when things start to get back to normal.

The pair are inviting people to send in their favourite walks in and around Oban and plan to compile them on a website, then possibly an App.

People can send in routes, with or without descriptions and photographs, to oban-walks@gmail.com

Iwan and Lindsey will then work on an easy step-by-step guide.

They hope their idea will grow and get funding to become a useful resource for

the community, encouraging them to get out and explore what is on their doorstep.

'We've had the idea for a while, but this seemed the right time to do it.

'There's going to be a lot of people who have not had COVID-19 but for one reason or another during lockdown will have lost their fitness. This project might be a way of gradually helping them get it back.

'We're keen hillwalkers but since lockdown we've been discovering new walks of our own near where we live. There must be lots of others and we'd really like to hear about people's favourites so we can share them with more people.

'Some people have also been exercising more outdoors during lockdown and it would be good to hook that and keep it going to help keep the community healthy after coronavirus,' said Iwan.



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Stay safe , stay better informed.

The news you can trust

THE VAST majority of the people across the UK have taken the official advice to stay at home, protect the NHS and save lives.

People are hungry for accurate information about how to protect themselves, but following the official advice and ignoring the swirling mass of uninformed conjecture, opinion and speculation is not always easy.

However, there are ways to identify who to trust, and who to ignore.

Similarly, there are ways to identify the small but persistent group of unscrupulous individuals who have decided that they want to use the pandemic to try to make financial gain through fraud.

There have been a lot of examples of false information and attempts at fraud.

For example, holding your breath for 10 seconds is not a test for coronavirus, gargling water for 15 seconds is not a cure and phone masts cannot cause coronavirus.

There have also been comments and suggestions from people claiming to be medical experts who are simply not.

Fraudsters will use any opportunity - including the current

There are so many sources of news and information about coronavirus, but which ones should you trust to help you stay safe, protect the NHS and save lives?

Coronavirus fraud and misinformation are barriers to the nation continuing the progress it

has made toward coming to terms with, and beating, the virus.

We take a look at how you can protect yourself, your friends and your family from being tricked into believing news and information that is not true, or becoming a victim of fraud.



pandemic - to try to trick people out of their money.

There have been examples of fake texts claiming to be sent from the Government alerting people they have received a fine for breaking social distancing rules. Some people and even businesses have been

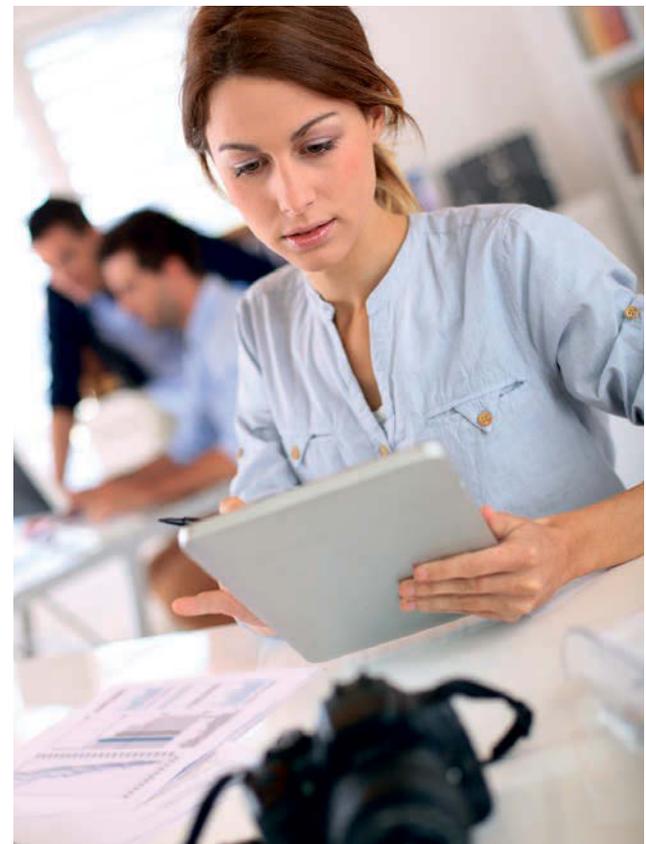
tricked into paying for protective face masks and hand sanitizers from companies that don't exist

There have also been messages from criminals sending messages to trick people into thinking they are getting genuine offers of financial support from the government.

At the same time hackers are stepping up attempts to access people's networks and steal their log in details and passwords.

However, if you take sensible precautions, you can quickly spot signs of fraud and identify the facts from the fiction.

Sharing the right information could save lives.



TRUSTED SOURCE: Journalists provide accurate information.

How you can spot false information



FALSE FACTS: Check the facts about coronavirus on official websites.

WHEN IT, is shared, false information can take on a life of its own and have some serious consequences.

It can lead to health scares, false accusations and potentially damaging hoax stories. Recently there has been a lot of this kind of false information about coronavirus.

It's not always easy to spot, so use this checklist to cut through the chatter.

SOURCE

Rely on official sources for medical and safety information. Check the facts about coronavirus on official websites.

HEADLINE

Headlines don't always tell the full story. Always read to the end before you share articles about coronavirus.

ANALYSE

Analyse the facts. If something sounds unbelievable, it very well might be. Independent fact-checking services are correcting false information about coronavirus every day.

VERIFIED SOURCES

You can visit the following websites for verified, trusted sources of information that will help you stay safe.

Visit the NHS website at www.nhs.uk/
You can also get information via the Public Health England website at www.gov.uk/government/organisations/public-health-england
For other information regarding the coronavirus restrictions on travel and much more, visit the Government website at www.gov.uk/coronavirus

RETOUCHED

Watch out for misleading pictures and videos in stories about coronavirus. They might be edited, or show an unrelated place or event.

ERRORS

Look out for mistakes. Errors might mean the information is false. Official guidance about coronavirus will have been carefully checked.

Journalists are trained to ask right questions

Regional newspapers such as this one employ fully qualified journalists who are trained to ask the right questions and share accurate information in a simple and understandable way.

They are at the forefront of providing trusted news and helping you stay safe.

The best source of trusted local news from, and about, your community is through this newspaper and its website.

You can find all the local coronavirus news, updates and information on the website and via the newspaper's social media channels.

The Government has a checklist to help people protect themselves from cyber fraud:

Take a breath - a moment - before you part with money or personal information. It sounds simple, but this alone could end up preventing fraud from taking place.

Ensure you are using the latest software, apps and operating systems on your phones, tablets and laptops and update them regularly.

And if you get an unexpected or suspicious email or text message, don't click on the attachment or message.

Checklist to help fight cyber fraud

Don't be afraid to challenge messages and messengers. It's okay to refuse or ignore requests for your money or details if you are suspicious - only criminals will try to rush or panic you.

The police and banks will never ask you to withdraw money or transfer it to a different account. Neither will they ask you to reveal your full banking password or PIN.

You can check that requests are genuine by using a known number or email address to contact organisations directly. And if you think you have fallen victim to a scam, then contact your bank immediately and report it to Action Fraud.

You can report suspicious texts by forwarding the original message to 7726, which spells SPAM on your keypad.

SHARE CAUTION

Be careful what you share, because things are not always what they seem online.

Protect yourself and your family from misinformation and fraud by taking care when online, and use the website sharechecklist.gov.uk

OT

WHERE IS THIS?



Around Oban

KAY MCDONALD

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Lockdown continues for another wee while yet and while it's hard not seeing family and friends, and all the negatives involved in having to stay at home, there have been positives as well and I'm cheered to see how resourceful people

are being about overcoming problems. Instead of the Eurovision to look forward to we have the online Obanvision which will be much more fun I'm sure. Have a wee look on the LoveOban, Oban Town Diary & Oban Community Trust Facebook pages and prepare to let the Disco Diva in you out for a boogie.

I'm also delighted that Oban

International Sea Shanty Festival has gone online, I had been so excited about it happening but now we can just build the anticipation for next year by watching on Zoom. Check out our Facebook pages for more details. It involves bands from all over the world and for a taste of Sea Shanties I'd recommend a film called Fisherman's Friends, based on

a true story and very uplifting. Being able to go online to visit friends and shop (locally) to help keep small businesses going has been fantastic and Facebook has been a boon for helping keep local businesses in touch with customers and the community. It has also allowed us to share all the kindness that is happening within our community during

this difficult time, such as the Food Hubs in the Corran Halls and Park Primary School where food packages are made up and distributed by kind people keen to help others and it also gives us a way to say 'Thank You'.

The photograph last week was of the beautiful cherry tree at the Corran Halls. This week's isn't too far from that.

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POLICE FILES

Between 7pm on April 30 and 4pm on May 2 in Mossfield Drive, Oban, a grey Jaguar was broken into. A purse and a number of personal items were stolen.

Between Midnight on April 20 and 6pm on May 3 at the North Pier, Oban, 12 fishing rods and reels were stolen.

Between 6pm on April 16 and 3pm on May 4 a house at Bonawe was broken into and alcohol consumed.

About 10.40am on May 5, on the A82, near Bridge of Orchy, a motorist was stopped for allegedly exceeding the speed limit.

The driver, 31-year-old man, was charged and a report sent to the Procurator Fiscal.

About 1.15pm on May 5, in Dalavich, a 54-year-old woman behaved in an abusive manner. The woman was later issued with a Recorded Police Warning.

Between 6pm on May 1 and 7am on May 2, approximately 120 Scania wheel nut covers were stolen from a number of Heavy Goods Vehicles belonging to Alsop Transport Services within the yard at Auction Mart Access Road, Oban.

About 11pm on May 8, in McCaig Road, Oban, a man, 40, allegedly breached Bail Curfew Conditions imposed by the court by being out with his address overnight. Police arrested and charged the man who was held for court and a report sent to the Procurator Fiscal.

Between 10.45pm on May 9 and 2.30am on May 10, in Albany Street, Oban, two operational police vehicles each had two tyres punctured rendering them out of use.

Between 6am and 6.50am on May 10, a number of commercial premises in Crannog Lane, Oban were broken into, vehicles broken into and one vehicle stolen. A number of items including tools, cash and car parts were stolen and a vehicle was subsequently recovered.

Between 5pm on May 9 and 7.20pm on May 10, in Glencruitten Drive, Oban, a Black Ford Fiesta was broken

into. Items were stolen including a pair of Dolce & Gabbana Aviator sunglasses.

Between 5.45pm on May 9 and 11.15am on May 10, in Glencruitten Drive, Oban, a Red Ford C-Max was broken into. A number of items were stolen including three pairs of binoculars, a green jacket, a disabled badge and a pair of sunglasses.

About 12.30am on May 11, in High Street, Oban, a man, 22, behaved in a disorderly manner. The man was issued with a Recorded Police Warning.

About 3pm on May 3 on the A848 near Salen, Isle of Mull, a provisional licence holder was allegedly driving while unsupervised. The 52-year-old male driver, was later traced by police, charged and a report sent to the Procurator Fiscal.

About 3pm on May 7 in High Lee, Bunessan, Isle of Mull, a provisional licence holder was allegedly driving while unsupervised. The driver, a man aged 27, was later traced by police, charged and a report sent to the Procurator Fiscal.

About 1pm on May 9, near to Ulva Ferry, Isle of Mull, a man, 30, was arrested for allegedly being in charge of a vehicle while under the influence of drugs. The man was charged and a report sent to the Procurator Fiscal.

About 1.45pm on May 9, at the Spar Store, Salen, Isle of Mull, a 30-year-old man allegedly behaved in an abusive manner. Police later traced the man who was cautioned, charged and a report sent to the Fiscal.

Between 4pm on May 3 and 6am on May 4, in Bruichladdich, Isle of Islay, a man, 52, allegedly behaved in an abusive manner. The man was later charged and a report sent to the Fiscal.

If any member of the public has information in relation to the above, or to any incident, they can contact their local Police Station on telephone number 101, or anonymously through Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Say hello to Barney the hero binman

Carecrows are taking over the town as Oban comes up with an unusual way to thank our care workers during the COVID-19 crisis.

More than 200 people have already joined the Oban Carecrows Facebook page since it started on May 4 as a way of spreading thanks and cheer to passers by.

Gwen Cameron who lives in McKelvie Road was happy to pose for this Oban Times photograph with Barney The Binman.

'I think our bin men are just some of the wonderful people carrying on working to take care of our community. I'm getting rather fond of Barney!'

'I saw the idea on Facebook, there's a lot of carecrows around the town now. My daughter's a couple of streets away and she's done one and I think there's a few more just up from here. It's a great way of recognising our unsung heroes.'



Go to Carr Gomm Facebook page to make suggestions.

Carr Gomm's teddy mascot needs a name

This little teddy is keeping spirits lifted at one of Oban's longest serving care providers Carr Gomm, writes Kathie Griffiths.

The social care charity which runs housing support, home care, a daytime responder and overnight service came up with the idea of having a mascot to cheer up hardworking staff during the crisis.

Care worker Fumiko Miller put out an appeal on Information Oban for someone to crochet a teddy and Marion Davidson soon came up with a cuddly creation especially for them.

While the cute chap has already been put to work at the Oban office as 'security' guard, helping keep staff safe from the virus, he still needs a name.

People are being invited to go to Carr Gomm Facebook page or Twitter and make suggestions.

Mrs Miller said it was a difficult and stressful time for vital care staff who are working hard to keep the community safe and are still in need of more PPE, personal protective equipment.

'This bear has really lifted and cheered us up,' she added.

LOOKING FOR HELP DURING CORONAVIRUS?

Please cut out and keep this page of useful contacts for use when you may need them.

National Assistance Helpline
(Open office hours Monday to Friday)
Call: 0800 111 4000
Text phone service: 0800 111 4114

To help people at increased risk access essential help if they do not have family or other support.

Health

www.nhsinform.scot/coronavirus
0800 028 2816 for general information only

NHS 24: Call 111 if symptoms worsen or if fever for 7+ days

Shielding local support:
www.gov.scot/covid-shielding-contacts

Feeling anxious or depressed?

NHS Inform:
www.nhsinform.scot/coronavirus-mental-wellbeing

NHS 24: Call 111
www.clearyourhead.scot

Breathing Space:
www.breathingspace.scot
0800 83 85 87

SAMH:

0344 800 0550
Samaritans Scotland Helpline:
116 123 / jo@samaritans.org

Advice for pregnant women
www.nhsinform.scot/ready-steady-baby or contact your midwife if concerned.

Social welfare and financial help
Citizens Advice Scotland:
www.cas.org.uk
0800 028 1456

Struggling with energy bills?
Home Energy Scotland:
0808 808 2282

Consumer issues
Advice Direct Scotland:
www.coronavirusadvice.scot
0808 800 9060

Employment rights advice

www.acas.org.uk
Helpline: 0300 123 1100

Your rights at work
www.stuc.org.uk
0141 337 8100

For business support
www.findbusinesssupport.gov.scot
Helpline: 0300 303 0660

Advice for parents
www.parentclub.scot/coronavirus
Parentline Scotland:
08000 28 22 33
The Money Talk Team:
0800 085 7145

Information for young people
www.young.scot/coronavirus

Information for older people

www.agescotland.org.uk
0800 12 44 222

Dementia – Alzheimer Scotland
www.alzscot.org
Helpline: 0808 808 3000

Scottish Autism Advice Line
www.scottishautism.org
01259 222022

Domestic Abuse Helpline
www.safer.scot
Helpline: 0800 027 1234

Rape Crisis Scotland Helpline
www.rapecrisisscotland.org.uk
Helpline: 08088 01 03 02



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OT

Puppet fun at home

For the first time in 37 years, Puppet Animation Scotland has had to cancel its annual Puppet Animation Festival.

Instead, the organisation has launched a new campaign to help you to get creative, creating your own puppet theatre at home.

Puppet Animation Scotland is collaborating with puppeteers across Scotland to bring you unique Puppetry at Home tutorial videos every Thursday until June 4. The videos will include step by step instructions on how you can craft your own puppets and crankie theatres using materials you can find in and around the house, or you can simply order online.

They will be hosting a competition featuring one lucky winner's entry on their social media channels, to be announced every Monday. To enter, simply tag them in your post or email your entry to marketing@puppetanimation-scotland.org.

Finger Puppet Portraits and How To Build Your Own Crankie Theatre, are already online. Visit puppetanimation.org/2020/04/22/puppetry-at-home/

Oban's Dove Centre keeps up vital support

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Oban's much-used Dove Centre is planning a positive future after COVID-19.

The centre in Stevenson Street had to shut its doors when the coronavirus crisis hit, but despite lockdown its workers are still supporting as many people - if not more - than before.

This week chairman of Oban Hospice Ltd David Entwistle sent a message to the community to let people know help is still available to those in need.

And with plans to set up a new befriending scheme later in the year, Mr Entwistle has appealed for people to help fill a funding shortfall.

'Inevitably coronavirus has put somewhat of a stop to the efforts of our hardworking fundraising arm The Friends of Oban Hospice but our work



at the centre still continues. We'd encourage people, if they can, to give donations we rely on.

'We are still supporting 55 to 60 people a week and our men's and women's groups now meet up on WhatsApp,' he said.

The centre's two workers Peter Darling and Lucy Hunt are keeping in contact with

service users and others needing a chat or advice, and they have been helped by volunteers and therapists too.

'The centre will reopen as soon as it is safe and following government advice, but it's likely to be a gradual process which means the WhatsApp groups will probably have to continue for a while and it

The Dove Centre is still supporting 55-60 people a week online, on the phone and using WhatsApp.

might be just one or two people coming into the centre with face masks, but it's important we let people know, even those who have not come to us before, that we are here for them now,' added Mr Entwistle.

He said fears about COVID-19 and anxiety over lockdown had 'frightened' a lot of people. 'This virus does not respect age or condition, it'll go for anyone and that has quite frightened a lot of people, adding to worries they might've already had. No one who would benefit from the Dove Centre needs to go without our help at this difficult time,' he said.

It costs about £75,000 a year

to run the service, including salaries funded by the community's generosity, it gets no money from the health or social service.

One of the most recent grants it secured was £10,000 from the Crerar Foundation to employ a lymphodema massage therapist.

Just before lockdown, the centre was due to meet with the Highland Hospice at Inverness to find out more about its successful befriending service, which it plans to use as a model for its own later in 2020.

To contact the Dove Centre for help or to make a donation call Peter Darling on 07483 116185 or Lucy Hunt on 07592 633251.

YOURSTORY

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www.whc.uhi.ac.uk/opendays



Helen Shaw, her wife Sarah and their daughter Aleah are in it to win it with their version of a classic Eurovision number.

Get your act together for Obanvision contest

Seriously sound or weirdly wacky, organisers of Oban's answer to this year's cancelled Eurovision Song Contest are looking for wannabe superstars, writes Kathie Griffiths.

Entries are lining up for the Facebook show in aid of The Rockfield Centre tomorrow (Friday May 15), the day before the real-thing would have been screened to millions of viewers worldwide.

Spoof music videos or serious talent, the show will go on-line from 7pm via a specially-created Facebook page, says Rockfield Centre's Arts and Culture Co-ordinator Fee Shaw who came up with the idea to help raise £5,000 towards keeping the community hub ticking over during lockdown.

People wanting to watch the show can get more details on The Rockfield Centre's Facebook page. Entries should be emailed in plenty of time to arts@therockfieldcentre.org.uk

A virtual haircut via Zoom, a box of organic veg and a lego bundle are among prizes galore to be won by the best three entries as voted by the public.

In the true spirit of

Eurovision, entries can be whatever people want to do, really amazing talent or making a Tick Tok video going crazy with the kids. We can't wait to see what's sent in, It's going to be a fun night,' said Fee, a big fan of Eurovision.

'We hope that anyone we entertain will consider donating to our GoFundMe page which has a target of £5,000 to reach since Rockfield's usual income from hires and workshops, no longer exist at the moment.

'If people can't afford a donation, of course they can still 100 per cent join in and enjoy it but any money we make will all go towards ongoing running costs we still have during this difficult time.

'Most arts venues have completely closed but we remain open online to keep the community connected, supported and entertained.

'More than 7,000 people have already viewed our Facebook post about Obanvision, now all we need is for people to get creative and send in their entries,' said Fee.

If 2020 Eurovision went ahead, the world's biggest live music show would have been in its 65th year.

Make your views know on life on lockdown, says MSP

Residents of Argyll and Bute are being urged to give their views on life in Scotland under the COVID-19 restrictions, writes Ellis Butcher.

Argyll and Bute MSP, Michael Russell said the Scottish Government has published a new paper called 'Test, Trace, Isolate, Support', which sets out the next phase.

He said that while lockdown has reduced the number of infectious cases the virus continues to pose a serious threat to public health. The testing and tracing strategy will work alongside other measures, including physical distancing, hand washing and the use of face coverings.

Thousands of 'contact

tracing' staff are also to be taken on, and new digital tools including an app are being developed.

Mr Russell said: 'The decisions on how we come out of lockdown will affect all of us – and so it's important that these decisions are made as openly and collaboratively as possible, with councils, businesses,

unions, public services and community groups in Argyll and Bute.

'The Scottish Government has launched an online forum that gives people the opportunity to offer their reflections on lockdown restrictions.'

Visit www.ideas.gov.scot/covid-19-a-framework-for-decision-making



Join Scotland's new team and help beat coronavirus.



We have a number of roles in our newly established Contact & Trace Team. We are looking for people with a wide range of skills, strengths and talents to help us in the fight against coronavirus. Lives are at risk and time is of the essence, and that's why we need you to register your interest before 22nd May. To find out more about the roles, the competitive NHS pay and benefits, visit careers.nhs.scot/coronavirus-covid-19-recruitment

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BUSINESS NEWS

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editor@obantimes.co.uk or call 01631 568000

New forum for Argyll business chiefs

A new business forum set up in the wake of coronavirus has held its first virtual meeting.

Argyll Economic Resilience Forum includes representatives from business, tourism, manufacturing, farming and aquaculture. Public sector members include Argyll and Bute Council, Business Gateway, Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE), Skills Development Scotland, Visit Scotland and Scottish Enterprise.

The meeting has provided an update on the challenges faced and how sectors are responding across Argyll, said an HIE spokesman.

Morag Goodfellow, Argyll and the Islands area manager with HIE, chaired the meeting.

She said that with a fast-moving issue such as the coronavirus, it was vital to share information and feedback.

'This new forum will meet fortnightly and focus on the particular situation in Argyll,' she said. 'It will be a valuable sounding board to assist the public sector's response to the COVID-19 outbreak, including any future recovery plan.'

Iain Jurgensen, chairman of Argyll and the Isles Tourism Co-operative, which represents around 1,200 businesses, is a member of the new forum.

He said: 'My aim is to ensure the unprecedented challenges facing the tourism industry are kept at the strategic forefront given its vital importance to Argyll's people and economy.'

'As we look to develop a road map to safely navigate a way forward, collaboration and partnership will be critical.'

Councillor Aileen Morton, leader of Argyll and Bute Council, said collaboration between the public and private sector would be vital.

Lucy Sumsion, NFU Scotland regional manager for Argyll and the Islands, said: 'Agriculture is one of the major land uses in Argyll and Bute and farmers and crofters are vital in ensuring food production continues here. We welcome the formation of this group and the opportunity to share information and expertise to ensure the economic recovery of the region.'

'Tee-rific' Jura golf job

Greenkeeping student Laura's delight at permanent role

After visiting her sister on Jura last year, student Laura Sayer-Hall fell in love with the Inner Hebridean island and quit her job to move there.

While working in the island's only pub, she got talking to greenkeepers at Ardfin Golf Course who asked if she would be interested in a seasonal job, writes Ellis Butcher.

Laura, 32, originally from The Wirral in England's north west, decided to give it a shot.

Although a far cry from her previous jobs as a laminator in the aerospace industry and a house renovator, Laura took to it immediately.

She said: 'I absolutely loved it so took on a permanent role at the end of the season and haven't looked back.'

As part of the role, she received funding to study a Sports Turf Maintenance SVQ Level 2 qualification at Scotland's Rural College (SRUC). Laura attends SRUC's Elmwood campus in Fife block release so she can continue to work on the island.



Greenkeeping student Laura Sayer-Hall at Ardfin Golf Course on Jura.

'I chose SRUC Elmwood as it is one of the most respected turf colleges in the industry,' she said. 'The course is a great first step into formal turf education. It will show employers I have received

a certain level of training on the theory and practical sides of greenkeeping.' After finishing the two-year course, she hopes to continue her greenkeeping education by enrolling on either the HNC or HND Golf Course Management course. In the meantime, despite the golf course being closed during the COVID-19 lockdown, Laura has continued working at Ardfin.

Course manager Simon Crawford said: 'When you take on staff, you're always hopeful they will love the job. With Laura, she has shown how much she enjoys work every day with her stand-out attitude. She picks up new skills quickly and has a real passion for the job, Ardfin and life on Jura. She is a great asset.'

Mike Clark, programme manager of Greenkeeping and Golf Management at SRUC Elmwood, said: 'Laura enrolled on the SVQ2 at SRUC Elmwood bringing a passion and thirst for knowledge for the theory behind the practical skills gained in her workplace at Ardfin.'

Gigha's Brandon shortlisted for directors award

A Gigha resident who made national headlines last year when he became a director of an organisation with multi-million pound assets aged just 19 has been shortlisted for a national award, writes Fiona Scott.

Brandon Clements, now 20, who joined the board of Isle of Gigha Heritage Trust (IGHT) in 2019, has been nominated for a Young Director Award by the Institute of Directors Scotland (IoD).

He will be up against three other candidates from across Scotland in the award category Director of the Year - Young, which recognises upcoming directors who illustrate excellent entrepreneurial and leadership potential.

Since the Isle of Gigha's commu-



Brandon Clements.

nity buyout in 2002, the island's population has grown to 160 people, reversing a 300-year decline.

IGHT and its subsidiary companies manage the majority of the island's assets, which is overseen by a board of nine voluntary directors, including Brandon.

His role has been crucial in demonstrating there are opportunities for young people to remain or return to rural areas.

Brandon said: 'I recognised that to encourage young people to stay on Gigha, their needs had to be voiced. In my day job as a senior marine operative at the Scottish Salmon Company, the skills I have learned by being a director can be put to good use too.'

Ian Wilson, chairman of IGHT, said: 'Brandon has brought a great deal to the work and thinking of the

board. Not only has he dragged us into the 21st century communications-wise, he has also challenged the board to think about what young people want from communities like ours and how we might encourage more young people to live on Gigha. Hopefully Brandon's work on Gigha and further afield will help find a vibrant future for communities like Gigha'

The trust says Brandon's determination to represent his peers and to make a positive contribution to the community has helped to address issues and has set a precedent that will leave an impression on the community for years to come.

The awards are due to take place in September 2020.

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NHS

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DO NOT leave the house at all for 7 days.

Still have symptoms after 7 days?

DO NOT leave the house until they go.

EVERYONE else in your household must
not leave the house for 14 days.

Do not go out even to buy food or essentials.

Stay at home to exercise.

nhsinform.scot/coronavirus

STAY HOME ▶ PROTECT THE NHS ▶ SAVE LIVES

OT

LETTERS

Write to us: send your letters to editor@obantimes.co.uk
or The Editor, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB

All you need is love

Love really does help us overcome what seems impossible and shows itself in many incredible acts of care and kindness, which again, in this week's paper, we have plenty of examples of.

There is hardly going to be a dry eye in the town after reading the incredible story of 80-year-old Johnny MacAllister, who was in Oban hospital for four weeks battling coronavirus, and what got him through was the dedicated care he received from our NHS staff, and the determination to get home so he could celebrate 60 years of marriage to his childhood sweetheart.

He told our reporter Kathie Griffiths: 'Thinking about Ann also got me through. I'd do this all over again just to be with her, the flame was lit as soon as I saw her all those years ago and we fell in love.'

Taynuilt residents have also been showing their kind hearts, right, stocking the redundant red phone box in the village with essential food, cleaning and hygiene products.

The hub is open to everyone who needs it and is regularly being restocked.

And this week many in the town gathered, maintaining safe distancing, to pay their respects to former pipe major with Oban Pipe Band, Angus MacLennan.

It was such a moving tribute to see so many line the streets. He was loved and will be missed by many.

The editor welcomes letters of approximately 300 words in length for publication on this page. However we reserve 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 phone number is also required for verification. Anonymous letters or those supplied without a contact phone number will not be printed. Please email: editor@obantimes.co.uk or write to: Letters page, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB.

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Click and no collect – what's gone wrong at Tesco?

Like a previous correspondent, we are also in the group where Click and Collect is advisable.

We came into the pandemic on C & C and once you knew the secret (go on at midnight) all worked quite well. We were usually allocated a C & C slot some eight to 10 days hence.

However on April 29 we received (like thousands of others) an update from Dave Lewis the CEO, advising all they are achieving with their C & C service. Oh dear, all has gone wrong since then and we cannot get a slot now, which incidentally has gone out to three weeks hence.

We have tried for the last five nights to get a slot without success. We have tried every variation on time around midnight without luck. Last night we went onto the site at 23.52, no queue. We came out and went back on at 23.53 a queue was there, so we joined.

The "lorry" moved forward gradually until 12.03 when the screen changed, and we hoped... Alas no slots available. How can a queue have formed in only one minute for us to be so far down the queue that all slots were taken? A mystery.

David and Hilary Currie,
Taynuilt.

The Corran crossing debate continues

I see that the Corran Crossing debate has resurfaced with the publication of the latest feasibility study, not that feasibility was ever in doubt – if engineers can build the Channel Tunnel and the Queensferry Crossing, feasibility to span 500 metres is child's play.

While the report makes great play of the benefits to local residents in terms of shorter journey times they also said this in 2012 when they spent about £1 million on improving a mile of road at Drynie Hill, destroying a beautiful drive up a scenic glen and also knocking a whole five minutes off journey times.

The real cost benefit analysis here is the £1million could have been better spent – a first rate sports and leisure centre, complete with swimming pool, could have been constructed for a similar price and this really would have had a beneficial effect on locals, both adults and children, yet here we are again with councillors contemplating the expenditure of huge sums of money with no real understanding of the effects, not least on the local infrastructure, and no mention of the updating of roads on the peninsular to meet the projected demand.

Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL

editor@obantimes.co.uk

Cha robh e na iongnadh sam bith gun d' rinn a' Bhanrigh Ealasaid ceangal eadar uabhasan an Dàrna Cogaidh agus na tha daoine a' fulang le sgrìos Covid 19. Bha i a' craoladh beachdan a' comharrachadh ceann-bliadhna latha VE, nuair a gheill Nàsaich na Gearmailte agus a thàinig crìoch air an Dàrna Cogadh san Roinn Eòrpa.

Gu ìre bha an saoghal gu lèir a' cur clach air càrn-cuimhne na milleanan a chaill am beatha san tachartas oillteil sin agus a' mhòr-chuid a' feuchainn ri tuigsinn cò ris a bha e coltach naidheachd sìthe a chluinntinn seachdadh a' còig bliadhna air ais.

Bha sinn a' feuchainn ri tuigsinn ri linn 's nach eil mòran air fhàgail aig am bheil cuimhne air an latha, agus tha nas lugha buileach beò a bha an sàs sa chòmhris! Ach abair gum bheil gach neach dhiubh airidh air cuimhne, agus urram, na càirdean sin nach b' aithne dhuinne riamh ach an ainmean agus ma tha sinn fortanach, 's dòcha dealbh neo dhà de dhaoine òga. Ginealach cailte, agus bu thruaighe iomadh coimhearsnachd agus a' Ghàidhealtachd is na h-Eileanan nam measg sin. Buille chruaidh eile dha na Gàidheil, gu h-eaconamach agus gu cultarach, agus tha a' bhuaidh nochdte fhathast.

Ged a thill mòran beò dh'fhàg na chunnaic is na dh'fhuiling iad lotan air bodhaig is inn-tinn nach do leighis gu tur riamh. Cluinnear bitheanta nach robh an fheadhainn a thug am beatha às a' bhàr deònach bruidhinn mun a' chogadh, agus 's e pàirt den adhbhar sin gun dùisgeadh sin cuimhne air eagal do-chreidsinneach ri uchd bualaidh.

It is estimated that just to improve the existing 64 miles of single track A861 and A884 to double track would cost a minimum of a further £50 million.

With the current pandemic threatening to change holiday and travel patterns, not least a huge increase in the use of camper vans, the ferry remains a very good "tool" in managing visitor traffic and ensuring that Ardnamurchan is not over-run as has happened on Skye.

This crazy proposal should be consigned to the dustbin of history where it belongs.

Andrew Green,
Ardtoe.

Cha b' ann den deòin a bha iad ann ach air sgàth 's nach robh roghainn aca, ach rinn iad na chaidh iarraidh orra agus mòran aca le gaisgeachd iomraiteach! 'S fhiach cuimheachadh cuideachd air na geallaidhean a bhreug air falbh iad, 's gum biodh dùthaich freagarrach air gaisgich romhpa a' tilleadh. Cha robh an sin ach aon de na geallaidhean nach deach a choileanadh dhaibh, agus b' fheadar dha iomadach Gàidheil òg a thàinig beò à uabhas cogaidh a' choimhearsnachd fhèin a thrèigsinn air sgàth dìth cosnaidh is dachaigh, is freumhachadh ann am baile-mòr às nach do thill e.

'S e cùis-nàire dhan dùthaich cho beag aithne is taic 's a tha feadhainn a chaidh an aghaidh cunnart às ar leth a' faotainn, chan eil dùthaich againn fhathast freagarrach dha gaisgich!

'S e nàmhaid eadar-dhealaichte ris am bheil luchd-seirbheis na slàinte a' sabaid an-dràsta, ach tha e pailt cho iargalta agus cunnartach, agus nach bu chòir gun toireamaid duais a rèir an cuid gaisge dha na laoiach sin!

Her Majesty the Queen's VE Day message rightly urged us to remember how much we owe to those who gave so much for our freedom. We should also remember the cultural, social, and economic damage added to war casualties by the failure to deliver the promised "land fit for heroes". Let's make certain the health-care heroes of the Covid 19 conflict are suitably recognised!

Allan Campbell,
ailean@obantimes.co.uk

Nature has a way of being heard over climate change

On December 5 last year you published my letter on Climate Change which you headed 'booming world population is cause of climate change'. Nature has a way of dealing with population problems when we do nothing ourselves – famine, war and disease.

This time nature has chosen disease. Will we never learn?

Professor Colin Davidson,
Ardfern.

Chicken Kebabs



7 Syns per serving 25 minutes Serves 4
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A simple tikka marinade packs tons of flavour into this fab kebab dinner

Ingredients

8 skinless and boneless chicken thighs, visible fat removed, cut into bite-size pieces
3 level tbsp tikka curry powder* (see tip)
250g fat-free natural Greek-style yogurt
3 garlic cloves, crushed
4 x 60g wholemeal pita breads
Lemon wedges, to serve

Method:

Put the chicken in a freezer bag (or a glass or stainless-steel bowl) with the curry powder, yogurt and garlic. Season with salt and stir to combine. Seal the bag or cover the bowl with cling film and marinate in the fridge for at least 1 hour or overnight.

For the salad, put the cucumber, radishes, celery and lettuce in a bowl. Mix together the yogurt and chopped coriander, season, then stir through the salad.

Preheat your grill to high. Lift the chicken out of the marinade, letting any excess drain off, then thread onto 4 metal skewers. Place on a baking tray lined with foil and grill for 10-12 minutes, turning halfway, or until the chicken is lightly charred and cooked through.

Toast the pita breads. Scatter the coriander sprigs over the chicken skewers and serve with 1 pita bread per person with the salad and lemon wedges for squeezing over.

*Spice blends are Free as long as they're made from herbs and spices only and don't include any Synned ingredients like sugar, flour and oil. Check the label to be sure and count the Syns as necessary

For the salad:

1 cucumber, halved lengthways, deseeded and roughly chopped
200g radishes, trimmed and quartered
3 celery sticks, roughly chopped
2 little gem lettuces, shredded
100g fat-free natural Greek-style yogurt
25g fresh coriander, leaves roughly chopped, reserving a few whole sprigs for the kebabs

PLEASE NOTE:

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HIE appoints interim area manager for Lochaber, Skye and Wester Ross

Alastair Nicolson will take up a six-month appointment as interim area manager for Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) in Lochaber, Skye and Wester Ross (LSWR), writes Fiona Scott.



Alastair Nicolson.

Photograph: Gillian Frampton/HIE

Originally from Fort William, Mr Nicolson achieved an honours degree in Economics at Heriot-Watt University and has more than 20 years'

experience in economic and community development in the Highlands and Islands.

He takes over from Robert Muir who retired from his post of 28 years at the end of April.

In his most recent role at HIE as programme manager for Lochaber, Mr Nicolson was responsible for the agency's

involvement in maximising the benefits from a series of planned major investments in and around the town.

'I am delighted to be taking up this role, albeit at a very challenging time for businesses, social enterprises and communities,' he said.

'Over the next few months

we will work to support them to adapt and respond as best as they can to the COVID-19 situation.

'Collaboration is the most effective means of strengthening the economy and community resilience of the LSWR area.'

Recruitment to fill the area manager post on a permanent

basis will get underway once the present COVID-19 restrictions have been lifted.

KEEPINTOUCH

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Mark Ferguson with his V8 Fordson.

Music-based charity to benefit from tractor revamp

Tractor enthusiast Mark Ferguson will be sprucing up his V8 Fordson Super Major to raise awareness and funding for the Eilidh MacLeod Memorial Trust, writes Fiona Scott.

Once revamped the tractor will act as a unique focal point for the music-based charity at a variety of shows, events and country fairs all over Britain to raise awareness of Eilidh's Trust and its ambition to give the 14-year-old Manchester Arena victim a legacy through youth music education.

Cheshire-based Mark is now seeking support to undertake the facelift and has launched his Purple Tractor project to fund the work.

The trust was established in 2018 in memory of Eilidh MacLeod from the Isle of Barra who died along with 21 others in the Manchester Arena attack in May 2017.

Mark was related to Eilidh

through his wife. The trust supports music education for young people reflecting Eilidh's own musical ability and enjoyment as a piper with the local Sgoil Lionacleit Pipe Band.

The trust will also manage and maintain a permanent memorial to Eilidh and a garden of remembrance and reflection on Barra.

The tractor will be painted in the trust's purple colours and be fully branded with the charity's logo, website and social media details. The final artwork will also include the iconic Manchester Bee with one for each of the 22 victims.

'In addition to its function as an exhibition piece, the tractor will also provide staging for local pipe bands and other youth music groups to perform on,' added Mark.

The project can be supported via the Purple Tractor crowdfunder.

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Isabella Bird: living with the cowboys of America's Wild West

Nestling into the hillside above Tobermory is a little white cottage that was once the home of Isabella Bird, writes Jo Woolf, Writer in Residence at the Royal Scottish Geographical Society.

A daring explorer, Isabella followed her heart and roamed all over the world during the late 1800s; she had some hair-raising experiences, and in spite of her occasionally scandalous behaviour, she became a best-selling author and a talented travel photographer. In the Rocky Mountains of Colorado, she tried her hand at being a cowgirl... and met the love of her life.

'I have just dropped into the very place I have been seeking but in everything it exceeds all my dreams. I have a log cabin, raised on six posts, all to myself... and a small lake close to it. There is health in every breath of air...'

When Isabella arrived in a region of Colorado called Estes Park in the autumn of 1873, she was delighted with what she found. She was travelling alone, which she knew was risky. This was untamed country of fur-trappers, gold prospectors and cattle ranchers. But she had an insatiable curiosity about life and people, and she was an excellent horsewoman. Within a few days of her arrival, she was comfortably installed in a log cabin on a ranch managed by a Welshman named Griff Evans.

But Isabella was never one to sit and warm her hands by the fire when there were adventures to be had. She lost no time in getting herself acquainted with her neighbours, and one of them was a notorious outlaw named Rocky Mountain Jim. She walked up the valley to find his cabin, where she discovered piles of animal pelts and deer antlers around the door.

'It mattered not,' remembered Isabella, 'that it was the home, or rather den, of a notorious "ruffian" or "desperado"... I longed to speak to some one who loved the mountains.'

When Jim emerged from his cabin, Isabella saw that he was a heavily-built man of about 45, only a few years older than herself. He wore a ragged hunting suit, and a revolver protruded from his coat pocket. Isabella's gaze, however, was riveted on his face. From one side, he was strikingly handsome; but the other side of his face was horribly disfigured and one eye was missing, the result of a close encounter with a grizzly bear many years ago. While Isabella hesitated, Jim raised his cap and asked if he



could be of assistance. She asked if she might have a glass of water, and he brought her a drink in a battered tin can. So began the most unlikely of friendships.

Isabella was always ready for a challenge and set her heart on climbing a 14,200-foot mountain known as Long's Peak. She asked Jim to be her guide and they set off on a journey that would take several days. Sitting around a camp fire in the evenings, they sang, told stories and recited poetry. Isabella was in her element. She wrote: 'The long shadows of the pines lay upon the frosted grass, an aurora leaped fitfully, and the moonlight, though intensely bright, was pale beside the red, leaping flames of our pine logs...'. At the summit of the mountain, Jim and Isabella placed their names in a tin which they secreted into a crevice, and started back down. They arrived home just days before winter closed in.

Over the next few months, Isabella developed a fondness for Jim, although he had dark moods and she knew he had a violent past. She wrote: 'He made me promise to keep one or two things secret whether he were living or dead, and I promised, for I had no choice; but they come between me and the sunshine sometimes, and I wake at night to think of them.'

Jim made Isabella a proposal of marriage. Isabella, heartbroken but adamant, refused. He was, she admitted, a man whom any woman could love, but no woman could marry. She knew her stay in Colorado had to come to an end. Sadly, Jim escorted her out of Estes Park and bade her farewell on her long journey back to Britain. In July 1874, Isabella received news that Jim had been shot dead in a drunken brawl.

After her Rocky Mountain adventure, Isabella's career as an explorer, photographer and travel writer took her all over the world, including much of Asia and the Far East. She was briefly married to a surgeon from Edinburgh named John Bishop, but she was widowed within five years. Rocky Mountain Jim was undoubtedly the love of her life.

In her book, *A Lady's Life in the Rocky Mountains*, Isabella described her time in the Wild West and managed to maintain her reputation as a respectable woman traveller even in the censorious Victorian era. In 1890, Isabella Bird was made the first female Fellow of the Royal Scottish Geographical Society. For more information about RSGS, visit www.rsgs.org

Nature, old cust

Morvern Lines

IAIN THORNER

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This week's Morvern Lines is something of a mixed bag – others might say a bit of a burach but I hope it will be of interest.

On the back of my recent columns on eagles and adders, an Outer Isles correspondent writes: 'I recall a story about my great grandfather, who was sole tenant of the Island of Wiay on the east side of Benbecula, finding a lamb among his flock of 450 sheep, that had someone else's ear mark. His were the only sheep on the island and he knew that the ear mark did not belong to any neighbours on mainland Benbecula. The conclusion was that an eagle, of which there were a number nesting in the area, had carried the lamb across the Minch from Skye.'

Then, just yesterday, a lady who was born and brought up in North Uist, mentioned among other things, a story told by her late father about an infant being buried close to a turf dyke between Carinish and Eaval. The infant had apparently been found there after being carried away from his or her mother by a golden eagle'.

The story of the incident on Wiay reminded me of finding a fresh smolt in Kiel graveyard about a mile above Lochaline. Scratching my head as to how on earth it could have got there, a helicopter flew overhead with a bucket suspended below it taking young fish from a fresh water station to a fish farm in the Sound of Mull. Either the fish was unusually lively or the bucket was so full that it flopped out. Whatever it was a tasty morsel.

On the subject of fish, I have just read how the Canadian government is helping thousands of sockeye and chinook salmon to overcome an impassable waterfall blocking the route to their spawning grounds on the Fraser River in British Columbia. Fears of local extinction have grown since a massive rock fall creating a 20ft cataract that the fish are unable to leap. New technology in the form of a gigantic cannon has been ingeniously placed through which the fish will be propelled out of and over the waterfall, tails flapping, to continue upstream unharmed. Just what is required on many Highland rivers to improve the fishing. Trust the New World to come up with a solution while we Brits continue to sit and grumble.

I mentioned adders on Carna, Loch Sunart, in my column of April 30 forgetting that I had had



a letter published sometime ago about Willie Mackay, the island's late tenant, losing a cow with a suspected adder bite to the udder.

This brought a personal letter from Michael Carmichael, the well kent Fort William vet, who wrote: 'I was surprised to see a statement attributed to you that a number of people have lost cows in the peninsula through adder bites during the past 50 years. In the 35 years from 1947, during which I ran the practice, I do not remember any authenticated cases of adder bite in cows, and certainly no deaths. Some cases of acute mastitis were wrongly blamed on adder bite, but none were bitten on the face, which is where it would be suspected in a grazing animal. In this time I remember two cases of adder bite in dogs, both on the face, but neither fatal.'

'It is generally recognised that an adder bite is not strong enough to kill anything larger than a child or a dog – not even a man, let alone a cow. I know that unscientific farmers are much




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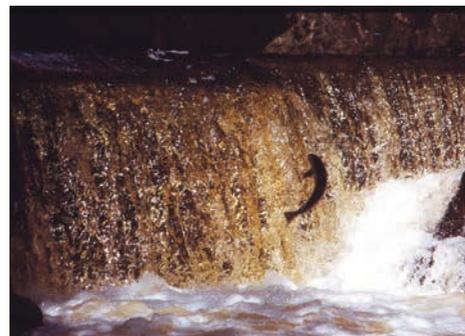
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toms and earthquakes



Is the Corran ferry to be replaced by a tunnel or a bridge? If so how will it be funded in a global recession? Photograph Iain Thornber
The Canadian government is assisting thousands of salmon to overcome an impassable waterfall blocking the route to their spawning grounds, above. Why can't Scottish river owners do their bit?

open gate leading into a postage-stamp sized lawn. Hallelujah! I shot in, wiped my hands across the moist grass, applied it, then shot out again but not before catching sight of a very large tom cat sitting grinning at me!

Now that a proposal to build a tunnel or a bridge to replace the popular and much loved ferry plying between Nether Lochaber and Ardgour has presented itself again, a head line in a national newspaper caught my attention, 'Land wobble may be early warning of huge quakes'. Apparently earth scientists have recorded unusual shifts in the earth's tectonic plates worldwide which accounted for the quake and tsunami that killed more than 15,000 people in 2011 and led to the Fukushima nuclear disaster.

Any fixed-link over Loch Linnhe, of which the Corran Narrows form a part, crosses the Great Glen Fault. The fault has a long movement history and although it is mostly inactive today, occasional moderate tremors have been recorded over the past 150 years which meant that seismic buffers had to be built into the Kessock Bridge carrying the A9 out of Inverness.

The Highland Council's consultant engineers are in denial about seismic activity being a problem at Corran, but I know how I would prefer to be crossing the narrows should there be an earthquake even if the old ferry does needs a rest now and again – at least I can get onto a life-raft and make for the shore.



Down Memory Lane photograph jogs many memories

Down Memory Lane this week has the presentation picture at the Oban Fire station, writes Campbell Cameron.

The 'retained' firemen (local volunteers) getting the presentation (centre) are both Lismore men – Archie 'Skinny' MacGillivray and Archie MacColl.

This was the Strathclyde Fire Service days and the fireman on the left is Adam MacCracken, the Oban Fire master of the time. The hirsute gent second right is the regional councillor for Lorn and Mull – The Late Councillor Iain Bell.

Archie and Skinny are great Lismore characters – both are sheep farmers and pillars of the community. Skinny was a terrific athlete in his day, running hill races at the Highland Games. Both have been great ploughmen at the local vintage tractor ploughing matches around North Lorn over the years. Beth Campbell of Hope Kitchen and a Liosach by birth will tell you more about those fine Lismore men.

Iain was a great friend and my predecessor on the Strathclyde Regional Council before reorganisation. He came from Glasgow and settled on Mull after a sponsored hike in up through Glen Coe and down through Glen Etive to highlight the folly of a plan to consider burying nuclear waste in the hills by Loch Etive – I kid you not!

Iain got the chance to represent the area along with four others from Argyll and Bute in 1990 from memory, on the 104 strong Strathclyde Regional Council – the largest council in Europe. His term ended with his retirement in 1994 having married Lee, an American teacher, and deciding to settle in the states. Tragically Iain was killed in a wild water rafting accident shortly after settling in the states and his ashes were scattered by Lee in Oban bay on a fine summer evening.

His legacy is that nuclear waste was never deposited underground after he played a leading part in the campaign for it to be kept at source – at Sellafeld and Dounrae.

inclined to attribute sudden death or illness to exotic causes. If you have any reliable reports of cattle being killed, or even affected by adder bite I should be really interested to hear about them.'

The first cuckoo was heard in Morvern at least a week earlier this year. So far they have never failed to turn up despite having to brave thunderstorms and sandstorms during their 4,000 mile journey from West Africa.

We know from the British Trust for Ornithology's nine-year tagging study, that one made the flight in only seven days instead of the customary two to three weeks. Carlton II, who is at least two years old, was tagged in 2018. The tracking study, which started in 2011, is providing ornithologists with an insight into the migratory cycle to better understand the rapid decline of the species. Apparently Britain has lost three quarters of its breeding cuckoos. Even if they do get on your nerves with their constant calling, enjoy the sound, make the most of it,

they may not be around for very much longer. Doubtless global warming will be blamed, but I think it is the loss of their favoured habitat to great swathes of all enveloping and destructive commercial forestry practice.

Writing this on May 1 reminds me of my grandmother who knew all the old customs associated with that date but there is one in particular I will never forget.

Some of the oldest May Day traditions are connected with dew. According to folklore, dew on May 1 has magical properties and anyone who washes their face in it will have a flawless complexion for the remainder of the year.

Well no amount of face-washing in May ever did anything for my face over the years but I still do it, although on one occasion I wished I'd forgotten. It so happened I was in central London when I suddenly remembered Granny's words. But where was I going to find a nice piece of grass? Walking along Euston Road I spied an



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National Mod dates to 2024 confirmed

Following its decision to postpone the planned 2020 Royal National Mod in Inverness until October 2021, event organiser An Comunn Gaidhealach has now confirmed that a reorganisation of the schedule of host venues up to 2024 has been agreed.

This year's Mod in Inverness will now take place between October 8-16 (2021), the dates for the other host areas are to be as follows: Perth, October 14-22 (2022); Paisley, October 13-21 (2023); Oban, October 2024 (dates TBC when 2024 school term dates available).

An Comunn President, Allan Campbell, said: 'I wish to thank the leaders and officers of all hosting councils for their understanding and support in agreeing the amended programme for these National Mods, and we look forward to events which will benefit their respective communities and our Gaelic language and culture.'

Spoonvilles create a stir from Mull to Melbourne

by Ellis Butcher
ebutcher@obantimes.co.uk

A Facebook craze borne out of lockdown boredom has created a 'stir' from Mull to Australia. 'Spoonville,' planting colourful wooden spoon characters in green spaces has given residents in Craignure, a chuckle during the pandemic.

And since news broke of Scotland's first Spoonville on Mull, the trend has spread across the island to Bunessan, Tobermory and Salen.

The idea started last month – 500 miles away in the Berkshire village of Winnersh.

The photographs caught the eye of Mull mum Helen Dewar who used to live five miles from Winnersh, but now lives in Craignure.

Keen to do something creative with daughter Ella, 14, they set



Helen Dewar and her daughter Ella got the Spoonville craze off to a great start on Mull, which has put a smile on lots of local faces.



about creating the first 'Scottish division' of Spoonville.

The first residents were the Spoonville Mayor – modelled on Ella's granddad, Richard,

who lives on Mull. He was joined by Taylor Spoon, based on pop star Taylor Swift, along with random 'spoonites' Sylvie and Fredo. The colourful four-

some were placed on a grassy recreation area and the trend took off, with local youngsters keen to add to the population.

Donald Trump has now moved in, joined by Spongebob Square Spoon, Elsa from Frozen, Bart Simspoon and Django, modelled on a local dog. Reese With-a-Spoon has yet to turn up!

Helen, aged 43, said she was lucky to have had so many spare wooden spoons buried in the kitchen drawer, as it meant she didn't have to 'fork' out for new ones.

She said: "Everyone is getting involved now. People enjoy walking past it or driving by to see who's new."

So as not to put anyone at risk, the 'rules of Spoonville' have been put on display to ensure everyone plants their spoons during their hour-long exercise

and that they don't touch the residents.

A new Facebook page called Spoonville International, has been set up by Helen.

Down under, former Mull resident Junelle Wilson, a friend of Karen's, has now opened the Australia branch in her home town of Longwarry, Victoria, near Melbourne.

The pair have also tracked down Karen Vass, the original South East creator as Spoonville-mania spreads from country to country.

Needless to say, the media has been keen to get the 'scoop'.

Helen was interviewed live on BBC Radio Berkshire and has also featured in the local paper serving Winnersh.

She insists that while many across the world struggle with lockdown, it does not mean spoons have to social distance!

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Robert in lockdown!

ROBERT ROBERTSON

robert.d.robertson@hotmail.co.uk



When I wrote my article last week, Tide Lines were making a bid for the UK top 40.

My Dad promised me, if we achieved this goal, that he would allow me to use his new lawn mower. This was a far bigger motivation than it might seem for reasons I will divulge shortly but, to build suspense, let me explain a little about the first week of an album release.

For independent artists, it is a long week in which you expect to chart impressively at the beginning (thanks to initial sales on release day) and then be overtaken as the week progresses by world famous acts backed to the hilt by major record labels and promotion campaigns.

Remarkably, and beyond our own expectations, we held our own until the end-of-week charts were announced on Friday, and finished number 12 in the UK.

We were number 1 in Scotland for the week and also number 1 in the Independent chart.

Over the weekend, I did interviews on our chart position for the Record, the Sun, BBC Scotland, BBC Caribbean, an indie radio station in Hawaii, and even BBC Phuket! I would in fact go as far to say that I haven't had as much media attention since I won the Mòd Gold Medal in Paisley 2013!! But the main source of satisfaction was that it meant I could finally use my Dad's new lawn mower.

Readers will be only too aware of the hours of toil and struggle I have endured during lockdown pacing up and down the garden pushing my Dad's heavy lawn mower after the drive belt broke. It was with great excitement, therefore, that his new mower finally arrived last week. No



The band held onto the number 1 slot in Scotland last week following the new album's release and also number 1 in the Independent chart.

more sweat and tears. Just a nice leisurely stroll leaving smoothly and evenly cut grass in my wake. The only catch being that the arrival of the new mower rekindled all my Dad's grass-cutting enthusiasm and he refused to let me anywhere near it!

It gave him a new lease of life; a fresh burst of freedom! And, for a few dream-like hours, the bonds of lockdown were broken as he flew up and down the lawn turning it into something which, in his mind's eye, I am sure resembled centre court at Wimbledon.

During quarantine, one must grasp the simple joys when one can get them. It became clear to me that my only hope of ever wrestling back control of the lawn mower lay in my dad's wager. I accepted his challenge to make the top 40 and I am glad I did. Not only is this a lovely feather to be added to the Tide Lines cap, or even a wonderful example of the support of our amazing

7	3	THE BONNY GERRY CONNAMEN LITTLE BUNAWAY	1
8	8	DIAMONDS ELLOR JOHN MEGROPHONE	6
9	9	NO 6 COLLABORATIONS PROJECT BY SHESSAN AYUM	1
10	7	AFTER HOURS WICKIE REPUBLIC RECORDING	1
11	New	QUARANTINE - THE LOST FILES YOUSI BANG DISTURBANCE LONDON/PARLOPHONE	11
12	New	EYE OF THE STORM TISE LINES TIDE LINES MUSIC	12
13	10	GREATEST HITS GREEN VIRGIN	1

fans who tirelessly spread the word about the record, it has won me control of the hallowed new lawn mower. Except that, ever since the charts were announced, it has done nothing but rain! Perhaps next week...

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M'ALBA

MY ALBA

DIARDAOIN 14 An Cèitean THURSDAY 14 May

- 17:00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
- 19:00 Vets: Gach Creutair Beò (rpt)
- 19:30 Speaking Our Language (rpt)
- 19:55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)
- 20:00 An Là – News
- 20:30 ÙR/NEW: An Taigh-Fuine/The Bakery
- 21:00 DIY le Donnie (rpt)
- 21:45 Belladrum 2016: Cridhe Tartan – Gruff Rhys (rpt)
- 22:00 ÙR/NEW: Aig Baile Le Julie Fowlis – Couch Music
- 22:30 Ameireaga air Film (rpt)
- 23:15 ÙR/NEW: Binneas na Trads
- 23:25 Eadar Chluich (rpt)
- 23:30 FUNC (rpt)

DIHAOINE 15 An Cèitean FRIDAY 15 May

- 17:00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
- 18:35 Machair (rpt)
- 19:00 An Là – News
- 19:25 Fraochy Bay (rpt)
- 19:30 Fianais (rpt)
- 20:00 Ceolmhor@Piping Live (rpt)
- 20:30 Kerry is Kirsty: Asainnte (rpt)
- 21:00 Around Scotland: Hebrides (rpt)
- 22:00 The Flatey Enigma (rpt)
- 22:50 Binneas na Trads (rpt)
- 23:00 ALT (rpt)

DISATHAIRNE 16 An Cèitean SATURDAY 16 May

- 16:00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
- 17:45 An Là – News
- 18:00 ÙR/NEW: Spors – Scottish Junior Cup 2010-2014
- 19:00 Mach a Seo (rpt)
- 19:30 Fianais (rpt)
- 20:00 Machair (rpt)
- 20:25 Fraochy Bay (rpt)
- 20:30 Leugh Mi (rpt)
- 21:00 ALT (rpt)

- 22:00 Ameireaga air Film/America in Colour (rpt)
 - 22:45 ÙR/NEW: Celtic Connections (BBC ALBA Shorts)
 - 22:55 ÙR/NEW: Celtic Connections (BBC ALBA Shorts)
 - 23:00 Spors – Scottish Junior Cup 2010-2014 (rpt)
 - 00:00 Belladrum 2019 (Highlights) (rpt)
- ### DIDÒMHNAICH 17 An Cèitean SUNDAY 17 May
- 16:00 Scottish Junior Cup Final 2018 – Auchinleck Talbot v Hurlford United (rpt)
 - 18:30 An Là – News
 - 18:45 Celtic Connections (BBC ALBA Shorts)
 - 18:50 Celtic Connections (BBC ALBA Shorts)
 - 19:00 Ar N-Aran Làitheil/ Spiritual Service (rpt)
 - 19:35 Sorchar nan Reul (rpt)
 - 20:05 Aig Taigh-Fuine/The Bakery (rpt)
 - 20:35 Dealbhan Fraoich (rpt)
 - 21:05 Call air Cladach Ile (The Loss on Islay's Shore) (rpt)
 - 22:05 ALT (rpt)
 - 23:05 The Flatey Enigma (rpt)
 - 23:55 Dhan Uisge (rpt)

DILUAIN 18 An Cèitean MONDAY 18 May

- 17:00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
- 19:00 Puirt-adhair (Highland Airports) (rpt)
- 19:30 Speaking Our Language (rpt)
- 19:55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)
- 20:00 An Là – News
- 20:30 Kerry is Kirsty: Srath Narann (rpt)
- 21:00 Trusadh – Tha Aonarachd Gar Marbhadh (rpt)
- 22:00 Iul a' Chiuil – An Ceol (The Musical Path – The Music) (rpt)
- 22:30 Farpaisean Chon-Chaorach (rpt)
- 23:30 Aig Baile Le Julie Fowlis – Couch Music (rpt)

DIMÀIRT 19 An Cèitean TUESDAY 19 May

- 17:00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
- 19:00 Vets: Gach Creutair Beò (rpt)
- 19:30 Speaking Our Language (rpt)

- 19:55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)
- 20:00 An Là – News
- 20:30 ÙR/NEW: Dealbhan Fraoich
- 21:00 Steelmen (rpt)
- 22:00 Trusadh – Tha Aonarachd Gar Marbhadh (rpt)
- 23:00 Ceolmhor@Piping Live (rpt)
- 23:30 Sorchar nan Reul (rpt)

DICIADAIN 20 An Cèitean WEDNESDAY 20 May

- 17:00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
- 19:00 Puirt-adhair (Highland Airports) (rpt)
- 19:30 Speaking Our Language (rpt)
- 19:55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)
- 20:00 An Là – News
- 20:30 ÙR/NEW: Leugh Mi
- 21:00 ÙR/NEW: Opry le Daniel
- 21:50 Dhan Uisge (
- 22:00 FUNC (rpt)
- 22:30 Iul a' Chiuil – An Ceol (The Musical Path – The Music) (rpt)
- 23:00 DIY le Donnie (rpt)
- 23:45 Belladrum – Cridhe Tartan - Highlights (rpt)

DIARDAOIN 21 An Cèitean THURSDAY 21 May

- 17:00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
- 19:05 Vets: Gach Creutair Beò (rpt)
- 19:35 Speaking Our Language (rpt)
- 20:00 An Là – News
- 20:30 ÙR/NEW: An Taigh-Fuine/The Bakery
- 21:00 DIY le Donnie (rpt)
- 21:45 Belladrum 2016: Cridhe Tartan – Rachel Sermanni (rpt)
- 22:00 ÙR/NEW: Aig Baile Le Julie Fowlis – Couch Music
- 22:30 Ameireaga air Film (rpt)
- 23:15 ÙR/NEW: Binneas na Trads
- 23:25 Fraochy Bay (rpt)
- 23:30 FUNC (rpt)



BBC.CO.UK/ALBA | BBC.CO.UK/IPLAYER

Co-bhanntachd eadar MG ALBA agus am BBC | A partnership between BBC and MG ALBA

HIGHLAND FASTENERS LTD

Please call
01631 570584

TEMPORARY
REDUCED HOURS
Mon - Fri 8am - 1pm

Highland Fasteners Ltd, 23-25 Stevenson Street, Oban, Argyll
01631 570584 e-mail sales@highlandfasteners.com

Are you a family or individual facing financial difficulties due to Covid 19?

We can provide you with an emergency pack of food and/or toiletries from Hope Kitchen. These can be collected or delivered.

To access this free, confidential service please ring
01631 565730.



XpoNorth digital edition announced

Creative advisors XpoNorth will launch a digital edition of their 2020 conference which will take place across the original dates of Wednesday 24 and Thursday 25 June.

Having reimagined their physical delivery, the group have been working hard to design a highly immersive conference experience – offering attendees, partners and participants a host of interactive touchpoints across our content suite.

At a time where it is essential the creative, digital and heritage sectors come together to discuss their common welfare through a short and long-term lens, XpoNorth will offer unique access to leading industry insights and discuss the overriding theme of how they can individually and collectively adapt to this unprecedented impact on the industry.

As well as conference content, the virtual experience will include dedicated training spaces, networking opportunities, specialist advice sessions, showcasing hubs and social spaces.

Cafe cravings call for baking a-la-Roxy's

by Fiona Scott
fscott@obantimes.co.uk



This week's recipe came to us via book publisher and children's author Alan Windram who is keeping himself busy during lockdown by opening up a new chapter in his kitchen in Kilchrenan.

Along with his wife Susan, our editor here at the Oban Times, Alan set up Little Door Books in 2016 and the pair decided early on that they wanted to champion the work of new, exciting and undiscovered talent.

A key feature of their titles is working with named authors, partnering them with emerging illustrators.

Alan has had two picture books series published – Mac and Bob, based on the character he played in children's touring theatre, and One Button Benny.

The first in his One Button



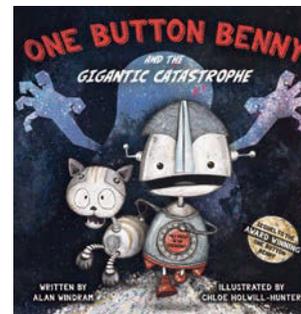
Kilchrenan author Alan Windram has been managing his lemon fudge cravings thanks to Roxy's owner Donna MacCulloch; Alan's new book is out on August 7.

Benny series, won the Bookbug Picture Book Prize last year, while the second book, One Button Benny and the Gigantic Catastrophe, which was due to be published on May 4, is on hold until August 7.

In the meantime Alan has

been improving his culinary skills, with a little help from his favourite coffee and cake establishment in Oban, Roxy's Coffee and Tea House in Argyll Square.

'The owner Donna kindly gave me her Lemon Fudge



recipe as I was really missing my twice weekly visits to the cafe for my fix,' said Alan.

This lemon fudge slice is a sweet and tasty treat that needs no baking at all. Enjoy.

Ingredients

The rind of 3 lemons
Tin condensed milk
200g digestive biscuits – McVities works best
200g desiccated coconut
250g salted butter
Icing sugar – quite a lot!
Lemon juice from 2 lemons

Method

Whizz up or finely crush digestives, I put them in a bag then roll with rolling pin to crush them.

Put in a large bowl with condensed milk and desiccated coconut, mix together then add melted butter. Mix well then grease a rectangular baking tin, put in mixture spread smooth to a level.

Chill in fridge for an hour till firm to touch.

In a separate bowl grate 3 lemon rinds and add juice of 1 lemon to start with and about 5 heaped tbl spoons icing sugar. Keep adding icing sugar and little bits of lemon juice till a firm but spreadable mixture of lemon icing.

Spread icing over the chilled base and leave in fridge overnight.

Send your recipes, a photograph and a wee description of yourself, to editor@oban-times.co.uk

Coronavirus

BID4Oban are working to provide information to the business community of Oban as regularly as possible.

We are working with our Key Partners Argyll & Bute Council, Business Gateway, AITC and OLTA on a daily basis.



To enable us to keep in touch, please follow BID4Oban on **Love Oban Facebook page** and website www.bid4oban.co.uk for regular updates.

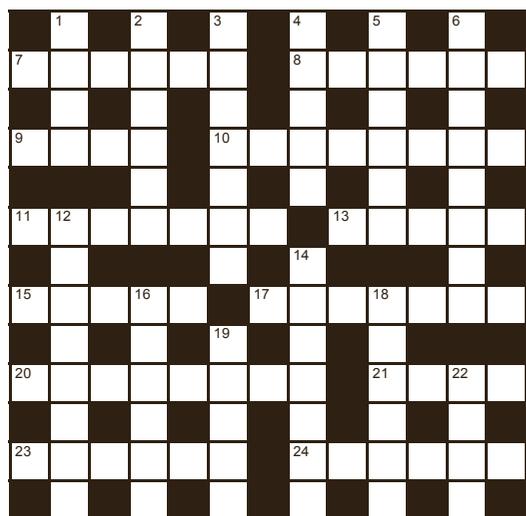
Email info@bid4oban.co.uk



Oban Business Improvement District
www.bid4oban.co.uk



Crossword



- Across**
- 7 Alternative lifestyle (3,3)
 - 8 Feline seen in Africa (3,3)
 - 9 Potpourri (4)
 - 10 Talent (8)
 - 11 Liquid squeezer (7)
 - 13 Taking advantage of (5)
 - 15 The other side (5)
 - 17 Flat and expansive (7)
 - 20 Practicing loan shark (8)
 - 21 Whip mark (4)
 - 23 Foolish behaviour (6)
 - 24 Supplement (6)
- Down**
- 1 Shut up (4)
 - 2 Strand (6)
 - 3 After the event (7)
 - 4 Weaken (5)
 - 5 Small types (6)
 - 6 Large printed hankerchief (8)
 - 12 The area next to the boxing arena (8)
 - 14 Toast (7)
 - 18 Not prudent (6)
 - 19 Projecting growth (5)
 - 22 Pastry ingredient (4)

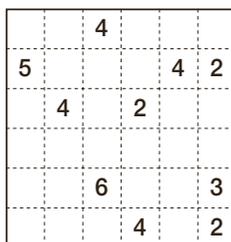
Quiz Challenge

1. Which chemical element has the symbol B?
2. The tenor Wynne Evans is most associated with which two words?
3. Who, since 2011, has played DCI John Barnaby in the TV drama Midsomer Murders?
4. 'Open secret' and 'seriously funny' are examples of which commonly used figure of speech?
5. Which European port has the same name as a UK top 10 hit for the band Beautiful South?
6. What is a mode of transport and a kick in rugby?
7. Jeremy Corbyn represents which parliamentary constituency?
8. Actress Lisa Faulkner is married to which Australian chef?
9. In 2015, which female journalist succeeded Nick Robinson as the political editor of BBC News?
10. The putting green in the grounds of the White House is named after which US president?



Lisa Faulkner - see Question 8

BOX CLEVER



Fill the 6x6 grid with as many boxes as there are numbers printed. Each box must be either square or rectangular and must contain just one of the numbers. The numbers show how many squares there should be in each box.

COMMON LINK

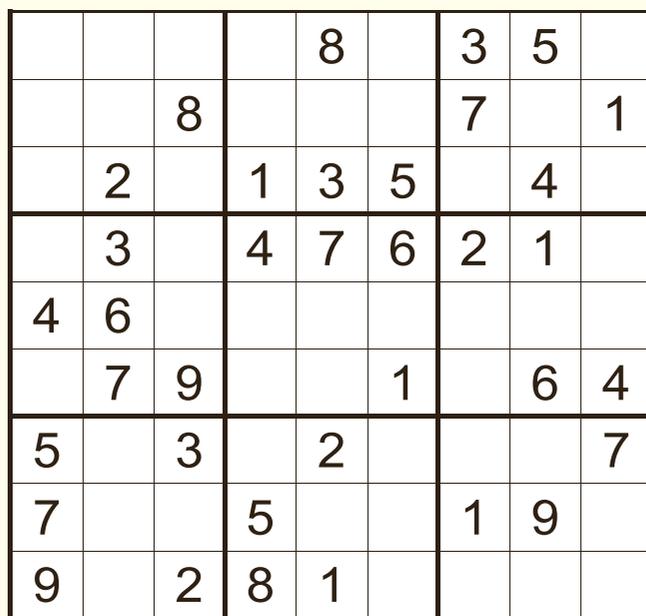
The answers to the following five questions contain a word or words which have a common theme. Can you find the link?

1. What was the name of the racecourse betting operation sold to Betfred in 2011?
2. What name is given to a cluster of bananas?
3. What drink is traditionally made from spirits, water, sugar, lemon juice and spice?
4. Which national publication, founded by Lord Northcliffe in 1896, was the first British newspaper to sell a million copies a day?
5. 'Good Vibrations' and 'I Get Around' were hit songs for which American rock band?

SUDOKU

Each row and each column must contain the numbers 1 to 9, and so must each 3 x 3 box.

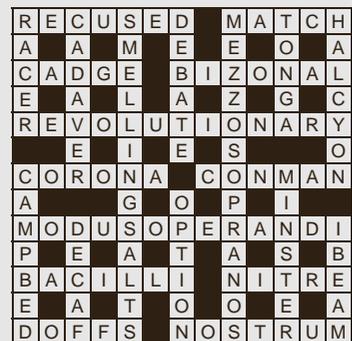
Easy



SOLUTIONS



LAST WEEK'S XWORD SOLUTION



BOX CLEVER

EASY SUDOKU

Common link:
 5 The Beach Boys
 4 The Daily Mail
 3 Punch
 2 A hand
 1 The Tote

LINK

COMMON

QUIZ CHALLENGE
 1 Boron, 2 Go Compare, 3 Neil Dudgeon, 4 Oxymeron, 5 Rotherham, 6 Punt, 7 Islington North, 8 John Torode, 9 Laura Kuenssberg, 10 President Eisenhower



YOUR LOCAL RADIO LISTINGS

Tune in to 103.3Fm or listen live at www.obanfm.scot or on the Tuneln app

In these unprecedented times Oban Fm are maintaining Breakfast and Drivetime shows with a Covid19 News update in each. This helps keep our volunteers and listeners safe and healthy

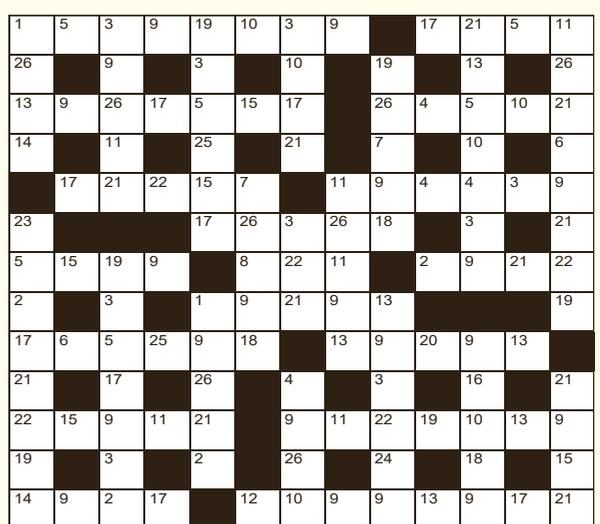
We are broadcasting these hours in association with BID4OBAN and the Oban Times, supported by the Scotland's Towns Partnership. Providing resilience for our local business community.

The Oban Times podcast airs as usual on Wednesday Drivetime and Argyll Talking Newspapers appears through the week.

Radio Clyde 2 will keep you entertained with your favourite hits and National news too.

	Breakfast 8am-10am	Drive Time 5pm-7pm
Monday	Stephen	Marcus
Tuesday	Stephen	Karen
Wednesday	Stephen	Campbell
Thursday	Andy and Sarah	Stephen
Friday	Stephen	Margo

CROSS CODE



ABCDEFGHIJKLMN OPQRSTUVWXYZ

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	P	12	13	R
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	I	23	24	25	26	

Each number in the Cross Code grid represents a different letter of the alphabet. You have three letters in the control grid to start you off. Enter them in the appropriate squares in the main grid, then use your knowledge of words to work out which letters should go in the missing squares.

As you get the letters, fill in other squares with the same number in the main grid and control grid. Check off the alphabetical list of letters as you identify them.



Varied, vibrant, exciting and regularly changing range of beers from Scotland and beyond.

Tel: 07796 418973

The Oban Beer Seller

Oban Beer Seller

Here's how it works:

Email me at obanbeerseller@gmail.com for the current stocklist

Order before 6pm and I'll supply the next day!

The extensive range includes *STEWART BREWING, OVERTONE, BODEN, RIDE, BIG DROP, VOCATION, TEMPEST, GLEN AFFRIC, BREW YORK, BREW TOON, BUXTON, 71 BREWING, CLOUDWATER, ARBOR, CROSS BORDERS, POLLY'S BREW, TINY REBEL, THE KERNEL, WYLAM, GIPSY HILL, PILOT, NORTHERN MONK and many more.*

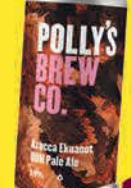
Our customers are loving it...you will too!

Fantastic selection, friendly helpful staff. Definitely got the WOW factor!
 Just what Oban needs. 5 star. MacColl.
 Karen has done a fantastic job of sourcing a huge selection of beers to satisfy all tastes. A Ross.
 Got my first delivery today and now looking forward to weekend of beer tasting!
 Great service. H McNeill

Stock up on an amazing collection of beer that you won't find in the Supermarket

Stay safe and enjoy!

*Proof of legal age required at time of delivery





OPEN FOR BUSINESS

We are publishing this information in association with BID4OBAN and ObanFM, supported by the Scotland's Towns Partnership. Helping to provide resilience for our local business community. Many of these businesses are working under extreme pressure to bring quality products and services to the people of Oban and beyond. Please remember to exercise caution when shopping and only shop for essential supplies. Along with our wonderful NHS staff and carers, our local food, fuel, news platforms and home supply businesses are our community champions!

We realise that many more businesses would love to be open, serving locals and visitors alike – our deepest empathy goes out to these businesses and we look forward to seeing their doors wide open when this is all over.

Please feel free to get in touch with us if you would like to feature your business, or know a business that should be included. Email nmurphy@obantimes.co.uk or get in touch via our Facebook page on messenger. Let's spread the word as much as we can!

SUPERMARKETS & FOODHALLS

Most superstores in town are operating crowd control measures to help manage social distancing and product quantity limits are in place. They are working tirelessly to restock shelves daily. Please be patient and kind.

TESCO

Mon-Sat 8am-10pm
Sunday 10am-8pm
Older, Vulnerable Customers - Mon, Wed, & Fri 9am-10am
NHS Staff Tesco Staff - Tues, Thurs & Sun 9am -10am
Petrol Filling Station shop is closed but you will still be able to pay at the hatch.

LIDL

9 Soroba Rd, Oban
Mon-Sat 8am-10pm
Sun 8am-8pm

ALDI

Mon-Sat 9am-7pm
Sunday 9am-6pm
All day everyday key workers in the NHS, Police and Fire Service will take priority ahead of queues into stores upon showing a valid ID. This is in addition to early access on a Sunday, where they can enter stores 30 minutes prior to opening.
• 4 units on all products
• 2 units per customer on nappies and baby products
• 12 units per online order on wines or spirits, 4 units instore.

MARKS AND SPENCER

Mon-Fri 8am-8pm
Sat 8am-7pm
Sun 9am-6pm
Older & Vulnerable Customers Mon & Thurs 8am-9am
NHS & Emergency services Tues & Fri 8am - 9am

FARMFOODS

Mon-Fri 8am-8pm
Sat 8am-7pm
Sun 9am-6pm

BOOKERS CASH AND CARRY

Booker in Oban are still supplying retailers and caterers throughout Oban and Argyll both through normal collect and existing delivered business.
Open hours as follows:
Mon-Fri 7.30am-3.00pm
Sat 7.30am-2.00pm
Sunday Closed
Social distancing measures are in place with hand sanitiser for customer and colleague use to ensure we remain as safe as possible whilst trading through this situation.

LOCAL FRESH FOOD & DRINK SUPPLIERS

Argyll has a unique natural larder and a range of passionate artisans and suppliers to choose from. With home deliveries too!

JACKSON BUTCHERS

Opening Hours
Monday - Closed
Tuesday to Friday 9am - 4pm
Saturday 9am - 2pm

Offering FREE home delivery to Oban - daily
Kilmore and Dunbeg - Wednesday
Connel, North Connel to Appin Thursday
Card Payments preferred. Call the shop on 01631 562016 to place your order. We are open for customers who wish to visit the shop.
Also taking phone orders for collection.

IAIN DARLING/WYNNE BUTCHERS

9am-3pm
To place orders call 01631 567400
Cards payments preferred

TASTE OF ARGYLL

Mon-Sat 9am-4pm
Deliveries
OBAN & KILMORE - Daily
TAYNUILT - Tuesday
BENDERLOCH & BARCALDINE - Friday
To place your order call 07882226675.
Fresh and frozen fish, meats, veg, milk, breads, jams, coffees, soaps, flours, pasta, cakes, etc...
*Pre ordered ready meals available

MILLSTONE WHOLEFOODS

Closed but orders can be made by phoning 01631 562704
Orders will be gathered, payment is taken via phone call.
Orders can be collected from the shop between 9.30am-2pm, Mon-Sat.
Delivery can be arranged.

OBAN BEER SELLER

Shop closed but order before 6pm for next day supply
- email obanbeerseller@gmail.com for current list of stock
0779 6418973

OBAN FOOD HUB

Order by midnight Tuesday for pick up Thurs 4pm-6pm at the Rockfield Centre
***VERY IMPORTANT NOTICE: COLLECTION @ ROCKFIELD CENTRE**
If you are collecting a veg or fruit box from Go Naked Veg tomorrow please bring a bag to take your veg/fruit home in. Due to the phenomenal amount of orders there are not enough boxes. Check out the Oban Food Hub Facebook page for strict guidelines on collection and delivery.

TASTE OF ARGYLL KITCHEN

From Langoustine Curry to Highland Beefburgers - lots in between
Friday night deliveries (free to Oban, £3 on outskirts)
Tel: 07882226675

FROM CRATE TO GATE (THE OBAN INN)

Drinks supplies - for full menu see Oban Inn Facebook page
Home deliveries daily

TAKE-AWAY FOOD

Featured take-away food businesses are offering collection or delivery. Collections require strict adherence to social distancing regulations with maximum 2 people entering the outlet at any one time:

GEORGE STREET FISH RESTAURANT AND TAKE-AWAY

Open 12pm-8pm daily
Tel 01631 566664
Take-away only

OBAN GRILLHOUSE

Open 7 days, 5pm-11pm
Tel: 01631 358246
Collection or delivery

CORIANDER

Fri, Sat, Sun from 5pm
Tel: 01631 570806
Collection or delivery

PIAZZA

From 5.30pm, Thurs-Sun
Tel: 01631 563628
Collection or delivery

TASTE OF ARGYLL KITCHEN

From Langoustine Curry to Highland Beefburgers - lots in between
Friday night deliveries (free to Oban, £3 on outskirts)
Tel: 07882226675

OBAN FILLING STATION

Hot filled rolls, pies and sausage rolls etc
Open 7am-6pm

BIRCHWOOD FILLING STATION

Hot filled rolls
Open 7am-6pm

BUILDING, TRADES, GARDENING & DIY

CITY PLUMBING SUPPLIES

Closed doors – phone and email orders only
EMERGENCY CALL OUT?
WE ARE HERE FOR YOU
WITH OVER 20,000 SPARE PARTS TO GET THE JOB DONE
Browse online at www.cityplumbing.co.uk
Please call 01631 567640 for free click and collect
Mon-Fri
Kerbside deliveries available
Tel: 01631 567640

CITY ELECTRICAL FACTORS

Closed doors but open Mon-Fri 8am-5.30pm
Telephone orders 01631 562362
Email: sales.oban@cef.co.uk
Along with the 5,000 unique lines we stock at the branch, our customers still have access to over 30,000 product lines from www.cef.co.uk
Delivery or collection

SCREWFIX

Essential supplies only
PPE equipment reserved for frontline personnel only
Click and Collect service only
Mon-Sat 8am-5pm, Sun 9am-4pm Sun
Tel: 03330 112112
www.screwfix.com

HIGHLAND FASTENERS

Mon-Fri, 8am-12pm
Essential supplies only
Tel: 01631 570584

HOWDEN'S JOINERY

Essential supplies for the trade, housing associations etc.
Closed doors but open 9-3 Mon-Fri via telephone/email.
Tel: 01631 567083
Email: oban@howdens.com

HOMEBASE OBAN

Open 10am-5pm daily
Card payment only
It would be useful if you could check the SKU code of the product you want from the website before coming to the store.

POPPIES GARDEN CENTRE

We are not open to the public however we are operating a order and collect service for the garden centre. We have been posting some of our stock on FB but it's difficult to show everything that's available. Most people know what they're after at this time of year and thankfully we have most of it in stock!
Orders can be placed by phone: 01631565718.
Email: sales@poppiesgardencentre.com
Or if preferred by messenger. Card details and a suitable pick up time can be arranged over the phone.

KINLOCHLAICH GARDEN CENTRE

We can deliver orders and can leave plants out for collection (see plant options on the Facebook page).
Orders via 07881525754 or email fiona@kinlochlaich.plus.com (Opens in new tab) plants include vegetables, fruit, compost, shrubs, rhods, azaleas, alpines, and bedding plants

CRAIGARD DECOR

open 9.00am - 1.00pm, Mon - Sat on an order, pay and collect basis only - no customers will be allowed in the shop at this point.
To place an order please telephone the shop on 01631 562680 or message us through Facebook. Or email tonycave@aol.com (Opens in new tab). For island services, where possible, Tony will liaise with local carriers for uplift and delivery.

GARAGES

RODDY'S GARAGE

Open but with limited staff.
Booking ahead by telephone required.
Tel: 01631 565882

KWIK FIT

NHS 10% discount on tyres, servicing and batteries
Click HERE for discount
Tel: 01631 566282

FLIT

Essential vehicle hire only for front line staff
Visit Flit self drive Facebook page
Email: flit@btconnect.com
Tel: 07810391753

KERRIE'S TYRES

We are staying open or available for anyone that needs assistance.
Open 9am-1pm contactable by phone thereafter
Tel: 07876762631

MCCONECHY'S

Open as usual: Mon-Fri 8.30am-5.30pm
Sat until 12.30pm
Tel: 01631 570047
Email oban@mcconechys.co.uk

MUNRO'S GARAGE

Must pre-book, no walk-ins
Tel: 01631 564463 to book your vehicles in.

MORRISON MOTORS

Long term vehicle rentals
Tel: 07825 581171

FIN'S PLACE

Open for essential servicing
Tyres, brakes, batteries etc
Tel: 01631 566 220 or 07766 757 013

TRAILWEST

Closed doors but open for essential services for repair plus new supply and hire to the agricultural industry by telephone. Tel: 01631 563638

LEGAL SERVICES

DM MACKINNON - SOLICITORS & NOTARIES

If you need to get in contact please call us on 01631 563 014. If you are put through to our answering machine, we will get back to you as soon as possible. Alternatively, please email us at info@dmmk.co.uk and your email will be directed to an appropriate member of staff who will respond to you at the earliest opportunity.

ANDERSON BANKS SOLICITORS & ESTATE AGENTS (OBAN AND BENBECULA)

Due to Government guidelines our offices are currently closed to the public but our staff are working remotely from home to continue to offer the highest level of service.
Contact us on our usual numbers for telephone appts or Skype/Facetime video calls can be arranged.
Contact us:
www.andersonbanks.co.uk
Anderson Banks Facebook page.
Oban Office: 01631 563158 Email: info@andersonbanks.co.uk
Benbecula office: 01870 602061 Email: uist@andersonbanks.co.uk

STEVENSON KENNEDY SOLICITORS

open for business as usual but our priority has to be the safety of our staff and clients. The office door is locked as recommended by the Authorities.
We are here for you and can be in touch by phone, mobile, Skype etc. We realise that life and business must go on. We can still meet by appointment and at a safe distance.
Stay safe and well, Gordon, Sorley, Cat, Louise and Sarah.
Main office line: 01631 562317
E-mail addresses:
gordon@stevensonkennedy.co.uk

MACPHEE & PARTNERS

Available: Mon-Fri 9am - 5pm
We remain fully available to assist with your legal and property matters – with protective measures in place. Providing a local and personal service in these difficult times.
Tel: 01631 562308
Email: law@macphee.co.uk

INSURANCE

JELF CLARKE THOMSON

Open for Business As Usual.
Office is currently closed, but Jelf Clark Thomson staff are working from home from 9am-5pm, Mon-Fri. If you email us, we will respond.
If you call us, the phone will be answered (or the call returned if a



IN ASSOCIATION WITH

Oban Business Improvement District

www.bid4oban.co.uk



message is left). Whether it's the renewal of an existing policy, enquiries about new insurance arrangements, queries on cover or guidance on loss prevention and risk mitigation, we are here to help. Please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Office telephone number: 01631 567675 (please note calls to this number are being re-routed and thus will not always be answered immediately – please DO leave a message);

Graeme Bass mobile: 07872 131073

BANKS

ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND

Open for essential business:

Mon-Fri
10am-1pm
Tel: 0345 724 2424

BANK OF SCOTLAND

Open for essential business:

Mon-Fri, 10am-2pm
Tel: 0345 602 0000

CLYDESDALE BANK

Open for essential business

Mon-Fri
10am-2pm
Tel: 0345 602 0000

TSB

Open for essential business:

Mon-Fri 10am-4pm closed 12.30-1.30 for lunch
Tel: 01631 399 998

TAXIS - ESSENTIAL JOURNEYS ONLY

ARGYLL TAXIS

Tel: 01631 565293

LORN TAXIS

Tel: 01631 564744

OBAN TAXIS

Tel: 01631 564148/566676/564666

ETIVE TAXIS

Tel: 01631 566880

FUEL/SERVICE STATIONS

BIRCHWOOD GARAGE

Mon-Sat 7am-6pm

OBAN FILLING STATION

Mon-Sat 7am-6pm, Sun 8am-6pm

HALFWAY HOUSE

Mon-Sun 7am-7pm

WEST HIGHLAND GAS

Delivering to your door
Gates closed but open Tues-Fri, 8am-4.30pm.
Please call with your order

Tel: 01631 564050

CHEMISTS & HEALTHCARE

Try to avoid contacting your pharmacy by telephone, unless it is essential.

Most in town are operating crowd control measures to help manage social distancing:

- Only order medication 1 week in advance of needing it;
- Let your GP Practice know which pharmacy you'd like to collect this from;
- And please be understanding of small delays at this time.

BOOTS THE CHEMIST, GEORGE STREET

Mon-Sat 9am-4pm
Closed 1.30pm-2.30pm for lunch

BOOTS THE CHEMIST, BESIDE DOCTORS

Mon-Fri 11am-6pm
Closed 1pm-2pm for lunch

GORDON'S CHEMIST

Mon-Sat 10am-5pm
Closed 1pm-2pm for lunch

JOHN WALLACE OPTICIANS

OBAN PRACTICE
Telephone consultations only
Tel: 01631 563170

SPECSAVERS

Reduced staff and hours, for emergency and essential eye care services.

We are here behind closed doors for phone and video consultations and onward emergency referral to hospital eye service when needed.

CONVENIENCE STORES/NEWSAGENTS

ALBANY STORES

Mon-Sun 7am-6pm

SOROBA SHOP

Mon-Sun 10am-8pm

McCOLLS Oban

Mon-Sun 7am-8pm

DUNOLLIE SHOP

Tues-Sat 10am-8pm, Sun & Mon 12pm-6pm

DUNBEG STORES

Mon-Sun 8am till 8pm

CONNEL SHOP

Mon-Fri 6am-4pm
Sat 7.30am-1pm, Sun 7.30am-1pm
In store post office Mon-Sat 9am till 1pm

THE PINK SHOP, BENDERLOCH

7.30am to 10.00pm daily.

BALVICAR STORES

Mon - Thurs 8.30am - 6.00pm

Fri 8.30am - 7.00pm

Sat 9am - 7.00pm

Sun 9.30am - 2pm

A little light entertainment from Wendy on their Facebook page...

VETS AND PET SUPPLIES

PETS AT HOME

Mon-Sat 9am-6pm

Sun 10am -5pm

Crowd control system in place to help manage social distancing in stores

CREATURE COMFORTS

Mon, Wed, Fri 9am-1pm

Creature Comforts is your local pet shop for Oban & surrounding area. We stock feeds & accessories for all kinds of pets & wild birds. Mail order deliveries available.

KINTALINE FARM

Mon-Sun 10am - 5pm by arrangement

OBAN VETERINARY SURGEONS

All enquiries by telephone 01631 562876 or via www.obanvets.co.uk

SHOPS AND ONLINE SHOPPING

OBAN MUSIC SHOP

Oban Music is still trading through its web site:-

www.musicscotland.com

Tel: 01631 566304

ORSAY

Trading online at www.orsayoban.co.uk.

SCOTTISH ISLAND JEWELLERY

Website : www.scottishislandjewellery.co.uk

And phone mail orders/enquires on 07760297957

Shop: 01631 570005 and

Mobile : 07760297957

scottishislandjewellery@gmail.com

<http://scottishislandjewellery.co.uk/>

<https://www.facebook.com/ScottishIslandJewellery1>

TRAVEL & LEISURE

ERIC SMITH TRAVEL

We are still open for new and existing bookings although

agency closed at present.

By email eric@gowestravel.co.uk,

dianne@gowestravel.co.uk

FB message ERIC SMITH TRAVEL

IT AND COMPUTER SERVICES

MATRIX COMPUTERS

Computer Support

providing telephone and remote support to home and business customers, new and existing. Tel: 01631 571571
Email info@matrixcomputers.co.uk

OBAN COMPUTER SERVICES

Limited service for essential assistance

Tel: 01631 566561

QUANTITY SURVEYORS

MORHAM & BROTCHE

We are open while working from home - 9am till

5.15pm Monday to Friday

Telephone: 01631 563 721

Email: admin@morhambro.co.uk

OTHER INFORMATION

WEST COAST MOTORS

is now offering FREE travel to NHS and workers. The company is also working with local communities and offering a delivery service for those most vulnerable. Well done WCM!

ROYAL MAIL

Royal Mail have restricted sorting office hours to 9am-11am

Closed Wed and Sun.

HOME-START LORN

Are you finding it difficult with your children at home all day, need some adult conversation – our volunteers are here to help

Tel: 07718 768305

HOPE KITCHEN

Hope Kitchen is now delivering/providing food assistance to people who are experiencing financial difficulty at this time. Please don't hesitate to get in touch either via messenger or on 01631 565730 if you find yourself short of essentials.

Those who can afford to pay for food but are self-isolating and unable to get supplies, Argyll and Bute Council has a dedicated phone line 01546 605524 to help you.

Information correct at time of going to press. Check www.obantimes.co.uk/openforbusiness for updated information. This page will run in the Oban Times every week for as long as necessary - printed information will be updated weekly.



West Highland Housing Association would like to thank all our tenants and residents for their understanding during these difficult times. Our organisation is following the Government guidelines and the office is closed but our staff are taking calls and working as much as possible in the circumstances.

We will try and provide as much help and assistance during this crisis. We can help make claims for universal credit and other benefits and provide a listening ear if you just need to have a chat with someone.

Please contact us either by phone on our FREE number **0300 3231170**

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Island's baking brothers star in new BBC series

by Ellis Butcher
ebutcher@obantimes.co.uk



A new BBC ALBA series about a family-run bakery on Benbecula starts on Thursday May 14.

Brothers Allan and Ewen Maclean opened Maclean's Bakery at Uachdar in 1987.

Since then it has become one of the largest private businesses in the Western Isles sending every type of cake, oatcake, biscuit and bread across the isles and to all corners of Scotland.

Allan has revealed he and Ewen knew nothing about baking before starting the business.

In the early days, word spread about the bakery and it proved a hit with hungry late night revellers once the pubs closed and dances finished at weekends.

Allan said: 'We worked night shift



then and people started coming in once the pubs closed to ask if they could have a pie.'

It became so popular he was struggling to prepare food for the

vans leaving at 9am, so he stopped supplying pies during the night to concentrate on producing food.

Throughout the years, Maclean's has prepared food for events large

and small in Uist. Among the services they provide is a busy restaurant called Stepping Stone and a catering trailer which sells fresh local produce and hot food

Lewis, Anne and Ewan Maclean, who originally set up the business in 1987.

to events. The six-part series shows how the family team manages to juggle everything.

That includes real-life drama when Ewen, who has Crohn's Disease, is rushed to the hospital on the mainland to deal with what could be a life-threatening situation, while the family has a difficult decision to make over its restaurant.

Since the programmes were made and the outbreak of coronavirus, the bakery has closed its takeaway but still has its full team of staff working.

They also continue to provide hot food from their catering trailer to the community.

An Taigh-Fuine/The Bakery begins on BBC ALBA this evening, Thursday May 14, at 8.30pm and each episode is available on the BBC iPlayer for 30 days after it airs.

Pressure mounts to reopen Scotland's building sites

First Minister Nicola Sturgeon has defended the government's decision to keep building sites in Scotland closed, writes Ellis Butcher.

Despite the lockdown, construction firms in England, Wales and Northern Ireland have been allowed to work with safety measures in place, while in Scotland, all non-essential sites remain closed.

At a recent First Minister's question time Jackson Carlaw, leader of the Scottish Conservative Party, said the different rule for Scotland caused confusion and lacked consistency.

'If any given business can work safely anywhere, and can do it without spreading the virus, then why not in Scotland?'

Mrs Sturgeon said the evidence was clear that keeping non-essential construction sites closed was the right thing to do to prevent the spread of the virus and save lives.

She replied: 'I could say well, maybe the problem is that others (nations) are not following Scotland's guidance, just as others might say Scotland is not following guidance elsewhere. There is a big assumption in Jackson Carlaw's question that it is safe for construction to be operating normally in other parts of the UK. That is something as First Minister of Scotland I am not yet absolutely satisfied about. Has enough changed for me to change that judgement and my answer to that is not yet because we are at such a critical stage.'

'The evidence I am looking at tells me it would not take much at all to send our progress into reverse.'

Drones set to fly NHS equipment between Oban and Isle of Mull

Vital medical supplies are to be flown by drone between Oban and Mull in a week-long trial, starting on May 25, it has been revealed, writes Ellis Butcher.

Skyports, a drone delivery service based in London, has linked up with the council-run Oban Airport to get NHS kit from the hospital in Oban to the one at Craignure.

The week-long trial, held during the working week and in daylight hours only, is designed to help provide front line staff on Mull with the necessary equipment to do their jobs safely, said the council.

It will also help keep hard-to-reach communities provided with essential medical care, it added.

Skyports plans to fly its delivery drones 'beyond visual line of sight'.

The council described the flight path as a '17km route south from Oban and then north-west to the north coast of the Isle of Mull'. It said: 'The proposed

airspace for the trials is out with the flight restricted zone airspace around the airport, however during the trial period, Oban Airport will relay safety messages to any aircraft in the vicinity.

'This initiative is in direct response to the UK Government's call for help to address and mitigate the health impacts of the COVID-19 outbreak.'

Oban Airport staff will provide safety support to Skyports, which says drones increase the 'frequency and speed' of transporting medical products.

Skyports has offices in Singapore and Los Angeles and already uses drones to fly 'high-value and perishable cargo' such as vaccines, medicine and organs.

Recently, Skyports chief executive officer, Duncan Walker, said: 'The current COVID-19 crisis has highlighted the role that unmanned aircraft applications can play in keeping the flow of goods moving, especially medical products, limiting human contact and

supplying hard-to-reach communities.'

It is not the first time Oban Airport has been involved in drones. Oban Airport has worked in partnership with the nearby Scottish Association for Marine Science which has a department dedicated to drone research.

Councillor Aileen Morton, leader of Argyll and Bute Council, commented: 'The COVID-19 pandemic has brought distinct challenges to rural communities and island communities. Community spirit, determination and innovation is helping overcome them.'

'We're delighted that the airport is involved in trialling a project aimed at changing the way health services in disperse communities are linked together.'

'We're already using technology to provide health advice and information remotely. Use of drones could assist vital equipment to be transferred more efficiently and effectively.'

DISTRICT NEWS



The food is for anyone in the community.

Taynuilt group answer the call for supplies

Taynuilt Community Council has answered a call to set up a community food hub by installing one in the village phone box.

With shelves, installed by Gareth Judson, frequently being restocked, the micro store is part of the Community Council's COVID-19 response and is there to be used by anyone in the community.

The iconic red structure was adopted by the village last year when BT decreed that it was no longer viable as a phone box. A full makeover will take place once lockdown rules are relaxed. In the meantime local man Kevin MacDougall has replaced the broken windows and given it a clean inside, and the unit now acts as a place for people to go and pick up their essential items as well as drop off anything they don't need.

Volunteer Donna Bannatyne said: 'All of the items in the box have been donated by the community. We know these times are hard for everyone, so we want to help ensure our residents are not going without. There is an extensive range of goods from tinned fruit and veg, pastas and pasta sauces, breakfast cereals, flour, cleaning products, toiletries and personal hygiene

Jaxson John Braidwood spent his first birthday enjoying himself in the family garden on May 5. Lots of love from all the family.



Caitlin Thomson, left, from Connel turned seven on April 24 and enjoyed her day with fun in the garden and in the afternoon she also had a little party.



Arran Farrell, from Oban, celebrated his first birthday in lockdown but had a great day and went out for a spin in his new remote control Audi car which he loved.



Jayden Fullerton from Oban enjoying his 11th birthday on April 30.

Lockdown birthday shout outs!

Do you have a child celebrating their birthday during the lockdown? Since they cannot enjoy a birthday celebration with all their friends and family, let us give them a shoutout.

Send us a picture of your wee one enjoying their special day and we will publish it and

products. It's a community coming together to help and care for each other.'

The phone box is just part of a much bigger scheme, set up by Taynuilt Community Council. Approximately 130 volunteers have signed up to assist with a range of duties, including manning

wish them Happy Birthday! Remember to include their full name, age, where you live, and tell us a little bit about what you did to make the day at home special!

Send all your pictures to editor@obantimes.co.uk

phone lines, co-ordinating volunteer groups, collecting and delivering prescriptions, delivering shopping from local shops and shops in town, and dog walking. Anyone in the Taynuilt area needing help can call the dedicated line on 07955 750592.

ACHA assist NHS in Argyll by distributing PPE

Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) has delivered a van of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to the Lorn and Isles Hospital in Oban to be distributed throughout Argyll and Bute to meet Health Board priorities during the Coronavirus pandemic.

The PPE included visors, facemasks, gloves, aprons and shoe covers.

The drop off was co-ordinated by ACHA tradesmen from throughout Argyll who are currently carrying out emergency repairs and essential servicing. This involved PPE from various parts of Argyll being brought to Inveraray for a final pick up for onward travel to Oban.

Alastair MacGregor, ACHA's chief executive said: 'The NHS in Argyll and Bute are doing a fantastic job in challenging circumstances at this time.'

'By the very nature of some of the work we do, PPE is required. After discussions with NHS colleagues, we have taken from our stores equipment which is needed on the front line in the battle against COVID-19 at this time.'

'It was the very least we could do to support those who are saving lives.'

'I would like to thank our workers on the ground who pulled this together across Argyll and Bute.'

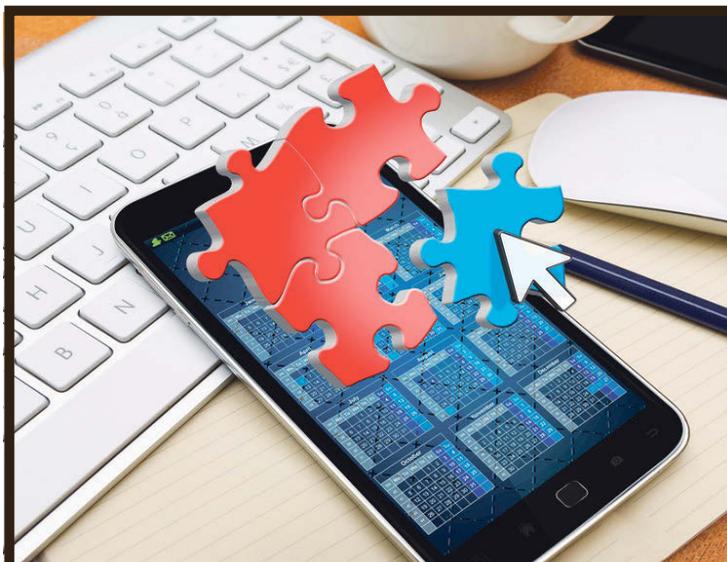


ACHA employee Martin Weir with one of the deliveries

Sponsored by your local Citizens Advice team - They need you!

Volunteers now required in Oban.

Call **01546 60 5550** or email info@abcab.org.uk to find out more.



Wylie & Bisset giving free business advice to steer Scottish businesses through Coronavirus lockdown

We have launched a helpline to help steer companies through the Coronavirus lockdown period.

We want to assist those businesses that, through no fault of their own, find themselves confronting various pressing business problems as a direct result of the government restrictions to quell the spread of COVID-19.

There are various options available to businesses and if you need a sounding board or to speak to a financial expert about your options, we are here to listen and offer free advice.

info@wyliebisset.com www.wyliebisset.com

Call now on 0141 566 7096



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Around the markets

United Auctions, Saturday May 9, Oban: sold 314 Store Cattle and 616 Sheep of all classes.

This sale incorporated the annual Oban, Dalmally and Tirie May Sales due to the current Covid19 pandemic and attracted a large following of buyers for both the Cattle & Sheep section. All classes of stock were easily sold at satisfactory levels.

Bullocks averaged £727.85 per head and sold £1105 for a 570kg, SimX from A J Morrison, 10 Eoligarra, Barra. Heifers averaged £701 per head and sold to £1120 for a 547kg, HerX from A & AH MacPhail, Clachan, Tirie. Bullocks averaged 232.74pence per kilo and were topped twice 308.5 p/k, first by W MacPherson, Scotstown with a pen of 4 AAX, weighing 201kg and secondly M/s Troughton & Co, Ardachy Farm for a pen of 4 LimX, weighing 282kg. Heifers averaged 214.67pence per kilo to a top of 288.50p/

kg for a 260kg, LimX from I & R Malcolm, Poltalloch Farm.

Leading prices per head
BLKS - AAX - £880, Craig Farm, Dalmally; £810, £755, Poltalloch Farm. BSX - £840, Glencreran Estate; £840, Barnakill; £830(3), Glencreran Estate; £810(3), Poltalloch Farm; £810, Barnakill. BRBx - £910, Tyree; £840, Innisaig. BAX - £830, Shenavallie. CHARx - £970, Fearnoch; £945(2), Garaphail, Tirie; £940, £935, Salum, Tirie; £930(2), Barnakill; £905, Dunans; £885, Salum, Tirie; £865, Barnakill; £820(2), Dunans. LIMx - £1030, Achnaba; £980, Inverfolla; £970, Tyree; £920, Ardachy; £905(2), Inverfolla; £900, Clachan, Tirie; £890, Tyree; £880(3), Ardachy; £880, Duncroisk; £870(4), Ardachy; £870, Duncroisk; £850, Ardachy; £845, Aird Farm; £845(2), Craig Farm, Dalmally; £840, Glencreran Estate; £820(2), £815, Duncroisk; £805, Craig Farm, Dalmally. LULx - £940(2), 2 Bonawe Croft; £840, Barnakill. SALx - £860,

Dunans; £810, Barnakill. SIMx - £1105, 10 Eoligarra, Barra; £830(3), £825(7), Glencreran Estate; £805, Brough; £805(2), Achnacone.
HFRS - AAX - £700(4), Kilbride Farm (Balvicar). BSX - £825, Caolas, Onich. BRBx - £980, £930, Tyree. BAX - £780, Shenavallie. CHARx - £930, Barnakill; £860(2), Fearnoch; £820(6), Barnakill. HERx - £1120(2), £1050, £1010(2), £1000, Clachan, Tirie. LIMx - £1000, Clachan, Tirie; £940, Achnaba; £830, Ardachy; £800, Craig Farm, Dalmally. LULx - £840(2), 2 Bonawe Croft. SIMx - £1100, Tigh Na Cille.

Leading prices per Kilo
BLKS - AAX - 308.5p(4), Scotstown; 235.5p, 232.3p, Poltalloch; 220.5p, Lochnell HF. BSX - 278.9p, 257.8p(3), Glencreran Estate; 256.8p, Inshaig; 250.4p, Glencreran Estate; 235.50(3), 232.3p, Poltalloch. BRBx - 297.3p(5), Ardachy; 272.5p, Tyree; 240.6p, Shenavallie. BAX - 251.7p, Shenavallie. CHARx - 250p,

245.8p, Salum, Tirie; 239.8p(2), Dunans; 239.7p, Salum; 231.3p, Barnakill. LIMx - 308.5p(4), Ardachy; 300.7p, Tyree; 293p(2), Aird Farm; 288.5p(3), Ardachy; 277p, 10 Eoligarra, Barra; 272.4p, 271.4p, Ardachy; 270.1p, Innisaig; 260.8p, Tyree; 259.6p(3), Ardachy; 257.9p, 257.3p, Duncroisk; 255.2p, 10 Eoligarra, Barra; 255.1p, Ardachy; 250.4p, Glencreran Estate; 250p(2), Aird Farm; 250p(2), Duncroisk; 249.3p(2), 248.4p, Craig Farm, Dalmally; 240.8p, Garaphail, Tirie; 238.2p, Craig Farm, Dalmally; 236p, Aird Farm; 230.2p, Duncroisk. LULx - 252.2p(4), Ardencaple. SALx - 237.6p, Dunans. SIMx - 280.8p(6), 278.9p(4), Glencreran Estate; 275.7p, 269p(2), Brough; 266.1p(7), 264.2p(3), Glencreran Estate; 262p, Ardencaple; 258.3p(2), 257.8p(3), Glencreran Estate; 251.8p(2), Saulmore; 250p - Aird Farm; 249.2p(2), Glencreran Estate; 244.9p, Kilbride Farm; 238.1p, Achnacree more; 234p(2),

Achnacone.
HFRS - AAX - 243.8p(4), Scotstown. BSX - 229.9p, Glencreran Estate. BRBx - 243.5p, Tyree. CHARx - 222.4p(2), Dunans. LIMx - 288.5p, Poltalloch; 266.2p, Tyree; 250.9p(2), Dall Farm; 241p, Achnaba; 240.4p, 10 Eoligarra, Barra; 240.10p, Aird Farm; 239p(3), Ardachy; 238p, Innisaig; 237p, Poltalloch; 236.6p, Dall Farm; 235.8p, 234.4p, 233p(2), Ardachy; 231.1p, Craig Farm, Dalmally; 230.6p, Ardachy. LULx - 220.5p(3), Aird Farm. SIMx - 253.3p(4), 251.1p(3), Glencreran Estate; 243.9p, 3a Caolis, Tirie.
GIMMERS WITH LAMBS AT FOOT - CHEV - £120, Ben Alder Estate. HOGGS - SUFFx - £88, £80, Salum, Tirie; £79, Kiloran Farmers; £77, Tyree. TEXx - £72, 3 Baleullin, Tirie; £72, Tyree; £72, Dalnafeidh Croft. CHEV - £74, Ballard, Coll; £66, Aird Farm; £66, Daltote; £65.50, Glenamachrie; £65, £62, 6 Leanish, Barra; £62,

Dunach Estate. CROSS - £51, Dunach Estate. MULE - £69, Blarmfoldach. BF - £69, Aird Farm, £67, Kiloran Farmers; £61, 6 Leanish, Barra.
WEDDERS - CHEV - £79, Croish, Tirie.
EWE - SUFFx - £91, Kilbride; £89, Garaphail, Tirie; £87, Kilbride; £68, Kiloran Farmers; £60, Garaphail, Tirie. BELTx - £60, Pennygown. TEXx - £92, Tyree, £88, Ruaig, Tirie; £78, Achnacree more; £76, Aird Farm; £68, 3a Caolis, Tirie; £62, Glenamachrie; £60, Aird Farm. CHEV - £80, Kilbride; £78, £76, Pennygown; £76, Aird Farm; £74, Garaphail, Tirie; £66, Kiloran Farmers. BF - £64, Dunolliebeag; £61, 3 Baleullin, Tirie.



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MAIN FEATURES:

- Made from high-tensile steel
- All hurdles are 8 railed x 970mm high
- All hot-dipped galvanised finish
- 3000mm (3m) long
- Includes all joining pins/stakes

OPTION 1

10-foot race and 8-foot holding pen
£1450.00 + VAT

Comes with an 80-foot holding pen and 10-foot race, 2x 2-foot swing gates and all joining pins/stakes included. Our system will safely hold 100 fully grown sheep (approx.)

PARTS LIST:

- 10 x 3m (8 railed) sheep hurdles
- 12 x Joining pins/stakes
- 2 x 2-foot swing gates

**OPTION 2**

20-foot race, 100-foot holding pen
£1795.00 + VAT

Comes with a 100-foot holding pen and 20-foot race, 2 x 2-foot swing gates and all joining pins/stakes included. Our system will safely hold 150 fully grown sheep (approx)

PARTS LIST:

- 14 x 3m (8 railed) sheep hurdles
- 12 x joining pins/stakes
- 2 x 2-foot swing gates

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FROM £1,595.00 + VAT

Crush Gate optional extra £599.00

As standard our Mobile Cattle System comes with a 60 feet holding pen and 20 feet race, one sliding gate and all joining pins/stakes included. Our system will safely hold 45 fully grown cattle (approximately).

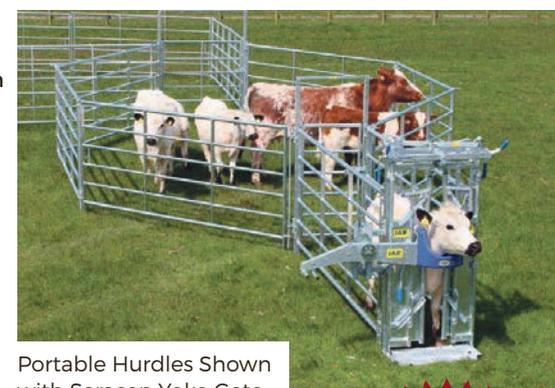
The system is easy to move and erect where required and can be easily modified to suit your requirements. Also ideal for TB Testing and the cattle sliding gate gives full control of the livestock from outside the race and stops the race from spreading out.

Main features:

- Made from heavy tubular steel
- All hurdles are 6 railed x 1.75 m high
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- 3000mm (3 m) long
- 20 feet race
- 60 feet holding pen
- Includes all joining pins/stakes
- Total 200 feet of penning

Parts list:

- 10 x 3m (6 railed) Cattle Hurdles
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Success for three-in-one stock sale

Saturday's stock sale in Oban brought three events under one roof.

To limit travel during the coronavirus crisis, scheduled sales at Tiree and Dalmally were cancelled and instead combined with the one at Oban Livestock Centre.

Strict rules were put in place to keep sellers, buyers and staff safe, said Donald Morrison, who is United Auction's area managing director.

The one-way system to help buyers keep a social distance was hailed a success and got the approval of Trading Standards, said Mr Morrison.

Sellers had to drop off stock the day before and were not able to stay to see their animals get sold. Buyers who came from as far away as Penrith, Banff and Bute also had to follow guidelines, pre-registering, sticking to a set seat for the entire sale and declaring themselves under 70.

More than 600 sheep were in the stock sale at Oban Livestock Centre.



'The system worked and we were happy with that, so were Trading Standards,' said Mr Morrison.

He added: 'It was very obvious to us that it was an exceptionally good sale. Even though the sellers could not come in, they were delighted with their trade. The feedback we've had from everyone we've spoken to has been good.'

The number of buyers was up on usual, 314 cattle and 616 sheep were auctioned with stock 'easily sold at satisfactory levels' according to the market report.

United Auction is now considering combining other sales in June if the current restrictions are still in place. The location is still to be decided, said Mr Morrison.

Bill retires after 50 years

Bill Jamieson is to retire from United Auctions after an illustrious 50-year career.

An integral part of the sales team, sales executive Bill Jamieson was originally planning to work his last day at United Auctions on May 27 at the sale of store cattle at Stirling Agricultural Centre – two days after his 70th birthday. The coronavirus outbreak put paid to that, however, and he will now be marking his last official day with the company from home.

Glasgow-born Bill has lived in Stirling since he started working with the company at Kildean mart in July 1989 after 20 years in farming.

Bill said: 'Farming was all I wanted to do since the age of seven when we went on holiday to Catacol Farm on the Isle of Arran. It was a fantastic education each year because we helped them do everything.'

From 1969, Bill worked in various farming roles from dairyman at Camsiscan Farm near Kilmarnock, to farm manager at Sir William Lithgow's Drums Farms at



Right: Bill Jamieson – a well known and popular figure.

Langbank and at Castlesteads Estate in Cumbria.

In 1989, the late auctioneer Jimmy Weir encouraged Bill to apply for a position at the livestock auctioneering firm.

'I started out as market superintendent, staffing and running the yard at Kildean, Dalmally and on the island sales,' said Bill. 'The sales team knew I had good farming connections in Ayrshire so I soon became a canvasser there which expanded to drawing customers from Arran and over the years I've got business in from Wigtownshire, Fife and up to Dalmally.'

Bill also made farming connections playing rugby. As

well as playing at school and agricultural college, he played for Kilmarnock RFC from 1972-77 and was a top-five try scorer in the top divisions of Scottish rugby.

George Purves, managing director of United Auctions, said: 'Bill has been a valued member of our team for 30 years. In recent times he has been a mentor for some of our young team, sharing his knowledge and professionalism.'

'With his great sense of humour, Bill always looks to lighten the moment, and he will leave a fantastic legacy that will be with us for years to come.'

'Although it will be a bitter-sweet day not being able to celebrate with him in person, we wish him a long, healthy and happy retirement.'

Reflecting on his long career, Bill said: 'It's a great job – hard work and long hours, but good fun. It's been terrific getting out and about meeting people and making lasting friendships.'

'Now it's time for me to step aside and spend time with the family.'

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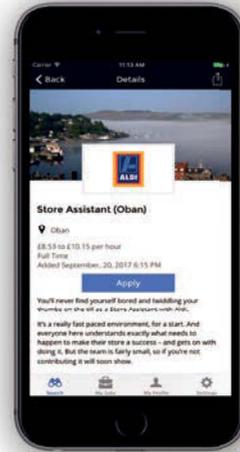
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PLANNING

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

The applications listed below together with the plans and other documents submitted with them may be viewed electronically through Argyll and Bute Council website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk. Having regard to Schedule 6, Part 3, s10 of the Coronavirus (Scotland) Act 2020, documents are only available to inspect electronically at this time. Customers requiring assistance can contact us by e-mail: planning.hq@argyll-bute.gov.uk or tel. 01546 605518.

Ref. No.	Proposal	Site Address
20/00705/PP	Erection of 10 flats for staff accommodation	Site At Shillingham Land North East Of Morvern Drive Tobermory, Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute
20/00730/PP	Erection of farm shop/cafe	Land South East Of Maolbuidhe Fionnphort, Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute PA66 6BP
20/00668/PPP	Site for the erection of garage	Land East Of Fasgadh Longsdale Road, Oban, Argyll And Bute
20/00470/PP	Erection of telecommunications equipment compound with 15 metre high monopole and associated works	Land Approx. 2077 Metres South West Of Ishriff, Glen More, Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute
20/00556/PP	Erection of 12.0m high streetworks pole on new foundation and associated ancillary works	Land North East Of 9 Tynribbie Place And Cala Sith, Tynribbie Port Appin, Argyll And Bute
20/00687/PP	Installation 14 air source heat pumps	1-12 Richard Court, Corran Brae, Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 5BB
20/00688/PP	Installation of 18 air source heat pumps	1-18 Columba Court, Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 5BG
20/00729/PP	Erection of 5 dwellinghouses and formation of vehicular access	Land Southeast Of Gramercy Tobermory, Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute
20/00689/PP	Installation 12 of air source heat pumps	1-12 Macdougall Court, Corran Brae Oban, Argyll And Bute PA34 5BA
20/00702/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and detached garage	Plot 3 Lagganmore, Kilniver, Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 4UU
20/00693/PP	Change of use of office to dwellinghouse	Scottish Natural Heritage, Balcaldine Oban, Argyll And Bute PA37 1SF
20/00628/PP	Formation of mezzanine floor within existing buildings	2A-2F Nonhebel Park, Glengorm Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute PA75 6RG
20/00751/PPP	Site for the erection of 3 dwellinghouses	Land Opposite Water Treatment Works School Street, Port Charlotte Isle Of Islay, Argyll And Bute

Written comments can be submitted online <http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/find-and-comment-planning-applications> or to Argyll and Bute Council, Development Management, Kilmory Castle, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8RT within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence. Any letter of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website. Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered. A weekly list of all applications can be viewed on the Councils website. Customers are requested to use electronic communication where possible during the coronavirus pandemic as our ability to process postal mail is restricted.

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TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk>.

Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description
20/01677/FUL	Land 85M SE Of Priests House Acharacle	Renewal of planning permission 17/01948/FUL - temporary siting of two caravans for a period of three years
20/01694/FUL	22 Glenkingie Street Caol, Fort William	Alterations and Extension to Form Family Annex

Time period for comments is 14 days
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX
Email: eplanning@highland.gov.uk

Proposed

Assignment of a Croft
Mrs. Christina Helen Grant is applying to assign the tenancy of the croft at Achavaich to Sean Poynter of Tigh-na-Mara, Isle of Iona.

Written comments from those with a relevant interest (which may be made public) to:-
Crofting Commission, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW, info@crofting.gov.scot by 11/06/20.

Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence

Solway Transport Ltd of Nether Mumbie, Canonbie, Dumfriesshire, DG14 0SF is applying for a licence to use The Lorry Yard, Corpach, Fort William, PH33 7JY as an operating centre for 10 goods vehicles and 10 trailers.

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office.

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DEATHS

BRADY - James, peacefully, at home on April 23, 2020, aged 87. James was a gentle and loving man; husband to Betty, dad to Kathleen and grandpa to Grace and Constance. Well-known and loved by many in The Plantation and Lochaber, James lived a life of love for others and for that we give thanks to God. Funeral held in private in Glen Nevis due to current restrictions. RIP.

CAIN - Margaret Elizabeth née Buchanan, aged 56 years, the Depute Head Teacher at Rockfield Primary School, peacefully passed after an inspirational fight surrounded by her adoring family on May 10, 2020. Maggs was the loving wife of Mark, dearly and proudly loved Mum of Ruairidh and Catherine, a cherished sister, sister-in-law, auntie, friend, teacher, colleague and mentor. In the near future, the family wish to invite all those who held her dear to a celebration of life service.

MACLEAN - Alasdair (Addie), passed away peacefully at Mull and Iona Community Hospital on Friday, May 8, 2020. Very grateful thanks to all hospital staff, community nurses and home carers over many years.

MACLEAN - Peacefully on May 8, 2020, aged 95 years, Chrissie MacLean, very dear wife of the late Archie MacLean, devoted mum to Marion and Margo, much loved granny to Graeme, Karen, Kirsty and Iona, adored great-granny to Robert, Ruairidh and Euan and highly respected mother-in-law

of Dennis and Paul. Funeral will take place in Tیره on Thursday, May 14, 2020. Will be sadly missed.

MACVICAR - Peacefully, at Ardfenaig Residential Home, Ardrishaig on May 8, 2020, Margaret (Nurse) MacVicar, in her 100th year, late of 8 Seaside Park, Ardrishaig. Beloved wife of the late Archibald and dearly loved mother of Donald, and mother-in-law of Moira. Adored granny of Colin, Mairi, Alistair and Kirsty. Great-granny of Patrick and Sophia. Dear sister of the late Colina and Katie. A good neighbour and dear friend to many in the local area. A private family service will be held at Achnabreac Cemetery on Thursday May 14, 2020.

McCRACKEN - David. Peacefully, on Thursday, April 30, 2020. David, beloved husband of Morean, dearly loved dad to Donald and Alasdair, loving grandpa to Alma and Lenni, much loved father-in-law to Anna and Stephanie and a great friend to many.

RUTHVEN - Peacefully, at Murrayfield House Care Home, Edinburgh, on May 2, 2020, Margaret Catherine (née Mason), aged 88 years, dearly beloved wife of the late Angus and much loved mother of Jane and Alison. Interred at Corstorphine Hill Cemetery, Edinburgh.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

GARABET - Mrs Marilyn Garabet and Paul, would like to sincerely thank all friends and neighbours for the many kind

expressions of sympathy by way of cards, flowers and telephone calls, on their sad loss of Ghazi, a much loved husband and father. We would also like to express heartfelt gratitude to all the doctors, nurses and NHS staff who cared for Ghazi during his long illness, to Catriona at Hamish Hoey & Son Ltd, for the caring and efficient funeral arrangements and to Fr James MacNeil for his comforting service at the graveside.

MASON - Christine would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for the flowers, cards and telephone calls at the sad loss of Robert. I would also like to thank Katrina and Marion for looking after him during his long illness. Thank you to Catriona and all the guys at Hamish Hoey & Son for help with all the arrangements during these difficult times, also thanks to Reverend Dugald Cameron for a lovely service at the graveside. Thank you to Angela for the beautiful flowers.

MEMORIALS

BARR - Precious memories of Angela Marie Barr, March 13, 1968 - May 13, 2018. Loving and kind in all your ways

A smile for all, a heart of gold Loved, missed and remembered every day.
- Mum, Dad and all the family.

BEATON - Fondest memories of Angus Campbell, passed away May 17, 2009. At rest now, Bunessan, Mull.
- From friends in Oban.

BOWMAN - In loving memory of Ian, who died May 13, 2015 and left us bereft of his loving kindness for all, memories sustain although he is sadly missed by Mary and family, Biggar and Tobermory.

GIBSON - In loving memory of John (Gibby), who passed away May 16, 2015. Loved and remembered every day.

- Mum, Jackie, Linda and families.

MACDONALD - Treasured memories of a very dear mum and granny Kathleen, who passed away May 15, 2018 and a very dear dad and papa Ronnie, who passed away June 2, 2017. Never more than a thought away

Loved and remembered every day
- By all the family Ballachulish, East Kilbride and Bridge of Earn.

MACINTYRE - In loving memory of our dear dad, father-in-law and seanair, Donald Archibald (DA) who died May 16, 2005.

Deep in our hearts you will always stay.

Loved and missed every day xx - Neil, Jennifer, Charles and families.

MACLEAN - In loving memory of a dear wife, mum and granny Morag, who died May 14, 2012.

Deep in our hearts you will always stay
Loved and remembered every day.

Also remembering loved ones gone before and after.
- Donald and family, Tیره and Somerset.

MELDRUM - Precious memories of William James (Willie), Fort William, formerly Fife Keith, a devoted husband, who passed away May 11, 2017.

Loved and remembered every day.
- Cathy.

MORRISON - In loving memory of Mary, a dear mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, who passed away May 17, 2004.

Forever loved, missed and remembered.
- Christina, Banny, Laura, Martin and families.

WATSON - Roberta (Bobbie), née Moyes.

You came home a year ago to lie at rest but time does not ease the heartache at your loss.

Taken from us too soon, you were so loved and are so missed. Love always.

- Bill, Vi and Charlie and family.

WATT - In loving memory of our mother Mary Watt (Maimie), who died May 12, 1984.

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- Catherine and family, Tobermory, Arthur, Sheena and family, Alexandria.

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GRADUATION



JORDON MACNEIL

Jordon MacNeil who passed out as a Naval officer from Britannia Naval College in Dartmouth. Jordon is the grandson of the late Dougie and Moira MacNeil, Longsdale Crescent, Oban and Ardmhor, Barra.

PERSONAL NOTICE

THANK YOU

A special thank you to my loving wife Sandra, staff from Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban and Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Glasgow and paramedics for saving my life. A special thanks to all my family and friends for their kind words regarding myself and late mum Jessie.

James Scott

Oban Pipe Band pay their respects to Angus MacLennan

by Ellis Butcher
ebutcher@obantimes.co.uk

The streets of Oban filled with people and the stirring sound of pipes on Monday as the town paid its respects to Angus MacLennan.

The former pipe major and stalwart of Oban Pipe Band died suddenly at his home in Glencruitten on May 2, after half-a-century's service

Mr MacLennan was born at Kilmaha near Dalavich and raised in Barcaldine.

He was taught to play pipes by Donald MacLennan and later by Dochie Ferguson, joining Oban Pipe Band in 1969/70 where he remained an active piper and committee member until his unexpected death.

He became pipe major in 1973, when most of the members were youngsters, and led the band for two terms, alternating as pipe sergeant for the period up to 2009.

Among his major achievements were leading the band to the World and Cowal Championship titles in Novice Juvenile grade in 1974.

He was also a playing member of the band which won the World Championship in grade 3A in 2011.

Pipe Band president and friend Iain Hurst paid this tribute from the band: 'Angus



Members of Oban Pipe Band pay their respects to Angus MacLennan as his cortege drives along Shore Street.

rarely missed an engagement, and was well known locally and all across the pipe band world as a friendly and helpful character. As a mechanic to trade, this included fixing many people's cars in time of need, for which no reward was ever contemplated.

'In Oban Pipe Band over the years, he was the go-to guy whenever a piper needed help tying in a new bag, and his only weakness was probably finding it difficult to say no to anyone.

'He spent Thursday evenings for many years teaching youngsters, and some not so young, and several of those have been among the many contributors with warm comments on the band's Facebook page when his tragic death was announced.

'More recently, the famed Oban Pipe Band soup lunches which have raised so many

valuable funds for the band, were never complete without Angus washing dishes like a Trojan, not to mention his superb seafood chowder!

'Among his other talents, Angus was also a bus driver, and was always a fixture at the wheel with Oban Pipe Band on their travels.

'Blessed with the patience of a saint, he put up with some raucous journeys, usually on the homeward leg!, and handled the bus with great panache.

'We have lost a great friend whose manner and commitment were an example to all, an ever-present and encouraging voice, with a dry and waspish sense of humour which was as sharp as a tack, and always the mischievous twinkle in his eye.

'We send our heartfelt condolences to his wife Margaret, daughter Kirsteen, son Ronnie and all the family. Angus was loved and will be sorely missed by all who knew him.'

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Perhaps you're like me – when you're asked to wait for something, you sometimes find yourself thrown into an internal wrestling match between patience and impatience. You know the resolution you desire will come, but you don't know when or even how.

Today, we're in a time of waiting, perhaps like nothing we've ever known before, and one of the questions I've been asking of myself is this: 'What richness can I find in this time of waiting, so that I come out the other side stronger and more ready for what I'm called to?'

The Bible speaks a significant voice to this idea of active waiting, of using the time between the "now" and the coming breakthrough wisely so that when it arrives, we are stronger for it.

The Old Testament writer Isaiah knew it when he penned the words "...those who trust in the LORD will renew their strength." The Psalmist knew it when he encouraged the people to "...be silent before the LORD and wait expectantly for Him."

I believe God has an end in sight for this current struggle, and between now and then He is inviting us to trust, to be still and to wait expectantly, because even in the darkest moments there is richness to be found – a richness which can change us, our community and our nation for the better.

Reverend Stuart Lawson
Oban Baptist Church

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Race ace's switch to pedal power keeps him on track

John McPhee also enjoying precious time with family during lockdown

by Fiona Scott
fscott@obantimes.co.uk



Petronas Moto3 rider John McPhee has swapped horsepower for pedal power during lockdown and believes he can return to the World Championship fitter and faster.

The 25-year-old biker notched a second place in the opening race of the 2020 season in Qatar and has been living with his parents in Connel since his return.

'I've been making the most of the good weather and cycling every day, either my road bike or sometimes my mountain bike,' he said.

'I've been using the time to keep fit and have been training continuously. As well as cycling, I've been doing general strength and conditioning work, either in the house or in the garden.'

'I've dedicated time to working on some old injuries and recovering those areas of my body that aren't so strong. There are always areas to improve, so I've been focusing on them.'

As a result of his hectic racing schedule, John lives in Andorra and only manages to visit his family home on the odd weekend or for just a few days, so is enjoying this rare extended time with his family.

'I've been helping my parents in the garden and doing odd

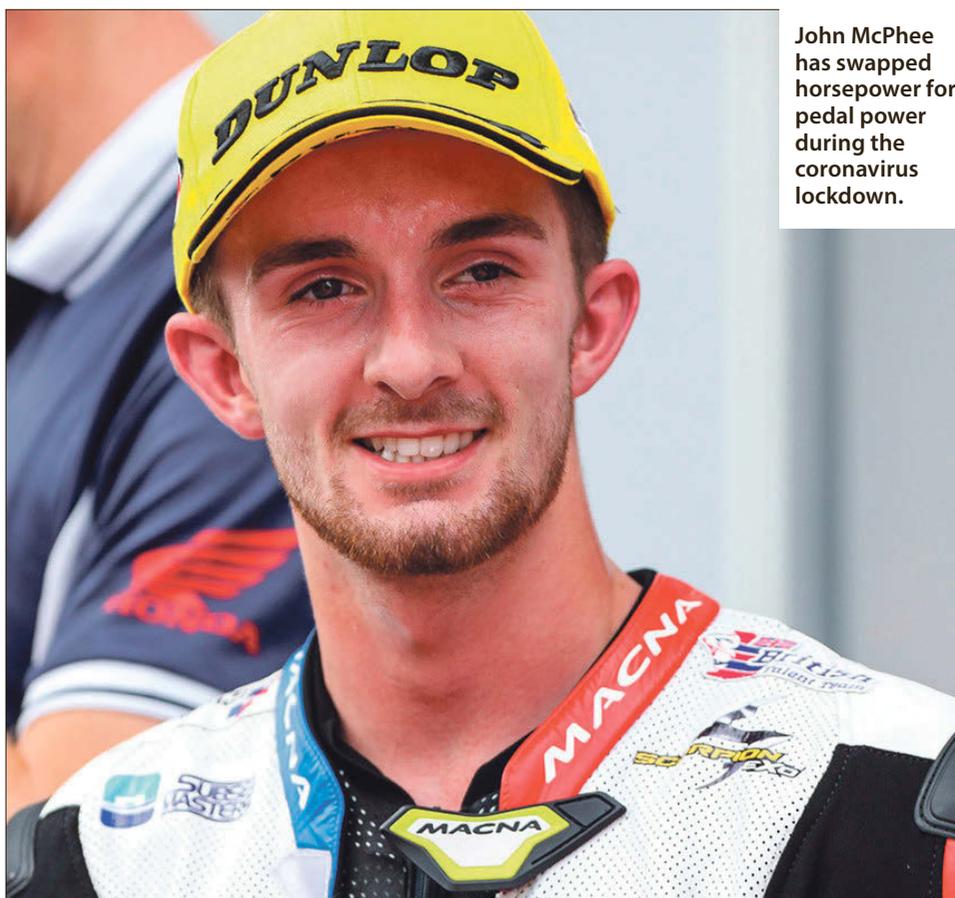
jobs to help them out,' he added.

'My dad and I have been in the garage with the bikes. We have some of my old bikes and some of his that need repaired or rebuilding. So we've been spending a lot of time together working on them.'

'I've been using the time to keep fit and have been training continuously. As well as cycling, I've been doing general strength and conditioning work, either in the house or the garden.'

'Like everyone at the moment, I have a list of jobs that keep stacking up and now is the time to do them. This bad situation has given us a chance to make our way through these things and it's made me much more organised with my normal, day-to-day life.'

John's next race is scheduled for June 19-21 in Sachsenring, Germany, but, with a big question mark hanging over sports fixtures, he feels taking a podium position in the opener was even more important for him and the Petronas Sprinta



John McPhee has swapped horsepower for pedal power during the coronavirus lockdown.

Racing team. 'We had a really strong pre-season and worked a lot on our settings from last year,' he added.

Valuable

'It's the first time in my racing career I've ever had the same bike, the same team

and the same people to work with and it's been so valuable because I've been able to arrive at the first test of the year, and especially at the first race of the year, and be smiling inside my helmet from the first few laps.

'The feeling was there, the

confidence was there and we could grow together towards our targets for each test and the race.

'I feel like the biggest step forward has been that continuity. I don't feel I was riding any differently, except maybe a

little more confidently because of the fantastic team and people around me.'

Looking ahead to the rest of the season, John believes if his sport gets back on track, this year's championship will be one of the most exciting and closest yet.

'Every year some move up to Moto2 but this year it feels like we've had so many come into the championship and be quick,' he said.

'Fortunately, I feel really good and I think we're in with a good chance to fight when we get racing again.'

In the meantime, the far travelled race ace is content to spend time at home and shared some wise advice on the situation we all now find ourselves in.

'Just keep safe, keep calm and remember this won't last forever,' he said.

'Maybe it will let people look at the important things in life, like family and health, and all the good things they have around them.'

'We can all focus on coming back at the end of this stronger and more grateful for what we have in life.'



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Sad farewell to steam train legend, Bobby



Singer Paula performs VE Day tribute

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MAKE THE SWITCH

NTS staff at Glenfinnan and Glencoe facing jobs threat

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Glenfinnan and Glencoe are on a list of 27 National Trust for Scotland (NTS) sites which the charity has prioritised for possible phased re-opening, hopefully later this year, once lockdown restrictions are lifted.

However, of the 23 members of trust staff split between the two properties, 11 of them are at risk of losing their jobs through redundancy as the trust struggles to cope with a huge slump in income.

A total of 429 permanent trust staff from the 751-strong workforce employed across its portfolio of properties face losing their jobs.

The charity said it is opening a formal consultation process which involves its recognised trade union, Prospect, and is preparing to launch an emergency fundraising appeal.

It is also approaching grant-giving bodies and the Scottish Government for support, while looking to sell

non-heritage land and property. The trust's total charitable income is forecast to collapse by £28 million this year and to fall again in 2021 even if restrictions are relaxed. This does not include estimated investment losses of £46 million.

Trust Chief Executive Simon Skinner said with some level of restrictions likely to apply post-lockdown, and having

'The sad consequence of this is that we must cut our workforce.'

effectively missed the busiest part of the visitor season, he sees little prospect of the trust being able to return to more normal levels of membership, visitation and income for the rest of this year and beyond.

'Even after we've done all we can to stave off the worst, it's clear we need radical action to give the trust space to overcome income loss and economic conditions,' said Mr Skinner. 'Post-lockdown, we plan to scale back

our current offering to match the anticipated restrictions that will remain. We propose to initially focus on the safe, phased re-opening of a core of 27 built heritage properties around Scotland, primarily those best able to accommodate social distancing.

'The remainder will be placed on a care and maintenance basis. Our countryside properties will open when restrictions lift.

'The sad consequence of this is that we must make a cut to our workforce. We've therefore made the toughest of all decisions in placing 429 colleagues at the risk of redundancy.

'Some people may not care a charity is in trouble or see heritage as having little importance just now – but if the trust goes down then what will be lost will impoverish Scotland forever.'

Prospect negotiator David Avery said the news was a huge blow to NTS workers who are extremely worried about their futures, adding: 'We will do all we can to support members and argue strongly for their jobs.'

Couple jet home to help with COVID crisis



Liam and Marianne Fraser-Stewart, in front of The Bridge Cafe in Spean Bridge, owned by Marianne's mother Mary Fraser, have been helping co-ordinate the delivery of free essential food packages and other vital supplies to the more vulnerable in the community. Full story, turn to page four. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

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LT

Tributes to steam train legend, Bobby

Firemen's shovels were raised high in a poignant guard of honour and flowers were thrown by friends and colleagues as the funeral cortege carrying well-known local steam train driver, Bobby Duncan, passed the railway depot at Inverloch recently, writes Mark Entwistle.

It was the final journey for Bobby, whose interest in trains was sparked while a young boy growing up in Fort William in the 1940s and 50s where his father had a spell working on the railway.

Robert Alexander Duncan, to give him his full name, and his twin brother, Charles, were born in Linnhe Road, in Fort William, on December 16, 1942, to parents Bessie (nee Rodger) and Charlie.

The brothers would grow up to be the best of friends until Charles' death at the age of only 40 in 1982. Other siblings came after them – Elizabeth, James and Margaret. Sadly, Margaret also passed away.

Bobby's parents were a hard-working couple. Bessie cooked in Fort William hotels and worked for K K Cameron, while Charles worked on the railway before starting Duncan's taxis.

Bobby attended school at Fort William primary and senior secondary and earned a prize for technical drawing.



Bobby, right, with fireman Lewis MacLean, aboard engine no. 44871, pulling the Jacobite steam service from Fort William to Mallaig; and right former colleagues pay their respects.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson

His interest in the railway had never faded, but after leaving school Bobby earned a living as a hotel porter, followed by stints as a slater and in Sarah McMaster's fish shop before he had the opportunity to join the railway as a steam cleaner, progressing to a fireman's position in the 1960s.

That was the start of a life-long passion with the railways and steam in particular. At first, he was a fireman on the steam trains running through

Fort William and on the West Highland Line.

But his dream was to become an engine driver. He moved to Stirling in 1964 as a Steam Fireman as there were no openings locally in Lochaber for him.

Bobby had met his future wife, Mary, in the 1960s and the couple were married in October 1968. Their children then followed – Fiona in 1971 and Robert in 1975.

But Bobby missed Fort

William and he returned as soon as there was a job on the engines back in his hometown. He had also missed his identical twin brother a great deal.

He continued as 'second man' on diesel engines in Fort William, but no driving vacancies came up so in order to fulfil his ambition to become a fully-fledged diesel engine driver, he had to take his chance when a post came up in Inverness in 1986 and the

family moved to a new home in the city's Aird Avenue in January 1987.

It was in 1984, much to Bobby's delight, that steam made a return to Fort William and the West Highland Line.

He eventually qualified as a steam driver taking the opportunity to work on his days off from British Rail on steam engines on the West Highland Line.

Bobby went on to become a train driving instructor with

ScotRail and was delighted when he could help ambitious youngsters get a start and get ahead. He took great delight in being the first driver for the North line to drive the New Sprinter train in 1989.

Bobby was active in the Fort William Railway Social Club as a committee member and took pride in being a major part of the club.

Sadly, life had its share of both 'downs' as well as 'ups', with Bobby's marriage of 30 years sadly ending in 1997 and tragically Mary died in January 1998.

However Bobby found happiness again with the second woman destined to hold his heart, Moira, and she became his partner for more than 20 years until her death in 2018.

Bobby continued to work on the railways with ScotRail until he retired. He then went to work with West Coast railways as a driver so he could finish up work in the way he started – on the footplate of his beloved steam trains.

He was contemplating a final retirement after this summer season, when he would be 78, but sadly it was not to be. Bobby died peacefully on April 22, after a short illness, at his home in Inverness surrounded by his family and was laid to rest alongside, Moira, and his brother, Charles.



Bobby had a life-long love with steam trains, starting as a steam cleaner and working up to being a train driver.



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Lochaber care homes remain free of virus

Three care homes in Lochaber have still not reported any cases of COVID-19 infection, it was confirmed this week, writes Mark Entwistle.

There have been no cases of the virus at Abbeyfield Ballachulish, Invernevis House in Fort William or Moss Park at Caol.

The Caol facility is run by HC-One, which also operates the Home Farm care home at Portree on Skye which has seen the deaths of six patients due to an outbreak of coronavirus which infected a large number of residents and staff members.

A spokesperson for HC-One told us: 'We are doing everything we can to make sure our residents and colleagues stay safe and well throughout these challenging times.'

'We have a comprehensive coronavirus contingency plan in place, which was created by our clinical director and reflects the latest government guidance. We are working closely with our local health and care partners, and we

are continuing to take action to secure the medical equipment, PPE, and supplies we need to protect residents and colleagues alike.

'We are providing round-the-clock support for all our teams, and we are also grateful to relatives for their ongoing support and understanding.'

On Friday night, NHS Highland confirmed that residents of two other care homes on Skye, Budhmor Care Home (Portree) and An Acarsaid home (Broadford), had been tested and returned all negative results for COVID-19, as had the staff of Budhmor.

The health board put out a statement saying it recognised that the virus outbreak at Home Farm was causing concern in the local community and wanted to give an update on the actions being taken to address this.

'NHS Highland is working with HC-One, The Care Inspectorate, and other agencies to maintain infection control and stabilise the care home during this period,' said the health board.

Women's Aid delivers care during lockdown

by Fiona Scott
fscott@obantimes.co.uk

Despite fears that cases of domestic abuse could soar during the coronavirus pandemic, Lochaber Women's Aid (LWA) are still managing to support everyone who is in contact.

Anita MacLean of the Fort William branch confirmed last week that new contacts and referrals remained steady during the first few weeks of lockdown and have been responded to within the normal timeframes.

'We have been able to provide support to everyone who has contacted us,' she added. 'We are still here for people and our message remains the same, abuse is not ok, but it's ok to talk about it.'

The staff at Lochaber Women's Aid are used to supporting women through times of crisis and helping children and young people deal with difficult situations, but the current pandemic has meant quick



changes to its ways of working.

Although staff are currently unable to meet individuals face to face, they are continuing to provide a comprehensive support service to women, children and young people across the region.

The team are delivering their support by phone calls, by text, by email and using other social media and apps as appropriate to keep in touch. LWA can still help women with the same

safety planning, emotional and practical support and referrals for other services that they would do in person.

'We want women to know they are not alone and that we are still here to support them and their children,' reiterated Lorraine Revitt, LWA service manager. 'Our response to coronavirus is under constant review, and we will make decisions about how we provide our service based on available

information and guidance from government.'

Women seeking support during this time should still contact Lochaber Women's Aid by telephoning 01397 705734 or by emailing lwa@lochaber-womensaid.org.

The website www.lochaber-womensaid.org contains helpful information and also has a contact form.

Lochaber Women's Aid staff are available Monday-Thursday 9am-5pm and Friday 9am-2pm.

Specially trained staff are available to offer support and information for anyone experiencing domestic abuse, those concerned about someone else and professionals with questions.

'We would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to the individuals and organisations who have supported us through this challenging situation with donations of money and toys,' added Ms Revitt.

IF IT'S URGENT, IT'S URGENT

GP surgeries and hospitals are still here for you.

If you have an urgent, non-coronavirus health concern, please don't wait. Promptly seek help for emergencies, present possible cancer signs and attend immunisation appointments.

LT

Lochaber lockdown Legends: Spean's Liam and Marianne

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

The family of a young Spean Bridge couple has nominated them to be our Lochaber Lockdown Legends this week and when readers learn what Liam and Marianne Fraser-Stewart have been doing to support their local community during the coronavirus emergency since jetting home from the United States a few weeks ago, we are sure they will agree they deserve the accolade.

Until very recently, Liam and Marianne were working as resident musicians in Disney Springs in Florida, but had to return home early due to the coronavirus outbreak.

But despite a tiring last-minute transatlantic flight and cross-country journey, they both threw themselves into community volunteering to ensure the vulnerable residents



Marianne and Liam Fraser-Stewart with some of the food supplies distributed from 'The Bridge Cafe' in Spean Bridge.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba. photos

of the village and surrounding area had someone to turn to.

The nomination came from Marianne's mum, Mary Fraser, together with Diane Falconer

(sister) and her family (husband Barry, daughter Brooke and son Layton), Lorraine Fraser (sister) and her family (partner Scott, daughter Kayla

and son Xander). Mary told the Lochaber Times: 'When they got home, they moved in with me so they could keep their cottage free for any front line workers that may have required it.'

'They have set up the Spean Bridge Community COVID-19 Support page on Facebook and have been offering their time and compassion to anyone who contacts them, enlisting a string of volunteers to help.'

Liam and Marianne have now been in phone contact with every single person, of a certain age and those who should be shielding, in the local areas of Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge, Achnacarry and areas in between – approximately 120 folk in all.

They have been visiting supermarkets, collecting prescriptions, are co-ordinating and delivering free essential food packages and have organ-

ised the purchase and delivery of pulse oximeters to households across the area – even stretching to Fort Augustus when someone was in need.

They have also set up a temporary foodbank pick-up point so locals can avoid travelling into Fort William to donate to the Lochaber Foodbank.

And if all that was not enough, Liam and Marianne have also given their time and talents to perform a Facebook Live Covid Ceilidh from their front garden raising £1,600-plus for Lochaber Foodbank.

Mary added: 'We think they are amazing and that their kindness and tireless efforts deserve some recognition, even though they would never ask for or expect this!'

Marianne told the Lochaber Times this week it had been a mad scramble to get home from the US, but that she and husband Liam, who are both in

their 20s, were glad to be back in Lochaber.

'We were supposed to be staying until the end of the summer. When the manager of the place we were staying said we all had to leave there was a scramble to get flights home.'

'We were just pleased to get back and able to do what we could to help out in our local community,' added Marianne, who along with Liam brushed off the jet lag to organise community support only two days after getting home.

After setting up a local community support group they were joined by dozens of other local residents wanting to offer their volunteering services.

'It's been amazing to see how the community has really rallied together to help each other out.'

'A lot of positives are emerging from a very strange and worrying situation.'

**A Thank You from
Ian Blackford MP,
Ross, Skye & Lochaber.**

On behalf of everyone in Ross, Skye & Lochaber, I would like to thank all health and social care staff and other key workers for helping our communities through this Covid-19 crisis.

I would also like to thank every one of you for playing your part by staying at home.

Ian Blackford MP

Contact details:
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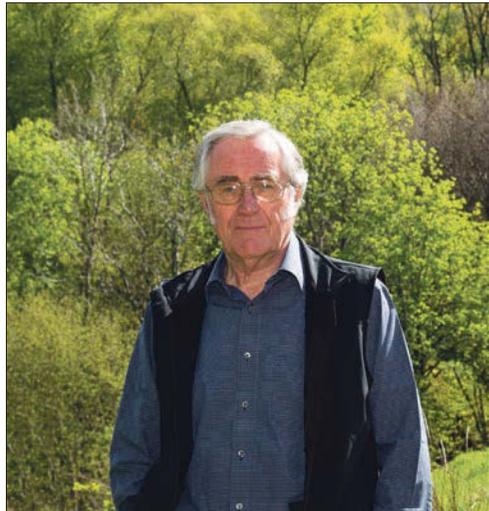
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Brian Murphy, whose home looks on to Cow Hill, asked for tree cutting work to be suspended during the bird nesting season.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba. photos



Energy firm says Cow Hill tree clearing being done sensitively

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Energy provider SSEN says it is carrying out essential tree felling works in the Cow Hill area of Fort William are carried out sensitively and with minimal impact to local wildlife.

Local Alma Road resident Brian Murphy had complained to the electricity company recently.

Mr Murphy told the company he had no issues with the company clearing brush and small trees that could eventually be large enough to cause problems for nearby overhead power lines.

'I have no problem with that aspect of the work, I know it is necessary in order to protect the power lines from falling trees in the future. However, I would like to point out that we are right in the middle of the nesting season. The area in question is a habitat for many species of wild birds and other creatures such as roe deer for example,' added Mr Murphy.

Mr Murphy said around half-a-dozen SSEN workers using chainsaws had been cutting trees, making a lot of noise and disturbance at a very critical time for nesting birds.

He added: 'I would point out that the network of paths on the Cow Hill provide a very valuable resource for people to walk and try to find some peace and tranquillity in what is a very difficult time for many

of us because of COVID-19. 'This is work which should not be done at this time of year, and I am asking you to please stop it as soon as possible. To my mind it is work which should be always be carried out in the winter months.'

Asked to respond, an SSEN spokesperson told the Lochaber Times: 'As distribution operator in the north of Scotland it is our role to maintain the safety and security of our networks while ensuring we keep the power flowing, doing everything we can to minimise the risk of power cuts for our customers.'

'Trees and other vegetation coming into contact with power lines can be a safety concern as well as a cause of power cuts so it is vital that we do everything we can to minimise this risk.'

'We are currently undertaking a tree-cutting programme to clear trees and vegetation away from approximately 5km of overhead line outside Fort William; these lines are an integral part of the electricity network supplying hundreds of customers in the Fort William and the Glen Nevis area.'

'We have been working closely with statutory bodies and local land owners to ensure that these essential works are carried out sensitively and with minimal impact to local wildlife in the surrounding area.'

Paula helps Morrisons mark VE Day

Shoppers at Fort William Morrisons were given a musical treat last Friday when professional singer/musician Paula MacAskill performed a VE Day tribute at the store.

Staff and customers joined in as the local queen of country sang We'll Meet Again on the 75th anniversary of the formal acceptance by the allies of Nazi Germany's unconditional surrender of its armed

forces on May 8, 1945, marking the end of the Second World War.

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, Paula's appearance was kept under wraps to ensure social distancing could be maintained but anyone who missed the performance, which took place at 3pm, was entertained with a special VE Day playlist on the tannoy system throughout the day.



Singer Paula is joined by supermarket staff.

By staying at home, you're saving lives. Let's not undo it now.

To protect ourselves and our NHS the advice in Scotland is staying very much the same. This is because the evidence is telling us it's too early to make significant changes.

So the only change to the advice in Scotland is that you can now go outside to exercise, near your home, more than once a day. You should continue to stay two metres apart from others outside your household and wash your hands when you get home. You're doing a fantastic job of following the advice.

Let's not undo it now.



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LT

Mallaig and Morar community larder gives welcome support

Mallaig and Morar Community Larder at the community centre at West Bay in Mallaig is now also being stocked with school jotters and pencils, games, colouring books and crayons, as well as foodstuffs.

As well as the fridge and freezer, there are dried and tinned goods, and a selection of books for both children and adults and the larder is open from 9am-1pm Monday to Saturday.

Hand sanitiser and some spray and blue roll for wiping down surfaces is provided - please use these responsibly and follow social distancing rules if other people are already in the building.

People are asked to bring their own bags and a box has been provided for returned books/donations inside the door.

The free-to-use larder at the community centre is restocked regularly and people are asked



The Mallaig and Morar Community Larder games as well as foodstuff.

to take only what they need.

The larder is aimed at all those whose income has been reduced due to the coronavirus pandemic, including the self-employed, pensioners and furloughed people.

There is a second access point at the Astley Hall in Arisaig for people to pick up extra supplies if required.

The larder is not staffed. Donations of food for the larder can be made in the Co-op store in Mallaig and the Astley Hall will be open on Saturdays, 2-4pm, for donations of tinned and dried goods.

Harris resident shares his birthday with VE Day

Donald Morrison was 97 on this year's anniversary

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar has sent birthday wishes to Second World War veteran Donald Morrison, who celebrated his 97th birthday on Friday, sharing his special day with Victory in Europe Day for the 75th time, writes Mark Entwistle.

Mr Morrison was born in Molinginish, Harris on May 8, 1923. He attended school there, along with his older siblings Murdo and Katy.

He left school at age 14 to work with his father on a fishing boat until he joined the Merchant Navy on March 3, 1943, joining the ship Empire Diplomat at Kyle of Lochalsh.

He was home on leave from the Merchant Navy on May 8, 1945, when Britain's wartime leader, Winston Churchill,



Donald Morrison has shared his birthday with VE DAY for the past 75 years.

announced that the war was over.

That day he had left Molinginish early morning and was walking to Tarbert

on route to Stornoway to visit his mother in hospital. At Sunnyhill near Tarbert he met some jubilant school children who told him the school was on holiday as the war was over.

Mr Morrison continued his bus trip to Stornoway and recalls on his return journey seeing bonfires lit all along the way into Tarbert and on the hillside at Direcleit, above Tarbert.

He walked home from Tarbert to Molinginish and on reaching had a celebratory dram with his father and brother Murdo, who had been a prisoner-of-war for five years.

After the war, Mr Morrison continued life at sea until he met his wife Mary, who comes

from Kershader in South Lochs. They got married in Southport on October 28, 1953, and moved back to Harris where they have spent their entire married life. They have five children, three grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

Mr Morrison's daughter, Peggy Morrison, explained that he still managed to celebrate in style despite the current restrictions: 'My father celebrated his 97th birthday at home with my mother on Friday.

'Jasmine, one of his great-grandchildren, baked him a birthday cake and along with her brother Benjamin sang him some birthday songs while maintaining social distancing.'



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LT

Wild Words

KIRSTEEN BELL

fort@obantimes.co.uk



Some of the earliest known maps of the Scottish Highlands were created by visitors.

Military or exploratory, either way they were created

because map-makers wanted to understand more about the shape of the landscape.

Those first maps, made in the 16th and 17th centuries,

show a landscape whose face is completely changed but is still recognisable as the one we live in now.

Rivers and shorelines follow the same route, allowing present-day map readers to access a time long past.

Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS) is stepping further back into time and is seeking young artists to help them re-imagine the Mesolithic past.

Budding artists have been

offered the chance to become a character in new artwork created to support Forestry and Land Scotland's Into the Wildwoods learning resource – by drawing their own Mesolithic map.

The two lucky artists – apprentice Mesolithic Map Makers – will be turned into a cartoon illustration and make their own appearance in the distant past.

Their maps will also be

professionally reproduced by artist Alex Leonard.

Into the Wildwoods looks at the ways in which our Mesolithic ancestors understood the complex habitats and ecosystems in which they hunted and gathered. It is an engaging, fun way to help us understand our place within the natural world.

FLS archaeologist Matt Ritchie said: 'Archaeology is a fascinating subject that captures the imagination of young and old.'

'Into the Wildwoods provides a storyline and a mix of creative activities and discussion ideas to help anyone with an interest in our ancient past discover the world of the Mesolithic hunter-gatherers and explore the interconnected ideas of habitats, natural resources and seasonal change.'

It explores the themes of cognitive maps and story maps, connected landscapes, seasonal resources, special places, movement and travel and different scales. The resource is available online and will provide an unusual topic

for anyone looking to keep their youngsters busy at home.

'We're looking for young artists to depict an imaginary landscape and the various resources in it. It also needs to include a short caption describing their imaginary tribe, the route they would take to find food and resources to survive and how to avoid the dangers.'

'It can be drawn, painted, a photograph or put together from things found in the woods, such as sticks, stones, feathers and bones, so get creative.'

Mesolithic children would have known this landscape – the earliest known human settlement in Scotland was found at Kinloch on Rhum – so the rivers, mountains and islands of Lochaber could be a source of rich inspiration for those trying to map the past.

Anyone between the ages of 8 and 13 who thinks they could be an apprentice Mesolithic Map Maker should send a photograph of their map to matt.ritchie@forestryandland.gov.scot by Monday June 1.

Are you a current or former Postmaster?

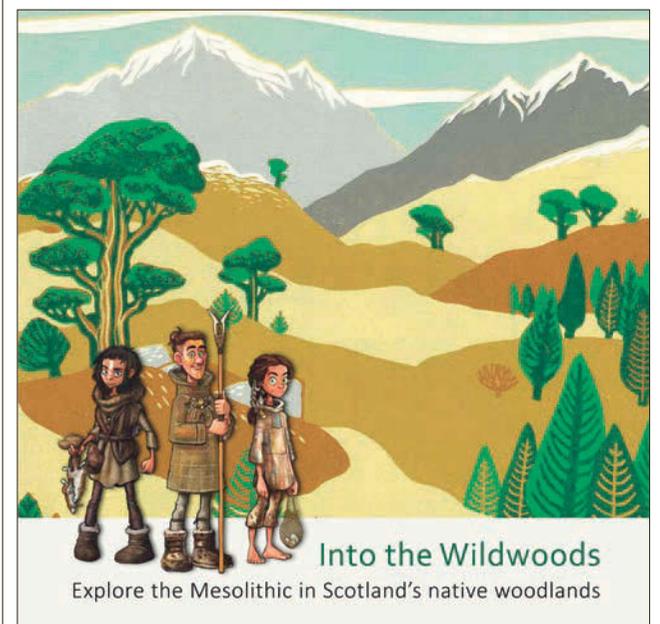
If you held a contract with Post Office and experienced shortfalls which you believe were caused by previous versions of Horizon, you may be eligible to make a claim.

If you wish to register a claim, the Historical Shortfall Scheme is open until 14 August 2020.

Cases will be assessed by an independent advisory panel.

For details and to submit a claim please visit onepostoffice.co.uk/scheme

POST
OFFICE



Forestry and Land Scotland is seeking young artists to help them re-imagine the Mesolithic past. Photograph: Alex Leonard, Forestry Land Scotland.

Helping fishing families

Mallaig Fishermen's Mission is appealing to fishing families struggling due to the impact of the coronavirus pandemic to get in touch with the charity.

Fishermen's Mission Port Officer in Mallaig Karen Calder, speaking directly to fishermen's families, said: 'We know how difficult life is at the moment. We also know asking for help is never easy. I am appealing to fishermen, to their wives and partners and to wider members of fishermen's families who are facing difficulties to call the Fishermen's Mission. We are always here to listen and give practical guidance. Together, we can get

through this crisis, so call us today.'

The Mallaig Fishermen's Mission may also be able to access further financial support and grants specifically to help families and fishermen's children.

Ms Calder added: 'Working alongside other maritime charities, the Fishermen's Mission can access funding and support that are not available elsewhere, particularly for fishermen's children.'

Contact Karen Calder at Mallaig Fishermen's Mission by calling 07917754407 or email MallaigCentre@fishermensmission.org.uk

Supermarket sweeps onto doorsteps with essentials

by Fiona Scott
fscott@obantimes.co.uk



Staff from Fort William's branch of Morrisons last week made its 100th doorstep delivery of essential food to elderly and vulnerable customers in need of help during the coronavirus lockdown.

Morrisons has been delivering essential food to those who need it most over the last month or two as well as helping keep Lochaber foodbanks well stocked.

At the outbreak of coronavirus, the supermarket giant pledged £10 million of stock would be set aside for distribution to food banks.

The Fort William store receives a pallet of food a week and, alongside donations from staff and customers, this is distributed to food banks around the area.

'The Royal British Legion

Scotland Fort William Branch has been one of the many we are delighted to support,' said Morrisons Community Champion Vicky Kelly.

'It was especially poignant last week as we marked 75 years since VE day and although we can never repay the debt to those who served for us, we are honoured that, through the RBLs, we can show our appreciation and give our support in these difficult times.'

In response to the COVID-19 crisis, Morrisons also created a doorstep delivery service to enable their elderly and vulnerable customers to stay at home. Robert McMillan, Fort William Morrisons store manager, said: 'We don't want any members of our community left behind whilst we face the coronavirus outbreak. Our customers, their family members or carers can call a dedicated helpline and we

will take their order, ensuring they not only receive the basic essentials but their favourite treats too. Our Fort William team then safely deliver to their homes the following afternoon with card payments taken at distance.'

On Tuesday May 5, the 100th doorstep delivery was made to Caroline and Allan Livingston.

A recently retired postman, Mr Livingstone said: 'Having received an NHS letter advising me to isolate due to medical conditions, this new service provided by Morrisons has been a lifeline.'

Ms Kelly added: 'It is a pleasure to bring this service to our customers.'

To place an order using the Morrisons doorstep delivery service call 0345 611 6111 option 5. The order line is open Monday to Saturday and orders placed before 5pm are delivered the next day.



Vicky Kelly of Morrisons prepares food deliveries with Fort William Legion Scotland members Hugh MacInnes, left, and David Brady. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos Inset: Caroline and Allan Livingston received the 100th doorstep delivery from Fort William's Morrisons last week.

LOOKING FOR HELP DURING CORONAVIRUS?

Please cut out and keep this page of useful contacts for use when you may need them.

National Assistance Helpline
(Open office hours Monday to Friday)
Call: 0800 111 4000
Text phone service: 0800 111 4114

To help people at increased risk access essential help if they do not have family or other support.

Health

www.nhsinform.scot/coronavirus
0800 028 2816 for general information only

NHS 24: Call 111 if symptoms worsen or if fever for 7+ days

Shielding local support:
www.gov.scot/covid-shielding-contacts

Feeling anxious or depressed?

NHS Inform:
www.nhsinform.scot/coronavirus-mental-wellbeing

NHS 24: Call 111
www.clearyourhead.scot

Breathing Space:
www.breathingspace.scot
0800 83 85 87

SAMH:

0344 800 0550
Samaritans Scotland Helpline:
116 123 / jo@samaritans.org

Advice for pregnant women
www.nhsinform.scot/ready-steady-baby or contact your midwife if concerned.

Social welfare and financial help
Citizens Advice Scotland:
www.cas.org.uk
0800 028 1456

Struggling with energy bills?
Home Energy Scotland:
0808 808 2282

Consumer issues
Advice Direct Scotland:
www.coronavirusadvice.scot
0808 800 9060

Employment rights advice

www.acas.org.uk
Helpline: 0300 123 1100

Your rights at work

www.stuc.org.uk
0141 337 8100

For business support

www.findbusinesssupport.gov.scot
Helpline: 0300 303 0660

Advice for parents

www.parentclub.scot/coronavirus
Parentline Scotland:
08000 28 22 33

The Money Talk Team:
0800 085 7145

Information for young people

www.young.scot/coronavirus

Information for older people

www.agescotland.org.uk
0800 12 44 222

Dementia – Alzheimer Scotland

www.alzscot.org
Helpline: 0808 808 3000

Scottish Autism Advice Line

www.scottishautism.org
01259 222022

Domestic Abuse Helpline

www.safer.scot
Helpline: 0800 027 1234

Rape Crisis Scotland Helpline

www.rapecrisisscotland.org.uk
Helpline: 08088 01 03 02



Healthier Scotland
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LT

Glenfinnan musicians take their place on virtual stage

Supernatural tale of Grey Dog moves online

Any readers wondering what happened to part three of Morar author Tom Keenan's weekly series on the supernatural tale of The Grey Dog of Meoble, fret no more.

Restrictions on space in the paper last week meant it had to be held over, so to make sure we continue Tom's fascinating story, we are going to publish the remaining three parts on our website – starting today. Visit our website to learn when the Grey Dog of Meoble made its first spooky appearance in print.



Ingrid Henderson and Iain MacFarlane appear on the show.

Glenfinnan Ceilidh Band's husband and wife duo Iain MacFarlane and Ingrid Henderson are among the musicians appearing in a new BBC ALBA series presented by award-winning Gaelic singer Julie Fowlis.

Filmed during the coronavirus lockdown, 'Julie Fowlis|Ceòl aig Baile (Music at Home)' is an eight-part music series that takes place in an extraordinary time in our history, using the lockdown as a creative boundary.

Julie said: 'With festivals and gigs all postponed and cancelled, we thought this would be a great opportunity for artists to work together to create something timely and entertaining for the BBC ALBA audience.'

'The half-hour episodes will feature six songs, with each programme given to a pair of musicians to curate.'

Between the musical tracks, musicians will reveal a little about their songs and tunes and how they are coping during these unusual times.

'Each performance is recorded



Julie Fowlis.

in the artist's home with viewers getting a visual flavour of their life in lockdown.

The first programme is curated by Julie Fowlis and Eamon Doorley and while Julie presents the rest of the series, each programme will have a different set of curators, including Ingrid Henderson and Iain MacFarlane and Karen Matheson and Donald Shaw (Capercaillie).

As well as Rodrigo y Gabriela,

there will be performances from acclaimed musicians Rosanne Cash, Zoë Conway, John McIntyre, Karan Casey, Mike McGoldrick, John McCusker, Kris Drever, Dirk Powell, Xabier Diaz, Karine Polwart and renowned Gaelic singer Kathleen MacInnes.

Margaret Cameron, Channel Editor at MG ALBA, which operates BBC ALBA in partnership with the BBC, said: 'This series gives musicians, deprived of playing live concerts, a virtual stage and an opportunity to perform directly from their homes to viewing fans.'

'These programmes invite musicians from Scotland, Ireland, Europe, Canada, Mexico and the US to connect with fans and to perform in a visceral way, appealing to feelings as much as intellect.'

Julie Fowlis|Ceòl aig Baile, produced by Beezr Studios, starts on BBC ALBA tonight (May 14) at 10pm with each episode subsequently available on the BBC iPlayer for 30 days.

Online open days at
West Highland College UHI
15th, 21st and 28th May 2020

We have been delivering virtual learning to Highland communities for 10 years, we're ready to help you achieve the career you want

Drop in to our open day between 11am and 3pm from the comfort of your home. We'll have knowledgeable staff ready to answer your questions about courses, funding and any other queries you have about studying. Check our website for future online open day dates, to book your place or arrange a one-to-one appointment.



University of the
Highlands and Islands
West Highland College

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agus nan Eilean
Colaiste na Gàidhealtachd an Iar

www.whc.uhi.ac.uk/opendays

View From The Edge

CATH MACDONALD

fort@obantimes.co.uk

The silence was deafening. It was Sunday, the sun hot and blindingly bright, the sea so calm it looked like a mirror. The churches were closed. No cars on the road.

There was nothing to do except go for a walk again on the well-known path or watch the TV only to hear the worrying news that self-isolating would continue, not just through the next three weeks into May, but into the unforeseeable future.

Yes, we understand the risks of coming out of the lockdown and self-isolating too soon, but how are we to cope if it continues into the unforeseeable future? It has even been mentioned the lockdown could continue until 2021.

While we hope this will not happen. A lockdown is devastating for the Hebridean islands, especially as hospitality and tourism is so important to the area.

Hotels, cafes, restaurants bed and breakfast accommodation, campsites and others will suffer.

We accept the lockdown has to continue until it is judged safe to make some moves towards 'normality'.

We have a small campsite on the croft which was set up by my late father and is usually busy at this time of year. The crofts on the eastern side of Harris were never enough to provide the income needed for a family, so tourist accommodation, along with other things, was used to supplement the croft income.

When tourism started to become an important industry for the islands, I was a child and can remember walking through the village, noting the cars at each croft house where B&B was provided. Dinner and packed lunches were also sometimes provided.

Years later, tourists began coming in caravans and motor homes leading to a reduction in the number of B&Bs.

We have had over a week of the most glorious weather which, in normal times, would have seen our roads and our beautiful, world-renowned beaches busy with visitors.

Festivals, including the Mod which was to have been held in October in Inverness, have had to be cancelled.

Besides the effect on tourism, there is the effect on people



Cath MacDonald.

self-isolating. If you are part of a family you have someone to talk to.

But spare a thought for people living on their own. The elderly who have carers will have someone to talk to during the short period of their visit, but there are others who see no one all day.

Yes, there are deliveries of food from shops, with bags taken to front doors, and the postman calls with mail.

We are used to receiving guests at this time of year and doing any necessary work. We are used to having family from the mainland visiting and other visitors to the islands calling but it is not going to happen this year.

It is hard on the economy, but it is also hard on people who live on their own and there are many of these on our islands.

Many have welcomed hearing the church services on the internet, radio and TV on Sunday in English or Gaelic.

While we are unable to meet with family and friends while self-isolating, we can have contact by phone, email, Skype or other platforms.

The coronavirus pandemic happened in the UK at about the same time as the Connected Communities wireless network was set to close and we were advised to find other servers to connect with.

The Tech Mobile Shop in Stornoway has been helpful to me and others at a time when it was so important to be able to communicate with family and others.

Although the shop was closed, it has been possible to get someone to help by phoning the shop number.

I thank them for their help in keeping me and many others in touch with each other at a difficult time.

£2.7m support awarded to communities

More than 120 communities across the Highlands and Islands are among the first in Scotland to benefit from the Scottish Government's £350 million package of support to address the social and economic impacts of COVID-19.

The £40 million Supporting

Communities Fund, which forms part of the Scottish Government's support package, is being administered across the region by development agency Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE).

The fund includes an initial £10 million being distributed

to communities through eligible community organisations that play an active role in providing vital services. A further £10 million has been approved to support the second phase of the fund. More than 250 rural and urban communities across Scotland will receive

funding in the coming weeks and months.

Douglas Cowan of HIE said: 'Distributing funding through these anchor organisations gives local people the power to make the right choices to ensure the support goes to help those who need it the most.'

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Join Scotland's new team and help beat coronavirus.



We have a number of roles in our newly established Contact & Trace Team. We are looking for people with a wide range of skills, strengths and talents to help us in the fight against coronavirus. Lives are at risk and time is of the essence, and that's why we need you to register your interest before 22nd May. To find out more about the roles, the competitive NHS pay and benefits, visit careers.nhs.scot/coronavirus-covid-19-recruitment

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email us at fort@obantimes.co.uk
telephone 01397 703003

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LETTERS

Write to us: send your letters to fort@obantimes.co.uk
or The Editor, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB

Security of jobs and heritage are both vital

The current situation where Lochaber is in lockdown and many businesses are closed has not been easy for a lot of people.

And charities have been hit terribly along with everyone else.

This week the National Trust for Scotland announced that although it has earmarked 27 of its sites, including Glenfinnan and Glencoe, to open hopefully later this year, due to the massive slump in income more than 400 members of staff are now at risk of redundancy. That includes 11 of the 23 members of staff at Glenfinnan's famous 1745 monument and visitor centre, and Glencoe visitor centre.

Everyone's first concern is for the staff who risk losing their jobs. In Lochaber, where so many rely on the tourism sector for their livelihood, this is a huge blow.

But it is also a concern that the trust's income this year is forecast to collapse by £28 million, fall again in 2021 even if current restrictions are relaxed, and this does not include estimated investment losses of £46 million due to stock market conditions.

That puts its future in serious jeopardy.

While people come first, we must do everything we can to save our heritage, because without knowing where we have come from, how can we know where we are going?

The editor welcomes letters of approximately 300 words in length for publication on this page. However we reserve 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 phone number is also required for verification. Anonymous letters or those supplied without a contact phone number will not be printed. Please email: editor@obantimes.co.uk or write to: Letters page, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB.

At the Oban Times we endeavour to ensure that all our reports are fair and accurate and comply with the Editors' Code of Practice set by the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO). We realise, however, that mistakes happen from time to time. If we have published anything that is factually incorrect, please email: editor@obantimes.co.uk; telephone on 01631 568000; or email editor@obantimes.co.uk. We will attempt to resolve your issue in a timely, reasonable and amicable manner. However, if you are unsatisfied with our response, you can contact IPSO by email: inquiries@ipso.co.uk. We will abide by the decision of IPSO.



Click and no collect – what's gone wrong at Tesco?

Like a previous correspondent, we are also in the group where Click and Collect is advisable.

We came into the pandemic on C & C and once you knew the secret (go on at midnight) all worked quite well. We were usually allocated a C & C slot some eight to 10 days hence.

However on April 29 we received (like thousands of others) an update from Dave Lewis the CEO, advising all they are achieving with their C & C service. Oh dear, all has gone wrong since then and we cannot get a slot now, which incidentally has gone out to three weeks hence.

We have tried for the last five nights to get a slot without success. We have tried every variation on time around midnight without luck. Last night we went onto the site at 23.52, no queue. We came out and went back on at 23.53 a queue was there, so we joined.

The "lorry" moved forward gradually until 12.03 when the screen changed, and we hoped... Alas no slots available. How can a queue have formed in only one minute for us to be so far down the queue that all slots were taken? A mystery.

David and Hilary Currie,
Taynuilt.

The Corran crossing debate continues

I see that the Corran Crossing debate has resurfaced with the publication of the latest feasibility study, not that feasibility was ever in doubt – if engineers can build the Channel Tunnel and the Queensferry Crossing, feasibility to span 500 metres is child's play.

While the report makes great play of the benefits to local residents in terms of shorter journey times they also said this in 2012 when they spent about £1 million on improving a mile of road at Drynie Hill, destroying a beautiful drive up a scenic glen and also knocking a whole five minutes off journey times.

The real cost benefit analysis here is the £1million could have been better spent – a first rate sports and leisure centre, complete with swimming pool, could have been constructed for a similar price and this really would have had a beneficial effect on locals, both adults and children, yet here we are again with councillors contemplating the expenditure of huge sums of money with no real understanding of the effects, not least on the local infrastructure, and no mention of the updating of roads on the peninsular to meet the projected demand.

Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL

editor@obantimes.co.uk

Cha robh e na iongnadh sam bith gun d' rinn a' Bhanrigh Ealasaid ceangal eadar uabhasan an Dàrna Cogaidh agus na tha daoine a' fulang le sgrios Covid 19. Bha i a' craoladh bheachdan a' comharrachadh ceann-bliadhna latha VE, nuair a ghèill Nàsaich na Gearmailte agus a thàinig crìoch air an Dàrna Cogadh san Roinn Eòrpa.

Gu ìre bha an saoghal gu lèir a' cur clach air càrn-cuimhne na milleanan a chail am beatha san tachartas oillteil sin agus a' mhòr-chuid a' feuchainn ri tuigsinn cò ris a bha e coltach naidheachd sìthe a chluinntinn seachdad 's a còig bliadhna air ais.

Bha sinn a' feuchainn ri tuigsinn ri linn 's nach eil mòran air fhàgail aig am bheil cuimhne air an latha, agus tha nas lugha buileach beò a bha an sàs sa chòmhris! Ach abair gum bheil gach neach dhiubh airidh air cuimhne, agus urram, na càirdean sin nach b' aithne dhuinne riamh ach an ainmean agus ma tha sinn fortanach, 's dòcha dealbh neo dhà de dhaoine òga. Ginealach cailte, agus bu thruaighe iomadh coimhearsnachd agus a' Ghàidhealtachd is na h-Eileanan nam measg sin. Buille chruaidh eile dha na Gàidheil, gu h-eaconamach agus gu cultarach, agus tha a' bhuaidh nochdte fhathast.

Ged a thill mòran beò dh'fhàg na chunnaic is na dh'fhuiling iad lotan air bodhaig is inn-tinn nach do leighis gu tur riamh. Cluinnear bitheanta nach robh an fheadhainn a thug am beatha às a' bhàr deònach bruidhinn mun a' chogadh, agus 's e pàirt den adhbhar sin gun dùisgeadh sin cuimhne air eagal do-chreidsinneach ri uchd bualaidh.

It is estimated that just to improve the existing 64 miles of single track A861 and A884 to double track would cost a minimum of a further £50 million.

With the current pandemic threatening to change holiday and travel patterns, not least a huge increase in the use of camper vans, the ferry remains a very good "tool" in managing visitor traffic and ensuring that Ardnamurchan is not over-run as has happened on Skye.

This crazy proposal should be consigned to the dustbin of history where it belongs.

Andrew Green,
Ardtoe.

Cha b' ann den deòin a bha iad ann ach air sgàth 's nach robh roghainn aca, ach rinn iad na chaidh iarraidh orra agus mòran aca le gaisgeachd iomraiteach! 'S fhiach cuimhneachadh cuideachd air na geallaidhean a bhreug air falbh iad, 's gum biodh dùthaich freagarrach air gaisgich romhpa a' tilleadh. Cha robh an sin ach aon de na geallaidhean nach deach a choileanadh dhaibh, agus b' fheadar dha iomadach Gàidheil òg a thàinig beò à uabhas cogaidh a' choimhearsnachd fhèin a thrèigsinn air sgàth dìth cosnaidh is dachaigh, is freumhachadh ann am baile-mòr às nach do thill e.

'S e cùis-nàire dhan dùthaich cho beag aithne is taic 's a tha feadhainn a chaidh an aghaidh cunnart às ar leth a' faotainn, chan eil dùthaich againn fhathast freagarrach dha gaisgich!

'S e nàmhaid eadar-dhealaichte ris am bheil luchd-seirbheis na slàinte a' sabaid an-dràsta, ach tha e pailt cho iargalta agus cunnartach, agus nach bu chòir gun toireamaid duais a rèir an cuid gaisge dha na laoiach sin!

Her Majesty the Queen's VE Day message rightly urged us to remember how much we owe to those who gave so much for our freedom. We should also remember the cultural, social, and economic damage added to war casualties by the failure to deliver the promised "land fit for heroes". Let's make certain the health-care heroes of the Covid 19 conflict are suitably recognised!

Allan Campbell,
ailean@obantimes.co.uk

Nature has a way of being heard over climate change

On December 5 last year you published my letter on Climate Change which you headed 'booming world population is cause of climate change'. Nature has a way of dealing with population problems when we do nothing ourselves – famine, war and disease.

This time nature has chosen disease. Will we never learn?

Professor Colin Davidson,
Ardfern.

Chicken Kebabs



7 Syms per serving 25 minutes Serves 4

Deduct 7 Syms if using Pitta Bread Wholemeal as a Healthy Extra 'b' choice.

A simple tikka marinade packs tons of flavour into this fab kebab dinner

Ingredients

8 skinless and boneless chicken thighs, visible fat removed, cut into bite-size pieces
3 level tbsp tikka curry powder* (see tip)
250g fat-free natural Greek-style yogurt
3 garlic cloves, crushed
4 x 60g wholemeal pitta breads
Lemon wedges, to serve

Method:

Put the chicken in a freezer bag (or a glass or stainless-steel bowl) with the curry powder, yogurt and garlic. Season with salt and stir to combine. Seal the bag or cover the bowl with cling film and marinate in the fridge for at least 1 hour or overnight.

For the salad, put the cucumber, radishes, celery and lettuce in a bowl. Mix together the yogurt and chopped coriander, season, then stir through the salad.

Preheat your grill to high. Lift the chicken out of the marinade, letting any excess drain off, then thread onto 4 metal skewers. Place on a baking tray lined with foil and grill for 10-12 minutes, turning halfway, or until the chicken is lightly charred and cooked through.

Toast the pitta breads. Scatter the coriander sprigs over the chicken skewers and serve with 1 pitta bread per person with the salad and lemon wedges for squeezing over.

*Spice blends are Free as long as they're made from herbs and spices only and don't include any Synned ingredients like sugar, flour and oil. Check the label to be sure and count the Syms as necessary

For the salad:

1 cucumber, halved lengthways, deseeded and roughly chopped
200g radishes, trimmed and quartered
3 celery sticks, roughly chopped
2 little gem lettuces, shredded
100g fat-free natural Greek-style yogurt
25g fresh coriander, leaves roughly chopped, reserving a few whole sprigs for the kebabs

PLEASE NOTE:

ALL CLASSES ARE CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Your consultant for Lochaber and Oban is Gillian on 07796 040803, Lochgilphead & Campbeltown Rhona 07880 878906. Available for Slimming World phone support and guidance.



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Detailed recipes available at:

slimmingworld.co.uk

OPEN FOR BUSINESS

We realise that many more businesses would love to be open, serving locals and visitors alike – our deepest empathy goes out to these businesses and we look forward to seeing their doors wide open when this is all over. Please feel free to get in touch with us if you would like to feature your business, or know a business that should be included. Email nmurphy@obantimes.co.uk or get in touch via our Facebook page on messenger. Let's spread the word as much as we can!

SUPERMARKETS AND FOODHALLS

MARKS & SPENCER FOODHALL

Open 8am-8pm Mon-Sat, until 6pm Sun
Mon and Thurs 8am-9am elderly customer priority
Tues and Fri 8am-9am NHS staff only
Social distancing measures in place
Tel: 01397 600208

MORRISONS

Open Mon-Sat 7am-8pm
7am-8pm Sunday
Weekdays 7am-8am for NHS workers priority and 7am-8am Sunday
All colleagues with an NHS badge will be able to get into the store to stock up on the products they need.
Please note all our cafes are now closed.
Tel: 01397 700333
Tel: 0345 6116111 option 5 for doorstep deliveries for elderly and vulnerable

LIDL

Open Mon-Fri 8am-10pm
Sun 8am-8pm
Tel: 0800 977 7766

ALDI

Open Mon-Sat 8am-8pm
Sun 9am-8pm
8am-9am for example plus key worker priority at tills
Tel: 0800 042 0800

FARMFOODS

Open: 8am-8pm Mon-Fri
Sat: 8am-7pm
Sun: 9am-6pm
Tel: 0121 700 7160

CO-OP STORES

CAOL, CORPACH, MALLAIG
Mon-Sun: 7am-8pm
Key worker priority shopping: 8am-9am (Sun 10am-11am)
Tel: 01397 703302

TESCO EXPRESS

Open: 7am-9pm Mon-Sat. Sun: 10am-5pm
NHS/Key Worker Priority Hour: Tuesday/Thursday 9am-10am Sunday 9am-10am.
Vulnerable customers Monday 9am-10am, Wednesday 9am-10am, Friday 9-10am

TAKEAWAY FOOD

THE GEOGRAPHER

Open for orders Fri-Sun, from 4.30pm
Order from 2.30pm
See FB page for full menu
Delivery service
Tel: 01397 705011

SPICE TANDOORI

Open daily from 4pm
Phone orders only
Payment preferred over telephone by card
Deliveries from 5pm
Tel: 01397 705192

MACARI'S FISH & CHIPS

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Order from 3.30pm for collection from 4pm.
Social distancing rules apply for queuing customers
Tel: 01397 703333

BEN NEVIS TAKEAWAY

Inverlochy
Pizza!
Place your order via JustEat or
Tel: 01397706171

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Extensive takeaway available with weekend specials.
Tel: 01397 700730, Wed-Sat, 5pm-9pm
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In conjunction with Iain Stewart Fishmonger, JM Breckenridge and Glen Spean Brewery
Great selection of meats, fish, vegetables, eggs, milk, butter and flour
Check out FB for list of details
Order by 1pm for next day delivery
Fort William and surrounding area, Mon-Sat
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Kishorn Dry Dock – the sleeping giant reawakens

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

For the first time in more than 25 years the dry dock facility at Kishorn Port near Lochcarron in Wester Ross has been fully opened to the sea to allow a shipping vessel into the dock.

This marks the start of a new chapter in the life of the dry dock, one of the largest in Europe. In the early hours of Tuesday May 5, one of the 13,000-tonne dry dock gates was gently eased from its base and towed out into Loch Kishorn for temporary mooring.

The operation was completed following a week of detailed preparatory work to ready the gate for its move. This included removing the large gate seals which keep the dock dry and flooding the dock and pumping of water from inside



the gate structure itself to allow it to float.

Weather and tidal conditions were ideal for floating and moving the gate. Smoke drifting over Loch Kishorn from a wildfire on the hillsides above Auchintraid pro-

vided an atmospheric backdrop to the operation.

Alasdair Ferguson, director of Kishorn Port Limited, said it was an important milestone in bringing Kishorn dry dock back into use.

The newly reopened dry dock at Kishorn port near Lochcarron.

'It follows over 18 months of investment in the dock by Kishorn Port Limited supported by Highlands and Islands Enterprise and the Decommissioning Challenge Fund,' explained Mr Ferguson.

'We're extremely grateful for the assistance we've had from those bodies and others which has made this possible and also the support from the local community and the Applecross Trust.

'The port team and our contractors have worked around the clock to prepare the dock while observing social distancing and other measures required in the current crisis.'

Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) has invested more than £700,000 in Kishorn in recent years. This contributed towards the costs of overhauling the dock gates, cleaning the site, creating a new access road, and buying and installing dry dock gate anchors.

Alastair Nicolson, HIE's interim area manager for Lochaber, Skye and Wester Ross, added: 'Kishorn dock is a unique facility for all marine industries such as construction of concrete structures for offshore wind but particularly decommissioning and dismantling projects such as this. It's great to see this project arrive, demonstrating the area's competitiveness in this market and helping to sustain valuable jobs, which contribute significantly to both economic and community growth in a rural part of the area.'

VIEW FROM THE CHAMBER



As we continue adjusting to life in a pandemic since the UK Government announced lockdown measures on March 23, many of us have been working from home – or is it being at home trying to work?

The chamber team have embraced technology and advocated virtual meetings, project management tools and various ways to help us collaborate internally and with our membership at this uncertain time.

We have learned to think quick and fail fast in these past weeks to lobby, discuss and drive through change with ministers, chamber partners and our strong Lochaber community proving their resolve each day.

Tom Peters, an influential management thinker hosted a webinar recently for World of Business Ideas (WOBI) and paraphrased one of his books, *The Little BIG Things: 163 Ways to Pursue Excellence*, saying: 'It's the small courtesies that last forever, indeed it's

the small, tiny stuff that you remember.'

An interesting thought as we make our journey to the 'new normal' and navigate our way through the changing landscape.

He went on to read an information notice distributed by a community college in Oregon, USA that was sent to all staff to help them adjust, adapt and remember the little things:

1. You are not working from home, you are at home during a crisis trying to work;
2. Your personal, physical, mental and emotional health is extremely important right now – take care of yourself;
3. You should not try to compensate for lost productivity by working longer hours;
4. Be kind to yourself and don't judge how you're coping based on how you see others coping;
5. Be kind to others and don't judge others and how they're coping based on how you're coping;
6. Success will not be measured in the same way as it was when things were 'normal'.

The world is changing at a rapid pace and we're all trying to keep up. Just remember, look after yourself as much as you are looking after others. We're in this together.

Island's baking brothers star in TV series

A new BBC ALBA series about a family-run bakery on Benbecula starts on Thursday May 14.

Brothers Allan and Ewen Maclean opened Maclean's Bakery at Uachdar in 1987.

Since then it has become one of the largest private businesses in the Western Isles sending every type of cake, oatcake, biscuit and bread across the isles and to all corners of Scotland.

Allan has revealed he and Ewen knew nothing about baking before starting the business.

In the early days, word spread about the bakery and it proved a hit with hungry late night revelers once the pubs closed and dances finished at weekends.

Allan said: 'We worked night shift then and people started coming in once the pubs closed to ask if they could have a pie.'

It became so popular he was struggling to prepare food for the vans leaving at 9am, so he stopped supplying pies during the night to concentrate on producing food.

Throughout the years, Maclean's has prepared food for events large and small in Uist.

Among the services they provide is a busy restaurant called Stepping Stone and a catering trailer which sells fresh local produce and hot food to events.

The six-part series shows how the family team manages to juggle everything.



That includes real-life drama when Ewen, who has Crohn's Disease, is rushed to the hospital on the mainland to deal with what could be a life-threatening situation, while the family has a difficult decision to make over its restaurant.

Since the programmes were made and the outbreak of coronavirus, the bakery has closed its takeaway but still has its full team of staff working, including Alice, pictured above.

They also continue to provide hot food from their catering trailer to the community.

An Taigh-Fuine/The Bakery starts on BBC ALBA on Thursday May 14 at 8.30pm and each episode is available on the BBC iPlayer for 30 days after it airs.

DISTRICT NEWS

Send us your district news by emailing
fort@obantimes.co.uk or call 01397 703003

Top chef Helen misses out on National finals

Lochaline's star chef Helen Jones has been deprived of her chance to cook up a storm in the UK Final of the Rotary Young Chef competition due to the ongoing lockdown situation.

At only 12 years old the Ardnamurchan High School pupil won through Area, District and Regional stages in her endeavours to compete in the National finals which were due to take place in Stratford upon Avon earlier this month.

Starting with success in the Lochaber heat, Helen went on to take the Glasgow and West of Scotland Award at East Kilbride before capturing the All Scotland title at Stirling earlier this year.

The independent judges in the two main competitions were full of praise for Helen's cooking abilities and also her general skills and demean-

our. Rotary Youth Activities Convener Donald Young said: 'Helen is desperately disappointed but fully understands the situation.'

'It was a great feeling to have had the opportunity to attend all the stages of the competition with Helen and Trish Kennedy from the High School and to

have witnessed all the emotions of her achievements.'

The Rotary Young Chef competition, sponsored by Filippo Berio, gives entrants the chance to put their culinary skills to the test and be judged by leading industry professionals.

Entrants plan and cook a three course meal, develop their food presentation skills and gain experience in high pressure situations.



Helen receiving her Glasgow and West of Scotland Young Chef winner's award from Rotary District Governor Jimmy Johnston.

The young members of Acharacle Brownies celebrate receiving £350 of start-up funding from the Rotary Club of Lochaber.



Rotary funding boost gets thumbs up from Acharacle Brownies

Newly established Acharacle Brownies are celebrating after receiving funding for new equipment from the Rotary Club of Lochaber.

As well as the local township, the group welcomes members from the Ardnamurchan and Moidart.

Rotary Club president Clive Talbot said: 'We were delighted to award £350 and support this very worthwhile community venture.'

'It sits perfectly with the club's ethos of supporting communities and encouraging youth activities.'

Speaking on behalf of the Brownie Unit, Marie Luise MacDonald said: 'We are really pleased to receive the

grant money from the Rotary Club as we have just recently started up our new unit - which the girls seem to really enjoy.'

'The funds will allow us to buy equipment that will be used for years to come so that hopefully lots of girls in the area will benefit.'

'Acharacle is a great community for youngsters to grow up in but there are not always activities available for the younger members of the community. I am hopeful that by setting up the Unit for Brownies and Guides in future, therefore this is a long-term plan.'

Community rallies to celebrate milestone anniversaries

Barvas community has rallied around to give Sammy Macdonald a 70th birthday, and Jackie and Chrissie Ann Smith a Golden Wedding anniversary, they will never forget.

With the current lockdown putting paid to the original plans to mark both these significant milestones, the families and neighbours of Sammy, Chrissie Ann and Jackie, wanted to make a special effort to celebrate the occasions.

The incredible community effort swung into action on Saturday morning, April 25, with three pipers - Ashleigh Macdonald, Adam Macdonald and Alex Murray, playing a set of tunes that brought all nearby neighbours out to their gates - while observing physical distancing, of course - to sing, cheer and clap as the two milestones were marked in the most amazing act of kindness.

Key organisers Mairi Helen Macdonald, Jackie and Chrissie Ann's neighbour; Lorraine, Sammy's daughter; and Ashleigh Macdonald, piping instructor, said: 'Sammy, Chrissie Ann and Jackie were completely overwhelmed, it was so emotional but



Jackie and Chrissie Anne Smith were surprised by a trio of pipers playing outside their Barvas home.

so heart-warming. During this time of crisis, the level of community spirit has been quite amazing.

'We hope that everyone continues to stay safe and well and carry on taking care of one another - the Western Isles way!'

To watch the video visit <https://youtu.be/CzC5oev9VEw>

Ardgour Primary's waterlogged playing field saved by estate

When pupils of Ardgour Primary School finally get the chance to return to their classrooms when coronavirus restrictions permit, they will discover they can now make use of the previously waterlogged adjacent playing field.

Thanks to the generosity of Broadland Properties Ltd, which owns the nearby Conaglen Estate, and the perseverance of the school's head teacher Lindsay Bradley, essential repair work has finally been carried out to bring the playing field back into a condition that allows the children to use it.

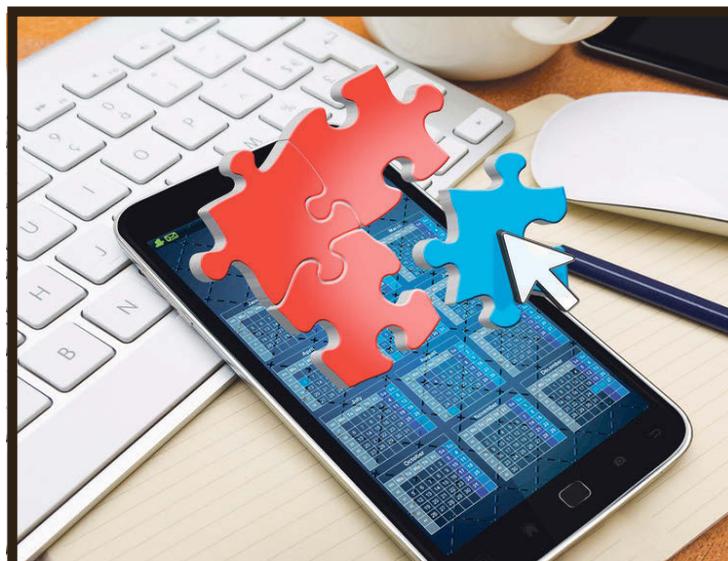
Conaglen Estate factor David Mosgrove explained: 'Following on with our long standing relationship with Ardgour Primary School, Broadland Properties Ltd - Conaglen Estate were delighted to offer to rotovate, plough and reseed the Ardgour School Playing Field, which has been largely unusable by school for the past three or four years due to a lack of significant maintenance which resulted in year-round waterlogged conditions, which in turn meant the council could not cut all the grass in previous years and the children were restricted to using only a small part of the field.'

'We very much hope that the school children will be able to get to use the field later this year, when the home-schooling rules are lifted and things get back to normality.'

One local resident and parent told us: 'Given this kind gesture by Broadland Properties Ltd, the Conaglen Estate owners, to do all the work free of charge, I think it is only fair they get some good publicity. Good news stories are very much needed just now.'



Estate staff worked on the field under strict COVID-19 guidelines.



Wylie & Bisset giving free business advice to steer Scottish businesses through Coronavirus lockdown

We have launched a helpline to help steer companies through the Coronavirus lockdown period.

We want to assist those businesses that, through no fault of their own, find themselves confronting various pressing business problems as a direct result of the government restrictions to quell the spread of COVID-19.

There are various options available to businesses and if you need a sounding board or to speak to a financial expert about your options, we are here to listen and offer free advice.

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Gillian Hancox.



Irene MacLean.



Ishbel Murray.



Jane Angus.



Susana Fernandez-Diaz.

Rebels without a causeway enjoy Polar experience

by Fiona Scott
fscott@obantimes.co.uk



Hardy swimmers from Fort William who braved the elements throughout the winter have been rewarded for their efforts.

Named the Rebel Swimmers, most of their swims are carried out in Loch Shiel and Loch Arkaig which both have connections to the '45 Rebellion, Irene MacLean, Jane Angus, Ishbel Murray, Susana Fernandez-Diaz, Gillian Hancox and Morag Hughes completed the Polar Bear Winter Swimming Challenge and received their certificates and badges at the beginning of this month.

The group are all NHS workers and, as well as achieving personal goals, were raising money for the Wee Harry Potter Bridge project (www.facebook.com/weeharrypotterbridge), while £400 from the entry fees was



Morag Hughes has earned her title of Jedi.

donated to Highland Wildlife Park.

To achieve the required levels, Penguin, Classic, Silver, Gold, Arctic and Jedi, swims had to be completed wearing just an ordinary swimsuit, cap and goggles and had to be swum in the sea, river, lake or unheated lido.

All six completed their respective challenges swimming more than the necessary number of metres.

Rebel's founder Morag Hughes and Gillian Hancox completed the gold challenge the previous year and opted for the Jedi challenge this time around.

To achieve this the duo had a daunting list of 10 compulsory swims - 2,000 and 1,500 metres at nine degrees or under, 1,750 and 1,250m at eight degrees or under, 1,500 and 1,000m at seven or under, 1,250 and 750m at six or under and 1,000 and 450m at five degrees or under.

In addition, the ladies had to complete a 250 metre swim twice a month and 3,000 metres total distance each month.

Gillian has only been open water swimming since 2018 when Morag persuaded her to 'give it a go'.

'I loved it so much that when Morag discovered the Polar

Bear Facebook Challenge Winter 2018/2019 she asked would I like to join her,' she told the Lochaber Times.

'So I did and we swam all through the winter, the first time for both of us, from November to March.

'Since then so many more wonderful and inspiring ladies have joined us and they love it too.'

Proud

Morag, who has 30 years of open water experience, added: 'We are a small group with around 10 of us swimming in the winter and another 10 or so joining us in the summer. I'm so proud of all the achievements by our members.

'Fortunately the weather was on our side as the first week in November saw the first snow on the hills and the water temperature in the lochs dropping.'

Irene, Jane, Ishbel and Susana completed the Gold challenge, which entails two 250 metre

swims twice a month from November to March plus another 2,500m, making a total of 5,000m.

Irene, who only took to the sport in May last year, said: 'I find that wading in to a freezing cold loch surrounded by the spectacular scenery of the Highlands provides tremendous stress relief and is a true leveller.'

Fellow newcomer Jane added: 'There was a daunting apprehension of starting the challenge but we all took it one swim at a time. My highlight was swimming when snow was falling.

'And the low point? Not been able to get my socks on fast enough after.

'It's much more than a physical challenge. It's a mental challenge too, but the sense of well-being is amazing afterwards.'

Originally from Spain, Susana lived in England for

25 years before making the move north of the border last year. A consultant surgeon at the Belford Hospital she loves swimming outdoors but never thought she would be doing it in Scotland's 'freezing lochs'.

'I'm Spanish after all,' she added.

'The challenge was amazing and I learned a lot, especially that you can do anything you set your will to do as long as you've got people with you.'

'We've supported each other and it has been the most amazing experience.'

A celebration swim planned for Loch Arkaig and the witches Pool (Caig Falls) will be held after the lockdown is lifted.



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