



## Oban and Lorn Hospital buzzing with drone trials



## Former editor of Oban Times celebrates 90th birthday

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### MAKE THE SWITCH

# Major blow for Oban as hotel group ceases to trade

by Fiona Scott  
fscott@obantimes.co.uk



Bay Great Western Hotel in Oban is among seven Scottish hotels that have been forced to close after its owners called in the administrators.

The 127-room venue on Corran Esplanade closed last Friday when the parent company, Specialist Leisure Group (SLG), called in administrators due to the impact of COVID-19, with the loss of around 2,500 jobs.

Hotels affected include Bay Tarbet Hotel at Loch Lomond and the Bay Caledonian Hotel in Fort William.

Speaking to The Oban Times earlier this week, BID4Oban chief executive Andrew Spence said he had been shocked to hear the news and expressed sympathy for the affected staff.

'This is one of the largest hotels in Oban catering mainly for the coach tour market,' he said. 'It is important to understand that many who visited this hotel were also visiting hotels

in Fort William and Tarbet on two-centre holidays and many of these visitors would have used cafes, pubs and restaurants across the town as well as visiting many local attractions.

'These are very difficult times for the hotel and tourism industry, and a lot of government support will be needed to ensure their future viability.'

### 'These are difficult times for the hotel and tourism industry..'

'We have nothing but support and sympathy for all those employed across the company who have lost their jobs.'

'All those involved in tourism are working in the background on recovery plans, however, it is difficult to plan any marketing or support until we have a timescale and guidelines for the hospitality industry opening.'

SLG chief executive Richard Calvert described the situation as 'heartbreaking'.

'This is a terribly sad day for employees, customers and commercial partners of the Specialist Leisure Group and its subsidiaries which have entered into administration,' he said.

'The effects of COVID-19 on our 117-year-old company and the wider travel industry have been devastating. We have fought tooth and nail to save the group and the jobs of our 2,400 loyal employees. It is heartbreaking the required funding or investment could not be secured to save SLG and our amazing travel brands.'

SLG operated several businesses under brand names including Bay Hotels, Shearings and Caledonian Travel, which have all ceased to trade, due to the impact of COVID-19.

According to a survey carried out by the Federation of Small Businesses, over 36 per cent of Highlands and Islands businesses that have shut down during the coronavirus outbreak fear that they may never reopen. Turn to pages 18/19 for more on this.

## Tune in to Ardchattan Radio



Ardchattan Community Council chairperson Breege Smyth was all smiles after proudly introducing the new Ardchattan Radio. The online station is in response to the current lockdown and has been funded by the Scottish Government's Supporting Communities pot. For the full story, turn to page eight.

## What we are doing to help

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- We are working with our wholesale and retail partners to make sure that your newspaper is still in the shops

### Keeping our community informed

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If you want to get the "page turner" version of the newspaper and can't get to the shops we have halved the price of our digital edition for the next 3 months. We will review this on an ongoing basis.

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OT

## Happy lockdown birthday!



Jamie Madden from Oban celebrated his third birthday on May 20. He enjoyed playing with his balloons and birthday presents, and topped the day of sharing his cake with dad, mum and brother Cameron.



Esther Napier from Oban celebrated her second birthday on May 12. She got to eat lots of cake on her birthday.



Lilly Jane Burgar was four on May 5. She had a brilliant day celebrating with a slip and slide party, a unicorn cake and lots of fun with her lockdown family, her mum, Rory, Olly, Gill, Tim. Lilly cannot wait to see all her friends and family and have another BIG party!



Lewis Smith from Oban celebrated his second birthday in his garden with his sister Laila. They had a good time, but Lewis and Laila miss their Nana Rena very much and cannot wait to see her after lockdown.

# Action stations for new Oban firefighter Jack

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



New recruit Jack Lamont has joined Oban firefighters on the front line.

Jack is one of more than 80 outstanding trainees who have just graduated from Scotland's firefighting schools.

The 24-year-old from Balloch joined Amber Watch four weeks ago and follows in the footsteps of his dad who retired from the Fire Service in Glasgow after more than 30 years.

Some of the 80-strong group were put through their paces at the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service's £10.5million state-of-the-art facility in Newbridge, Edinburgh, over the course of 11 weeks. Others, including Jack, graduated from the SFRS National Training Centre in Cambuslang.

Ready for action, Jack is settling in well with colleagues, helping to protect the Oban community and work with other partner services to reduce the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, says Oban Crew Commander Ewan Diven.



'Jack's doing well. He's very switched on and he's already passed an important milestone making breakfast and lunch for his fellow crew that was quite edible!' he said.

Over the next three years Jack will work on his response and technical rescue skills under a structured training programme.

Responding to road traffic

collisions, urban search and rescue, mass decontamination, rope rescue and water rescue are just some of the missions Jack will undertake during his career.

Jack's first impressions of Oban are good even in this strange time of COVID-19.

He said: 'Oban's very quiet so far, with people following advice to stay safe and stay home.'

Jack Lamont has recently joined Oban Fire Station's Amber Watch and is settling in well.

Usually it would be heaving with tourists at this time of year, but it means I'm getting time to get to know the station. With my dad being in the Fire Service, it meant I grew up with it. It's always been part of family life.'

More new faces will be joining the Oban station soon, says Crew Commander Diven.

Community Safety Minister Ash Denham recently praised the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service for the important work they are doing to keep communities safe during the coronavirus emergency.

He said the latest training graduates will be 'a valuable addition in helping keep our communities safe during the challenging times we are experiencing.'

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# Katie Morag connection backs Coll playpark appeal

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Coll islanders are hoping a claim to fame will boost their ambitious playpark plans.

Youngsters on the tiny Inner Hebridean island that inspired the popular Katie Morag stories, have been without a playspace for two years and now they hope that name-dropping as part of a fundraising campaign will help them get well on their way to getting a new one.

Campaigners pushing for a playground include Katie Morag author and illustrator Mairi Hedderwick's grandson Sam Rutherford and partner Rosie Macgill who live on Coll and have just welcomed the island's newest arrival, 12-week-old Orla, into the world.

The new playspace, which



**The old playpark on Coll had to be abandoned after it became out dated and unsafe; islanders hope Katie Morag will help attract funding.**

could cost about £100,000, will go in the grounds of the community centre in the village for locals and visitors to use and it is hoped Katie Morag's worldwide fans who adore her adventures on the magical isle of Struay will also give generously.

So far a GoFundMe campaign online has raised £3,290 with almost another £900 being donated offline and extra cash from the community, including Coll Show, smashing the £5,000 mark, but COVID-19 has cancelled

a whole line-up of events that campaigners had hoped would be key to bringing in bumper funds in 2020 - including the Coll Half Marathon weekend.

The old playpark, which was on land donated by the Coll Hotel, had become outdated and unsafe over time and had to be abandoned, said mum-of-one Alison Jones from Coll Community Playpark Committee.

Her five-year-old son Harris and other children have been busy coming up with design ideas for the new space which would have activities for all ages and possibly a Katie Morag theme to bring in the visitors.

'We're lucky we have the great outdoors, but two years without a park to gather in

and meet visiting children and make friendships is too long. Often our children are playing on their own.

'We'd like to have had it done yesterday! The whole thing is money dependent and dependent on us getting planning through. We hope we will have the support of Argyll and Bute Council.

'Building a playpark on Coll will be more expensive than on the mainland but that's not going to put us off. We've got to think about the longevity of the equipment to hold up against our weather, there's the bringing it over and the installing of it - personally I'm thinking it could be about £100,000; a roundabout itself is about £5,000. It's big numbers!'

The fundraising committee, who are now planning alternative money-making events

online, including Zoom quizzes for up to 100 people, will be applying for grants but fear the impact of coronavirus could redirect support making it more difficult to get.

Including baby Orla there are four pre-nursery tots and eight of primary school age living on the island, with some older children at Oban High School staying on the mainland.

The same way as Balamory drew tourists to Tobermory, a Katie Morag playpark could become a magnet for Coll, although a sea theme with a basking shark slide is also among design ideas.

The GoFundMe campaign can be found at [www.gofundme.com/f/coll-community-playpark](http://www.gofundme.com/f/coll-community-playpark) or if anyone wants to make a direct donation, email [collplaypark@gmail.com](mailto:collplaypark@gmail.com)



# 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

## Oban bar plans to reopen not close

The owner of a popular Oban bar and restaurant has pledged 'we aren't going anywhere' and said he hopes to reopen the beer garden this summer, writes Ellis Butcher.

Declan Curran, owner of The Lorne Bar, spoke out after rumours circulated about its future, but he was quick to reassure loyal customers.

Mr Curran, originally from County Wexford, said: "The Lorne is not going anywhere. I'm edging towards looking at reopening the garden in July and hopefully by August we'll be trading inside as well."

"The first opportunity is looking at the outside areas as we could probably get between 20-to-30 people in the garden with social distancing."

Like many other publicans, Mr Curran, 45, is hoping for clearer guidance from the government about how, and when, pubs could reopen.

"I am just waiting for the government to tell us how we should open."

All eyes are likely to be on First Minister Nicola Sturgeon on Thursday as she is strongly expected to announce a relaxation of some of the lockdown restrictions.

# Islanders launch story search for old Kerrera

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Islanders on Kerrera are looking for stories to share about their heritage.

A call has gone out to help them collect tales, photographs and artefacts to piece together its past.

There are plans to eventually gather all the stories and contributions either in an exhibition or a book.

Whether it is the chance to chat with people who have links to Kerrera's past or to take guardianship over interesting items of old from the island, organisers behind the appeal want to hear all about it.

"We know there's lots of folk out there with a connection to Kerrera. Please help us to gather stories and if you have any nuggets of info, old photos or just suggestions of where to look - please get in touch," said



Aideen Shields who is project co-ordinator for the Isle of Kerrera Development Trust (IKDT) and is asking people to spread the word.

If you can help send an email to [heritagekerrera@gmail.com](mailto:heritagekerrera@gmail.com). For the time being, COVID-19

has put a stop to the 15,000 plus visitors a year who take the short ferry ride over from Oban, but the island with its tiny full-time community of 65 is still pushing ahead with plans for a busy future.

Earlier this year the island was

awarded more than £100,000 to turn its old school into a community hub.

One idea is that the possible heritage exhibition will find a home in that fit-for-purpose centre when its doors open in the future.

Islanders have launched the search for stories, artefacts and photographs of life on Kerrera in years gone by to pull together for an exhibition or book.

Lottery money totalling £85,584 will help pay for a planned programme of events and activities over three years on the island and will buy a marquee to go outside the school as a temporary venue while the building is being renovated.

Another £16,000 came from a foundation who chose the old school project to be a beacon for other similar community-asset schemes.

A successful bid to the Scottish Land Fund meant the island was able to buy the dilapidated building from Argyll and Bute Council last year after it stood empty for two decades.

Community fundraising continues and more bids for grants are being made with final costs of building works still to be finalised.

To make a donation to the old school project go to [www.just-giving.com/campaign/kerrera](http://www.just-giving.com/campaign/kerrera)

## Former Oban Times editor celebrates 90th birthday

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Former Oban Times editor Iain Nicolson has celebrated his 90th birthday.

Despite lockdown the veteran newsman and his wife Maimie spent the day on Friday happy at home in Kerrera Terrace, Dunollie, toasting the occasion with champagne.

Daughter Fiona Donn delivered a buffet lunch to the shielding couple and 23-year-old grandson Liam Scott Donn surprised them by turning up at their door to play an accordion tune from a safe social distance.

Railway key worker son Michael Nicolson also called by to wish his dad many happy returns and there was plenty of phone calls from other family, including 21-year-old grandson Innes Donn who has just finished his final year studying French at Edinburgh's Heriot-Watt University.

"We've had a wonderful day, the family has spoiled us with treats and surprises and we've had enough champagne to



Iain Nicolson joined The Oban Times when he was 15 years old, retiring when he was 78.

have a party!" said Maimie. Mr Nicolson left school at 15 to join The Oban Times as a trainee reporter working his way through the ranks to editorship with a circulation of 26,000.

Before retiring at 78, he led the advertising department and wrote a regular column about events coming up in the

town. Another gift he received was a video from former colleague Erik Spence playing a jazz tune.

Whenever Mr Nicolson went to London on newspaper business, he was a regular at the Ronnie Scott Jazz Club, so the musical gift brought back many fond memories, said Mrs Nicolson.



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**STAY HOME, STAY SAFE, PROTECT OUR NHS**

# NHS Highland puts contact tracing to the test

NHS Highland has been selected as one of three Scottish health boards to piloting contact tracing technology, writes Ellis Butcher.

The health board started testing out the software for it on Monday as part of the country's war on COVID-19.

NHS Fife and NHS

Lanarkshire are the other two health authorities also leading the way.

Test, Trace, Isolate, Support is a public health intervention to identify cases of COVID-19, find the people they have been in close contact with, and then ask those close-contacts to self-isolate for 14 days to

reduce the risk of the disease spreading.

The pilot, expected to last two weeks, will allow health boards to test out the software which contact tracers will use to collect the information that they need digitally.

NHS Highland's Director of Public Health Dr Ken Oates

said: 'Contact tracing will form an integral part of the COVID-19 outbreak response. NHS boards have been tasked with developing interim solutions for building local contact tracing capacity ahead of the proposed national contact tracing service.'

He added: 'NHS Highland

is one of a small number of NHS boards that will be trialling the training and guidance materials developed to support the contact tracing function across Scotland.'

This week the pilot was being



supported by two NHS Highland workers said Dr Oates who added the number of contact tracers will be 'increased incrementally to meet the demand until the national contact tracing service is in place.'

# Open invite to online Pride at Home party

by Fiona Scott  
fscott@obantimes.co.uk



Oban Pride 2020 is moving online with members of the LGBT community and their supporters invited to tune in, tune up and get involved.

From noon on Saturday, May 30, Pride at Home will be getting into full swing on the Oban Pride Facebook page, kicking off with a smorgasbord of musical treats to suit all tastes before launching into a fun quiz for everybody to enjoy.

Oban Pride chairman Phill Dexter told us: 'The committee were deeply saddened when on March 16 we had to hold an emergency meeting to make a decision on Oban Pride 2020 due to COVID-19, the outcome of this meeting as you all know was to postpone the event until 2021.

'Since that meeting, however, we have been working hard, having regular video meeting via Zoom and we are now delighted to announce Oban Pride at Home.

'It's hard that we can't all be together at the moment and we were very much looking forward to Oban Pride 2020.

'We hope you can all join us in one of our virtual activities to mark the day and we look forward to seeing everyone at events soon.'

On Saturday May 30, when they were due to come together in celebration, Pride sup-



Both the musical event and quiz with both be hosted by OP poster girl Crystal.

porters are now being given the opportunity to join the Oban branch for two at home activities.

From noon people can listen to the official Oban Pride Spotify playlist, Oban Pride 2020 - Let's Party.

'We invite everyone to join in by enjoying this playlist in their own homes, you are also invited to send us requests of songs that remind you of Pride to our Facebook page for us to add,' said Phill.

Let's Get Quizzical begins at 7.45pm (quiz starts at 8pm) on both the Oban Pride Facebook and Twitter pages, both will be hosted by OP poster girl Crystal and the quiz is suitable for everybody. All you need to join in the live event is pen and paper.

## Anyone 5 years and over, who is displaying symptoms of coronavirus, can now get tested.

If you have a high temperature, persistent cough, or loss, or change, of taste or smell, you can now get a test.

You can book a slot at a drive-through testing centre.

Or request a test kit to be delivered to your home.

If you have symptoms, you should only leave your house to go for a test.

Otherwise, you should follow self-isolation guidelines and stay at home for 7 days. And anyone in your household should stay in for 14 days.

To find out more and book your test go to [www.nhs.uk/coronavirus](http://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus)  
If you can't get online, call 0300 303 2713.



CORONAVIRUS

STAY HOME  
PROTECT  
THE NHS  
SAVE LIVES



OT

## Around Oban

KAY MCDONALD

editor@obantimes.co.uk

Another lockdown payday rolls around and I know the temptation is there to shop online, but we also have to think about what Oban is going to be like as we slowly work our way back to some semblance of normality.

Lots of local businesses are suffering just now and it's going to be a hard slog for some of them to survive the next few months, so before you click onto online shops across the country have a wee think about where you could get the same thing locally. Check out the list in the Oban Times every week of the places that are open, is it a local shop that you could phone to have something delivered, such as Alba, or do they have an online shop themselves, such as Orsay?

With a little bit of thought and effort we can help our local businesses and shopkeepers get through the next wee while and with our support, perhaps, when things are opened up fully, there won't be too many gaps where thriving businesses used to be.

## WHERE IS THIS?



Lots of businesses have adapted what they do to try and survive, and Facebook is a great way to contact them or find out what they can offer at the moment. Our LoveOban page is trying to keep up with what's happening but if we've missed anything then let us know, we're here to help.

Last week's photographs was a special one that I'm sure brings a smile to everyone who drives down Dunollie Road. It was made by the very thoughtful and artistic Caley D'Arcy for his Granny after she said she would like a sign to make people happy. He's certainly done a great job.

This week's is in the same vein.

# St Conan's lion to take pride of place

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Appin stonemason Michael Hogg is roaring ahead with repairs on a historic lion ready to return to St Conan's Kirk.

The church on the shores of Loch Awe is shut to visitors during the COVID-19 outbreak but it is hoped the four-foot stone lion will soon be back, taking 'pride' of place in its rightful position on a pedestal in the cloisters ready for when the doors open again.

Despite coronavirus restrictions hampering supply of materials, Michael was able to source what he needed to chip away at the special commission.

Just how the lion got damaged decades ago is still a mystery today but with Michael's expertise it will shortly be as good as new.



Stonemason Michael Hogg works on St Conan's lion ready for it to take pride of place back at the historic kirk.



Michael said: 'Somehow the lion had come off its pedestal and hit the ground, breaking off a corner. I've put in a new piece of stone and tidied up the base so it'll be easier to put back on its base.'

'The lion's mouth also needed fixing, that was a first for me! I put a dowel in and then I've been building up the area in layers so I can reshape it back to how it would've been.'

'It's been great to be part of the kirk's refurbishment process and feels good to think my work will be part of such a historic building's ongoing story.'

Michael who originally comes from Inverkip started out as a drystone waller and then served his time with Historic Scotland as an apprentice stonemason working at Fort George, Elgin Cathedral and Kildrummy Castle in Aberdeenshire.

The 32-year-old came to the Oban area to work for another stonemason business but when the owner retired, Michael decided to stick around and go it alone with his own venture from Fasnacloch.

'I didn't want to leave the area and so far going it alone has gone really well for me, mostly

rendering and repairing old buildings and I do letter cutting. Work on the lion will soon be finished. Once I get the nod from the kirk, he'll be on his way back home to take 'pride' of place,' he added.

Keeping our community informed

## What we are doing to help

- We are continuing to bring you accurate and trustworthy news in-paper and online
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## Roadworks in Oban could last up to 12 weeks, says SSE

A major roadworks project affecting three roads in Oban gets under way today.

The works by Scottish Southern Electricity are to connect the new housing development at Dunbeg corridor to the local electricity network.

The roadworks will affect Glencruitten Road and Lochavullin Road between Monday and Friday only and span a total of 12 weeks.

A total of 65 days has been put in as a contingency.

The works in Albany Street are scheduled to last a total of

10 days to replace an existing mini pillar.

The timing of the works – several weeks after lockdown was introduced – is said to have been set by the developer's timetable.

Scottish Southern Electricity Networks said the project would involve teams replacing around 840m of underground cable.

A spokesperson from Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks, said: 'We would like to apologise in advance for any inconvenience

these works may cause and assure everyone we will do all we can to complete the project as safely and as quickly as possible.'

Glencruitten Road will remain open during the works, but will be reduced to one lane with traffic management in place.

The community council was informed as well as letters going out to nearby properties.

SSEN said: 'There will be no interruption to local electricity supplies as a result of this work.'

All together >

# Protecting jobs and supporting business

The Government has announced an unprecedented package of support to protect jobs and support business

across the UK during the coronavirus outbreak. There is a wide range of financial support available to firms of

all sizes. Today we take a look at how some companies have benefited from the help available.

## 'Critical to Scouts' survival'



**HELPING HAND:** Scouts Scotland supports 12,000 volunteers and 40,000 young people.

### CASE STUDY 1 SCOUTS SCOTLAND

SCOUTS SCOTLAND chief executive Katie Docherty says the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS) has been absolutely critical to the survival of Scouts Scotland as an organisation.

Almost 80 per cent of Scouts Scotland's 62 staff have been furloughed as outdoor education centres and campsites have been closed and fundraising events have postponed due to the coronavirus lockdown.

The organisation, which supports 12,000 volunteers and 40,000 young people in

Scotland, has suffered a £1.5 million shortfall as a result.

Ms Docherty said they had received some funding from the Scottish Government, but that furlough scheme is "the lifeline that's keeping us going just now".

She said: "It's the furlough scheme that's allowed us to keep paying our staff whilst we have no income coming in. It's been absolutely critical. We would have had to make most of our staff redundant otherwise."

The CJRS has been extended until the end of October by the UK Government in order to protect businesses and jobs across the country.

## Furlough scheme 'offers a lifeline to many businesses'

### CASE STUDY 2 PROTECTIVE GEAR

A COUNTY Derry company has been protecting health care workers by supplying high-end protective gear for intensive care units during the COVID-19 crisis.

Seating Matters, based outside Ballykelly, has been able to use the Government's furlough scheme to protect about a quarter of its 50-strong workforce, while also helping provide box shields to protect healthcare workers while they are ventilating patients

The family-owned company has specialised in creating chairs to provide comfort, postural support, pressure management and improve

quality of life for disabled adults and children since 2008.

During the COVID-19 outbreak, however, the company has teamed up with medical experts and designers to create the box shields.

Managing director Martin Tierney said: "We have been making clinical therapeutic chairs for hospitals and we are very close to the front line in that respect because a lot of our chairs are being used in intensive care and in COVID wards."

Seating Matters was established by Martin's mother Martina, an occupational therapist who had identified a global demand for therapeutic chairs.

It now has 50 staff but Mr Tierney said it had to furlough a quarter



**WORKING HARD:** A Seating Matters employee producing medical equipment at the company's workshop.

of its staff. He said the government furlough scheme was a lifeline for many businesses. Mr Tierney said: "I'm grateful that we can keep moving forward because there are a lot of places that

are stopped altogether. I'm just grateful that we are not in that boat." The firm has strict social distancing and changed an office entrance in order to safeguard staff against coronavirus infection.

## Chancellor's measures to safeguard firms and their staff

The Chancellor Rishi Sunak has announced a range of measures\* for businesses and workers to protect them against the current economic emergency. Here are some examples.

The Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme has enabled businesses to put employees on a period of temporary leave (furlough) and apply for a government grant to cover 80 per cent of those workers' usual monthly wage costs, up to a cap of £2,500 a month. The scheme available until the end of October has already protected 7.5 million workers and almost 1 million businesses

The Self-Employment Income Support Scheme will allow eligible self-

employed individuals to claim a taxable grant of 80 per cent of their average monthly profits, up to £7,500.

UK VAT-registered firms have been given the option to defer VAT payments until the end of June.

There will be no interest or penalties on any amount deferred.

The Government has introduced a business rates holiday for the retail, hospitality and leisure sectors and nurseries in England.

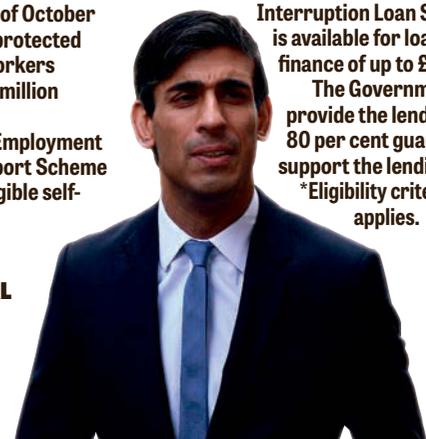
Other schemes are in place in the other nations within the UK.

Commercial tenants who cannot pay their rent because of coronavirus will be protected from eviction

The Government's Bounce Back Loans Scheme provides loans of up to £50,000 to small businesses, with a 100 per cent government-backed guarantee for lenders.

The Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme is available for loans or finance of up to £5m.

The Government will provide the lender with an 80 per cent guarantee to support the lending. \*Eligibility criteria applies.



**FINANCIAL HELP:** Chancellor Rishi Sunak

■ Details of the support available to businesses across the UK can be found at [www.gov.uk/coronavirus/business-support](http://www.gov.uk/coronavirus/business-support)



Keep our distance,  
wash our hands, think of others  
and play our part.

All together >

OT

**Vandalism**

Between 6pm on Saturday May 16 and 6pm on Sunday May 17, at Bonawe, damage was caused by fence posts within a field being pulled out. Police are investigating the incident.

At about 8pm on Monday May 18, on the A85 at Taynuilt, damage was caused to a cut-out policeman used as a local traffic calming initiative. Police are investigating the incident.

**Vehicle seized**

About 11am on Friday May 22, a car was stopped by police for a routine check at A85, Connel.

Checks revealed that the vehicle allegedly had an expired MOT and no insurance in force. The 36-year-old male driver was charged with the offences and the vehicle was seized.

**A report will be submitted to the Procurator 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.**

# Ardhattan Radio station launches on air online

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Ardchattan Community Centre is proudly presenting a new online radio station.

Thanks to funds from the Scottish Government's Supporting Communities pot, the station is up and running.

Listeners already have a line-up of shows they can tune in to at the click of a button and there will be more to come, says Ardchattan Community Centre chairperson Breege Smyth.

A shoutout for budding presenters could bring in shows from anywhere in the world, says Breege, as long as wannabe presenters have some kind of link to the Ardchattan area.

'The sky's our limit! Today's technology means shows can be broadcast from people's homes anywhere in the world, although we will be looking



for some kind of connection to Ardchattan - it might be someone in New Zealand who happens to live in a street named after somewhere round here!

'We'd like to hear from anyone interested in getting involved who feels they have something to contribute, whether it's their taste of

music or a particular interest of theirs,' added Breege.

The idea for the station was in response to COVID-19 and a need to keep people informed about what help was at hand and what services were available.

'Unfortunately due to COVID Oban FM had to go off air so we had the idea of going

**Breege Smyth, chairman of The Ardchattan Centre following a broadcast on Ardchattan community radio from her home studio.**

online with the community centre to try and fill the gap and keep streaming information and entertainment- this is where that took us,' said Breege.

Weekly shows in the schedule mix so far will cover anything and everything from music to news updates from around the Ardchattan Community Council, digging into archives from bygone times, weekend what's ons, a regular fun quiz and a look at the world of farming, as well as a one-hour religious show featuring guests, and a cookery programme opening a door into the kitchens of local cooks and bakers sharing top tips and favourite recipes.

Fiona Wallace from Argyll Talking Newspapers will also

have a weekly slot reading from The Oban Times.

'It's all organic and going to be exciting to see how the station grows, we will be able to give training to people who are interested and want to contribute. The more people who get in touch and want to get involved, the more people will have to listen to,' said Breege.

Funding from Supporting Communities helped Ardchattan Radio get all the necessary licences and cover costs of vital subscriptions and legalities, and the hope is more financial support will keep coming its way.

Talks about the community getting ownership of the old school in Bonawe as a hub are proceeding and one ambition for the future is to turn one of its rooms into a studio as a permanent home.

Interested in getting involved? Contact Ardchattan Community Centre on 07843 108095.



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## Oban hospital buzzes w

by Ellis Butcher  
ebutcher@obantimes.co.uk



Oban hospital was at the centre of a 'UK first' on Tuesday as a powerful drone started a two-week series of test flights to Mull.

Nicknamed 'Lorna' by a nurse, it has been taking off close to the helipad for the 10-mile journey to the hospital serving Mull and Iona.

During the two-week trials the drone will transport PPE equipment and COVID-19 testing kits on flights up to five times a day.

Test officials said the method would cut what would be a six-hour journey by road and ferry down to 15 minutes.

And if health bosses and the Civil Aviation Authority are satisfied, 'Lorna' could become a regular feature at the hospitals from September.

It could transport 'small, high-value, urgent cargo' in thermal-controlled boxes. Important samples and



**Drone trials are taking place over the next two weeks.**

blood could be flown to mainland pathology labs to get quicker diagnoses for island patients.

Alex Brown, head of operations for Skyports, said patients would find out what was wrong with them far quicker: 'If I get sick on a Thursday and have a blood test and pick up is not until the following Wednesday, my options are to travel to Oban hospital, or another

island where there are more frequent pick-ups, or delay my treatment and testing by six days.'

Transport by drone could also reduce samples losing 'quality' because of the time between one being taken in an island surgery and it being checked in a specialist mainland lab.

The project involves a link-up between the hospital, drone delivery company Skyports, unmanned aircraft-maker Wingcopter, and Thales, which uses a drone operations

# Gary lifts lockdown spirits with special surprise messages

Accordionist and broadcaster Gary Innes has been lifting the hearts of hundreds of people during lockdown with some specially-recorded personal messages for fans and their loved ones, writes Fiona Scott.

Born in Spean Bridge, Gary is one of the founding members of award-winning supergroup Mánran, as well as the presenter for BBC Radio Scotland's longest running radio show, Take the Floor.

Gary was inspired to start recording messages for people after launching the Take The Floor - Your Requests show

which calls for people to give a shoutout to friends and family around the world who they can't see in person during the current pandemic.

Since then the former Fort William and Scotland shinty captain, has been inundated with hundreds of video requests, from wedding and anniversary messages of congratulations to birthday tunes and dedications.

In just two weeks Gary has recorded around 100 personalised messages for people from around the world, including Canada, Australia, Spain and Germany, appear-

ing in countless family zoom calls, bringing a surprise element to their celebration.

'Not being able to see friends and family and go to all the usual celebrations like birthday parties and weddings has been hard for lots of us and I wanted to do something that let people give their loved ones

an extra special message at a time when they had hoped to be celebrating together,' he said.

'The response has been just brilliant and there's been so many really touching moments.

'Music and celebrating with loved ones are two things

which mark good times and also help a lot of us through hard times - something that's particularly important just now as we mark Mental Health Awareness Week.'

Gary, who is married to Taynuilt lass Hannah Matheson, is calling on anyone who feels that a personal

message would help lift the spirits of a family member or friend during these difficult times to get in touch with him via social media.

You can find Gary on social media at @Gary.Innes on Facebook, @gary.innes123 on Instagram and @GaryInnes on Twitter.



Gary Innes has been recording special messages to people celebrating special occasions to help lift spirits during lockdown.

## with drone trials

management platform called SOARIZON.

Duncan Walker, CEO, of Skyports, said the prospects are 'super exciting' and had enthused local doctors and nurses.

The Civil Aviation Authority, which controls airspace, had given special exemptions for the trials to take place, he said.

Trials for what drones can do have been 'accelerated' by the pandemic and the need to get urgent goods out quickly and limit human contact.

The drone will fly at a height of around 100m with general air space starting at 120m and upwards. It would fly below that to avoid any collisions on specially-programmed routes avoiding houses, Mr Walker said.

Unofficially dubbed a 'Range Rover' of the unmanned aerial vehicle world, it can cruise at 55mph, has a flight range of 62 miles and can carry a maximum take-off weight of 20kg.

The drone showed its metal on Sunday, said test crews, remaining 'rock solid' in the strong winds and heavy rain which battered Oban. But

more testing is required.

Although its take-off mode generates noise, the aeroplane cruise mode it flies in, is inaudible.

Asked about risks, Mr Walker said: 'The level of safety is certified by the Civil Aviation Authority which is very rigorous.

'The routes we will do are the safest. We don't fly over houses and we've got safety features should a rotor stop, or if one form of communication stops it can work. There's lots of built-in mitigations and the technology has been proven to be safe over many years.'

Joanna Macdonald, chief officer for Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership, said she was delighted it was at the forefront in using new technologies to benefit patients in Scotland.

She added: 'The use of drones provides real opportunities to improve services and will help enable quicker diagnosis for our patients.'

**MOREPHOTOS**  
[www.obantimes.co.uk](http://www.obantimes.co.uk)

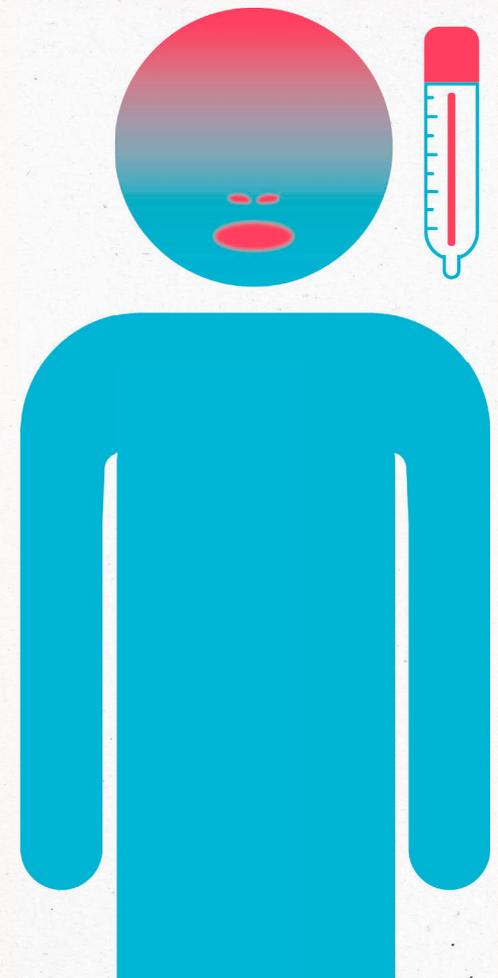
## A loss or change in taste or smell could be a sign of coronavirus.

Evidence shows there are now three recognisable symptoms of coronavirus. If you experience a high temperature, a continuous cough, or a loss of, or change in taste or smell, you should not leave the house for 7 days. Others in your house should not leave the home for 14 days.

For more information visit [www.nhsinform.scot/coronavirus](http://www.nhsinform.scot/coronavirus)

**COUGH. FEVER.  
LOSS OF TASTE OR SMELL.**

**STAY AT HOME. GET TESTED.**



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THE NHS  
SAVE LIVES**



# Mull otter cub makes most of Margaret's hospitality

by Fiona Scott  
fscott@obantimes.co.uk



Dubbed Bealltinn (meaning May) due to the time of year she was discovered, a destitute baby otter is well on her way to recovery thanks to a friendly family on Mull.

Margaret Matthew was weeding in her garden on the Ross of Mull when she became aware of a presence. When she looked down and there was an otter cub, leaning against her leg.

'I couldn't believe my eyes,' she said.

'Then I thought, what's it doing here? Something must be wrong.'

The little otter's fur was soaking wet, her eyes were shut and she was making little peeping noises. She



The young otter cub arrived soaking and starving in Margaret Matthew's garden on Mull.

staggered about the garden, bumping into things and eating daisies. It was clear she was starving.

After tucking into fish fillets and a hardboiled egg, however the painfully thin

cub stopped staggering around and fell asleep on the grass clearly exhausted by her meal.

Margaret, her son Matt and daughter-in-law Rachel contacted Mull Otter Group

and following a discussion tried to reunite the cub with her family, taking her to the nearest shore where she swam, ate some fish left by Margaret then crept into a thicket and slept for the rest of the day.

At 5.30 the next morning, Margaret was back at the shore, watching out for a hopefully reunited otter family. By 11am there still was no sign. Her phone rang and it was Matt and Rachel reporting that the otter was back in the garden.

'All fluffed up, eyes open, not in the least aggressive but very interested in another meal,' said Margaret.

The cub, which experts believe to be around six months old, had crossed a main road to get back to the

Matthew household. The otter's dependence on humans was worrying as this is not natural behaviour but her recovery was very rewarding.

'It was an amazing experience which brought real joy to us all,' added Margaret.

A scientist to trade, Matt looked at the otter's spraint (poo) and found there were no signs of the usual otter food remains like fish scales or bones, just vegetable matter and seaweed. This helped everyone decide that the cub must have been separated from its mum for some time and needed to be cared for.

Sue and Darren Morley of Mull Otter Group collected the little cub and, as cubs usually stay with their mothers for at least a year, often 18 months, they arranged

for her to be cared for at the International Otter Survival Fund (IOSF) on Skye.

Grace and Paul Yoxon of IOSF named the little otter Bealltinn and the cub has now settled into a large enclosure and is feeding well.

IOSF will make every effort to ensure she regains her strength, grows well and develops her skills. They will care for her at the sanctuary as long as is necessary but plan to return her to the wild to live a long and happy otter life.

Anyone wishing to support cubs in the IOSF Sanctuary, can send a cheque (marked 'hospital' on the back) to 7 Black Park, Broadford, Isle of Skye, IV49 9DE or make a donation online at [www.ottershop.co.uk](http://www.ottershop.co.uk)



But a good meal and snooze helped to restore the cub's strength before Bealltinn was moved to International Otter Survival Fund (IOSF) on Skye to be cared for.

## Ballet classes help boost NHS staff wellbeing

Ballet Scotland is supporting NHS and care workers with a new set of moves.

The ballet company is collaborating with NHS Scotland to create and deliver fortnightly exercises for on-duty staff.

The programme of breathe and movement sessions, called Health At Hand, has been created to boost physical and mental health, as well as help ease problems linked with working for long hours.

Scottish Ballet's Engagement Team will film a package of three video sessions every two weeks offering exercises to warm the body at the start

of a shift, create physical and mental balance during breaks and release stress at the end of shifts. The sessions done alone or in groups will be screened via Scottish Ballet's YouTube channel.

Scottish Ballet's Health at Hand is part of a programme of dance health classes already online, working with communities across Scotland and reaching weekly views of up to 65,000.

Chief executive officer and artistic director of Scottish Ballet, Christopher Hampson, said: 'At Scottish Ballet, dance is our primary way of connect-

ing with communities. We are committed to sharing our work beyond the stage, and proud to be collaborating with the Scottish Government and NHS Scotland to bring the benefits of movement to support front line workers.'

Mental Health Minister Clare Haughey, added: 'I am really pleased Scottish Ballet has partnered with NHS Scotland to offer practical ways for health and social care workers to support their mental health and well being. These classes will help people stay active and complements the Clear Your Head campaign.'

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# LOOKING FOR HELP DURING CORONAVIRUS?

We know times are tough right now. So, to help, here's a list of organisations that can offer support. 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](http://www.nhsinform.scot/coronavirus)  
0800 028 2816  
(8am –10pm everyday)  
for general information only

**Call NHS 24 on 111** for advice if symptoms worsen or if fever is ongoing after 7 days

**Shielding local support**  
[www.gov.scot/covid-shielding-contacts](http://www.gov.scot/covid-shielding-contacts)

## Feeling anxious or depressed?

**NHS Inform:**  
[www.nhsinform.scot/coronavirus-mental-wellbeing](http://www.nhsinform.scot/coronavirus-mental-wellbeing)

**NHS 24:** Call 111  
[www.clearyourhead.scot](http://www.clearyourhead.scot)

**Breathing Space:**  
[www.breathingspace.scot](http://www.breathingspace.scot)  
0800 83 85 87

**Scottish Association for Mental Health:**  
0344 800 0550  
[info@samh.org.uk](mailto:info@samh.org.uk)

**Samaritans Scotland Helpline:**  
116 123 / [jo@samaritans.org](mailto:jo@samaritans.org)

## Advice for pregnant women

[www.nhsinform.scot/ready-steady-baby](http://www.nhsinform.scot/ready-steady-baby) or contact your midwife if concerned.

## Easy-read coronavirus guidance

[www.sclد.org.uk/information-on-coronavirus](http://www.sclد.org.uk/information-on-coronavirus)  
Helpline: 0141 248 3733

## Social welfare and financial help

**Citizens Advice Scotland:**  
[www.cas.org.uk](http://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](http://www.coronavirusadvice.scot)  
0808 800 9060

## Employment rights advice

[www.acas.org.uk](http://www.acas.org.uk)  
Helpline: 0300 123 1100  
Relay UK: 18001 0300 123 1100

## Support for accessing your rights at work

[www.stuc.org.uk](http://www.stuc.org.uk)  
Email: [info@stuc.org.uk](mailto:info@stuc.org.uk)  
Call: 0141 337 8100

## For business support

[www.findbusinesssupport.gov.scot/coronavirus-advice](http://www.findbusinesssupport.gov.scot/coronavirus-advice)  
Helpline: 0300 303 0660

## Helping in your community

[www.readyscotland.org](http://www.readyscotland.org)

## Advice for parents

[www.parentclub.scot/coronavirus](http://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](http://www.young.scot/coronavirus)

## Information, friendship and advice for older people, their carers and families

[www.agescotland.org.uk](http://www.agescotland.org.uk)  
0800 12 44 222

## For people with dementia, families, friends and professionals

**Alzheimer Scotland**  
[www.alzscot.org](http://www.alzscot.org)  
Helpline: 0808 808 3000

## Scottish Autism Advice Line

[www.scottishautism.org](http://www.scottishautism.org)  
01259 222022

## Domestic Abuse Helpline

[www.safer.scot](http://www.safer.scot)  
Helpline: 0800 027 1234

## Rape Crisis Scotland Helpline

[www.rapecrisisscotland.org.uk](http://www.rapecrisisscotland.org.uk)  
Helpline: 08088 01 03 02

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\*source: Jicreg/ABC

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# We know just how tough it is to be in business right now.

When your doors reopen and you are ready to start building on the promotion of your shops, restaurants, products and services, we will be right behind you.



**The Oban Times**  
& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES



Dr Carey Lunan, a GP and chairwoman of the Royal College of General Practitioners, and right, Scotland's National Clinical Director Jason Leitch.

# The NHS is open and here for you

No matter what, it is so important that health warning signs are not ignored and you seek medical advice when needed.

The current coronavirus pandemic has understandably resulted in people not wanting to put pressure on the NHS for fear of being a burden or worry about catching the virus.

However, in recent weeks health chiefs have expressed concern about the number of people who appear to be putting off getting help for urgent health issues, and stressed it is as important as ever to act.

Figures suggested patients were delaying going to their GP or the hospital during the pandemic. There has also been a drop in urgent cancer referrals, and a reduction in families bringing their children for immunisation appointments.

During these times it is important to remember the NHS is open and ready to help all patients – not just those with COVID-19 – with patient safety prioritised.

If you or a loved one has a health concern, remember your community pharmacy and GP practice are open. The first GP appointment may be by telephone or video, but it is still a hugely important step in finding out if you need urgent medical help.

It is really important not to ignore potential cancer signs and symptoms, as the earlier

cancer is found, the easier it is to treat.

Do not delay making an appointment with your GP practice if you've noticed anything unusual such as difficulty swallowing, your voice becoming hoarse and staying that way for three weeks or more, blood in your poo or urine, a lump in your breast or testicle, or if you've lost weight without trying. It is probably nothing serious, but it is best to get it checked.

**'You are not being a burden, it's what the NHS is here for...'**

If you or someone you live with notices a rapid deterioration in their health, such as the early warning signs of a heart attack, stroke, severe asthma or diabetic collapse, seek help immediately by calling 999.

Immunisation appointments continue for pregnant women and children at this time, and are an important and legitimate reason to leave your home as they help protect against serious, preventable diseases.

Dr Carey Lunan, a GP and chairwoman of the Royal College of General Practitioners, said: 'It is just as important as ever for people to seek help if they have an urgent health concern, or are worried

about a potential cancer symptom. You are not being a burden, it's what the NHS is here for and we want to hear from you.

'Your health and safety are our top priorities, and both GP practices and hospitals are working differently during the pandemic to minimise infection risk. It's important to reassure you that patients with coronavirus are treated in separate parts of hospitals.

Likewise, immunisations against other infectious diseases remain a vital part of protecting the people of Scotland, so please do attend your appointments for these. They can easily be rescheduled if you or your family members are showing signs of coronavirus at the time of your appointment.'

Scotland's National Clinical Director Jason Leitch added: 'We are so thankful to those who are following guidance to save lives and our NHS, but it's vital people know the NHS is still there if you, or someone you love, needs urgent medical assistance.

'I'd also like to thank all our health and social care staff for their continuing extraordinary efforts as we face this pandemic. Thanks to them, the NHS remains open to provide urgent medical care to those in need.'

For further information visit [www.nhsinform.scot](http://www.nhsinform.scot)

## New careers programme to help pupils and teachers

Skills Development Scotland (SDS) has created a new careers education programme to support teachers and pupils during the current challenging times.

It includes offline and online career education and career management resources, content and workshops to support pupils and teachers.

These include activities, Meet the Expert videos, webinars for school leavers, cyber skills

activities and sessions about the My World of Work website.

The sessions begin this week and will run over eight weeks.

SDS's director of Career, Information, Advice and Guidance Operations James Russell said: 'We know that teachers and parents and carers are facing a wide variety of new challenges in the delivery of learning to young people across

Scotland. That's why we've created this programme.'

All the weekly activities come with a lesson plan for teachers and learning resources for pupils that they can work on independently.

As well as its existing support, SDS is offering direct access to free one-to-one career support with expert advisers over the telephone. The number to call is 0800 917 8000.



If you need help to pay for a loved one's funeral and receive certain benefits, you can apply for Funeral Support Payment. It's a one-off payment towards burial or cremation costs and more. People typically receive around £1500 in financial support and you can apply after a person has died until 6 months after the date of their funeral.

Find out if you're eligible and apply at [mygov.scot/funeral-support-payment](http://mygov.scot/funeral-support-payment)

Or call our specially trained team on

**0800 182 2222**



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OT

## Lockdown easing welcomed

The leader of Argyll and Bute Council has welcomed the start of Scotland's process of coming out of lockdown – but is anxious to see the economic recovery start.

Councillor Aileen Morton was speaking after Nicola Sturgeon began mapping out the gradual end to lockdown measures imposed by the COVID-19 outbreak.

From today (Thursday May 28), more outdoor activity will be permitted, with solo, non-contact sports able to resume – but mass gatherings remain some way off, while only certain shops can reopen with social distancing.

Councillor Morton said: 'This isn't just about socialising but also providing support to one another in what has been an incredibly stressful time.'

'I'm fully supportive of whatever keeps people safe but at the same time mindful of the need to see the economic recovery begin as this is a very tough time for local businesses.'

# Dalmally says farewell to true gent, Trevor

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



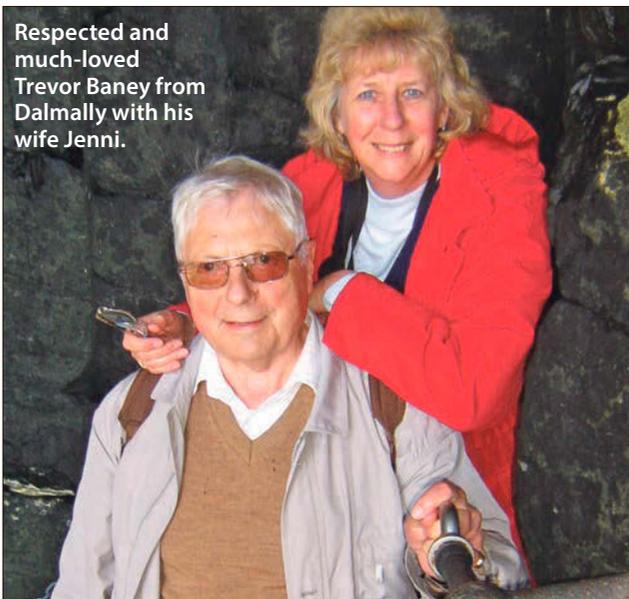
Dalmally villagers have bid a fond farewell to true gent and friend Trevor Baney.

The community turned out to line the route of Mr Baney's final journey after he died from Parkinson's last month aged 84.

Up to Dalmally Station, down past the golf club and a right through Stronmilchan where he was a crofter in his early years, people stood socially distancing on pavements, at garden gates, by cars, in car parks, on grass verges and behind bushes at the cemetery due to COVID-19 restrictions to acknowledge the life of a man who touched them all with 'goodness and grace' said neighbour and longtime friend Elizabeth Malcolm who led this tribute to him.

Mr Baney leaves his wife of

Respected and much-loved Trevor Baney from Dalmally with his wife Jenni.



12 years Jenni, two daughters from his first marriage and three grand-daughters.

Mrs Malcolm said: 'To simply sum up what he did doesn't

do justice to his memory, how he did it is essential.

'Trevor was a quiet man, a gentle man, a courteous and a kind man, if possibly from

another era he consistently touched ours with goodness and grace,' she said. He was a grazing's clerk before becoming an ambulanceman stationed at Dalmally Railway Station and he served as a voluntary firefighter for 15 years.

After leaving the Ambulance Service, he became Area Secretary and Insurance Agent for the NFU, setting up office at home in Glenview.

'He made many friends and won the respect of the wider farming community for his diligence and reliability.

'He had his hand in most things here in Dalmally, always serving, always working,' said Mrs Malcolm.

In right at the start of Dalmally Historical Association, he served as treasurer, secretary, archivist and chairman. He also served Glenorchy Parish Kirk for years, notably fundraising.

Mr Baney dedicated time to the Community Centre Committee as treasurer, secretary and chairman at various stages and was a committee member and treasurer at Dalmally Golf Club.

'He was, of course, known unofficially as The Poppy Man – real title, Convenor of the Earl Haigh Scottish Poppy Fund for many years,' added Mrs Malcolm.

'Being born to parents who worked for the Diplomatic Service and earning his wings becoming a RAF pilot in 1960, helped shape Trevor a certain way and our community benefited from that. He was a total gentleman and was steadfast – he wore so many hats,' she said.

To hear a recording of Trevor talking about his life, recorded in 1999 as part of a Millennium project, go to Dalmally history. org/about-us

## Club says farewell to popular pair

Oban Bowling Club has paid tribute to two of its stalwart members who died this month.

Former electrician and Rockfield Primary deputy head teacher Jimmy MacGregor who lived at Glencruitten died on May 17 and Norrie Etherson from Tigh Na Speir, Connel, passed away on May 7 after a long battle with cancer.

Bowling club greenkeeper, pal and past pairs and triples partner Donald MacLean said Mr MacGregor, who was 90, had enjoyed a successful career in the sport with 'great hand-eye co-ordination'.

Mr MacGregor's bowling honours included winning the Harry Gordon singles tournament in Dunoon in 1984 and in 1990 winning the pairs title at the Helensburgh Bowling tournament with John Jackson.

He represented Argyll and Bute at county level, earning more than 30 caps and also represented his county in the David Marshall international fours tournament with representatives from England, Wales, Northern Ireland and other Scottish counties represented which his fours went on to win. Mr MacGregor also reached the National Finals at Northfield in Ayr twice in the pairs with John Jackson



Jimmy MacGregor.

and Robert Dairon in 1988 and 1992 and was part of the Oban club top 10 team which went on to win the county top 10 competition also winning numerous other West Argyll titles over the years.

Mr MacGregor taught at Rockfield Primary School in the early Seventies, before that he was an electrician, working in Aldo's the bookies during the college holidays when he was still a student teacher.

Rockfield colleagues remembered him for his sense of humour and his interest in computers when they were first introduced into primary schools.

'Even after he had retired Jim would come into the school and work with the pupils on their computing

skills,' said former colleague and Rockfield Primary head teacher Jack Degnan.

Mr MacGregor, who was also a keen photographer, loved going to the Highland Show at Ingleston with the P7s for their class trip and as well as bowls had a passion for golf, playing and helping out at Taynuilt Golf Club.

Bowling club secretary Anne Stewart said: 'Jimmy was a stalwart of the bowling club but was unable to bowl in recent years. Latterly he acted as scorekeeper for our club competitions and always had a wee quip about your progress as you handed in your scorecards. We have missed him on the green and in the clubhouse in recent years. Our thoughts are with Ella his daughter, Andrew his son and their families at this sad and difficult time.'

Mrs Stewart said Mr Etherson was also 'a huge character on the green' and 'we will all miss him too.'

Mr Etherston was a long-serving member of the club's committee and 'a great, great' organiser of evening competitions, said Bowling Club President Ian Boyd, adding the two recent deaths so close to each other were 'a tragedy' for its members.



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## ETIVE HOUSE CARE HOME SAY THANK YOU FOR BEING AWESOME!

**No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted. The UK outbreak of COVID-19 and subsequent lockdown has presented a testing time for us all, including residents, their families and the team at Etive House Care Home, Benderloch.**

In what have been exceptionally challenging times, residents and staff at the home have been overwhelmed by a succession of touching and caring moments... and are keen to say Thank You to everyone in the community who has supported them. This includes kind donations of delicious

treats such as chocolate and pizza, uplifting musical performances, messages of support, as well as more practical items such as hand sanitiser, hand cream, gloves and other items of PPE.

The home was even lucky enough to benefit from a very generous donation of

tablets and iPads: a welcome contribution to help residents and their families keep in touch

While you could be forgiven for thinking that spirits and morale would be at an

all-time low within the home, this has not been the case. One resident summed up their feelings:

**"Once you begin to take note of the things you are grateful for, you begin to lose sight of the things that you lack."**

**Etive House Manager, Georgina Taylor, added:**

*"We have been bowled over by the level of community spirit expressed through both thoughtful donations and ongoing support. I can't tell you how much it is appreciated."*

*"Our residents have loved getting involved in a number of online campaigns*

*"For those in the community who are in need of care and companionship, our doors are open."*

*over the past couple of months. It's offered numerous opportunities to show friends and families what we have been getting up to through social media.*

*"In these unprecedented times, it's moments of kindness such as these, combined with great communication, love and support that will keep us all together. It's amazing to know that so many people are willing to go above and beyond to put a smile on our faces – particularly when we are all living in such immensely difficult times. Similarly, for those in the community who are in need of care and companionship, our doors are open to you: please don't hesitate to be in touch."*

*"It's amazing to know that so many people are thinking about us."*

OT

## Recycling centres reopen in June

Plans are being made to reopen all of Argyll and Bute's Household Waste Recycling Centres, with the exception of Helensburgh and Lomond, on June 1, writes Ellis Butcher.

Helensburgh and Lomond will have a temporary facility set up at Helensburgh Pier Head Car Park in the short term.

All HWRCs, will be set up to reduce the risk of COVID-19 among those who use them. Centres are also likely to be very busy for the first few days. To avoid waiting in long queues, the council please only use if absolutely necessary.

This is how the council expects the sites to operate:

- Traffic will be managed as you approach, and on site;
- There will be a one-way system in place at all sites with clear signs in the centres and on the roads leading to them;
- It is likely to be busy at the beginning, so be patient;
- No more than two people, from the same household, should be in the vehicle;
- Staff will not be able to assist with disposing of the items on site, so make sure you can lift what you bring;
- Containers will be available for the most common materials – domestic/general waste and garden waste;
- Vans, trailers and commercial vehicles will not be able to use the site at this time;

Sites' opening times will be available on the council website. Last entry to site will be 15 minutes before closing time. There will be no change to the bin collection schedule at the moment.

More detailed information on how the sites will operate will be available on the council's Keep in the Loop service: <http://bit.ly/KeepITLoop>.

# Come if you need to, urges hospital team

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



People who put off getting hospital help because of COVID-19 are now turning up with more advanced and serious conditions, an Oban consultant has warned.

Dr Izabela Bodzioch, who looks after non-COVID patients at Lorn and Islands Hospital, said they are now seeing an increase in the number of patients who seemingly avoided getting help when they first needed it.

Dr Bodzioch said worrying about infection and over-burdening the NHS could be among just some of the reasons why people put off seeking help early.

The message is loud and clear message 'come to hospital if you need to', she said.

Dr Rebecca Helliwell, Associate Medical Director for the Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership has already urged people in the area



The Green Team at Oban hospital, Dr Winston Low, Nurse Laurel Dyer and Nurse Kat Anderson.

not to ignore early warning signs of serious conditions and that includes signs of cancer.

'Even though the NHS is busy with COVID-19, we are here to help with other conditions and I would reiterate the Scottish Government advice that people should not ignore early warning signs of serious conditions,' she said.

Since coronavirus arrived in Oban and Lorn, the hospital has split its work into two areas – red for COVID-19 patients and green for non-COVID

cases – to help protect patients and staff and stop the virus from spreading.

The Green Team runs two out of three wards at the hospital and is made up of a new group of staff who have come from different departments across the site.

Jennifer MacIntyre who is Senior Charge Nurse on the Green Ward said: 'There has been a lot of work dividing and re-organising the wards as things have changed but things are settling down now.'

The new way of working has created some challenges along the way as well as opportunities.

'The challenges include procedures taking a bit longer than usual because of the different ways we must now work, including using additional PPE,' said Nurse MacIntyre.

Using tablets and phones to help patients and loved ones stay in touch via virtual visits has been an opportunity to put technology to better use on the wards.

Dr Bodzioch said Green Team staff are finding ways of working well in the new situation and even 'in these pressurised and uncertain circumstances' are a 'great team.'

She added: 'Though it is an awful situation, there is a lot of good in us, we've found new strengths inside us and our relationships are even stronger. Staff responsibilities may have changed but the experience for patients will be the same. Staff have a lot of empathy. What if it was my mum on the ward?

What if it was me? How would I feel?'

Nurse MacIntyre told Britt Doughty-Godchaux who interviewed her for The Oban Times, that she finds reassurance in being part of a larger team that extends beyond the hospital from ambulance workers to carers and volunteers all doing their bit.

'The wider group of essential workers are keeping the communities going. It is very nice to receive and show support. Everyone plays their part and is doing their bit.'

'The Green Team is here to treat all urgent non-COVID cases and everything is in place to do so as usual. If you need care, don't stay at home,' she said.

Anyone with new symptoms or signs of serious conditions should get checked out either by contacting their GP, calling NHS24 on 111. If it is out of hours, or if symptoms are urgent, they should attend A&E. In emergencies still dial 999.

## Membership soars as golfers tee up for restricted reopening

At the time of writing Glencruitten Golf Club membership had been boosted by around 50 new take-ups as select outdoor sports facilities prepare to open their gates again this weekend, writes Fiona Scott.

Following positive discussions between Scottish Golf, SportScotland and the Scottish Government, the Oban club welcomed the news that their

golfing community will benefit from the revised guidance for exercise and announced that course will reopen from tomorrow providing they get the nod from the First Minister today.

Club captain George McKenzie said: 'Everything is looking good for the reopening and we look forward to welcoming members old and new.'

'We've had a tremendous response since we announced we

would be reopening last week with around 50 new members joining the club.

'We have had tremendous support from the sporting community within the town during lockdown. Oban Saints, the shinty clubs and the rugby club have joined our massive volunteer support network with many of them joining too.'

'The course is looking stunning and I would like to thank

all the people who gave up their time to help us achieve that.'

In line with government advice the course will only be open to current members who have paid their membership for this year (2020). In order to play, tee times must be booked in advance via the phone number – 07565 194152 (please note that this is limited to two balls only at this moment).

The club is asking all mem-

bers to read and adhere to the guidance set out by the Scottish Government, which you can check online at [www.obantimes.co.uk](http://www.obantimes.co.uk).

The Scottish Government continues to monitor the situation and has not ruled out the reintroduction of restrictions if public health dictates, or if the guidelines are not followed.

For membership forms email [enquiries@obangolf.com](mailto:enquiries@obangolf.com)



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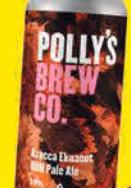
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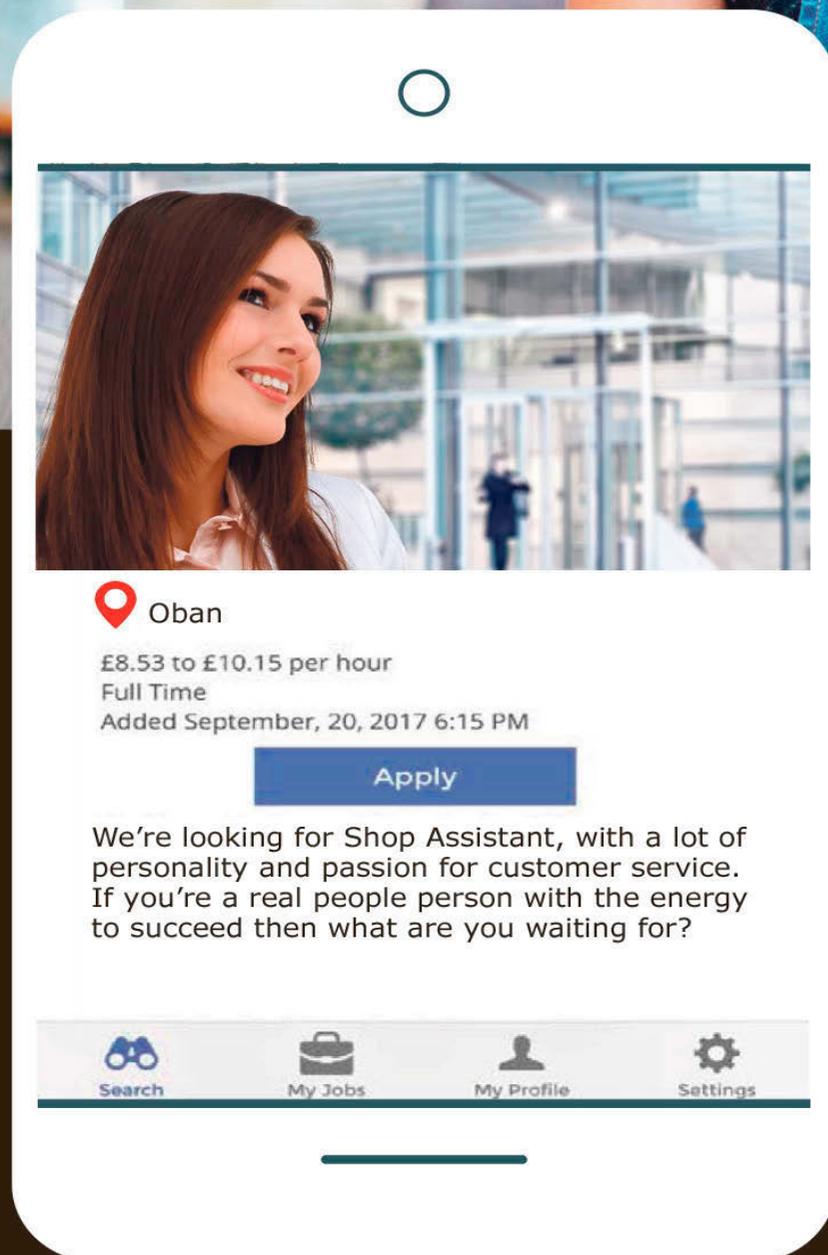




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# BUSINESS NEWS

## VisitScotland director to address Oban tourism meeting

A major meeting of tourism businesses is to take place tomorrow with a director of VisitScotland giving an update.

With the tourism season cancelled so far but new plans being rolled out by the Scottish government to ease some restrictions, David Adams McGilp, regional director for Argyll at the national tourism authority, is scheduled to speak at the annual general meeting of the Oban and Lorn Tourism Alliance.

It takes place 'virtually' on Friday, May 29, and will primarily focus on the organisation's activities over the last year, from marketing to social media, its accounts and work undertaken using Visit Scotland's growth fund.

The meeting will be overseen by Neil MacKay, director of Oban Live, and will be held for OLTA members via Zoom invite.

OLTA is a member-owned co-operative consortium and markets the Oban and Lorn area as a destination for visitors.

It has 186 members in the tourism sector drawn from Oban, south to Ardfern, north to Appin and out to Loch Awe.

Its AGM usually takes place in the first couple of months of the year but was put on hold.

It was then postponed by the pandemic but must now take place in order for OLTA to fulfill its constitutional obligations.



David Adams McGilp.

# Survey reveals third of local firms fear they will not reopen

by Fiona Scott  
fscott@obantimes.co.uk



Survey reveals that a third of local businesses fear they will never reopen

The Federation of Small Businesses (FSB), along with some of the biggest names in Scottish hospitality, food and drink, are calling for the Scottish Government to support firms grappling with the impact of the coronavirus crisis.

More than one third (36 per cent) of Highlands and Islands businesses (Northern and Western Isles, Highland and Argyll) that have shut down operations during the coronavirus outbreak fear that they may never re-open, according to a major new survey from FSB.

In addition, the survey found that almost two thirds (64 per cent) of Highlands and Islands firms have been forced to close since the beginning of the coronavirus outbreak, compared to about half of Scottish firms (53 per cent) and four in 10 (41 per cent) across the UK as a whole.

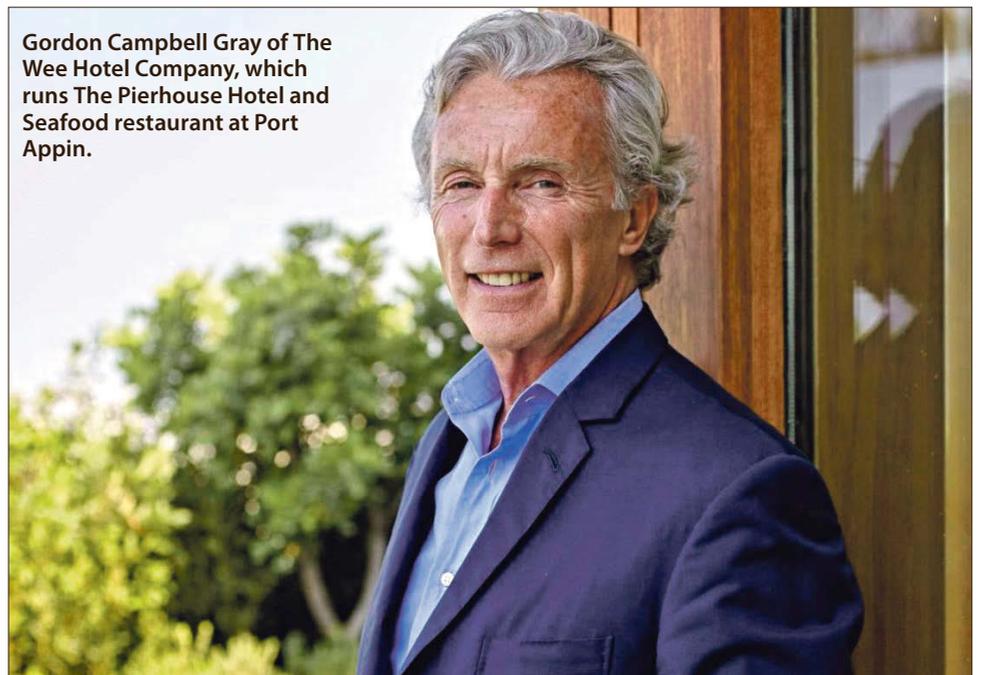
Of those that have closed in this region, more than a third (36 per cent) are not sure whether they will ever reopen, a figure mirrored by Scotland as a whole.

Moreover, the survey found that almost a fifth (18 per cent) of Highlands and Islands businesses have failed to make, or faced severe difficulties in making, commercial rent or mortgage repayments as a result of the pandemic's economic impacts.

The FSB's Highlands and Islands Development Manager, David Richardson, said: 'The majority of Highlands and Islands businesses are now relying on whatever government support they can get to survive, having followed official advice.'

'Given our highly seasonal visitor-based economy, many are seeing the opportunity to make money this year slip through their fingers as lockdown continues, and over a third of smaller businesses that have already closed are on a knife-edge, worrying that they might never reopen at all.'

Gordon Campbell Gray of The Wee Hotel Company, which runs The Pierhouse Hotel and Seafood restaurant at Port Appin.



'When the time comes to begin reopening, they won't be able to go from nought to sixty overnight - for many it will take time.'

'If we want to protect our local economies and communities from closures and rising unemployment, we must all - governments, big businesses, and the general public - strain every sinew to support our local businesses and give them the best possible chance of survival.'

An open letter sent by the hospitality industry outlines a range of suggested interventions around furlough, VAT, business rates and rent, calls on Nicola Sturgeon to take up their case with the UK Government.

Signatories include Gordon Campbell Gray, of The Wee Hotel Company, which runs The Pierhouse Hotel and Seafood Restaurant at Port Appin, and The Three Chimneys on Skye.

The letter stated: 'We are all hard-working business professionals, not used to seeking subsidy and support, contributing significantly to HMRC but this is an emergency situation like no other.'

'Against this background, we are asking for you to use the power and influence you have to rescue our sector.'

The letter recognised the work the Scottish Government had done so far in prioritising public health but stressed the importance of the input that the industry has on supporting the overall economy.

Other signatories include Tom Lewis, owner of Mhor Collection; Tom Kitchin of The Kitchin Group, Edinburgh; and Nick Nairn, of Nick Nairn Cookschool and The Kailyard at Dunblane Hydro.

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## Around Lochaber

**ANGUS MACDONALD**

[fort@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:fort@obantimes.co.uk)



### We must get back to work!

The Scottish Government website crashed last week as I and at least 100,000 others tried to read the First Minister's exit plan. When I did read it, I was firstly miserable, then furious. There was no timetable for anything of consequence. While many countries in Europe, including Italy and France, were allowing bars and shops to open to encourage the vital stirrings of economic life, Scotland was to be put on hold for another three weeks at least. In England business is definitely being encouraged back to work.

The hospitality industry in the west highlands must surely be 50 per cent of the economy in the summer months, our B&B's, hotels, local shops and restaurants are finished without the crucial May to October. This year there lay the real promise of a staycation boom, with bookings likely through to New Year. However a red flag has been waved at visitors, with Ian Blackford sharing a tweet telling

potential visitors to 'f\*\*k off', and the negative global media prominence given to Neil Gaiman's trip from New Zealand to Skye.

The head of the Scottish Tourism Alliance told a Zoom audience this week that Scots were even booking holidays in Cumbria this summer as the perception was that Scotland is closed for visitors, and the Scottish director of the UK Hospitality trade group Willie MacLeod described Nicola Sturgeon's route map as 'doing more harm than good'. You would think that a family that had been cooped up in a city flat, then driving as a family unit to a self-catering cottage in the highlands would be good and safe for all concerned.

I have two large new build construction projects in Fort William – the Highland Cinema and a large visitor centre for The Highland Soap Company. These multi-million pound sites should have 50 workmen rushing to complete them, and indeed in England where construction sites remained open, the cinema would be

complete now. Each month the sites are closed costs a fortune.

The Scottish construction industry was very hopeful that from June 1 sites would be allowed to open, instead we heard that phases one and two would be allowed to commence from May 28. Much surfing of the internet apparently resulted in the discovering of a memo between two Scottish Government ministers that revealed this meant 'planning and preparation'. As if that hadn't been done some time ago!

There are 6,000 much needed houses nearing completion in Scotland, and hundreds of hotels and shops where building works stopped in mid March. When can we start work First Minister?

Lockdown means poverty!

It seems it is the consensus that we will have a depression, the biggest collapse in the economy ever, a deficit of 14 per cent of GDP according to the Bank of England and 10 per cent unemployment – at least.

Every penny of the £250 billion the

virus is costing Britain will need to be paid back, that is £4,200 per man, woman and child. Are you ready to do your bit?

According to statistics, there has been some 345,000 deaths from COVID across the world in 2020, yet annually influenza kills 160,000, Malaria 620,000 and in 2018 tuberculosis killed 1.5 million people. None of these came close to closing the world down. Of the 34,500 who have died across the UK, only three have been under 15 years old. Up until the start of May, stats show only 375 people under the age of 45 died of the virus, the average age of those who have died is 79.5, and with health complications.

Cancer deaths have been predicted to rise by about 18,000 due to disruption in treatment, mental illness has been soaring, and the financial stress that will follow when furloughing stops will hurt millions in the UK.

Biological Science Professor Richard Ennos from Edinburgh University suggests that 'to follow science, an appropriate policy is the targeted

shielding of those who choose to be classified as vulnerable and their carers...and a release from lockdown for those outside these categories.'

Nicola Sturgeon despite her sincere and calm messaging has made major mistakes. We are dangerously slow in commencing our Scottish testing and tracing programme, our differing financial support for supporting businesses from Westminster has upset many business owners. Not releasing the information about the COVID spreaders from the Nike conference has resulted in an additional 577 deaths, a University of Edinburgh study reports. And the disproportionately high death level in Scottish care homes requires answers as to why – 921 elderly patients were removed from hospital into care homes, were they tested and did the care homes have PPE at the time?

Fundamentally the First Minister locked down too late, has made many mistakes and is now unlocking too late to help Scotland's already fragile economy.

## Key workers receive a special thank you from Airds Hotel and Restaurant

Front line staff will have something to look forward to once the coronavirus pandemic is over, writes Ellis Butcher.

Shaun McKivragan, of the award-winning Airds Hotel and Restaurant overlooking Loch Linnhe, came up with an idea to offer prizes to recognise the sterling role key workers have played.

Mr McKivragan has family and friends working in the NHS and care homes and wanted to recognise all that the health and care sector was doing.

The hotel has now announced the winners after receiving more than 160 entries from

across Scotland. Winning a dinner for two are Caroline Henderson, of Appin; Paula Laidler of Connel; Beth Hadden of Connel, and Linda Maclean of Oban.

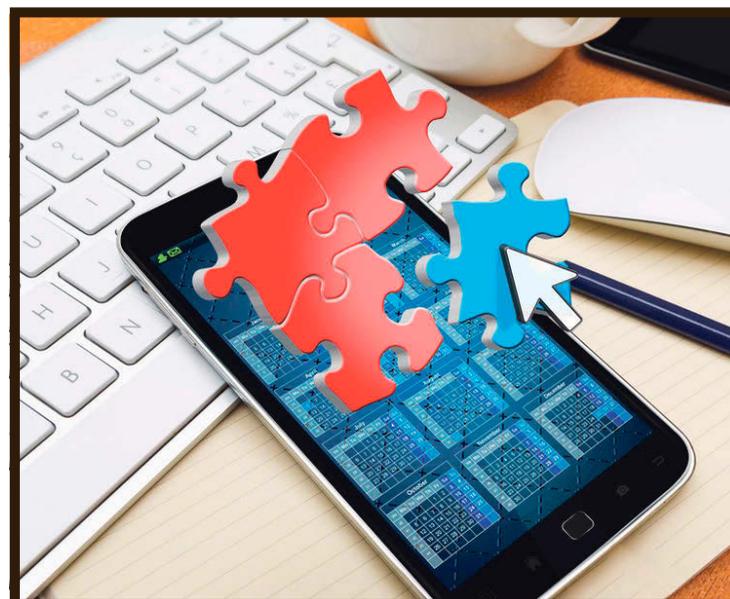
Winning a stay at the hotel and dinner are essential workers in places such as Glasgow and Stirling.

The hotel was so touched by their stories that it chose to offer four stays and four dinners for two - doubling the initial prizes.

Mr McKivragan said: 'I want to thank all the people who took the time to nominate and, of course, those nominated for doing such a good job.'

'I would also like to take the opportunity to thank once again, all the NHS and care workers throughout the country who have done such sterling work during this time – we are all so grateful.'

Key workers will be able to enjoy a bit of pampering at the luxury boutique hotel and fine dining restaurant in Port Appin.



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

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## LETTERS

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or The Editor, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB

## Buzz of excitement as Oban hospital at centre of UK first

This week saw the launch of a two-week series of test flights to Mull, which will hopefully see PPE equipment and COVID-19 testing kits being transported to the island via a powerful drone.

The trial, a UK first, if successful, would cut what would be a six-hour journey by road and ferry down to 15 minutes. And if health bosses and the Civil Aviation Authority are satisfied, the drone flights could become a regular feature at the hospitals from September, transporting 'small, high-value, urgent cargo' in thermal-controlled boxes, such as urgent blood tests.

This is hugely exciting and could transform patient care on the islands, offering medics the opportunity to improve services and enabling quicker diagnosis for patients.

## Hotel closure shock

Many people will have been shocked to read about the owners of Oban's Bay Western Hotel having to call in the administrators, with the closure of the hotel and the subsequent job losses. We feel for those people who will have lost their jobs, and the ripple effect means the blow will be felt by the whole town, as retailers, cafes and restaurants and visitor attractions would have all expected to benefit from the visitors post-lockdown. This is a huge loss for the town.

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](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk) or write to: Letters page, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB.

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## Buying Killundine is romantic dream at taxpayers' expense

Anyone reading the remarks attributed to Tilly Painter Jones in last week's Oban Times about a bid by her group to the Scottish Land Fund to purchase the 6,000 acre Killundine estate in Morvern, might assume that the entire local community is behind it. This is far from the case – something that will come to light when the group tries to meet the rules showing that its members have a working knowledge of the land.

The only hope for Killundine estate is for its owners to offer it for sale on the open market and sell privately to someone of means who, unlike the majority of Morvern's other land owners, will also reside there.

A community buyout will only add to Scotland's multi-billion pound debt and result in asset-stripping. It will bring no benefits to Morvern other than satisfying a few individuals looking to fulfil a romantic dream at the taxpayer's expense. Finding the purchase price is one thing, amassing the annual running costs will burden the public purse for ever more.

Who wouldn't want a nice chunk of a Highland hillside if they can get it free?

We are told this is a lifetime opportunity to acquire Killundine. For whom? Certainly not the Morvern community, which along with the rest of the UK is now in the grip of a plague with no end in sight. Many people are dying and will be in debt because the Scottish Government cannot provide the necessary funding to halt it.

Is this the time to ask for several million pounds for such an unnecessary project regardless of the Right to Buy legislation? Morvern Community Woodlands should do the honourable thing and abandoned their objective immediately, or carry on buying a lottery ticket.

Iain Thornber, Knock House, Morvern

## Timely reminder of virus can only be good thing

The article on page six states that 'NHS will not give numbers of cases in the Oban area because of risk to patient confidentiality'.

Firstly no number alone can give away identity. Secondly, if numbers were to be given for the Oban area, surely this would warn the local population to be even more careful in their isolation. Over the weeks, many people may have started to think, 'It will not happen near me'.

## Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL

[editor@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk)

Bha e iomchaidh gun tigeadh luchd-poilitigs na bu dlùithe ri chèile aig àm leithid èiginn a' Choròna-bhiorais is iad uile ag obair a dh'ionnsaigh math agus dìon a' mhòr-shluaigh, air an stiùireadh le comhairle sàr luchd-saidheans na dùthcha.

Abair faochadh a bh' againn bhon bhannais-chat àbhaisteach far am bheil Buill Phàrlamaid a' cur seachad am beatha a' glamhadh air a chèile air sgàth feallsanachd phàrtaidhean fa leth seach còraichean nan daoine a chur dhan dreuchdan iad. Aig aon àm tràth san staid aonarachd seo nochd beagan dòchais gun leanadh leasachadh air modh-giùlain poilitigs na dùthcha, ach ged a tha an cuingealachadh air an àireamh a dh'fhaodas a bhith an làthair an Taigh nan Cumantan aig aon àm a' cumail casg air a' ghleadhraich ris an robh sinn cleachdte, tha an dòchas air an atharrachadh mhòr a' sìoladh. Ach cha bu chòir dòchas air beagan urachaidh a thrèigsinn idir.

Cha chreid mi gun dearbh sgrùdadh eachdraidheil sam bith nach deach mearachdan a dhèanamh anns na dòighean san do dhèilig riaghaltasan na dùthcha seo ri dùbhlann Covid 19, ach tha e daonnan furasta a bhith glic a' coimhead air ais seach a bhith ri uchd-bualaidh an aghaidh galair nach fhacas riamh roimhe.

Tha slugh na dùthcha anns a' mhòr-chuid air comhairle a ghabhail gus smachd a thoirt air sgaoileadh a' ghalair, agus a dh'aindeoin na mì-fhoighidinn a tha gar leamhachadh uile saoilidh mi gum bheil ciall san dòigh sam bheil Riaghaltas na h-Alba am beachd lasachadh an aonarachd a leigeil air adhart. Ach a bharrachd air 's dòcha leasachadh ann am modh phoilitigs,

dè na dileaban eile a tha 's dòcha air chothrom dhuinn à gliocas eachdraidh a' phandemic?

Uill tha mi 'n dòchas gum bheil sinn air tuigse agus mothachadh às ùr fhaotainn air luach agus dìlseachd luchd-obrach seirbheis na slàinte, agus gur còir an cuid tuarastail an luach sin aithneachadh. Chunnacas cuideachd gum bheil àireamh mhòr à mion-shluaghan cinneachail ag obair san t-seirbheis slàinte, ach glè bheag aig na h-ìrean as àirde. Gu brònach chaill sinn mòran ri linn an tinnis, ach bha an suidheachadh ann an cuid de dhachannan sheann daoine gu tur mì-iomchaidh agus feumar dèanamh cinnteach nach tachair leithid sin a-rithist. Bha e cha mhòr do-chreidsinneach gun do lùghdaich truaillleadh na h-àrainneachd seachd-deug sa cheud thar beagan sheachdainean, tha feum ionnsachadh bho sin agus amas air co-dhiù cuid den adhartas a ghleidheadh.

Bliadhnaichean air ais is sinn a' còmhradh mu chuid de na h-iomairtean san robh e an sàs, thuirteann duine calma rium, "nuair a ruigeas tu an aois agamsa tuigidh tu nach eil tuine agad air fhàgail a bhith modhail!" Leis nach eil ach beagan bhliadhnaichean aig Buill Phàrlamaid eadar taghaidhean theagamh gur còir dhaibh an guthan a thogail air rudan bunaiteach!

In the lockdown legacy, surely the majority would support health-service workers' wages which were better matched to their extraordinary dedication. Will it also be possible to retain at least some of the environmental improvement achieved during a matter of weeks?

Allan Campbell  
[ailean@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:ailean@obantimes.co.uk)

A timely reminder of the closeness of the virus could only be a good thing.

Paul Zvegintzov, Lochaber.

## Publisher steps in to help at time of pressing need

A huge thank you to The Oban Times for arranging to have a batch of The Braes [community newspaper for the Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry areas of Lochaber] printed for us in this difficult and challenging lockdown period.

Although the online version of our magazine suited many, there is a substantial number of generally older and very loyal readers who do not have internet access etc and who would really miss their regular delivery of their local community paper.

Some actually send it on to friends and family in other parts of the world. On their behalf I thank the Oban Times for coming to the rescue. The look on their faces and their heartfelt appreciation speaks volumes of how much it means to them!

Margaret Sargent,  
editor of The Braes.

## Slimming World Beef Stroganoff

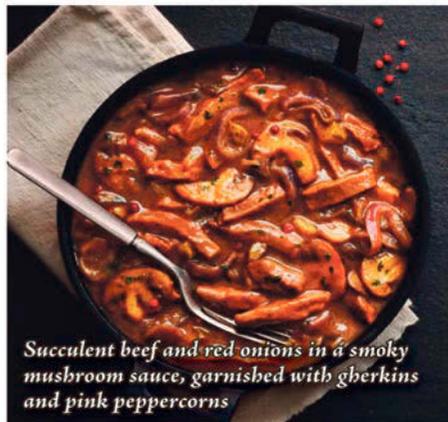
Syn FREE • Takes 40 minutes • Serves 4

## Method:

1. First, put all the sauce ingredients in a medium-size saucepan. Add 450ml boiling water and bring to the boil over a high heat. Cover, reduce the heat to medium-low and simmer for 15 minutes or until the vegetables are tender. Remove from the heat and, without draining, whizz until smooth using a stick blender or food processor.
2. Spray a deep, non-stick frying pan with low-calorie cooking spray and place over a high heat. Add the mushrooms and red onion and fry for 5 minutes, stirring occasionally.
3. Add the steak and stir-fry for a further 5 minutes, then add the gherkins, peppercorns and sauce. Bring to a simmer and cook for 2 minutes. Remove from the heat and stir through the quark. Season to taste and serve with your favourite Speed vegetables.

## Ingredients

- Low-calorie cooking spray
  - 300g mushrooms, sliced
  - 1 red onion, sliced
  - 600g lean sirloin steak, visible fat removed, thinly sliced
  - 60g small gherkins, finely chopped
  - 2 tsp pink peppercorns
  - 100g plain quark
- For the sauce:
- 1 large onion, roughly chopped
  - ½ x 400g can cannellini beans, drained
  - 150g cauliflower, cut into small florets
  - ½ tbsp Marmite • 1 beef stock cube
  - 2 large garlic cloves, peeled
  - 1 tbsp Worcestershire sauce • ½ tsp paprika



Succulent beef and red onions in a smoky mushroom sauce, garnished with gherkins and pink peppercorns

**PLEASE NOTE:**  
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# DISTRICT NEWS

## Home is where the bealach an righ begins for soon-to-be centenarian Isobel

A former Oban schoolteacher will celebrate her 100th birthday in Fife next week but is looking forward to visiting Oban once more when lockdown is lifted, writes Fiona Scott.

Isobel Hirst, ne Wall, was born on June 7, 1920 in Gowan Brae, Ardconnel Road. Her father Allan Wall was a dentist in Oban and her mother Nan Wall was a nurse.

Isobel's earliest memories were playing in 'Hunter's wood' and riding her bicycle around the edge of the Railway Pier.

When Isobel was around seven years old, the family moved into the dental surgery in Caledonian Mansions adjacent to Argyll Mansions. It was from these windows that Isobel recalls seeing the St Kilda boats arriving at the pier when the last residents were evacuated.

Isobel attended Rockfield Road School and then Oban High School where she excelled, receiving the gold Dux medal in 1937.

Isobel did not want to leave Oban and secured a position for herself in the local bank, but was not allowed to take up the post as the headmaster thought that she should have a university education.

This did not go down well with Isobel who hated being sent away to Glasgow. Three years later she returned to Argyll to teach Maths and Science in Kinlochleven and later in Oban High School as Isobel Terry.

Isobel continued teaching throughout the war years but sadly lost her first husband Kenneth Terry, a pilot, after only six months of marriage.

In 1946 Isobel was introduced to a young soldier who had been invited into the kitchen by her mother for a 'bowl of soup and a scone'.

Little did she know that the handsome soldier, Cecil Hirst, would become her future husband. They married and settled in Cupar,



Isobel Hirst, who will be 100 on June 7, with the gold Dux medal she received at Oban High School.

Fife, where they had five children and lived very happily. Isobel, however, always maintained her love of and contact with Oban, and visits her home there whenever possible.

Since lockdown began Isobel has been living with her daughter Lorna in Cupar where she will be marking her 100th birthday with an online celebration and a socially distanced party in the garden.

When lockdown is lifted however she will be back to visit once more.

'When I reach the top of the bealach an righ, I'm home,' she said.

## Lockdown Lettie is spreading smiles in Tobermory

Tobermory has a new resident putting smiles on people's faces.

Lockdown Lettie in Drumfin Gardens is talk of the town already and organisers of Tobermory's scarecrow festival scheduled for later this summer are hoping she will be the first of many entrants.

The colourful character, who regularly strikes up different poses, from enjoying a wee tippie to knitting and mowing the lawn, is a bit of fair weather girl.

Her creator, librarian Yvonne Marjot, only allows her out when there is no rain, seeing as she is borrowing some of her best clothes. Lettie, who also pops up on Facebook, even has her own Twitter tag, #LockdownLettie.

What scarecrows will appear next?

The categories are Most Ttopical, Most Creative



and Most Scariest. Photographs and details of who made it need to be emailed to Morar Honeyman from Tobermory Horticultural Society at [clanhoneyman@aol.com](mailto:clanhoneyman@aol.com) by July 31 and hopefully the winners will be announced at the society's summer flower show on August 22.

More photographs online.

## VE Day celebration go with swing at North Argyll home

Residents at North Argyll Care Home celebrated the 75th Anniversary of VE Day in a variety of ways.

Friday May 8 marked a big event in the lives of many of the occupants, many of whom lived through the war, with the partaking of a wee dram and homebaking complementing a sing-a-long to all the old war time songs.

At 100 years old Mrs Elizabeth Reid clearly remembers the day that saw the allied troops claim victory in Europe. She was in Elgin at the time and there was a huge street party. She recalls lots of empty alcohol bottles lying in the street. She said they all kept a bottle in their cupboard for the very occasion.

Mrs Cathie Potter, who turns 100 on June 12, recalled that everyone was hugging and crying.

'We were singing and dancing in the streets. It was a really great day,' she recalled.

Mr Jack Scorgie, 94, plays a melodeon regularly for the residents and remembers playing it as a 19-year-old on the day 75 years ago, marching up and down the street. At the recent celebration Jack entertained the troops once again.



Mrs Cathie Potter turns 100 on June 12.

A spokesperson for the home added: 'It has been hard for all the residents during these trying times; not seeing their families.'

'They are keeping in touch through modern technology (Facetime and phone calls).'

'We are all making the best of a bad situation by enjoying sitting in the garden in the great April weather and keeping each other's spirits up.'

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## Jobs blow for National Trust employees

National Trust Scotland has indicated that some of its staff will lose their jobs as the trust struggles to cope with a huge slump in income as a result of the coronavirus pandemic, writes Fiona Scott.

The charity, which is responsible for the upkeep of Scotland's natural, built and cultural heritage, including Iona, Staffa and Arduaine, revealed recently that a total of 429 permanent members of staff from the 751-strong workforce employed across its entire portfolio of properties face losing their jobs.

The trust has opened a formal consultation process which involves the trade union, Prospect, and is preparing to launch an emergency fundraising appeal.

Trust chief executive Simon Skinner said with some level of restrictions likely to apply post-lockdown, and having effectively missed the busiest part of the visitor season, he sees little prospect of being able to return to more normal levels of visitation and income for the rest of this year and beyond.

He said: 'Even after we've done all we can to stave off the worst, it's clear we need radical action if we are to buy more time that will give the trust space to overcome income loss.'

'We propose to initially focus on the safe, phased reopening of a core of 27 built heritage properties around Scotland, primarily those best able to accommodate social distancing,' added Mr Skinner.

'The remainder will be placed on a care and maintenance basis, with the aim of opening a further 18 sometime next year, and the rest once there is a general upturn in the economy and the trust's fortunes. Our countryside properties will open to welcome people when restrictions are lifted.'

'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.'

Mr Skinner continued: 'Although there are support schemes in place for charities and businesses, we've found we either don't qualify or the scale of support is too limited.'

NTS says it has lost the majority of its income due to coronavirus and has also said it will look to sell off non-heritage land and property.

# A regular yachtsman in

## Morvern Lines

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Charles Cotterell Lynam wrote three books about his sailing adventures - the original *Log of the Blue Dragon*; the *Log of Blue Dragon II* and *To Norway and the North Cape in Blue Dragon II*. Here we publish the second instalment about his adventures on the West Coast.

The Dragon School, which I referred to last week, was founded by a committee of Oxford dons, among whom the most active was a Mr George. In honour of St George the group decided to call themselves Dragons which is why its former headmaster, Skipper C C Lynam, named his yacht and then his books, *The Blue Dragon*. Some past pupils, known as 'Old Dragons', were: Christopher Cazenove (Dynasty); Tom Hiddleston (The Night Manager and tipped to be the next James Bond); Hugh Laurie (Blackadder); Naomi Mitchison (author and poet from Carradale, Argyll) and Lady Antonia Fraser (author, *The Six Wives of Henry VIII* and many more).

Extracts from *The Summer Cruise, 1894*: 'Anchored at Ballachulish. Tuesday, August 7; Skipper, medical officer and KB drove to Glencoe. Found a good many Macdonalds, who had survived the massacre and retained a taste for "bawbees". Ruined cottages, chieftain's house, rather unimposing; signal rock more so. Driver gave information, said he had seen three eagles in the pass the previous day, but failed to produce one when requested. Very rainy. Started in the afternoon for Fort William. Did not get there because, although there was a breeze at first, it soon dropped. However, we sped up Loch Linnhe under full sail making about .0001n knot per hour. After sailing eight hours at this terrible pace we found it was nearly 11pm. We had made .0008 of a mile. We decided, however, to forgo this advantage, and drifted back again with the tide to a little [bay] behind Corran Lighthouse. Here the skipper anchored with some skill and we made ourselves more or less comfortable for the night. Sunday September 2: Strong breeze, sailed from Dunvegan...and ended up anchored in Plockton Harbour, where we entrusted the *Blue Dragon* to Donald Matheson Esq JP and returned to England by Highland Railway, Saturday 8 September'.

Extracts from *The Easter Cruise, 1896*: Wednesday April 15: 'With a SSE wind, at first



light, but sufficient to produce a gibe - which nearly swept the mate and steward overboard - we passed Achmore House on Gigha, and then with a freshening blast we reached across to Jura, gaining a fine view of the Paps. We looked in at Lowlandman's Bay without stopping, and finally dropped anchor in Lagg Bay at 5pm. After tea, mate and steward went ashore to procure water; a neighbouring cottage was visited and the homely native hospitality was freely offered to the mariners. Our host, who had worked the cattle-ferry to Keills Bay for thirty-three years, sold us four dozen eggs at 6d per dozen. At supper the skipper regaled the steward with a lively description of the wreck of the *Culzean* (whose picturesque remains adorn the primitive harbour, which ran on Sgeir-an-nigha and lost all hands. After supper the skipper, constrained thereto by the rain, which continued far into the night, endeavoured to make his side of the cabin water-tight by means of ubiquitous lard, much to the amusement of mate and steward. A

murky night. Friday, April 17: Rain and strong wind from the west succeeded by sunshine and showers at intervals. Up anchor at 12. Two reefs, foresail and reefed jib. Close haul to the entrance of Dorus Mhor and then through with the strong tide, rock and island looking lovely in the sunlight and a black storm cloud over Corrievreckan. We laid our course inside Ris an Vic Faden, past two evil looking two-foot rocks; than with strong gusts and in broken water from Corrievreckan and Scarba, we passed Lunga and had nearly reached Pladda when the cautious skipper over-persuaded the reckless mate, who hungered for the fleshpots of Oban, to turn into a snug anchored (not mentioned in Sailing directions) off Lunga. The skipper made a grand mixture of scrambled eggs for supper, which the unfortunate steward, owing to diabolic toothache, could not enjoy. Sunday April 19. A dull morning with light SW wind. After breakfast on tongue - few stores left - we started at 11.30. Huge wash-up by mate, as steward was writing



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# n Oban – part 2



There was no other place, according to CC Lynam, where the kindness of the people of Eigg could be exceeded. Photograph Iain Thornber  
Blue Dragon under sail. Photograph The Dragon School.

to a group of fish-curers from Barra. Apparently they had very little English, but one of them pointed to a big tear in Lynam's trousers and immediately brought out needle and thread and sewed it up for him. Mr Thom, the owner of the island, directed him to an old cross inscribed with unrecognisable names on one side, which he sketched. He then made friends with William Campbell, the pier master, who was making hay.

'Next he climbed the rock on which was a ruined castle. Campbell went aboard. He admired Blue Dragon and told the skipper all about the castle including a story of how Macleod of Barra stole his girlfriend from the castle where she was incarcerated when she managed to let herself down into a boat using a rope made of blankets.

'The next day saw Blue Dragon on Rum and Eigg, the day after crashing into a rock just before entering the harbour. The centre plate chain was lost in the process. Lynam recorded; 'I steered in, a sad and crestfallen skipper and went ashore, and though it was Sunday, the inhabitant of the nearest cottage, Sandy Mackinnon gave me a hand and spent the night on board with me. In the morning the carpenter Dugald Macleod came on board and with skill and hard work got the plate into its case. I could in no way persuade Sandy and Dugald to take any payment for all their trouble. This was the first of many kindnesses I have received from them. I spent the night in Sandy's cottage by his peat fire. The hens that were roosting at the back of the bed woke me up in the morning, whilst the dog had kept me company. Sandy took me in the evening to hear Campbell play the pipes at the post office. On Friday I went back in the Gael leaving James Campbell and John MacDonald, the lobster fisherman, to sail the Blue Dragon to Oban at the first opportunity.'

To be continued.

with toothache. Sailed in fine style up Kerrera Sound, and anchored off south pier at Oban in seven fathoms.

'Instantly, after making all snug, the steward went in search of a dentist. A bald-headed man said that Dr MacCalman was better than any dentist, and we found him - big and burly and very Scotch. He extracted the molar. The steward desires it to be recorded that he took it like a hero, but declined the extraction of a second. After lunch we all went up to a strange new round building, built by McCaig in memory of himself. The skipper went on to see an ancient round tower, and then we had a large tea at the Station Hotel, where we got a Scotsman and a Times; these hinted at an unpopular budget which relieved no one but the landlords.'

On Friday September 11, a fisherman on a vessel called the Industry from Castlebay, gave the skipper a large mackerel in return for a pot of hare soup before he made for Canna, which he had never seen before. He landed and talked

## DOWN MEMORY LANE

We delve into The Oban Times archives to bring you faces and places from yesteryears



These lads were part of the Out of School Basketball team taking part in the opening of Atlantis Leisure Centre. Pictured are: (back) Paul McLaren, Arran Brown, and Jamie Galbraith; with David Adams, Patrick Harvey and Richard Young in front. But what was the year?



We think these ladies were attending the AGM of a local branch of the charity Save The Children, but other than that there is little detail. Last week's photograph of a cheque presentation promoted an email from Kevin Macdonald who said: 'I saw a recent article and photo in your paper about a family who walked the West Highland Way and raised money for the Belford Hospital in Fort William. Well, that was me and my younger sister who was a nurse there at the time and who is now a charge nurse in Raigmore. The other person is my big brother who is a solicitor in Inverness. Lovely to see that blast from the past.'



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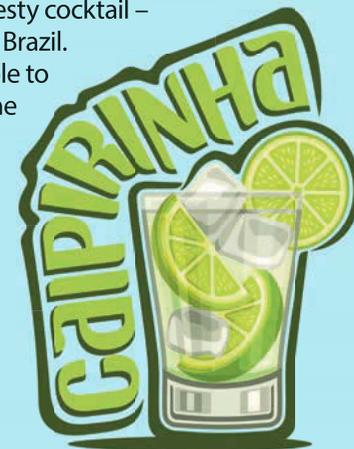


We are all missing our favourite restaurants right now but there's no reason you can't enjoy gourmet food in your own home. Many of our local restaurants are offering a takeaway service but if home-cooking is your thing don't forget some of our smaller local shops can supply you with the finest ingredients to inspire you.

## RECIPE

### Lockdown Cocktail...

Try this refreshing, zesty cocktail – the national drink of Brazil. You might not be able to holiday there anytime soon, but you can bring a little taste of it into your home. Mojito fans will love this!



#### You will need

- lime ½, sliced into wedges
- caster sugar 2 tsp
- cachaca 50ml

#### How to make a caipirinha

Give the lime a good roll about before slicing it, to soften it up and release juices.

Use a spoon to mix together the lime wedges and sugar in a large glass – tumble them around, rather than stir. Fill the glass with ice, pour over the cachaca and stir well until combined and the ice has diluted a little before serving. Add a mint sprig or basil if the mood takes you.

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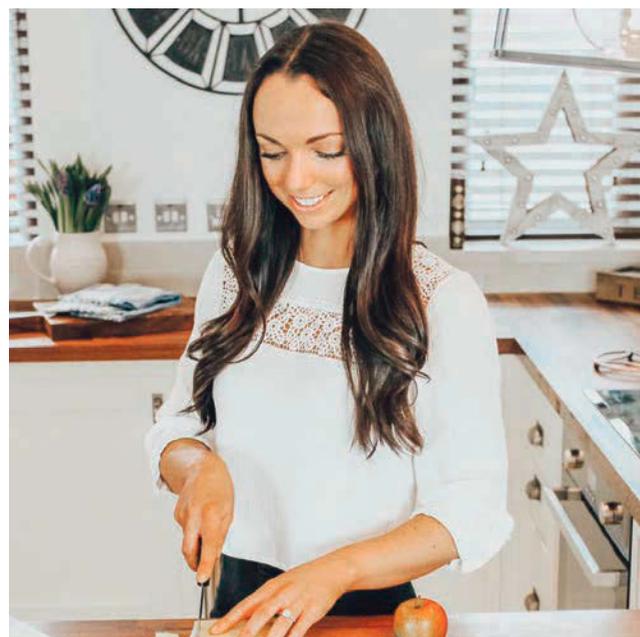
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# HEALTH AND PRODUCTIVITY IN ISOLATION

Some tips and advice from renowned UK dietician and nutritionalist Nichola Ludlam-Raine



**EAT COLOUR** - I've said it before and I'll say it again... eat your 5 a day! Tinned & frozen count too (they contain more nutrients such as vitamin C than their fresh varieties too!). Try if you can though to buy fruit tinned in juice as opposed to syrup.

**VARIETY & BALANCE** - You don't need to eat a special diet as ALL foods provide some goodness. Three of the nutrients that help to support your immune system include Vitamin A (sweet potato & spinach), vitamin C (berries, tomatoes & peppers) & zinc (meat, shellfish, dairy & bread)

**HYDRATION** - Drinking an adequate amount of fluid is essential in order for you to feel and function at your best. Water, squash, tea, coffee and milk count towards our fluid needs.

**SLEEP** - Now is the time to prioritise it (no-one is going out, and our commutes to work are faster, so there really is no excuse!). Aim for 8 hours a night.

**SNACK TIME** - Think protein & produce when it comes to snacks eg cheese & apple, yoghurt & berries, nuts & dried fruit or even hummus & carrots!

**FREEZE FOOD** - Reduce food waste by freezing leftovers and don't forget about the humble potato too (Google for recipes on how to turn them into chips!).

**STRUCTURE** - Try to structure your day i.e. have set times for meals, snacks, a walk/workout, face-time with loved ones & work!

**GET OUTSIDE DAILY** - This is essential. Being out in the open (in nature ideally) does wonders for our mental health and also helps with our vitamin D levels.

**TO DO LIST** - keep yourself focused and write a list of things you want to achieve each day or week. Mark them MUST, SHOULD, COULD and WANT in order of priority.

**INDULGE** - a little bit of what you fancy does you good and now is certainly not the time for complete restriction (you crave more what you ban from your diet!) .. the key is balance... think 80/20!

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Double pattie, burger sauce, double American cheese & chips

HANDMADE RUSTIC BACON CHEESE BURGER 9.00

Grilled 8oz local burger served with Virginia smoked bacon and cheddar on a brioche style bun with chips and coleslaw

CAULIFLOWER, KALE & OAK SMOKED CHEDDAR BURGER 9.00

Cauliflower, cream cheese, Red Leicester and smoked cheddar mixed with parsley and kale and coated in a crispy crumb served on a brioche style bun with garlic mayonnaise, seasoned wedges and homemade coleslaw

CHICKEN BALMORAL BURGER 9.00

Crispy buttermilk chicken burger topped with haggis and served on a brioche style bun with potato rosti and cheddar cheese. Served with seasoned wedges and coleslaw

VEGAN CHEESE BURGER 9.00

The meatless farm company meat free burger served on a vegan brioche style bun with vegan mayonnaise and vegan cheese. Served with chips

### SIDES

NUGGETS & CHIPS (6) 4.75 | (12) 7.75 | (24) 13.00

SALT N CHILLI WINGS (8) 7.00 | (12) 9.00

KOREAN BBQ DOUBLE WINGS (8) 7.00 | (12) 9.00

HONEY CHILLI CHICKEN WINGS (8) 7.00 | (12) 9.00

HAGGIS & CHEESE CHIPS 6.50

BACON & CHEESE CHIPS 6.50

CHEESY CHIPS 6.00

DIRTY FRIES (LGE) 9.00

Topped with chargrill curry sauce & salt n chilli chicken chunks

SWEET POTATO FRIES 4.00

CHIPS & PEPPERCORN SAUCE 5.50

PORTION OF CHIPS SMALL 3.00 LARGE 4.50

PORTION OF WEDGES 3.00

EXTRA SAUCE 1.00

### THE REST

THE BIG BURRITO 8.00

Flour tortilla stuffed with adobo chicken, lemon and coriander rice, black beans, pico de gallo and cheese

MACARONI CHEESE 8.00

Creamy macaroni cheese served with chips & garlic bread

CHARGRILLED CHICKEN SKEWERS 10.00

Tender char grilled chicken breast skewers, topped with:

A mild curry and mango cream and served with rice and a warm chapatti

Our special satay sauce and served with rice

Sesame sweet chilli sauce and served with rice

SCOTTISH STEAK AND ALE PIE 10.00

Flaky pastry over tender Scotch beef served with chips and peas

SCAMPI AND CHIPS 10.00

Bread crumbed whole tail scampi served with chips and home-made tartare sauce

GRILLED HADDOCK 10.00

Topped with a mature cheddar glaze and served over creamy mash

FISH AND CHIPS 9.00

Chunky fillet of haddock, crispy fried in our special recipe batter and served with chips and home-made tartare sauce. This dish can also be made gluten free

HOMEMADE LASAGNE 9.00

Scottish beef ragu lasagne topped with Arran cheddar cheese sauce. Served with chips and garlic bread

VEGAN BUTTERNUT GOBI DHANSAK 9.00

Cauliflower and butternut squash curry served with lemon and coriander rice

TODAY'S SPECIAL 9.50

Please check out our facebook page for this weeks creation

### KIDS MEAL 4.00

Chicken nuggets and chips | 4oz burger and chips | Macaroni cheese and chips | Fish and chips

### DESSERT 4.00

CHOCOLATE BOX SERVED WITH CREAM

For allergen advice, please ask when ordering

# LEISURE & ENTERTAINMENT

YOUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S ON IN ARGYLL AND LOCHABER

## Online tuition service is trad music to the ears

by Fiona Scott

fscott@obantimes.co.uk



Leading arts organisation, Fèisean nan Gàidheal has launched a new online music tuition service, which will be free of charge to all.

The initiative is a bid to support people, of all ages, with their learning and practicing of traditional music and Gaelic skills at home during lockdown.

Under the banner of FèisTV and with funding from Bòrd na Gàidhlig, Creative Scotland and Highlands & Islands Enterprise, a video series of traditional music lessons, at different levels, has been created in Gaelic and English to support those with no Gaelic, learners of the language and



Trail West accordionist Ian Smith; and inset, singer James Graham, two of the tutors.

band, Trail West, fiddle player Robbie Grieg, who is a member of electronic folk band, INYAL, and singers James Graham, Eilidh Cormack (a member of female singing trio, SIAN) and Deirdre Graham.

With more than 70 video lessons at levels appropriate for beginners, intermediate and advanced learners, this resource will provide something for everyone, allowing people to continue their musical creativity or even learn a new skill during lockdown.

Fèisean nan Gàidheal's Chief Executive, Arthur Cormack, said: 'It was always our plan to develop our FèisTV resource

to offer online music lessons in addition to live streaming of events.

'Normally these lessons will be part of a paid subscription service, but we are delighted to offer this new service for free at this time whilst people are safely at home and looking for activities to keep themselves going.

'We are grateful to the funders who have enabled us to develop this resource.'

Laura Nicolson, Project Officer at Fèisean nan Gàidheal explained: 'As part of the new programme #cleachdiaigantaigh, in which we are involved together with Bòrd na Gàidhlig, Comunn na Gàidhlig and other Gaelic organisations, Fèisean nan Gàidheal will deliver more live

events online in the coming weeks. In the meantime, we hope people will get some enjoyment and new skills from the Oide video lessons.'

Steven Kellow, Funding and Project Officer at Bòrd na Gàidhlig added: 'We welcome this resource which is extremely useful in supporting music tuition through the medium of Gaelic.'

'Fèisean nan Gàidheal and other groups have been working hard to produce resources through the #cleachdiaigantaigh / #useitathome initiative and we are grateful for the creative opportunities like this they have delivered at this challenging time.'

The Oide video lessons can be found online at <https://tv.feisean.org>.

fluent Gaelic speakers. The Oide (meaning tutor in Gaelic) series currently offers lessons in accordion, fiddle and Gaelic song, with more instruments available soon, thanks to further funding from the

Scottish Government. The lessons, which are suitable for all ages and abilities, are led by some of the most experienced traditional music tutors in the country, including accordionist Ian Smith from popular folk



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Find out more advice for animal owners in our coronavirus information hub: <https://www.bva.co.uk/coronavirus/coronavirus-advice-for-animal-owners/>

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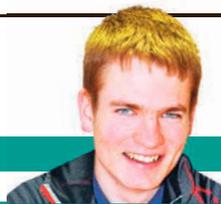
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# Robert in lockdown!

**ROBERT ROBERTSON**

robert.d.robertson@hotmail.co.uk



I was interviewed about the new Tide Lines album for the Herald, the Record, and the Scotsman last weekend.

Safe to say I haven't seen my mum spend so much time taking cuttings from newspapers since I won the under-15s solo singing competition at Mòd Lochaber 2007 and ended up on the front page of none other than the Oban Times!

I distinctly remember stopping at the BP garage that evening as we headed home late at night from a great cèilidh in the Alexandra Hotel. Deoch 'n' Dorus had been playing if memory serves correctly. On seeing my photo on the front page of the paper, my mum got all excited and picked up six copies! Grandparents, aunts, cousins, distant relations, all had to hear about this one!

I'll never forget the quizzical look from the gentleman behind the counter as Mum put down all her copies and began rummaging in her purse. He came away with the brilliant line: 'Are you opening a small shop or do you just have lots of friends?'

It's not a direct comparison, of course, because Tide Lines



certainly didn't make the front page of the national papers in question. To achieve that feat you usually have to do something like drive 260 miles to a farm in Durham and visit a local castle. It was still a laugh, however, to see my mum keeping the print media industry alive by arriving home from her essential shopping trip clutching a host of newspapers.

In other news, I feel it only right to give an update on the garden for those avid readers who enquire as to the progress of the lawn and the hedge each week and who look to dip into the well of my gardening expertise for advice on good practice.

You will know, of course, that the weather has not been quite

so good since the new lawn mower arrived but, between myself and Dad, we've managed out with it a number of times and the grass was really looking in fine shape. That is until we were rudely awakened one morning at 7.30am by my mum shouting that two horses had found their way into the garden and were gleefully galloping about the grass! This is the type of stress in life that never troubles me in the flat in Glasgow. On the upside, at least it puts into perspective the divots (pictured) I've been making with my pitching wedge while patiently awaiting the reopening of the golf club.

Finally, I want to say a quick word about a comical internet dating site called Zoom to Groom that has kept me laughing throughout lockdown.

My pal John has been going on each Saturday night and, in the 90-second virtual dates that are watched by hundreds, he has been asking such questions as: what's your name, where are you from, and have you ever been to the Mòd?!

Lockdown just gets more and more bizarre as the weeks go in.

# Young musicians challenged to Wake Up Scotland

Pipe band members from all over Argyll and Bute are being invited to join a nationwide initiative to blast Scotland out of lockdown gloom.

Young musicians across the country are being asked to team pipes and drums up with other instruments and create inspiring music to cheer the nation. The collaborations will then be judged with the winning entry receiving £1,000 and a support slot at a Red Hot Chilli Pipers gig and showcase their composition at next year's Scottish Schools Pipe Band Championships.

The Bagrock band has teamed up with The Scottish Schools Pipes and Drums Trust (SSPDT) to launch the competition this week.

Craig Munro from the Chillis explained: 'We want youngsters to form bands of up to nine musicians to compose original pieces of contemporary music or create dynamic cover versions.'

'For now this will have to be done online but if the lockdown eases bands maybe able to come together respecting any remaining restrictions that might still apply and



**Pupil Caitlin Mackay takes a break from composing.**

film their pieces for judging.' SSPDT Chief executive confirmed that cash prizes are being offered for the three best entries. The first prize will be £1,000, then £500 and a third prize of £250.

'We know how badly people are missing playing together during this crisis and this is a great way of helping re-establish safe contact and then wake Scotland up with a blast.'

All bands have to do is film their entries using music or conference apps and submit them for judging by some of the country's top musicians.

In the run up to the deadline for entries on June 12, the

Chillis will be releasing videos giving help on composing and showing how to make bagpipes work best with other instruments.

'This really is a natural extension of the hugely popular freestyle class we run at our schools pipe band championships in March each year,' said Alex.

'We have seen how well pipes and drums go with other instruments and singers - here is a great chance for Scotland's talented and creative young people to show what they can do.'

The SSPDT offers help and cash grants to councils and parent groups seeking to start pipe bands in Scottish state schools. They also have the world's biggest free bagpipe loan scheme lending instruments to hundreds of young players across the country.

Collaborations can include keyboard, voice, guitar, violin or anything. Just so long as at least one bagpipe is at the heart of it.

More details of the competition are on the Chillis' Facebook page and the SSPDT website [sspdt.org.uk](http://sspdt.org.uk)

# M'ALBA

## MY ALBA

### DIARDAOIN 28 An Cèitean

#### THURSDAY 28 May

- 17:00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
- 19:00 An Lot/ The Croft (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 Celtic Connections (BBC ALBA Shorts) (rpt)
- 21:55 Celtic Connections (BBC ALBA Shorts) (rpt)
- 22:00 ÙR/NEW: Julie Fowlis – Ceol Aig baile
- 22:30 Ameireaga air Film (rpt)
- 23:20 ÙR/NEW: Binneas na Trads
- 23:30 Seoid a' Chidsin – The Kitchen Coves (rpt)

### DIHAOINE 29 An Cèitean

#### FRIDAY 29 May

- 17:00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
- 18:35 Machair (rpt)
- 19:00 An Là – News
- 19:25 Fraochy Bay (rpt)
- 19:30 Prosaig (rpt)
- 20:00 Orain Oir (rpt)
- 20:30 Kerry is Kirsty: Beinn Dobhrain gu Loch Liomhainn (rpt)
- 21:00 ÙR/NEW: Spors – Heart of Midlothian FC
- 21:30 ÙR/NEW: Spors – Hibernian FC
- 22:00 Garce Harte (rpt)
- 22:50 Binneas na Trads (rpt)
- 23:00 ALT (rpt)

### DISATHAIRNE 30 An Cèitean

#### SATURDAY 30 May

- 16:00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
- 17:45 An Là – News
- 18:00 SWPL Cup Final 2019 – Hibernian Ladies v Glasgow City (rpt)
- 20:55 Fraochy Bay (rpt)
- 21:00 ALT (rpt)

- 22:00 Ameireaga air Film/America in Colour (rpt)
- 22:50 ÙR/NEW: Celtic Connections (BBC ALBA Shorts)
- 22:55 ÙR/NEW: Celtic Connections (BBC ALBA Shorts)
- 23:00 Spors – Heart of Midlothian FC (rpt)
- 23:30 Spors – Hibernian FC
- 00:00 Belladrum 2019 (Highlights) (rpt)

### DIDÒMHNAICH 31 An Cèitean

#### SUNDAY 31 May

- 16:00 Scottish Junior Cup Final 2018 – Auchinleck Talbot v Hurlford United (rpt)
- 18:15 An Là – News
- 18:45 Celtic Connections (BBC ALBA Shorts)
- 18:50 Sgeul Seolaidh (rpt)
- 19:05 Slighe Anndra (rpt)
- 19:30 ÙR/NEW: Allelulia!
- 20:00 Aig Taigh-Fuine/The Bakery (rpt)
- 20:30 Dealbhan Fraoich (rpt)
- 21:00 Bannan (rpt)
- 21:35 Bannan (rpt)
- 22:05 Famous Five (rpt)
- 23:05 Grace Harte (rpt)

### DILUAIN 1 An Cèitean

#### MONDAY 1 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 Fuine (rpt)
- 20:30 Kerry is Kirsty: Beinn Dobhrain gu Loch Liomhainn (rpt)
- 21:00 Trusadh – Bogha-froise(pride) (rpt)
- 22:00 Bannan (rpt)
- 22:30 Opry le Daniel (rpt)
- 23:25 Fraochy Bay (rpt)
- 23:30 Julie Fowlis – Ceol Aig Baile (rpt)

### DIMÀIRT 2 An Cèitean

#### TUESDAY 2 May

- 17:00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming

- 19:00 An Lot/The Croft (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 Third Lanark (rpt)
- 22:00 Trusadh – Bogha-froise (Pride) (rpt)
- 23:00 Allelulia! (rpt)
- 23:35 Slighe Anndra (rpt)

### DICIADAIN 3 An Cèitean

#### WEDNESDAY 3 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 (rpt)
- 22:00 Bannan (rpt)
- 22:30 Iul a' Chiuil – An Ceol (The Musical Path - The Music) (rpt)
- 23:00 DIY le Donnie (rpt)
- 23:45 Celtic Connections (BBC ALBA Shorts) (rpt)
- 23:50 Celtic Connections (BBC ALBA Shorts) (rpt)

### DIARDAOIN 4 An Cèitean

#### THURSDAY 4 May

- 17:00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
- 19:00 An Lot/ The Croft (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 Celtic Connections (BBC ALBA Shorts) (rpt)
- 21:55 Celtic Connections (BBC ALBA Shorts) (rpt)
- 22:00 ÙR/NEW: Julie Fowlis – Ceol Aig baile
- 22:30 Ameireaga air Film (rpt)
- 23:20 ÙR/NEW: Binneas na Trads
- 23:30 Seoid a' Chidsin – The Kitchen Coves (rpt)



[BBC.CO.UK/ALBA](http://BBC.CO.UK/ALBA) | [BBC.CO.UK/IPLAYER](http://BBC.CO.UK/IPLAYER)

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## You can't keep a good Shanty festival down

Like many other festivals, Oban International Shanty Festival has had to be cancelled due to the lockdown.

But, 'you can't keep a good shanty down', say organisers and the inaugural event will now be streamed online.

People are being invited to listen in for free or even take part themselves on Saturday June 6, between 7.30-11.30pm.

The first Oban International Shanty Festival was due to take place on June 5-7 and many of the professional sea shanty bands to appear will be performing either individually or in their groups on the night.

Les Brouilleurs d'Ecoutes, Pressgang Mutiny, Monkey's Fist, The Naze Shanty Crew, The Keelers, and Muldoon's Picnic will be among those taking part. These acts will be interspersed with Open Mic slots for other performers and this could be you.

Apply to take part by emailing [obanshanty@gmail.com](mailto:obanshanty@gmail.com), or register at: [www.eventbrite.com/e/oban-international-shanty-festival-at-home-tickets-104886763132](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/oban-international-shanty-festival-at-home-tickets-104886763132) for the link on the night.

# Marian's Mountain Cafe healthy escape

by Fiona Scott  
[fscott@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:fscott@obantimes.co.uk)



This week's lockdown offering comes from freelance videographer and journalist Marian Milarvie and is adapted from the glorious Mountain Café Cookbook by Kiwi Kirsten Gilmour, who runs the amazing Mountain Café in Aviemore – which always has a queue to get in during summer opening hours.

Marian told us: 'I follow the basic recipe for the oats and oil/syrup mix but add the ingredients I like to make a fantastically tasty breakfast granola that can be added to fruit/fruit compote and yoghurt, or mixed with another cereal like cornflakes or bran flakes, or eaten on its own with (Wee Isle Dairy) milk – or you can do as my husband does and put it on top of porridge. Each to their own...'

'The ingredients in brackets



Marian follow the basic recipe but add the ingredients she like to make a fantastically tasty breakfast granola.

are optional. I sometimes put them in and other times don't feel like it or don't have them.'

### Mountain Café Granola Ingredients

■ 250g Jumbo oats – Millstone Health Foods in Oban's High Street has these loose – don't

use ordinary porridge oats as they are too floury.

■ 50g pumpkins seeds  
■ 50g sunflower seeds  
■ 30g flaked almonds (25g linseeds)  
■ (25g sesame seeds)  
■ (50g mixed chopped nuts or whatever ones you like, just



bash them with a mortar and pestle to make them smaller pieces first)

■ 1 vanilla pod or a tsp vanilla essence  
■ 100ml maple syrup  
■ 70 ml rapeseed or other vegetable oil (not olive)

### Method

Heat oven to 150°C fan/ 170°C. Mix the oats, seeds, almonds (and nuts) in bowl.

Into a jug, scrape out the vanilla pod (or add tsp of vanilla essence), add the oil and syrup and mix together with a small whisk or fork.

Pour over the oats etc and mix thoroughly.

Spread out on a large baking tray and bake for 15 minutes.

Take it out the oven and, using a fork, break it up and mix it over.

Put back in the oven and bake for another 20 minutes.

As soon as you bring it out the oven, break it up with a fork again, then add whatever dried fruits you like, scattering them over the top.

For instance: cranberries, sultanas, chopped apricots, pineapple, papaya, flaked coconut (toasted or not), raisins or anything else you think would go (the original recipe uses freeze dried fruits but I found them hard to get hold of).

Stir them in and leave the mix to cool. Once cooled, store in an air tight container.

■ Send your recipes, a photograph and a wee description of yourself, to [editor@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:editor@obantimes.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](http://www.bid4oban.co.uk) for regular updates.

Email [info@bid4oban.co.uk](mailto:info@bid4oban.co.uk)



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CROSS CODE

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

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

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.

Quiz Challenge

- During World War II, which emblem was a symbol of Free France?
- Which UK Home Secretary was slapped by Bernadette Devlin in the House of Commons?
- Which word with no vowels means to kill illegally by mob action?
- Which Irish singer has been a member of Bananarama and Shakespears Sister?
- Carthage Palace is the presidential residence of which country?
- Who is journalist Eve Pollard's well-known daughter?
- Matthew McConaughey played electrician and rodeo cowboy Ron Woodrow in which 2013 film?
- In bingo parlance, which number is two little ducks?
- Produced in Rhondda Cynon Taf, what P is a Welsh whiskey distillery and brand?
- In rugby union, Scotland plays which country when the Doddie Weir Cup is at stake?



Matthew McConaughey - see Question 7

BOX CLEVER

3			3
4			5
	8		
		3	
	2		2
3	3		

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?

- Which long thin cocktail snacks, manufactured by Jacob's, have a distinctive knobbly shape?
- Which Alex Haley novel documents the life of the slave Kunta Kinte?
- What name is usually given to the retail location of a bank?
- Which verb means to introduce chemicals into clouds so as to induce rainfall?
- Which word do Americans use to describe the boot or luggage compartment of a car?

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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.

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

SUDOKU

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

Easy

	4	8		6		2	1	
6	7	1		2	3	8		
	3				1			
3						4	7	
8	5	4	3			1	2	
	1		8		4			6
		7				9		
	2				9			7
1		9			7	3	4	

Hard

			3	4		6	9	
	2				7			4
7		6			8			
	5		7					
3								1
			5					6
	7			1				8
					4			
	1	5	8					2

KAKURO

Fill in the blank squares in the grid with numbers so that each horizontal or vertical line adds up to the total given in the box either to the left or above it. Horizontal totals are given in the top right corners of the shaded boxes; vertical totals in the bottom left corners. You can use the numbers 1 to 9, but may not use the same number more than once in any run. The number may be used again, however, in the same row or column but as part of another run.

						12	15		
						13			
17	9					7			11
				13					
14						20	3		
			18						
16			20			11			
					9				
19									
		16							

Crossword

	1	2	3	4	5	6			
7									
8						9			
10	11					12			
						13			
14			15			16		17	
						18			
19					20				21
22									

- Across**
- 7 Transfer from public control (13)
  - 8 Long legged chicken (8)
  - 9 Stick (4)
  - 10 Estate (7)
  - 12 Autumn color (5)
  - 14 V.I.P. (5)
  - 16 Religious service (7)
  - 19 To allege as a fact (4)
  - 20 Medium for canvas (3,5)
  - 22 Bright illumination in a tube (5,8)
- Down**
- 1 Bridge shape (4)
  - 2 Show (6)
  - 3 Engraving (7)
  - 4 Up and about (5)
  - 5 Motionless (6)
  - 6 Wizard (8)
  - 11 Weaken (8)
  - 13 Put in a proper order again (7)
  - 15 Insect with pincers (6)
  - 17 Pigtails (6)
  - 18 May (5)
  - 21 Zero (4)

SOLUTIONS

**CROSS CODE**

U M B D O F N K I V E X Y  
 P G S J L W O C Z R  
 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26

**COMMON LINK**

Dallas Buyers Club: 8 22; 9 Penderyn; 10 Wales.  
 4 Stobhan Fahey; 5 Tumbler; 6 Claudia Winkelmann; 7  
 1 Cross of Lorraine; 2 Reginald Maulding; 3 Lynch;

**QUIZ CHALLENGE**

1 8 9 6 6 5 7 3 4 2  
 5 2 3 1 4 9 6 8 7  
 4 6 7 2 2 3 3 6 8  
 7 1 2 8 9 4 4 5 3 6  
 8 5 4 3 7 6 1 2 9  
 3 6 2 4 8 9 6 7 1  
 1 5 8 6 1 2 4 7 8  
 7 4 6 1 9 8 1 2 3 4  
 9 2 3 6 5 7 1 8 4  
 5 8 1 3 4 2 6 9 7  
 8 4 7 6 5 2 1 3

**EASY SUDOKU**

1	8	9	6	6	5	7	3	4	2
5	2	3	1	4	9	6	8	7	
4	6	7	2	2	3	3	6	8	
7	1	2	8	9	4	4	5	3	6
8	5	4	3	7	6	1	2	9	
3	6	2	4	8	9	6	7	1	
1	5	8	6	1	2	4	7	8	
9	2	3	6	5	7	1	8	4	
5	8	1	3	4	2	6	9	7	

**HARD SUDOKU**

			3	4		6	9	
	2				7			4
7		6			8			
	5		7					
3								1
			5					6
	7			1				8
					4			
	1	5	8					2

**BOX CLEVER**

			3			3
			2			5
	8					
			3			
	2				2	
3	3					

LAST WEEK'S XWORD SOLUTION

T	U	C	K		T	I	N	C	T	U	R	E			
R	A	A		T	R	N	A								
A	P	R	O	P	O	S		A	T	L	A	S			
N	O	P				S	O	E							
S	U	M	M	E	R	S	C	H	O	O	L				
E				N	P	B		S	O						
P	E	R		D	R	A	M	A		E	L	F			
T	E	I		S	A	R									
		S	T	O	C	K	M	A	R	K	E	T	S		
Y	I	I													
E	G	R	E	T		S	M	E	T	A	N	A			
T	E	I				I	R			D		G			
I	N	D				S	T	R		Y		W	E	R	E

# 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

### FRONT CRATE TO GATE (THE OBAN INN)

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

### D WATT & SON

The fishmonger on the railway pier is open Tues to Sat 9am to 1 p.m.  
Customers can go to the shop or phone an order in to collect.  
Telephone 01631 562358.  
Fresh shellfish and fish daily.

## TAKE-AWAY FOOD

### CUAN MOR

Open for take-away and delivery  
Thurs-Sun  
5pm-9pm (line opens 3pm for ordering)  
Tel: 01631 565078  
See page 25 this week for full menu or visit Cuan Mor FB page

### 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.  
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: 0787672631

### 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

### E THORNTON AND CO, SOLICITORS AND ESTATE AGENTS

We are open for business but the office door is locked and we are seeing clients by appointment only. Please contact us by phone or email. Stay safe.  
Telephone: 01631 566771



IN ASSOCIATION WITH

# Oban Business Improvement District

[www.bid4oban.co.uk](http://www.bid4oban.co.uk)



Email: [info@ethornton.co.uk](mailto:info@ethornton.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 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](http://www.obanvets.co.uk)

## SHOPS AND ONLINE SHOPPING

### OBAN MUSIC SHOP

Oban Music is still trading through its web site:-

[www.musicscotland.com](http://www.musicscotland.com)

Tel: 01631 566304

### ORSAY

Trading online at [www.orsayoban.co.uk](http://www.orsayoban.co.uk).

### SCOTTISH ISLAND JEWELLERY

Website : [www.scottishislandjewellery.co.uk](http://www.scottishislandjewellery.co.uk)

And phone mail orders/enquires on 07760297957

Shop: 01631 570005 and

Mobile : 07760297957

[scottishislandjewellery@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:eric@gowestravel.co.uk),

[dianne@gowestravel.co.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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**

Email us

[mail@westhighlandha.co.uk](mailto:mail@westhighlandha.co.uk) or login into your My Home account online

**WEST HIGHLAND HOUSING ASSOCIATION SUPPORTING OUR TENANTS AND COMMUNITY.**

# OPEN FOR BUSINESS



IN ASSOCIATION WITH  
**Oban Business Improvement District**

[www.bid4oban.co.uk](http://www.bid4oban.co.uk)



## Business 'walking meetings' for Oban

by Ellis Butcher  
[ebutcher@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:ebutcher@obantimes.co.uk)



A virtual business club for Oban has grown to 50 members in just a few weeks and is now planning 'walking meetings'.

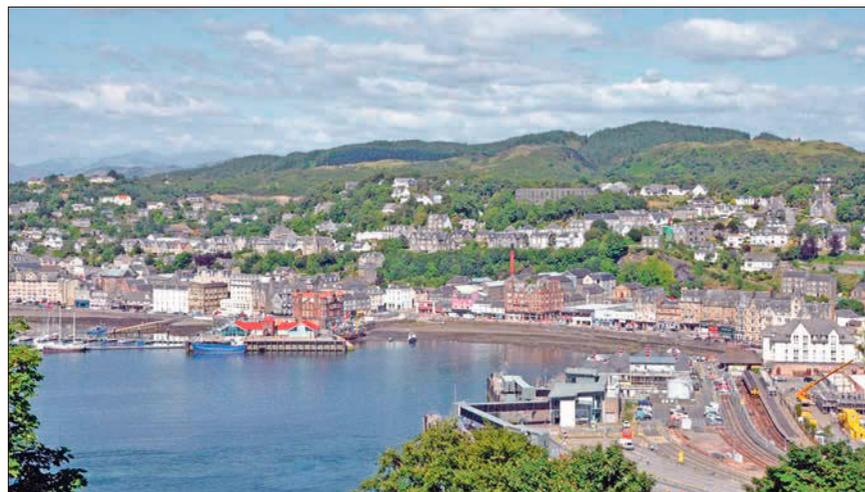
Oban Business Club was established by Daniel MacIntyre, a business and marketing consultant who runs The Little Bay Trading Company.

But with no chance for business people to meet in the same room, there are plans for 'walking meetings', alongside the current virtual get-togethers.

Mr MacIntyre explained: 'We've had a number of kind offers to sponsor members to get together, but we'll just need to wait until we find out the details of social distancing.'

'However, we've got a wonderful town and area to explore, so think we'll start with walk and talk sessions.'

'We'll start with our town centre but when allowed, we've already discussed with Isle of Kerrera, as



it's important we find out more about the development trust plans and visit the Kerrera Tea Garden.'

Members of the club include start-up businesses and long-established firms.

They include hospitality operators, insurance brokers, accountancy and estate agencies, plus consultants in digital, IT, business and health and safety.

Salons, local retailers and e-commerce businesses have also joined the group, which has the backing of Bid4Oban.

Mr MacIntyre said: 'Personally, it has been a welcome surprise to find businesses and very talented people living and working in the area.'

'I've made some excellent connections that will assist my own

business and I'm eager to extend that to many others.'

Business people with links to Oban, Lorn and the Islands but now working away have also kindly offered to share experiences and support future business club activities, he said.

Businesses are encouraged to sign-up at [www.obanview.com/obanbusinessclub/](http://www.obanview.com/obanbusinessclub/)

**Daniel MacIntyre of The Little Bay Trading Company is planning 'walking meetings' for business people in the town as lockdown restrictions lift.**

## Specsavers offers eye checks by video

Specsavers has launched a free sight and hearing consultation service via video and telephone link.

It is designed to cover concerns ranging from changes in sight to audiology health and aftercare.

Developed in line with NHS recommendations, the new service is open to everyone, whether or not they are a Specsavers customer, it said.

Specsavers said it can be accessed securely from any digital device and if a customer is unable to use video, they will be able to get advice over the phone.

It hailed the remote consultation service as a 'UK first' and said it is one of a number of organisations fast-tracking changes to respond to customers' needs during coronavirus.

Specsavers stores can only offer urgent and essential care to a limited number of customers at the moment.

Giles Edmonds, clinical services director at Specsavers, said: 'This is clearly significant given the present restrictions, but it is a service that we plan to continue for the long-term to ensure that everyone – especially those who are particularly vulnerable – can access the care and support that they need.'

'This solution removes a number of barriers, especially with health services already under immense pressure. We hope that Specsavers RemoteCare, our video consultation service, will in some way help people who might otherwise have gone to their GP or to the local A&E unnecessarily.'

Stores can also advise customers on how to locate their prescription and buy new glasses from Specsavers' recently-launched online glasses store.

Dr Sarah Jarvis, a GP and media medic, said not all detailed examinations could be carried out by video but many could.

'There are a surprising number of eye health issues which can be dealt with by taking a thorough history and by looking at the outside of the eye during a video consultation.'

'As a GP, I regularly diagnose eye problems without the specialist equipment optometrists have in their test rooms and with so many patients unable to access face to face appointments with their GP, and concerned about attending A&E departments, this service could be invaluable,' said Dr Jarvis.

More information is available at <https://www.specsavers.co.uk/online-consultation-service>

## Cuan Mor reopens for takeaways and deliveries

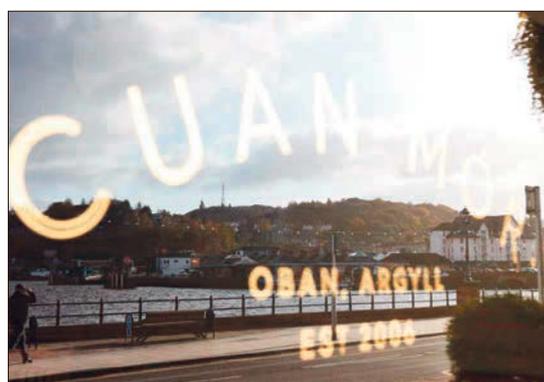
A prominent Oban restaurant has created a new carry out and delivery menu which will be launched today, writes Ellis Butcher

Cuan Mor on George Street has been closed as a sit-in restaurant since lockdown restrictions were brought in at the end of March.

But from Thursday to Sunday it will offer takeaway and delivery services between 5-9pm, with phone lines for orders opening from 3pm on those days only.

Its menu includes enchiladas, rustic bacon cheese burgers, grilled haddock, Scottish steak and ale pie, macaroni cheese and kids meals including chicken nuggets and chips.

It plans to deliver in and



**Cuan Mor in Oban will offer takeaway and delivery, Thursday to Sunday from today.**

around Oban for a £4 delivery charge. It will deliver to Dunbeg for a £5 charge.

Anyone wanting food beyond these areas can collect from the restaurant as takeaway only, it said.

Strict social distancing guidelines are being observed, it said. Andy Spence, chief executive of the Bid4Oban group, welcomed today's announcement.

He said local takeaways and restaurants had responded well

to the changing environment brought about by lockdown.

Mr Spence said: 'Obviously we are very happy to see another business in Oban reopening and hopefully it's the first of many.'

Special guidance has been drawn-up for businesses reopening with advice from Scottish Government, Health Protection Scotland, NHS Inform, Gov.uk and the Food Standards Scotland.

For more information, please visit <https://www.cuanmor.co.uk/take-away/>

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PRESS RELEASE

## Cancellation of the 2020 Silverstone Classic

It is with a heavy heart that the organisers of the Silverstone Classic announce that this summer's flagship three-day festival – originally scheduled for the weekend of July 31 to the August 2 – has sadly been cancelled.

As the world's biggest classic motor racing festival, the massive event always attracts unrivalled grids, many thousands of classic car owners and more than 100,000 visitors, many of whom camp out at Silverstone. The nature and scale of the event make running it in a safe, socially-distanced manner a huge challenge in the current situation; and the event's much-loved family festival ethos also means that running the event behind closed doors is not a feasible option. This summer, the pioneering Classic had massive plans to celebrate its milestone 30th birthday with a special

'greatest hits' racecard but organisers have indicated that they will carry forward these celebrations to the 2021 event.

'Following the latest Government advice, coupled with other scheduling changes at Silverstone, we have reached the inevitable conclusion that we will need to cancel this year's event,' said an enormously disappointed Nick Wigley, CEO of Classic organiser Goose Live Events.

'Given the current circumstances and the unclear outlook on timescales, staging a postponed event – which was our original back-up plan – isn't something we can plan for with any degree of certainty if we are to deliver the style of Classic that we all know and love.

'I can't tell you how sad this news makes me feel. For the last 12 years it has been my life's focus to build the Classic



into the most amazing family-friendly classic racing festival, the biggest and many people think the best in the world, but our priority at all times is the safety and wellbeing of

those attending our events – as well as our own team – and we know that Classic fans will understand why this step has been necessary.

'As an independent events

company passionate about what we do, we are so proud to have developed the Silverstone Classic into an internationally renowned historic motorsport festival enjoyed across gen-

erations of car enthusiasts, families, racing drivers and petrolheads. In times of difficulty, communities tend to come together and we're incredibly grateful for everyone's continued support. It means a lot. The passion of those coming through our gates is what makes the event the success that it has become and we are now already looking forward to celebrating our delayed 30th anniversary with everyone next year instead.'

The record numbers who have already purchased Super Early Bird and Early Bird tickets will be offered the option either of rolling over their tickets to the 2021 event or requesting a full refund.

All ticket holders will be contacted in June with details of the next steps.

As ever all the latest information can be found at [www.silverstoneclassic.com](http://www.silverstoneclassic.com).

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## Around the markets

**Dingwall and Highland Marts Limited May 20** sold 129 pedigree and commercial Luing cattle at their twelfth annual spring breeding sale sponsored by Davison's animal feeds on May 20.

Pedigree bulling heifers (82) averaged £1,650.29 and sold to 3,020gns (£3,171.00), twice for 25 month old heifers from Mr G MacRae, Kintail, 120 Newton of Ferintosh, to J C Innes &amp; Sons, Dunsroft, Huntly.

Pedigree yearling heifers (5) averaged £848.40 and sold to 840gns (£882.00) for a 14-month-old heifer from Mr J M Haley, Lochan Farm, Kinrossie, to Meikle Farms, Darvel, Ayrshire.

Sim/Luing heifers (13) averaged £1,085.54 and sold to 1,280gns (£1,344.00) twice from Messrs J Lawrie, Tillyrie, Kinross, to Mr C Arnot, Hatton Mill, Angus.

Un-registered bulling heifers (9) averaged £933.33 and sold to 1,080gns (£1,134.00) twice from Welbeck Scottish Farms Ltd., Welbeck Estate, to Messrs Tulloch Farms, Upper Coullie, Laurencekirk.

Bulls (4) sold to 6,000gns (£6,300) for two 25-month-old

both from Messrs C C MacArthur &amp; Co. Nunnerie Farm, Biggar, one selling to Firm of Ernest Crawford, Blarghour Farm, Dalmally, and the other to Mr A Kennedy, Mitchell hill Farm, Biggar.

'Due to the popularity of the Luing breed, with enthusiasts all over the UK, a decision was taken by Dingwall &amp; Highland Marts, together with Luing Cattle Society, to conduct an online timed auction, with 129 head being traded throughout the UK at very acceptable prices.

Other leading prices:

Pedigree bulling heifers: Culmailly Farm, Golspie, 2,960gns (twice) &amp; 2,420gns (thrice); Kintail, 2,580gns (twice); Clashnoir, Glenlivet, 1,980gns (twice) &amp; 1,760gns; Nunnerie (twice), Inverbroom, Ullapool (thrice) 1,700gns.

Pedigree yearling heifers: Lochan Farm (4 times) 800gns.

Sim/Luing heifers: Tillyrie Farm (twice), 1,260gns; Lochan Farm (thrice), 1,020gns.

Un-registered bulling heifers: Welbeck Estates (thrice), 1,040gns. **Dingwall and Highland Marts, May 21**, sold 936 sheep of all classes.

Lambs (521) sold to £99 gross for a pen of Texel crosses from Balnabruich, Ardgay.

Ewes (271) sold to £104 gross for a Texel cross from Wester Cairnglass, Gollanfield.

Ewes with lambs at foot (125) sold to £190 gross for a pen of Texel cross ewes with Texel cross lambs at foot from Kempfield Croft, Culbokie.

Gimmer with lambs at foot (one) sold to £198 gross for

Mule gimmer with Texel cross lambs at foot from Beldhu, Croy.

Rams and feeding sheep (18) sold to £92 gross for a pair of Cheviot rams from Balcherry, Tain.

All classes met a firm enquiry.

Other leading prices per head:

Lambs: Chev - Balcherry, £96, Balnabruich, £96, Kirksheaf, Tain, £94; Mule - Dalmagarry Farms, Tomatin, £92; SuffX - Earlish, Uig, £90, £88; TexX - Earlish, £89; BDM - Tighnahinch, Alcaig, £88; CHM - Dunearn, Nairn, £86; Cross - 15 Glenconon, Uig, £86, 7 Kinerras, Kiltarlity, £83; 4 Muirshearlich, Banavie, £81; BF - Dalmagarry Farms, £76.

Ewes: BFL - Beldhu, £101; BeltX - Torgorm, Conon Bridge, £97; TexX

- Torgorm, £90, Wester Cairnglass, £89, Balnabruich, £80; SuffX - Torgorm, £90; Suff - Drumbuie, Drumnadrochit, £90, Mariain, Evanton, £80; CHM - Fanblair Farm, Kiltarlity, £90; Chev - Gruids, Lairg, £83; Mule - Torgorm, £81.

Ewes with lambs at foot - CHM - Fanblair Farm, £174; Chev - Bogallan, North Kessock, £158, 1 Milltown, Applecross, £158 &amp; £156, 11 Stirkhill, Inverasdale, £156; SuffX - Meall Mo Chridhe, Kilchoan, £140; TexX - Kempfield Croft, Culbokie, £140; Cross - Corvost, Ardgay, £138 &amp; 132; Jcb - Bogallan, £125; Rams and feeding sheep: Chev ram - Badden, Kiltarlity, £89; Tex ram - Moy Farm, Banavie, £89.

**United Auctions Stirling May 21** sold 713 store cattle and 102 cast cows and out of spec cattle and bulls.

Fleshed cows trading similar to last week's market.

Out of spec cattle which do not meet the abattoir weight limit criteria are in high demand, reaching £1370 for a 750kg LimX steer from Whitrighill.

Bullocks (364) - averaged 222.55p to 308.00p per kg for a 250kg LimX from Glenshalloch

(Oban), and to £1310 for a 710kg LimX from Dalcrue.

Dairy Bullocks (22) - averaged 167.19p to 236.80p per kg for a 266kg HFX from Holms of Caaf, and to £865 for a 492kg HFX from Craichmore.

Heifers (312) - averaged 211.34p to 271.40p per kg for a 280kg LimX from Tiraghoil (Mull), and to £1280 for a 730kg MOX from Wardpark.

Young Bulls (15) - averaged 199.93p to 222.50p per kg for a LimX from Knollhead, and to £1010 for a AAX from Gateside.

Beef Cows and Bulls (74) - averaged 131.61p to 181.20p per kg for a LimX from Whitrighill, and to £1290 for a LimX from Dyke.

Dairy Cows (15) - averaged 115.21p to 151.70p per kg for a HFX from High Langmuir, and to £985 for a HFX from Nyadd.

Out of Spec Cattle (13) - averaged 171.13p to 182.70p per kg for a LimX from Whitrighill, and to £1370 for a LimX from Whitrighill.

Bullocks: Up to 250kgs- Knollhead £485, 222.50p; 301-350kgs- £710, Holmbyre 209.40p; 351-400kgs- Braes of Grandtully £660, 178.40p; 401-450kgs- Woodhall £865, 197.50p; 501-551kgs- Wardpark £1010, 198.80p.

Happrew £930, Glenkiln Farms 242.40p; 401-450kgs- Wester Coul £980, Easter Happrew 228.00p; 451-500kgs- Gateside £1085, Henderland 226.30p; 501-551kgs- Henderland £1125, Francesfield 216.30p; 552-601kgs- Craigend £1230, High Craichmore 207.30p; 602-651kgs- Craigend £1240, 204.60p; 702+kgs- Dalcrue £1310, 184.50p.

Heifers: Up to 250kgs- Wardpark £610, Glenkiln (Arran) 271.30p; 251-300kgs- Creich (Mull) £760, 271.40p; 301-350kgs- Crosshouse £800, 245.40p; 351-400kgs- Borland £880, Dyke 231.40p; 401-450kgs- Auchnacloch £1005, 204.60p; 451-500kgs- Easterton £1100, 233.10p; 501-551kgs- Braes of Grandtully £1140, 220.10p; 552-601kgs- East Dron £1100, 197.80p; 602-651kgs- Starlaw £1255, Henderland 202.30p; 652-701kgs- Drum £1200, 172.20p; 702+kgs- Drum £1280, 175.30p.

Young Bulls: Up to 250kgs- Knollhead £485, 222.50p; 301-350kgs- £710, Holmbyre 209.40p; 351-400kgs- Braes of Grandtully £660, 178.40p; 401-450kgs- Woodhall £865, 197.50p; 501-551kgs- Wardpark £1010, 198.80p.

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**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

**MOBILE CATTLE SYSTEM (WITH JOINING PINS)****FROM £1,595.00 + VAT****\*\*Crush Gate optional extra\*\* £599.00**

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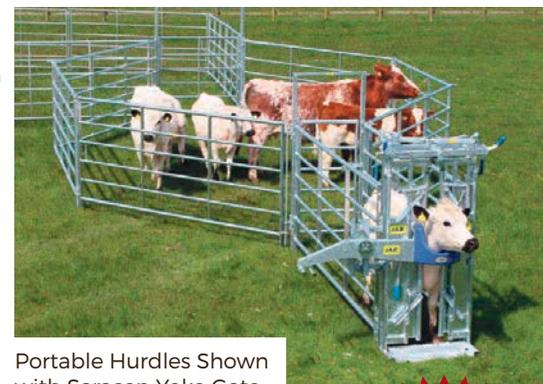
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# Additional funding to support crofters

OTM Cows: £ per head- Dyke (Lim) £1290, Chartershall (Sim) £1170, Gowstone (BRB) £1170, Traprain (CH) £1130, Beannie (SH) £1070, Drumheads (BS) £1070, East Revoch (AA) £1010, Dalfoil (MO) £905.

PPK- Whitrighill (Lim) 181.20p, Townhead (Sim) 181.00p, Gateside (Lui) 164.30p, High Langmuir (HF) 151.70p, Balmyle (CH) 151.30p, Garrick (AA) 146.80p, Drumheads (BS) 148.60p, Wardpark (Cont) 139.70p.

OTM Bulls: £ per head- Gateside (CH) £1390, Muirpark (Lim) £915.

PPK- Gateside (CH) 139.00p, West Park (Lim) 120.60p.

Out of Spec Cattle: £ per head- Whitrighill (Lim) £1370 x2, Whitrighill (Lim) £1330.

PPK- Netherhill (Lim) £187.00p, Whitrighill (Lim) 182.00p, Townhead (Sim) 181.00p.

**Caledonian Marts Limited**  
May 20 sold 765 sheep at their first sale of Dry Hoggets, Hoggets with Lambs at Foot in conjunction with all classes of Ewes with Lambs at Foot.

Top price of the day went to R McNee Ltd, Woodend, Armadale for a pen of Texel Hoggets with Single Lambs fetching a final bid at £204.

Dry Hoggets sold to a top of £130 for Texels from R Graham & Son, Airthrey Kerse, Bridge of Allan.

Ewes with Lambs at Foot sold to £198 for Texel X Ewes with Twin Lambs from A D Kinnimonth, Kinnighallen, Aberfeldy.

Top price per life went to R Sibbald, Thorn, Dollar at £75 for

Texel X Ewes. Leading prices: Hoggets with Single Lambs: Mule - £200 Woodend; Texel - £192 Woodend; Mule - £188 Gibblaston; Texel - £184 Back O Hill; Hoggets with Twin Lambs: Mule - £198 Gibblaston; Texel - £195 Back O Hill; Gimmers with Twin Lambs: Mule - £190 Innieshewan Farms; Texel - £188 Innieshewan Farms; Mule - £187 Leskine; Ewes with Twin Lambs: Bleu Du Maine - £194 Kinnighallen; Texel - £192 Kinnighallen; Cross - £180 Thorn; Mule - £180 Mill of Arodoch; Ewes with Single Lambs: Texel - £145 Kinnighallen; Cross - £140 Kinnighallen;

Continental - £135 Thorn; Continental X - £130 Inch; Cheviot - £127 Findatie; Suffolk X - £120 Lochnell; Blackface - £100 Lochnell; Dry Hoggets: Mule - £118 Middlepart; Texel X Cheviot - £85 Astel; Texel X Cheviot - £82 Knock, Isle of Mull. Also forward were 21 Calves and Stirks.

All classes of calves and stirks sold well to a large ringside of buyers with many going home empty handed.

Many more calves could be sold to sellers advantage.

Stirks sold to £620 for a 12 month old Aberdeen Angus heifer from A Mckenzie & Partners, Ardgate, Gartocharn.

Calves sold to £270 for a Fleckvieh cross bullock from J Rennie, Tarbert Farm, Isle of Gigha.

Other leading prices: Limousin - £460 (twice) Ardgate; Shorthorn - £200, £190, £180 Tarbert; Shorthorn - £230, £210 Tarbert.

An additional £336,732 has been awarded to support crofters in some of Scotland's most remote and marginal communities.

The latest round of funding sees the number of Croft House Grants awarded to crofters exceed 1,000.

The scheme helps crofters upgrade housing or build new homes, allowing them to achieve the full potential of their crofts while generating economic activity.

Since the scheme was launched in 2007, more than £21.2 million has been awarded to 1,008 families and individuals in rural and island communities.

Rural Economy Secretary Fergus Ewing said: "This is an incredibly difficult time as we continue to do everything we can to control the coronavirus outbreak and protect communities.

"Now more than ever, it is vital we support rural and island



Rural Economy Secretary Fergus Ewing.

communities and ensure crofters can continue to contribute to the long-term sustainability of these areas.

"I have seen first-hand the impact the Croft House Grant has had across rural Scotland which is why I am delighted to announce the number of successful applicants has now exceeded 1,000.

"I am determined to continue helping people in crofting areas,

which the Croft House Grant has a proven track record of doing."

Yvonne White, chairwoman of the Scottish Crofting Federation, said: "We congratulate the Scottish Government and Rural Economy Secretary on reaching this significant milestone.

"The Croft House Grant scheme is a recognition of the importance of crofting and its contribution to retaining population in Scotland's most fragile rural areas. We look forward to the continuation of this much-needed and successful support scheme and to continuing to work with the Scottish Government in reviewing and improving it."

Andrew McCornick, NFU Scotland President, said: "It is a measure of the Croft House Grant scheme success that more than 1,000 crofters have benefited from support through the scheme to date.

"That targeted grant support is vital in ensuring crofters can continue to live and work in fragile crofting communities, actively managing their croft while in a position to unlock any business opportunities that may come their way.

"NFUS has welcomed the opportunity to work with the Scottish Government to improve the scheme to ensure it is directed towards those most in need of support."

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**Thursdays**

Weekly sale of prime cattle, young bulls and OTM Cattle.

**Monday 1st June**

Fortnightly sale of store cattle, young bulls also Native bred cattle.

**Wednesday 3rd June**

Sale of Store Hoggets, Breeding Sheep to include Ewes & Hoggets with Lambs at foot.

Also sale of Young Calves & Stirks.

Further Details on any of the above sales and upto date trends please contact

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Oliver Shearman 07730 046252

James Scott 07444 836360

Callum Buchanan 07542 917531

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# PUBLIC NOTICES

**CROFTING COMMISSION COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD DECROFTING APPLICATION**

E MacIannan  
11 Unachan, Kilmonivaig  
0.0259 ha – Amenity ground  
104580

Written comments from any member of the crofting community within the locality of the croft and any expressions of demand for the croft (which may be made public), may be sent to the Crofting Commission by 26/06/2020. Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW – info@crofting.gov.scot

Our privacy notice is available at [www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk/privacy-policy](http://www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk/privacy-policy) or on request.

**DECROFTING DIRECTION ISSUED**

GW MacCorquodale  
Ardtur, Lismore & Appin  
101555  
0.095 ha  
Reason – Proposed new development  
Condition – With fencing and use conditions.  
Full details at [www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk](http://www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk)

**FIRST REGISTRATION OF A CROFT**

John MacKinnon has registered their croft 35 Idrigill, Idrigill, Snizort on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland. Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by 20th December 2020. Details of the registration can be found at [www.crofts.gov.uk/register/home](http://www.crofts.gov.uk/register/home). The croft registration number is C6962.

**Proposed Assignment of a Croft**

Timothy Godfrey is applying to assign the tenancy of the croft at 3 Aird Point, Sleat, to Mr Mark de Vries of 11 Pier Road, Ardvasar, Isle of Skye. Written comments from those with a relevant interest, (which may be made public) to: Crofting Commission, Leachkin road, Inverness, IV4 8NW, info@crofting.gov.uk within 28 days from the date of this advert.

**Argyll and Bute Council**

**PLANNING**

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](http://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](mailto:planning.hq@argyll-bute.gov.uk) or tel. 01546 605518.

**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**

Ref. No.	Proposal	Site Address
20/00737/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse, installation of septic tank and formation of vehicular access	Arle (Plot 4) Land North Of Arle Farmhouse Aros Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute
20/00823/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse	Plot 5 Deerview Ichrachan Taynuilt Argyll And Bute
20/00632/PP	Alterations and extension to existing managers accommodation and change of use of two holiday lets to two dwellinghouses, including alterations and extension	The Old School Dalavich Taynuilt Argyll And Bute PA35 1HN
20/00301/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse	Land West Of Brae Head Rockfield Road Tobermory Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute
20/00822/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse	Plot 4 Deerview Ichrachan Taynuilt Argyll And Bute
20/00795/PP	Internal and external alterations to existing shop	Island Stores Arinagour Isle Of Coll Argyll And Bute PA78 6SY
20/00657/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and outbuilding, formation of access and upgrade of existing access, installation of air source heat pump and solar array	Land South West Of The White House Ardfarnal Craighouse Isle Of Jura Argyll And Bute
20/00755/PPP	Site for the erection of 24 dwellinghouses	Land North Of Achnagaradh Craighouse Isle Of Jura Argyll And Bute
20/00766/PP	Installation of pipe bridge with concrete support pillars	Land At River Torra Approx. 1160 Metres North East Of Moorburn Glenegedale Lotts Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute
20/00791/PP	Formation of vehicular access and parking area	Rhynns Playing Field Portnahaven 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.

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us at: [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk)  
Comhairle Earra – Ghàidheal agus Bhòid



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**The Highland Council Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd**

**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
20/01790/FUL	Glencairn, Onich	Formation of self-contained unit for holiday letting purposes, erection of deck and external stair (retrospective)
20/01848/FUL	Land to East Of Twelve Penny House, Morar	Erection of house and garage
20/01763/FUL	Land 155M South of Glen Ceitlein Glenetive	Formation of access to Coileitir track

**Time period for comments is 14 days**  
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX  
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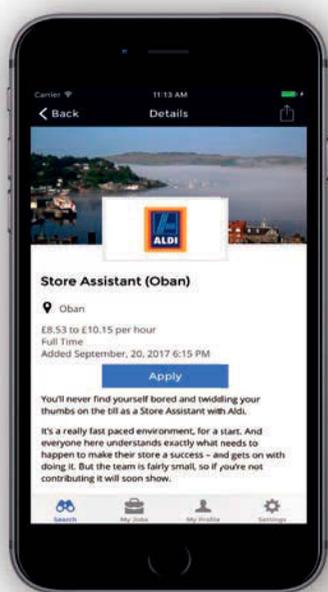
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## DEATHS

**GRAHAM** - George Pirrie Graham. Peacefully at Buchanan Lodge, Bearsden on May 3, 2020 age 83, (formerly of Millpark Terrace, Oban and Victoria Terrace, Ardrishaig), much loved by his family and friends and extended family. He will be very sadly missed. Many thanks to all staff at Buchanan Lodge Care Home.

**MACLEOD** - On May 23, 2020, at the Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban, Agnes Catherine (Nancy) in her 88th year, beloved wife of the late John Livingstone (Ian) MacLeod. Dear mother of Mary and Iain, much loved granny to Robert and his wife Amanda, Iain, Emily and Jessica. Sadly missed. Funeral will take place at Pennyfuir Cemetery on Wednesday, June 3. Due to current Covid-19 restrictions this will be a private interment, however a cortege will leave Longsdale Road at 12.30 p.m., and proceed to Pennyfuir via Argyll Square and George Street for those that wish to pay their respects. Grateful thanks to the staff at Lorn and Islands Hospital and Macmillan nurses. Family flowers only. Donations to Macmillan nurses if desired.

**SHAW** - Peacefully and quietly, after an illness bravely borne, at Crieff Community Hospital, on Sunday, May 24, 2020, Ishobel, (née Campbell), aged 71 years, originally of Tiree, latterly of Crieff, dearly loved wife of Donnie, proud and caring mum of John, Nicola and Kieran, loyal and

dearly missed sister of Lena and Fred, cherished nana of Darragh and Shane, fondly remembered aunt and good friend to all who knew her. Funeral service private in accordance with current guidelines on public gatherings.

**WADDINGTON** - Stuart Godfrey, sadly passed away peacefully at home in Daphne, Alabama, USA on May 22, 2020, aged 73, with his wife Licia at his side. Much loved father and father-in-law to Michael, Suzanne, Fiona and Dave. Adored Grandpa to Callum, Katie, Fraser and Allan. Very special friend to Annette. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

**GILLIES** - Margaret. The family of the late Margaret Gillies would like to thank most sincerely all relatives, friends and neighbours for the kind expressions of sympathy extended to them during their recent bereavement. Special thanks to Mgr James MacNeil for his beautiful and considerate words at the graveside, also Catriona and James Hoey for their sensitive and caring handling of funeral arrangements. Grateful thanks to those who donated to Eader Glinn and Macmillan Cancer Support in Margaret's memory.

**HAMILTON** - The family of the late Agnes (Nancy) Hamilton of the Anchorage, Brenfield, Ardrishaig, who passed away suddenly on March 10, 2020, would like to belatedly offer our heartfelt thanks to all

relatives, friends, neighbours and community who attended the funeral and graveside, providing emotional support at this difficult time. We also thank those who were unable to attend, but conveyed sympathy, sent cards or donations in her memory, and helped in other ways. We are especially indebted to mum's caregivers and NHS and ambulance staff for their excellent service and to Rev David Carruthers and her church friends and to D MacDonald Funeral Directors for supportive funeral care. Mum's memory will be cherished by Catherine, Andy and Tracy in the USA, her grandsons, Jack, George and Jimmy and by the community she loved so well. A sum of £120.00 was raised for Diabetes UK and Chest Heart and Stroke Scotland in her memory. Thank you.

**MACKECHNIE** - Iona, Jan, Iain and family would like to give their sincere and heartfelt thanks for the support offered to them. All the calls, letters, cards, messages and flowers with kind words about Gilbert mean such a lot. Special thanks also to the district and Macmillan nurses for the care they showed, to Alyson Stewart (Humanist) for her kindness and for a touching and comforting service and to Ian MacInnes and Willie Gemmel at D & A Munn for the care they showed to us when planning Gilbert's send off in such unusual times. Thank you to Andy Matthews for the beautiful piping of Bonnie Oban Bay and to Petals of Oban for flowers. Finally to

all the people who were able to come out to pay their respects on the day of the funeral, we will always be grateful. Thank you. Gilbert was also a loved father-in-law to Lindsay, Mark, Martin and Neil.

**MACVICAR** - The family of the late Margaret (Nurse) MacVicar would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for the many kind expressions of sympathy, flowers, cards and phone calls received following their recent sad loss. Special thanks to all the staff at Ardfenaig Residential Home, Ardrishaig for the outstanding care and compassion shown to Margaret and the family over the last four years. Our thanks also to Rev. David Carruthers for a personal service and tribute to Margaret; to Donald MacDonald Funeral Directors for their caring and efficient services; to Morna for beautiful floral tributes and also to Argyll & Bute Council grave-diggers for their assistance. For those unable to attend due to the current restrictions on funerals, your kind wishes and thoughts at this time are a constant support to the family.

## MEMORIAMs

**AULD** - Today and every day we remember Iain, our husband, dad, Ampa, father-in-law and great friend, who passed May 31, 2019, aged 62 years.

"It doesn't take a special day to bring him to our minds because a day without a thought of him is very hard to find". Losing Iain has left a huge space in all our hearts which can never be filled.

In the end it's small moments that matter the most and what we would give to share a beer and a laugh with you now.

You are and will always be "Simply the Best".

- Joan and family.  
- Lucy and Alba xx

**MACINTYRE** - Remembering with love and admiration, Angus, died May 26, 1986 and Kenny, died May 30, 1999.

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- Inserted by Angus, Lorn, Eric and the wider family.

**MACKAY** - In loving memory of Rosemarie (Rosie), loving wife, cherished mum and granny.

Forever in our thoughts and sorely missed.

Mo Chaoin Chailin.  
- Jackie and family.

**NICOLSON** - In loving memory of our dear father and grandfather Donald, who died May 22, 1980 also our dear brothers and uncles, Joe, died April 30, 1987 and Alister, accidentally drowned, September 16, 1965.

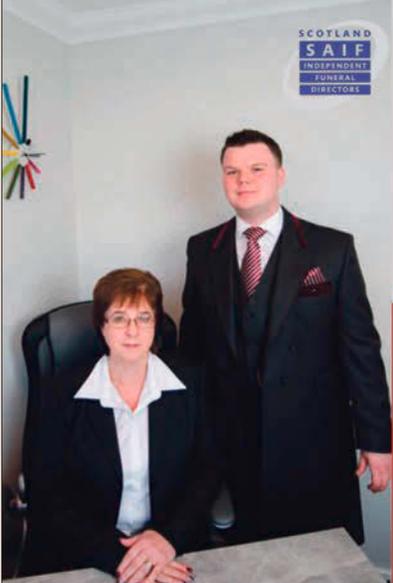
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## THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

In this day of coronavirus, we have become aware of essential work. Health care and provision of food are among those deemed essential.

I wonder what is essential spiritually? Jesus gives us the Great Commandment – to love God and neighbour. And so, we make the common sacrifice of social distancing for each other.

Beyond that - God's love continues to be essential to my

life. There was this love that was waiting for me at my birth. And this love will be there for me at the moment of my death. The nature and depth of this love was made known to me through the life, teachings, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. That love abides with me through the presence of the Holy Spirit.

My family is essential to me. Being transplanted from America to serve here in Scotland, I already knew what it was like to love a family I could rarely be with except through the gift of the internet. My family in Christ continues to be important, even though we are socially distanced out

of love, care and concern. The communities of Taynuilt, Dalavich and Kilchrenan have become essential to me. The children of the schools, the various gatherings for shared meals, tea and coffee and fundraising events - to name a few - are essential to my life.

We have made huge deposits in each other's lives and now we are living off the savings. These deposits won't last forever and they will have to be renewed.

But for now, we care for each other through the provision of food, medicines and other neighbourly supporting activity. We phone each other, pray for each other and wish one another to stay well.

In the same way the financial economy can function for just so long on essential-only footing so, too, our spiritual economy. I look forward to when we can have the joy of the deposits of important gatherings and not be limited, by love, to the essential.

**Reverend Tom Telfer,  
Kilchrenan and Dalavich,  
linked with Muckairn.**

## Lift of 'marriage ban gets good reception

A 'ban' on marriages in Scotland has now been 'lifted,' says Highlands and Islands MSP Donald Cameron.

Although there was no formal prevention in place, many registrars had shut due to the coronavirus pandemic with all weddings postponed.

Instead, registrars had decided to focus on the high number of deaths from COVID-19.

Mr Cameron said a relaxation in the rules followed the Scottish Conservatives amending legislation in the Scottish Parliament. Mr Cameron said: 'There are couples around the Highlands and Islands who really want to take this next step in their lives and now I hope they will be able to.'

Local registration offices

have remained closed to the public to allow registrars to 'prioritise and focus' on the registration of deaths, said National Records Scotland.

Its guidance to couples had advised: 'Unless there is a very pressing need for a marriage or civil partnership to take place, such as where one of the parties is seriously ill or about to be posted overseas in the armed forces, or another urgent consideration, registrars are not as a matter of course processing marriage or civil partnership notices or completing/issuing marriage and civil partnership schedules.'

Will you now be getting married or can your wedding finally go-ahead? Drop us a line at editor@obantimes.co.uk

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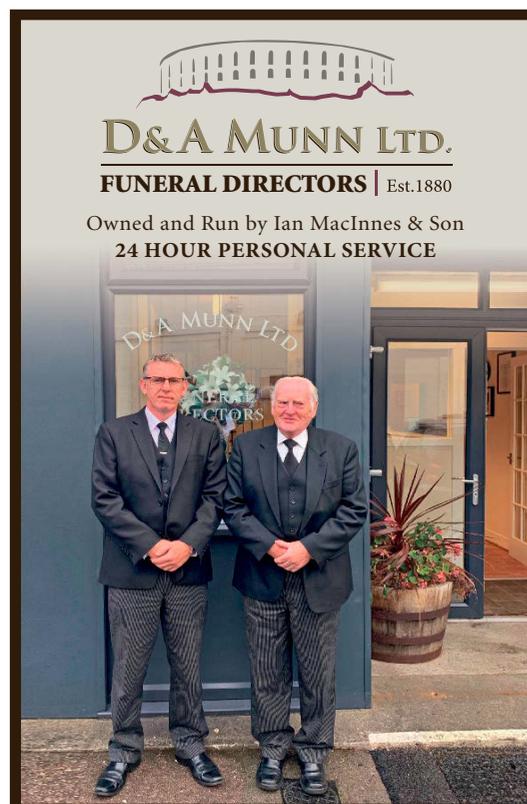
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## Oban Celtic Shinty Club's pedal power raises £2,000

### HOPE Kitchen and Macmillan Day Bed Unit boosted by challenge

Pedal power from Oban Celtic Shinty Club players, committee members and friends has raised more than £2,000 for Oban's HOPE Kitchen and Lorn and Islands Hospital.

An idea from last season's captain Ross MacMillan to keep players fit during lockdown turned into a marathon charity challenge.

A call to teammate David Hill and a plan to cycle 1,000 miles in a week for two local charities was hatched.

A poll of players was taken and the two charities coming out on top were HOPE Kitchen Oban and the Macmillan Day Bed Unit at the town's hospital.

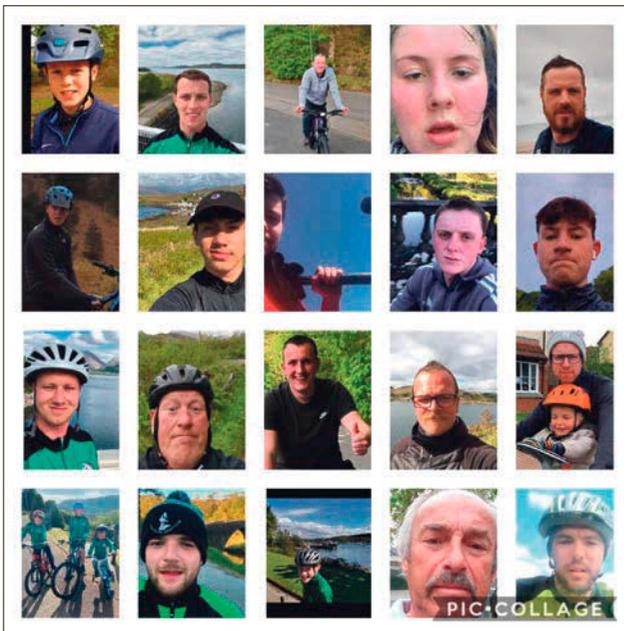
With the competitive edge of the players starting to fester, everyone began dusting down their bikes and a few desperate calls for spare parts, including padded seats, were made. An electric bike was on one rider's wish list!

A Strava online team tracking page was set up by Iain MacFarlane to avoid tall tales or wild claims of mileage Sir Bradley Wiggins would be proud of.

A fundraising page with a direct payment method was also put in place.

The dates were now set starting on May 4 and ending on May 10.

On day one, Monday May 4, 23 cyclists totalled 322.4 miles



which was beyond everyone's expectations.

By the end of day two, 30 cyclists had added another 378 miles.

On day three, the cyclists surpassed the targeted 1,000 miles, with 24 cyclists clocking up 341 miles, giving a total of 1,041 miles.

To have achieved this in three days was testament to all the cyclists taking part.

Funds raised were also climbing, with donations just shy of £1,000 – a figure the club had hoped it could reach by the end of the week.

With the cyclists all keen to keep pedalling, it became a case of let's see how far everyone can get.

Day four and despite legs beginning to tire 24 cyclists clocked up another 353 miles. On day five, 18 saddle sore cyclists recorded 335 miles. On day six, 18 took part covering 320 miles.

Day seven saw a big push from David Hill and Neil Macdonald, who were by now seemingly reaching pro level, and 21 other riders including a bizarre looking Lorne Robertson on a child's BMX,



Left: Some of the cyclists who took part and, above, Beth Campbell, service co-ordinator of HOPE Kitchen, and Donna Mackenzie, manager of the Macmillan Day Bed unit, each receiving £1,068 from Oban Celtic Shinty Club.

clocking up the highest total of the week – 415 miles. The range of riders involved was pleasing for the club.

They included Aaron Burnett, aged two, and Ollie Duffy, four, to the other end of the scale with chairman David Hamilton clocking up a fair amount of miles himself although the club had to discount the miles he clocked up in his van while forgetting to turn his Strava off!

The club put that down to fatigue on his part, while the debate of who pedalled and who steered is still ongoing in

the Burnett household. There was a family feel to the event, with many parents and siblings taking part.

While this was not a competition, competitive spirit did come to the fore and special mention must go to David Hill, 280 miles, Neil Macdonald, 266, and a determined Lorne Robertson, 162, after clocking up the final few miles by commandeering young Alfie's BMX on the last day to pip Stephen Campbell to third in overall miles.

Oban Celtic shinty Club thank all 43 cyclists who took

part, including two from Martyn's Monday Club.

Special thanks go to everyone who donated with Beth Campbell, service co-ordinator of HOPE Kitchen and manager Donna Mackenzie of the Macmillan Day Bed unit each receiving £1,068 from Oban Celtic Shinty Club.



### TIDES Thursday May 28, 2020

Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday May 28, 2020 are listed below with differences for major ports listed underneath. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

<b>Thur</b>	03.10	1.4	09.12	3.1
	15.31	1.3	21.23	3.3
<b>Fri</b>	04.17	1.6	10.14	3.0
	16.32	1.4	22.29	3.2
<b>Sat</b>	05.41	1.6	11.39	2.9
	17.42	1.4	23.53	3.2
<b>Sun</b>	07.04	1.5	13.29	3.0
	18.55	1.3	** **	** *
<b>Mon</b>	01.29	3.3	08.15	1.4
	14.34	3.2	20.04	1.2
<b>Tues</b>	02.38	3.5	09.14	1.1
	15.23	3.4	21.07	0.9
<b>Wed</b>	03.32	3.7	10.03	0.9
	16.06	3.6	22.03	0.8

### OBAN WEATHER

**THURSDAY**  
Light cloud and a gentle breeze  
Temperatures 12°C to 19°C.

**FRIDAY**  
Sunny intervals and a moderate breeze 13°C to 21°C.

**WEEKEND OUTLOOK**  
**Saturday**  
Sunny intervals and a moderate breeze 11°C to 21°C.  
**Sunday**  
Sunny and a gentle breeze. 11°C to 21°C.

**Tidal Constants:**  
(Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardnish	-5.35	Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Portree	+0.55
Campbeltown	-5.30	Lochboisdale	+0.30	Tobermory	+0.16
Crinan	-0.47	Mallaig	+0.25	Dover	+5.30

### FRIDAY FORECAST

HIGH 21 LOW 13 15 MPH

# LOCHABER TIMES

## & OBAN TIMES

No 8513

Thursday 28 May, 2020

www.lochabertimes.co.uk

95p



### Happy lockdown birthday to you!



### Fort practice turned into emergency care hub

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## MAKE THE SWITCH

# Hotel closure sparks wider fears over COVID impact

by Fiona Scott  
fscott@obantimes.co.uk



The Bay Caledonian Hotel in Fort William is among seven Scottish hotels that have been forced to close after its owners called in the administrators.

The three-star hotel on Achintore Road closed last Friday (May 22) when the parent company, Specialist Leisure Group (SLG), called in administrators due to the impact of COVID-19, with the loss of around 2,500 jobs overall.

SLG chief executive Richard Calvert described the situation as 'heartbreaking'.

'This is a terribly sad day for employees, customers and commercial partners of the Specialist Leisure Group and its subsidiaries which have entered into administration,' he said.

'The effects of COVID-19 on our 117-year-old company and the wider travel industry have been devastating. We fought tooth and nail to save the group and the jobs of our 2,400 loyal employees.'

'It is heartbreaking that the

required funding or investment could not be secured to get us through this unprecedented crisis in order to save SLG to and our amazing travel brands.'

SLG operated several businesses under brand names including Bay Hotels, Shearings and Caledonian Travel which have all ceased to trade, due to the impact of COVID-19.

### 'We fought tooth and nail to save the jobs of our 2,400 employees'

FSB's Highlands and Islands Development Manager, David Richardson, said: 'The collapse of Shearings and its Caledonian Hotel is one example of the pain that many are feeling, and it will obviously damage the Lochaber economy, and not just because the hotel itself has closed. It will impact on numerous small, local businesses who will no longer benefit from the spending of the hotel and its guests.'

'Given our highly seasonal

visitor-based economy, many are seeing the opportunity to make money this year slip through their fingers as lockdown continues towards the normally busy summer season.'

'The majority of Highlands and Islands businesses are now relying on whatever government support they can get to survive, having followed official advice and closed their doors.'

'Unlocking can't come soon enough, but all business owners recognise that this can only happen when the Scottish Government deems it appropriate to do so, based on the best expert scientific and medical advice,' added Mr Richardson.

SLG operated several businesses that sold holidays and other travel arrangements under brand names including Bay Hotels, Shearings and Caledonian Travel, which have all ceased to trade, due to the impact of COVID-19.

Other hotels in the group affected include the Bay Great Western Hotel in Oban.

Turn to pages 18/19 for more.

## Parking officers are just the ticket



Husband and wife Traffic Enforcement Officers Rick and Nic Stephens now spend much of their time delivering food and medicines instead of writing parking tickets in Fort William. Turn to page 14 for the full story. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image.

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LT

# Fort dental practice is transformed into lockdown emergency hub

by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

An experienced dental team in Fort William has described seeing its bustling practice transformed into an emergency hub for treating the most distressed patients during the coronavirus lockdown.

Staff at the town's M&S Dental normally work with up to 100 NHS and private patients a day, providing everything from simple check-ups to complex dentistry and cosmetic treatments.

But for the duration of lockdown, the bustling local practice, which serves around 15,000 people across Lochaber, has been turned into one of Scotland's emergency NHS treatment centres, providing advice and treatment to patients with chronic problems.

The practice is part of Clyde Munro, the biggest, independent dental group in Scotland. Gregor Muir, who founded the practice in 1998 told the Lochaber Times at times the current situation has felt surreal.

'While it has been chal-



Staff at Clyde Munro's M&S Dental Care in Fort William have been treating the most distressed patients across Lochaber, while maintaining strict social distancing; and right, dentist Gregor Muir who initially founded the practice. Photographs: Iain

lenging, particularly at the beginning, once we got familiar with the new routines and processes we all got into our stride and got on with the job,' he explained.

'Ultimately it is still dentistry and providing the patient care and relief that we all came into this profession for.

'I really want to pay tribute to the professionalism of every member of staff who has volunteered to be part of this, including a number of dentists from the NHS public dental service. They have all bonded brilliantly and pulled

out all of the stops.

'It's also important to recognise the fortitude, grace under pressure and good humour of the patients. Most of those we have seen during lockdown have been in a great deal of pain, sometimes for weeks, and were often badly sleep deprived as a result.

'Yet they have never taken out their pain or frustration on members of the dental team. In fact, they have been respectful of the restrictions we're operating under and grateful that they were finally having their problems

the treatment process. Despite lockdown, the practice has still received many calls from patients about possible routine appointments. Reception staff field up to 25 calls a day, giving out advice where possible, while passing on the most severe cases to clinical colleagues, who then triage the serious cases, prescribing pain killers or antibiotics where possible.

A small number of patients with facial swelling, extreme pain or other severe symptoms were referred to the next stage, which involved being vetted for possible COVID-19 symptoms before being sent to the surgery for treatment – on average five patients a day.

Strict government restrictions on permissible treatments mean dentists have been able to do little more than extract teeth, remove nerves from certain teeth or drain abscesses affecting visible, front teeth.

Gregor, who graduated in dentistry from Glasgow University in 1994, added:

'Certainly it's been frustrating that treatment options have been so limited. But as the lockdown eases, we will start to see more and more treatments opening up again.'

Jillian Bruce has been the practice manager for 21 years and oversees a 31-strong team including nine dentists and 15 dental nurses, who also work in the sister practice in Glencoe. While both practices have been shut down and staff furloughed, she said almost the entire team had volunteered to be part of the NHS emergency hub.

She added: 'I could never have predicted a situation like this but everyone has just got on with it and done their utmost to give patients the best possible care. We've all heard the horror stories about people removing their own teeth, but thankfully we haven't seen anything like that.

'The upside is that once the lockdown lifts our team will be among the best-prepared and best-versed in Scotland on how to work efficiently to prevent the spread of this virus. That will be extremely reassuring to our patients.'



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# All infected Skye care home staff to receive full sick pay

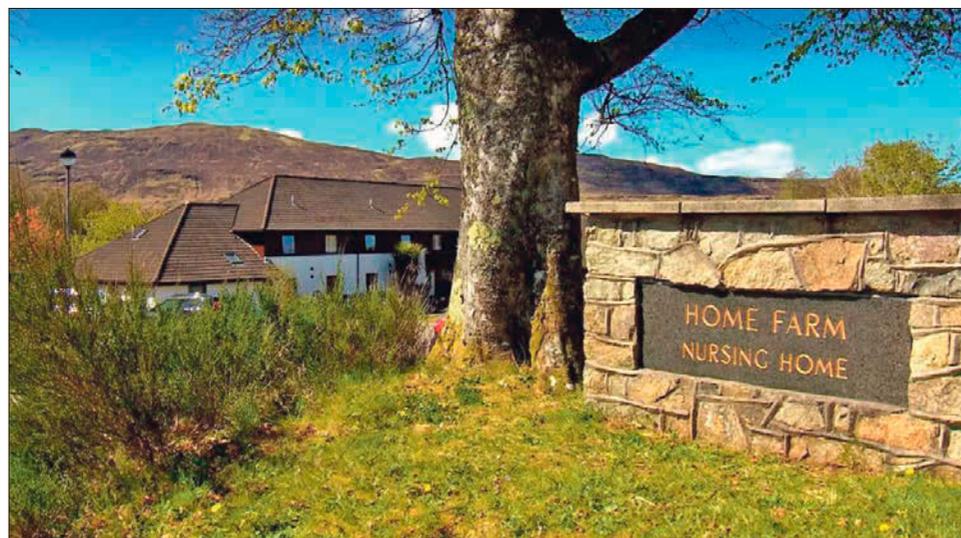
by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

All staff members who get infected with COVID-19 at the Skye care home where 10 residents have already died from the virus, are now to get full sick pay.

And any employee who has previously tested positive for the disease at Home Farm care Home in Portree and all their other UK care homes, and were only receiving Statutory Sick Pay (SSP), will have full pay back-dated.

HC-One, the operator of Home Farm, confirmed the change of heart this week after a deal, said to have been brokered by local MP Ian Blackford, was agreed following anger over the situation facing some care staff.

The SNP's Westminster leader wrote to HC-One to point out the 'moral and ethical



responsibility' of the company to adequately remunerate staff members who had tested positive for the virus.

The move follows an approach to the Ross, Skye and Lochaber MP by local care

workers who were forced to rely on SSP of £95 after testing positive and being signed off work.

Earlier this month 54 residents and staff tested positive for the virus, with 10 residents

subsequently dying.

HC-One told the Lochaber Times: 'We will be paying full pay to all colleagues while they have a positive COVID-19 test. Where a colleague has previously tested positive and been

**All staff who contract COVID-19 while working at Home Farm care Home in Portree, pictured, with now be eligible for full sick pay.**

Photograph: BBC Scotland.

in receipt of SSP, we will process full pay retrospectively.'

Mr Blackford commented: 'I was appalled to learn that people who were doing the right thing, who were off sick for a very good reason, were suffering a financial penalty.'

'I am absolutely delighted that HC-One has now revisited their original decision and have agreed to do the right thing. I would like to thank HC-One for agreeing to this.'

'Often in these situations you can end up in a battle with a company but here we have a situation where the company has recognised it has a responsibility to look after staff who,

through no fault of their own, have been off sick.'

'These workers have done the right thing, both in terms of their own health needs but also, crucially, in order to safeguard the health of residents of the home.'

'While this is good news for those who work at Home Farm, it also means that others who work in HC-One care homes throughout Scotland and the rest of the UK will benefit from the company's change of heart.'

'So I'd like to say 'well done and thank you' to HC-One. I am pleased that employees at Home Farm and elsewhere will be receiving their full payment.'

**GETINTOUCH**

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# 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

# Fear for local media despite MSPs backing rates relief

by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

There are fears that, despite MSPs last week backing a move in the Scottish Parliament to give the media a 100 percent business rates relief package, companies such as local newspapers could now lose out on government advertising designed to help them weather the coronavirus pandemic.

Highlands and Islands Labour MSP Rhoda Grant says she is dismayed that the Scottish Government may not now go ahead with the £3million it previously announced for advertising support for the media.

Mrs Grant was pleased when MSPs backed the business rates relief move by 41 votes to 38. But she has now written to Finance Secretary, Kate Forbes, asking if she will clarify the position on advertising



**Ms Grant has written to the Finance Secretary Kate Forbes to ask her to clarify the position on advertising support to local, online and national news outlets.**

support to local, online and national news outlets.

Last week an amendment was passed by MSPs for current Non-Domestic Rates (Scotland) Regulations 2020

to be extended to the media sector, despite the SNP voting against it.

John McLellan, director of the Scottish Newspaper Society, commented: 'We understand the financial pres-

ures local and government face, but while news publishing is under severe pressure it will have a significant role to play in the recovery and we are delighted that the opposition parties recognised the need

to extend emergency business rates relief to news companies.

'This will make a significant difference to their ability to save jobs and survive the pandemic to continue serving their communities at a time when advertising is down by around 75 per cent.'

But Mrs Grant warned: 'I am delighted that the newspaper sector will now be able to benefit from Non-Domestic Rates Relief, however, the newspaper industry is not out of the woods yet and also needs the advertising support.

'To give with one hand and take away with another would be incredible and smacks of the Scottish Government throwing its toys out of the pram because they didn't get their way.

'I'm hopeful the media can get both avenues of support because they certainly need it at the moment.'

Secretary for Government Business and Constitutional Relations, Mike Russell, who was leading for the Government, argued it was difficult continuing to add to the £3.5 million another £3.5 million, £4 million or £5 million.'

The Scottish Government announced on May 14 that it will invest £3million into marketing activity in addition to the £440,000 already invested in advertising and public health messages.

Mrs Grant's fellow Highlands and islands MSP, Donald Cameron (Conservative), added: 'There is a vital public interest in ensuring that the future of locally-based journalism is secure.

'Local and national decision-making must be subject to scrutiny and people need access to local information that they can trust.

**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:  
ian.blackford.mp@parliament.uk  
www.ianblackford.scot  
01397 700030

**Stay Home.  
Stay Safe.  
Protect Our NHS.**



**Aaron Purdon with his stay safe poster, which he created to cheer up his neighbours in Caol; and below, Aaron in the beach hut that he built with his big brother Matthew.**

## Artful Aaron keeps busy during lockdown

Despite missing his family and friends desperately, seven-year-old Aaron Purdon has been keeping himself busy during lockdown, writes Fiona Scott.

The Caol Primary School pupil was keen to get the 'Stay Safe' message out there and cheer up his neighbourhood at the same time so, with a little help from his mum Fiona, he made this bright and beautiful poster to put

in his front window. From Monday to Friday Aaron is keeping up with his online school work on Google classroom and is enjoying getting his daily exercise on his bicycle.

Aaron generally likes to keep busy and recently built a hut, made out of driftwood on the Caol shore with his big brother Matthew - it lasted for three weeks before getting swept away.



# Care home operator given three weeks to address all concerns



Home Farm Care Home, Portree.

The company running a Skye care home where 10 residents have died from COVID-19 and dozens more are infected has been given another three weeks to keep its operating licence.

It was expected HC-One's licence to continue operations at Home Farm Care Home in Portree would be revoked in a virtual courtroom hosted by Inverness Sheriff Court and Sheriff Eilidh MacDonald last Wednesday. But after agreement between the company and other health care operatives, including NHS Highland, it was decided to ask the court to defer consideration to allow everyone concerned to address all issues of concern and minimise disruption.

If this is successfully done by June 10, it is expected HC-One will be allowed to continue running the home.

An application had been made by Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland (SCSWS) to end HC-One's involvement at the home where 30 residents and 29 staff have tested positive for the virus.

This follows a recent inspection by the Care Inspectorate which raised 'serious and significant concerns' about the running of the home by HC-One. SCSWS lodged an application to suspend its licence. NHS Highland moved in to take control until the court had decided on the legal application.

## Agreed

But the legal representative for SCSWS, Roddy Dunlop QC, told Sheriff MacDonald it had been agreed between both parties, The Highland Council and NHS Highland, that to prevent 'the nuclear option' of suspending the licence, 'the residents can continue with as little disruption as possible'.

Mr Dunlop added: 'There is a joint motion to continue consideration of the motion so then there can be continued monitoring of the home with the help of NHS Highland.'

'If all concerns are resolved, this need go no further.'

HC-One's representative Peter Gray said it was agreed by the company. He added: 'Matters are being treated extremely seriously by those I represent and they should be

addressed robustly to ensure the necessary improvements are made.'

In total, 207 residents have died in HC-One's Scottish homes.

HC-One said it was disappointed the Care Inspectorate had taken the legal action, adding it was working with NHS Highland to implement a 'robust action plan'.

Skye had no confirmed cases of COVID-19 prior to the outbreak at Home Farm. All but four of the home's 34 residents have contracted the virus.

HC-One – the UK's largest care home operator – brought in temporary staff from outside the island, but insisted these were from homes believed to be COVID-free.

MSP for Skye Kate Forbes, told the Lochaber Times: 'I am pleased the Care Inspectorate has taken such robust action and will continue to monitor the situation. The situation at Home Farm, where there have been 10 deaths, has been devastating for everyone in the community, particularly for relatives and friends.'

## Support

'Whatever happens in the long run about ownership, residents at Home Farm will get all the support they need in these difficult days.'

Skye councillors John Finlayson, John Gordon and Calum Munro commented: 'What is most important here is it has been confirmed residents are getting a high quality of care at present and this will continue to be monitored.'

'It is also important for residents, families and the wider community to know care will continue to be provided on Skye. The decision means HC-One, supported by NHS Highland, will be able to offer continuity of care for all residents. Staff will also be supported to deliver this care.'

Leader of The Highland Council, Councillor Margaret Davidson, said: 'I am pleased with this outcome that has enabled the continuation of care – for the immediate future – at Home Farm Care Home. It recognises the hard work that has taken place but also the need for further work to enable safe care of the home's residents.'

## Anyone 5 years and over, who is displaying symptoms of coronavirus, can now get tested.

If you have a high temperature, persistent cough, or loss, or change, of taste or smell, you can now get a test.

You can book a slot at a drive-through testing centre.

Or request a test kit to be delivered to your home.

If you have symptoms, you should only leave your house to go for a test.

Otherwise, you should follow self-isolation guidelines and stay at home for 7 days. And anyone in your household should stay in for 14 days.

To find out more and book your test go to [www.nhs.uk/coronavirus](http://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus)  
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LT

## Kilmallie council hears concerns over tourism surge after lockdown

There is local anxiety in Lochaber that the area could be swamped by tourists and visitors desperate to enjoy some freedom once movement restrictions are relaxed as part of changes to the coronavirus lockdown, writes Fiona Scott.

At this week's meeting of Kilmallie Community Council – held on Monday night virtually via the online video conferencing platform

Zoom – members heard that the tourism industry was looking towards a mid-July or beginning of August restart.

Council chairman, Colin Wood, whose family runs the Linnhe Lochside Holidays business at Corpach, told the meeting: 'A lot of the industry is looking towards restrictions possibly easing about middle July, or beginning of August.'

'I think it useful to perhaps

warn people that is the industry point of view – that we could get a flood of people into this area when the lockdown eases up for the tourism sector. I think it important people are aware of this.'

Council vice-chairman, John Hutchison, added: 'I think people are quite anxious about all this, that we are going to be overwhelmed by people coming from the cities.'

## Cameron calls on taskforce to save National Trust for Scotland sites

Following the announcement that 429 permanent National Trust Scotland (NTS) workers face redundancy, Highlands and Islands MSP Donald Cameron has underlined the importance of securing the future of the charity.

The trust has opened a formal consultation process with staff as it struggles to cope with a huge slump in income as a result of the pandemic.

Employees from NTS sites at

Glenfinnan and Glencoe have already contacted Mr Cameron to express their concern about the threat to the organisation's future in the Highlands and Islands and he is now calling on a government taskforce to make the matter a priority.

'NTS acts as custodian for some of the most cherished landscapes and historic buildings in the Highlands and Islands. Their geographical spread makes them hugely

significant to my region.' Mr Cameron said he is contacting Fiona Hyslop, Cabinet Secretary for the Economy, Fair Work, and Culture, to impress on her the importance of the charity to the region.

Glenfinnan and Glencoe are both on a 27-strong list of NTS sites which the charity has prioritised for possible phased reopening, hopefully later this year, once restrictions are lifted.



Emma Lawrie with her partner and fellow coach Aidan Donnelly, invite people to pick a famous boxer with the chance to win £200. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

# Pick a champ and win £200

## Organisers hopes fundraiser will help boxing club through this difficult time

by Fiona Scott  
fscott@obantimes.co.uk



Like most sports organisations, Lochaber Phoenix Boxing Club has been totally shut down since the start of the COVID-19 restrictions, which has also meant no income from their activities.

To counter this the club has launched a scratch card featuring the names of famous boxing champions with the chance to win £200 if you happen to pick the big hitter concealed under the silver panel.

Forty big hitting names from Muhammad Ali to Amir Khan and Anthony Joshua to undefeated female boxer, Nicola Adams, can be chosen for a stake of just £10.

The club had just moved

into its bright new gym on the Annat Industrial Estate in Corpach before the lockdown measures were introduced, spending a considerable amount of its funds on refurbishing and re-equipping the new premises.

Over the past few months, with training sessions cancelled, the club has had no income and has also been hit by the cancellation of its Home Show, which was due to be held in the Nevis Centre in early April.

The club usually organises two shows per year, both of which are usually sell-outs, and are the main sources of finance for the club, not only to support its activities, but also to make sure costs to members are kept low and trips outside

of Lochaber are fully funded.

Coach Aidan Donnelly, said: 'There is a great source of boxing talent in Lochaber which is evident from the number of champions we have had since our first year.'

'We must be one of the smallest clubs in Scotland and, as most of the others are located in urban areas, also the one which has to travel the farthest and most often to ensure our members, from age nine upwards get the best opportunities to learn and compete.'

'Hopefully the scratch card will be sell-out to help us through these difficult times.'

Details of how to purchase a scratch card are on the club's Facebook page with the proceeds split 50/50.



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LT

## PPE expert says standard issue NHS mask 'not fit for purpose'

A new study conducted by Lochaber PPE expert Niall McLean and local GP Dr James Douglas has seen a warning issued that the standard NHS face mask is 'not fit' for purpose when it comes to protecting people from coronavirus, writes Mark Entwistle.

Mr McLean, from Ballachulish, and Dr Douglas, an expert in occupational health and aerosol generating procedures in industry, ran various tests on the NHS IIR mask in a Highland quarry, which included the wearing of several surgical masks in layers and blocking the sides with tape.

Masks were then exposed to five minutes of dense smoke to replicate an eight-hour shift in a medical or health care scenario.

The conclusion was that the mask will allow a patient's exhaled air to enter the respiratory system of the healthcare worker when in close proximity.

Even modifications such as using three layers, as well as



Niall McLean.

tape, still allowed smoke to be seen.

However, the study also established that the re-usable FFP3 industrial mask gave total protection.

The Confederation of British Surgery, the trade union aimed at protecting the welfare of surgeons, has said it is satisfied with the findings of the study.

The traditional surgical mask was never designed for any use other than preventing infection if a surgeon sneezed in the operating theatre.

Mr McLean, who is a director of Geo-Rope, a Scots engineering contractor for rail, highways, forestry and quarries, told the Lochaber Times the PPE tests emerged from the starting up of a community support group in Ballachulish to look for any weaknesses in the delivery of coronavirus protection.

He said: 'If you turned up on a work site with anything less than an FFP3 mask, you'd get laughed off the site.'

'Basically this virus needs to be looked at as a hazardous substance under HSE (Health and Safety in the Workplace) legislation in the same way something like asbestos is.'

'This situation is still unfolding and we are still seeing the deaths of medical staff. But the knowledge we have now should not be wasted by the NHS, and it should be looking at this very closely.'

'I think there will be a lot of litigation surrounding the response to the virus from both the Scottish and Westminster governments.'

### LOCHABER LOCKDOWN LEGENDS

# Glenfinnan family serve up support

by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

This week's Lochaber Lockdown Legends are the Gibson family from Glenfinnan House Hotel for their amazing job keeping village residents supplied with top quality food hampers and other supplies during the coronavirus pandemic.

The lockdown at the end of March came just as the hotel and others across Scotland were gearing up to open for the new tourism season. As a result, they have all seen their trade and income decimated.

Duncan and Manja Gibson, who run the hotel, and eldest daughter Siné – sister Ella is too busy with school work – have been operating as a weekly 'mobile grocery shop' during the last two months and providing a 'takeaway' delivery service on Saturday nights. The Gibsons deliver the meals – cooked fresh in the hotel kitchen – around Glenfinnan. The mouth-watering fare includes fish and chips, venison sausages and chicken fillets.

Around half the residents



Glenfinnan House Hotel was gearing up for a busy tourist season when lockdown occurred.

have been making use of the hamper service, from which the hotel makes no profit as it is selling on the produce at cost price.

Everything from fresh vegetables and fruit to sugar and loo roll has been supplied to grateful recipients.

'We have about 24 or 25 people each week ordering hampers and we are doing about 50 to 55 takeaway meals on Saturday evenings,' explained Duncan.

'It's good to be able to help our community and it certainly seems to have been much appreciated by residents.'

The project is being seen

as Glenfinnan's answer to Ballachulish's 'green/red tick' system response to COVID-19.

The nearby Prince's House Hotel in Glenfinnan was also approached and agreed to get involved and generously offered to supply goods complementary to the Glenfinnan House Hotel list.

This system also helped the hotels as they had goods which would have expired by the time lockdown is lifted.

A weekly shopping list is made up with printed copies for those who do not have access to email. These are hand delivered on a Saturday round the village.



The Gibsons make another delivery of supplies in Glenfinnan, all the while observing social distancing.



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Gary has been recording special messages to people celebrating special occasions to help lift spirits.

## Gary Innes lifts spirits with surprise messages

Accordianist and broadcaster Gary Innes has been lifting the hearts of hundreds of people during lockdown with some specially-recorded personal messages for fans and their loved ones, writes Fiona Scott.

Born in Spean Bridge, Gary is one of the founding members of award-winning supergroup Mànran, as well as the presenter for BBC Radio Scotland's longest running radio show, Take the Floor.

Gary was inspired to start recording messages for people after launching the Take The Floor - Your Requests show which calls for people to give a shoutout to friends and family around the world who they can't see in person during the current pandemic.

Since then the former Fort William and Scotland shinty captain, has been inundated with hundreds of video requests, from wedding and anniversary messages of congratulations to birthday tunes and dedications.

In just two weeks Gary has recorded around 100 personalised messages for people from around the world, including Canada, Australia, Spain and Germany, appearing in countless family zoom

calls, bringing a surprise element to their celebration.

'Not being able to see friends and family and go to all the usual celebrations like birthday parties and weddings has been hard for lots of us and I wanted to do something that let people give their loved ones an extra special message at a time when they had hoped to be celebrating together,' he said.

'The response has been just brilliant and there's been so many really touching moments.

'Music and celebrating with loved ones are two things which mark good times and also help a lot of us through hard times - something that's particularly important just now as we mark Mental Health Awareness Week.'

Gary, who is married to Taynuilt lass Hannah Matheson, is calling on anyone who feels that a personal message would help lift the spirits of a family member or friend during these difficult times to get in touch with him via social media.

You can find Gary on social media at @Gary.Innes on Facebook, @gary\_innes123 on Instagram and @GaryInnes on Twitter.

## Bòrd na Gàidhlig responds to Scotland's route map

Bòrd na Gàidhlig has provided information to the Scottish Government on how to protect Gaelic in the current situation and the opportunities that the language and culture gives to Scotland as the country comes out of lockdown.

The information is based on discussions with various Gaelic organisations, working in partnership with Bòrd na Gàidhlig.

The delivery of Gaelic medium education (GME) is one of the most important points, with a recommendation for special recognition for GME in the months ahead. Furthermore, building on the research from St Andrews University, the Bòrd is seeking protection for the island communities where Gaelic is spoken on a daily basis.

The response also recognises the benefits and opportunities Gaelic gives Scotland. It highlights Gaelic's cultural wealth, how it contributes to education and skills development, strengthens communities and contributes to the economy.

There are new opportunities in tourism developments and, particularly appropriate for island and rural

areas, the digital economy. Mary MacInnes, Chair, Bòrd na Gàidhlig, said: 'We've talked to many organisations about their situation currently and we are also very mindful of the initiatives the government is establishing. It is essential that Gaelic is included as we move forward and we are very pleased to offer any support we can with these initiatives.'

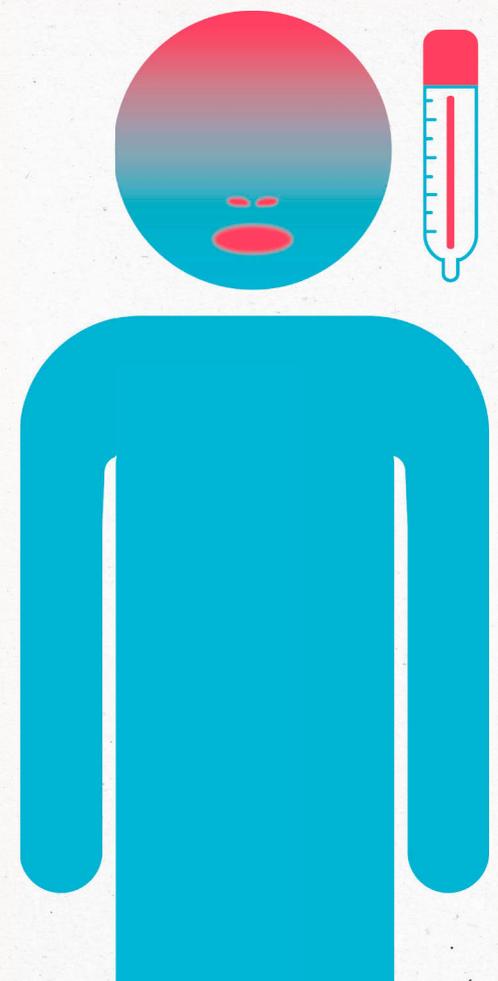
## A loss or change in taste or smell could be a sign of coronavirus.

Evidence shows there are now three recognisable symptoms of coronavirus. If you experience a high temperature, a continuous cough, or a loss of, or change in taste or smell, you should not leave the house for 7 days. Others in your house should not leave the home for 14 days.

For more information visit [www.nhsinform.scot/coronavirus](http://www.nhsinform.scot/coronavirus)

**COUGH. FEVER.  
LOSS OF TASTE OR SMELL.**

**STAY AT HOME. GET TESTED.**





Dr Carey Lunan, a GP and chairwoman of the Royal College of General Practitioners, and right, Scotland's National Clinical Director Jason Leitch.

# The NHS is open and here for you

No matter what, it is so important that health warning signs are not ignored and you seek medical advice when needed.

The current coronavirus pandemic has understandably resulted in people not wanting to put pressure on the NHS for fear of being a burden or worry about catching the virus.

However, in recent weeks health chiefs have expressed concern about the number of people who appear to be putting off getting help for urgent health issues, and stressed it is as important as ever to act.

Figures suggested patients were delaying going to their GP or the hospital during the pandemic. There has also been a drop in urgent cancer referrals, and a reduction in families bringing their children for immunisation appointments.

During these times it is important to remember the NHS is open and ready to help all patients – not just those with COVID-19 – with patient safety prioritised.

If you or a loved one has a health concern, remember your community pharmacy and GP practice are open. The first GP appointment may be by telephone or video, but it is still a hugely important step in finding out if you need urgent medical help.

It is really important not to ignore potential cancer signs and symptoms, as the earlier

cancer is found, the easier it is to treat.

Do not delay making an appointment with your GP practice if you've noticed anything unusual such as difficulty swallowing, your voice becoming hoarse and staying that way for three weeks or more, blood in your poo or urine, a lump in your breast or testicle, or if you've lost weight without trying. It is probably nothing serious, but it is best to get it checked.

**'You are not being a burden, it's what the NHS is here for...'**

If you or someone you live with notices a rapid deterioration in their health, such as the early warning signs of a heart attack, stroke, severe asthma or diabetic collapse, seek help immediately by calling 999.

Immunisation appointments continue for pregnant women and children at this time, and are an important and legitimate reason to leave your home as they help protect against serious, preventable diseases.

Dr Carey Lunan, a GP and chairwoman of the Royal College of General Practitioners, said: 'It is just as important as ever for people to seek help if they have an urgent health concern, or are worried

about a potential cancer symptom. You are not being a burden, it's what the NHS is here for and we want to hear from you.

'Your health and safety are our top priorities, and both GP practices and hospitals are working differently during the pandemic to minimise infection risk. It's important to reassure you that patients with coronavirus are treated in separate parts of hospitals.

Likewise, immunisations against other infectious diseases remain a vital part of protecting the people of Scotland, so please do attend your appointments for these. They can easily be rescheduled if you or your family members are showing signs of coronavirus at the time of your appointment.'

Scotland's National Clinical Director Jason Leitch added: 'We are so thankful to those who are following guidance to save lives and our NHS, but it's vital people know the NHS is still there if you, or someone you love, needs urgent medical assistance.

'I'd also like to thank all our health and social care staff for their continuing extraordinary efforts as we face this pandemic. Thanks to them, the NHS remains open to provide urgent medical care to those in need.'

For further information visit [www.nhsinform.scot](http://www.nhsinform.scot)

## Take your litter home says environmental group

A Lochaber-based environmental group is urging drivers and their passengers to clean up their acts as part of a nationwide campaign to keep the countryside clear of unsightly and often dangerous rubbish thrown from car windows.

Arisaig Eco Project is promoting Keep Scotland Beautiful's 'Give your litter a lift' campaign which includes raising awareness and spreading the message

to preventing litter from being dropped on roadsides.

Last Sunday two members of the local group collected 11 bags of litter from the 2km stretch of the A830 between the turn-off at Druimindarroch and Beasdale Station.

'Each of us can make a difference and thanks to everyone who does pick up litter throughout the year, who are often not seen but much

appreciated,' said a spokesperson for the project. 'To change behaviours we need a critical mass of voices saying dropping litter from vehicles is not OK.'

Founded in 2014, the main themes for the Eco Project, which is run by Arisaig Community Trust, are encouraging local food production and consumption, reducing waste and promoting greener transport.



If you need help to pay for a loved one's funeral and receive certain benefits, you can apply for Funeral Support Payment. It's a one-off payment towards burial or cremation costs and more. People typically receive around £1500 in financial support and you can apply after a person has died until 6 months after the date of their funeral.

Find out if you're eligible and apply at [mygov.scot/funeral-support-payment](https://mygov.scot/funeral-support-payment)

Or call our specially trained team on

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Social Security Scotland  
Tearainteachd Shòisealta Alba

LT

# Fort parking officers Rick and Nick on the virus beat

by Iain Ferguson  
fort@obantimes.co.uk

Husband and wife Rick and Nicola Stephens had barely taken up their roles as Parking Enforcement Officers and moved in to their new home in Fort William, when the COVID-19 crisis and lockdown meant not writing out parking tickets but instead, the addresses of people in need of assistance right across Lochaber.

With the advantage of not having to maintain a two metre distance from each other, as other employees would have to, the couple have been using their council van to pick up and deliver groceries and medicines to people who do not have any other means of getting them.

Originally from Denver, Colorado, 53-year-old Rick



has been in the job for three years patrolling the streets of Inverness, with occasional visits to Fort William, while Nic, 47, took up her post only

in January. Even in the short period until lockdown the pair were already becoming known in the town for their friendly, understanding and

helpful attitude to motorists.

Rick said: 'Our role is not to catch people out, but parking regulations and restrictions exist for a reason and have

**Husband and wife traffic enforcement officers Rick left and Nic Stephens deliver food and medicines instead of writing tickets.**

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image

to be upheld within the legal requirements and that is our job. However within that we always try to be as helpful as possible by explaining things to people and helping them to understand what is actually wrong with parking where they have.

'As individuals we want to be very much be part of the community we live in and will do our very best to help people. In return I must say that so far everyone has also been very friendly back.'

In preparation for the influx of tourists, Rick and Nic had picked up a number of maps from the tourist office, which they often find helpful in showing visitors where they can park and how to reach them (often as well as giving advice on local attractions). Now they are using maps in a different way as they take

vital items to people across Lochaber, often covering more than 100 miles a day visiting housebound people in need of urgent supplies.

They, like many other local council employees, are working as part of the Highland Council's overall coronavirus resilience strategy, responding to public need which came into play immediately after the lockdown, working with community groups to ensure no one, especially those in high-risk categories, is left without access to food and medicines.

'This is a very difficult time for everyone,' said Nic: 'We are delighted to have a role in looking after the needs of people and will carry on as long as is necessary – as one lady we delivered to said when she recognised us – 'you're just the ticket!'



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## Wild Words

KIRSTEEN BELL

fort@obantimes.co.uk



When I moved here from Glasgow, I confess to holding some romanticised images of Highland life.

I would gaze at the criss-crossing trails through the open landscape of bog-myrtle and heather and imagine tracks trodden for centuries by crofters. Thirteen years later, I now know my historic paths are more likely to be as old as the deer that trampled them last night.

I like paths. I like that they make walking easier. The walks around our houses have become more important during lockdown life, especially those that can be easily accessed.

The dilapidated bench on the nature trail above Lady Margaret Drive was recently repaired by Archie and Charley Kennedy, aged nine and seven. The footpaths up Cow Hill, along the canal, or through the forestry are all lifelines kept open by our regular use and care.

Without such attention, paths fade. My partner's father used to have a lab-collie cross. The two of them would walk a regular circuit over the crofts. They drew a line across the land from his back door and



'Desire lines' are created by humans or animals due to a collective need for a path.

over the field, forking to take them either up the hill or to the gap in the stone wall that leads to our house.

Without the dog-walks, the grass began to grow long, blending into the field again, so he walked it with a strimmer one day instead, keeping the way clear.

Landscapers call these 'desire lines', paths created by human or animal footsteps, created by a collective need, instead of the sometimes arbitrary pre-planned routes of pavements and walkways.

There are new tracks forming

closer to our home. A thin trail has emerged through the wee boggy field in front of the house, crossing from the ditch below our garden over to a stone ruin.

The walls of the roofless old house are providing shelter to a wee wooden hen house, its new tenants scratching among the grass and moss that had raised the earthen floor in the decades it had been out of use.

A few weeks ago, there was the barest hint of a way through the tall rushes, parted briefly by the occasional passing of roe deer and stray sheep. Now it has been widened enough by our wellie boots that yellow tormentil and pink lousewort have come to light.

First thing in the morning, I stagger across the grass of the garden – careful to take a different course each time so I don't leave a path – over the ditch and into the field to let the hens out.

My feet are led through the weave of rushes as my eyes and mind are still fogged with sleep. And in the dark of dusk, bats flittering in the air, after shutting the hens in for the night, the line still emerges, ensuring I don't get bogged down, guiding me home.

LT

## A Cry For The Wild

HOLLY GILLIBRAND

fort@obantimes.co.uk



In March, I wrote that COVID-19 needs to be a social tipping point in the way we act towards climate and ecological breakdown and only two (rather long) months later, we are starting to see what could be the seeds of real change.

A recent survey found that 91 per cent of the British public don't want to go back to 'normal' after lockdown is over; over half have experienced cleaner air outside, 27 per cent think there is more wildlife, while two-fifths said there is a stronger sense of community in their area since the outbreak began.

In Amsterdam, they are already taking action to ensure that their city can recover from the impacts of coronavirus by embracing the doughnut model designed by Kate Raworth, a British economist and author. This economic model is a way that people can thrive, while staying within the planetary boundaries.

In her diagram of the doughnut model, the outer edge of the doughnut is the ecological ceiling we must stay within to ensure that we don't continue causing crises like climate breakdown, ecosystem collapse, dead zones, topsoil loss and air pollution; the inner edge is the social foundations of society, the minimum we need to live a fulfilled life.

This includes food, water, equality, jobs and education, and those who fall in the hole are the less fortunate in our society who do not have those things. Right now, we are smashing through

the ecological ceiling, and simultaneously, there are people trapped in the hole.

The tasty dough is where we need to be - this is the area in which we can all live safely and justly, while in balance with the planet. The fact that Amsterdam is the first city in the world to implement the Doughnut Economic Model shines a light on what could and must be done to recover from the coronavirus crisis and rebuild our society towards a better future.

While Amsterdam is turning to doughnut economics, cities across the world are reallocating road space to people so that there is more room to social distance.

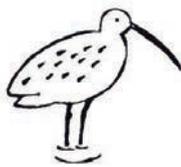
This is only meant to be temporary, but why return to a world of noise and metal machines when giving us access to our roads keeps the air clean and free of noise pollution, gets people active, improves mental health and allows communities to form.

We were a society overrun by cars, and now, in the midst of a pandemic, our city streets have been returned to us. We can't let them go.

Because of COVID-19, we are travelling less, flying less, breathing cleaner air and seeing more wildlife from our windows.

The world is on pause and this is our chance to really change things for the better; to banish the old system of extreme poverty and excessive consumption and make a better one that benefits all.

To do this, we will need courage and creativity and community. To do this, we will need you.



# Former Oban Times editor celebrates 90th birthday

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk

Former Oban Times editor Iain Nicolson has celebrated his 90th birthday.

Despite lockdown the veteran newsman and his wife Maimie spent the day on Friday happy at home in Kerrera Terrace, Dunollie, toasting the occasion with champagne.

Daughter Fiona Donn delivered a buffet lunch to the shielding couple and 23-year-old grandson Liam Scott Donn surprised them by turning up at their door to play an accordion tune from a safe social distance.

Railway key worker son Michael Nicolson also called by to wish his dad many happy



Iain Nicolson joined The Oban Times when he was 15 years old, retiring when he was 78.

had enough champagne to have a party!' said Maimie.

Mr Nicolson left school at 15 to join The Oban Times as a trainee reporter working his way through the ranks to editorship with a circulation of 26,000.

Before retiring at 78, he led the advertising department and wrote a regular column about events coming up in the town.

Another gift he received was a video from former colleague Erik Spence playing a jazz tune. Whenever Mr Nicolson went to London on newspaper business, he was a regular at the Ronnie Scott Jazz Club, so the musical gift brought back many fond memories, said Mrs Nicolson.

returns and there was plenty of phone calls from other family, including 21-year-old grandson Innes Donn who has just finished his final year studying

French at Edinburgh's Heriot-Watt University.

'We've had a wonderful day, the family has spoiled us with treats and surprises and we've



Our photographer captured this atmospheric black and white image of the famous Commando Memorial at Spean Bridge, just ahead of the recent VE Day 75th anniversary celebrations recently.

The Category A listed monument is dedicated to the men of the original British commando forces raised during the Second World War and overlooks the training areas of the Commando Training Depot established in 1942 at Achnacarry Castle. The monument is one of Scotland's best-known landmarks, with views of Ben Nevis and Aonach Mòr.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image.

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**Stay safe and enjoy!**

\*Proof of legal age required at time of delivery

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## LETTERS

Write to us: send your letters to [fort@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:fort@obantimes.co.uk)  
or The Editor, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB

## Skye care home given time to address concerns

Following the Care Commission's decision to apply to suspend HC-One's licence to run Home Farm Care Home in Portree, last week it was agreed the company would be given another three weeks to clean up its act so it can keep its licence.

The move may have upset some people, who felt the damage was done and the licence should have been revoked, but after discussions between the company and other health care operatives, including NHS Highland, it was decided to ask the court to defer consideration to allow everyone involved in the welfare of the residents to address all issues of concern and minimise disruption. Let's hope this second chance is not wasted by HC-One.

## Fort William hotel shock

Many people will have been shocked to read about the owners of Fort William's Bay Caledonian Hotel having to call in the administrators, with the closure of the hotel and the subsequent job losses. We feel for those people who will have lost their jobs.

The ripple effect means the blow will be felt by much of Lochaber, as retailers, cafes and restaurants and visitor attractions would have all expected to benefit from the visitors coming to the region post-lockdown. This is a huge loss for the area.

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](mailto: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](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk); telephone on 01631 568000; or email [editor@obantimes.co.uk](mailto: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](mailto:inquiries@ipso.co.uk). We will abide by the decision of IPSO.

## Buying Killundine is romantic dream at taxpayers' expense

Anyone reading the remarks attributed to Tilly Painter Jones in last week's Oban Times about a bid by her group to the Scottish Land Fund to purchase the 6,000 acre Killundine estate in Morvern, might assume that the entire local community is behind it. This is far from the case – something that will come to light when the group tries to meet the rules showing that its members have a working knowledge of the land.

The only hope for Killundine estate is for its owners to offer it for sale on the open market and sell privately to someone of means who, unlike the majority of Morvern's other land owners, will also reside there.

A community buyout will only add to Scotland's multi-billion pound debt and result in asset-stripping. It will bring no benefits to Morvern other than satisfying a few individuals looking to fulfil a romantic dream at the taxpayer's expense. Finding the purchase price is one thing, amassing the annual running costs will burden the public purse for ever more.

Who wouldn't want a nice chunk of a Highland hillside if they can get it free?

We are told this is a lifetime opportunity to acquire Killundine. For whom? Certainly not the Morvern community, which along with the rest of the UK is now in the grip of a plague with no end in sight. Many people are dying and will be in debt because the Scottish Government cannot provide the necessary funding to halt it.

Is this the time to ask for several million pounds for such an unnecessary project regardless of the Right to Buy legislation? Morvern Community Woodlands should do the honourable thing and abandoned their objective immediately, or carry on buying a lottery ticket.

Iain Thornber, Knock House, Morvern

## Timely reminder of virus can only be good thing

The article on page six states that 'NHS will not give numbers of cases in the Oban area because of risk to patient confidentiality'.

Firstly no number alone can give away identity. Secondly, if numbers were to be given for the Oban area, surely this would warn the local population to be even more careful in their isolation. Over the weeks, many people may have started to think, 'It will not happen near me'.

## Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL

[editor@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk)

Bha e iomchaidh gun tigeadh luchd-poilitigs na bu dlùithe ri chèile aig àm leithid èiginn a' Choròna-bhiorais is iad uile ag obair a dh'ionnsaigh math agus dìon a' mhòr-shluaigh, air an stiùireadh le comhairle sàr luchd-saidheans na dùthcha.

Abair faochadh a bh' againn bhon bhanaid-chat àbhaisteach far am bheil Buill Phàrlamaid a' cur seachad am beatha a' glamhadh air a chèile air sgàth feallsanachd phàrtaidhean fa leth seach còraichean nan daoine a chur dhan dreuchdan iad. Aig aon àm tràth san staid aonarachd seo nochd beagan dòchais gun leanadh leasachadh air modh-giùlain poilitigs na dùthcha, ach ged a tha an cuingealachadh air an àireamh a dh'fhaodas a bhith an làthair an Taigh nan Cumantain aig aon àm a' cumail casg air a' ghleadhraich ris an robh sinn cleachdte, tha an dòchas air an atharrachadh mhòr a' sioladh. Ach cha bu chòir dòchas air beagan ùrachaidh a thrèigsinn idir.

Cha chreid mi gun dearbh sgrùdadh eachdraidheil sam bith nach deach mearachdan a dhèanamh anns na dòighean san do dhèilig riaghaltasan na dùthcha seo ri dùbhlann Covid 19, ach tha e daonnan furasta a bhith glic a' coimhead air ais seach a bhith ri uchd-bualaidh an aghaidh galair nach fhacas riamh roimhe.

Tha sluaigh na dùthcha anns a' mhòr-chuid air comhairle a ghabhail gus smachd a thoirt air sgaoileadh a' ghalar, agus a dh'aindeoin na mì-fhoighidinn a tha gar leamhadh uile saoilidh mi gum bheil ciall san dòigh sam bheil Riaghaltas na h-Alba am beachd lasachadh an aonarachd a leigeil air adhart. Ach a bharrachd air 's dòcha leasachadh ann am modh phoilitigs,

dè na dileaban eile a tha 's dòcha air chothrom dhuinn a gliocas eachdraidh a' phandemic?

Uill tha mi 'n dòchas gum bheil sinn air tuigse agus mothachadh às ùr fhaotainn air luach agus dilseachd luchd-obrach seirbheis na slàinte, agus gur còir an cuid tuarastail an luach sin aithneachadh. Chunnacas cuideachd gum bheil àireamh mhòr a' mion-shluaigh cinneachail ag obair san t-seirbheis slàinte, ach glè bheag aig na h-ìrean as àirde. Gu brònach chaidh sinn mòran ri linn an tinneis, ach bha an suidheachadh ann an cuid de dhachannan sheann daoine gu tur mì-iomchaidh agus feumar dèanamh cinnteach nach tachair leithid sin a-rithist. Bha e cha mhòr do-chreidsinneach gun do lùghdaich truaillleadh na h-àrainneachd seachd-deug sa cheud thar beagan sheachdainean, tha feum ionnsachadh bho sin agus amas air co-dhiù cuid den adhartas a ghleidheadh.

Bliadhnaichean air ais is sinn a' còmhradh mu chuid de na h-iomairtean san robh e an sàs, thuirte seann duine calma rium, "nuair a ruigeas tu an aois agamsa tuigidh tu nach eil ùine agad air fhàgail a bhith modhail!" Leis nach eil ach beagan bhliadhnaichean aig Buill Phàrlamaid eadar taghaidhean theagamh gur còir dhaibh an guthan a thogail air rudan bunaiteach!

In the lockdown legacy, surely the majority would support health-service workers' wages which were better matched to their extraordinary dedication. Will it also be possible to retain at least some of the environmental improvement achieved during a matter of weeks?

Allan Campbell  
[ailean@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:ailean@obantimes.co.uk)

A timely reminder of the closeness of the virus could only be a good thing.

Paul Zvegintzov, Lochaber.

## Publisher steps in to help at time of pressing need

A huge thank you to The Oban Times for arranging to have a batch of The Braes [community newspaper for the Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry areas of Lochaber] printed for us in this difficult and challenging lockdown period.

Although the online version of our magazine suited many, there is a substantial number of generally older and very loyal readers who do not have internet access etc and who would really miss their regular delivery of their local community paper.

Some actually send it on to friends and family in other parts of the world. On their behalf I thank the Oban Times for coming to the rescue. The look on their faces and their heartfelt appreciation speaks volumes of how much it means to them!

Margaret Sargent,  
editor of The Braes.

## Slimming World Beef Stroganoff

Syn FREE • Takes 40 minutes • Serves 4

## Method:

1. First, put all the sauce ingredients in a medium-size saucepan. Add 450ml boiling water and bring to the boil over a high heat. Cover, reduce the heat to medium-low and simmer for 15 minutes or until the vegetables are tender. Remove from the heat and, without draining, whizz until smooth using a stick blender or food processor.
2. Spray a deep, non-stick frying pan with low-calorie cooking spray and place over a high heat. Add the mushrooms and red onion and fry for 5 minutes, stirring occasionally.
3. Add the steak and stir-fry for a further 5 minutes, then add the gherkins, peppercorns and sauce. Bring to a simmer and cook for 2 minutes. Remove from the heat and stir through the quark. Season to taste and serve with your favourite Speed vegetables.

## Ingredients

- Low-calorie cooking spray
  - 300g mushrooms, sliced
  - 1 red onion, sliced
  - 600g lean sirloin steak, visible fat removed, thinly sliced
  - 60g small gherkins, finely chopped
  - 2 tsp pink peppercorns
  - 100g plain quark
- For the sauce:
- 1 large onion, roughly chopped
  - ½ x 400g can cannellini beans, drained
  - 150g cauliflower, cut into small florets
  - ½ tbsp Marmite • 1 beef stock cube
  - 2 large garlic cloves, peeled
  - 1 tbsp Worcestershire sauce • ½ tsp paprika



Succulent beef and red onions in a smoky mushroom sauce, garnished with gherkins and pink peppercorns

**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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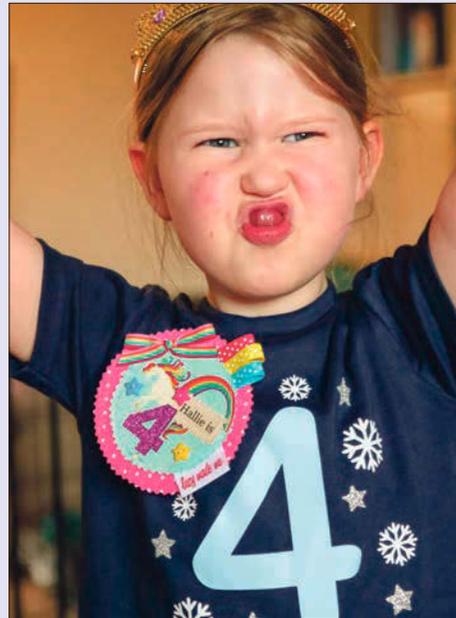
# DISTRICT NEWS

Send us your district news by emailing  
fort@obantimes.co.uk or call 01397 703003

## A very happy lockdown birthday to you!



Charlie Louise Russell from Caol was seven on May 24. For her birthday this year her family had planned to take her and her best friend Kaelynn for a day trip but due to lockdown they couldn't. Charlie didn't ask for much for her birthday apart from a Vauxhall Motors teddy bear to join her other bear Griffin and some clothes with the Vauxhall badge for her bears. She also enjoyed a BBQ and spoke with family. Her amazing grandma Margaret Smith made some new clothes for her other bear Griffin. She is looking forward to spending her birthday money and she can buy something for her and Kaelynn on their day trip. She can't wait till the hairdressers are open as she is donating 12" of her beautiful hair to The Princess Trust so that another little girl will get all the kind comments about the beautiful hair that Charlie gets from people.



Haillie Knox from Fort William celebrated her fourth birthday on Saturday May 23 in lockdown style with doorstep present deliveries, lots of cake and video birthday messages from her friends at nursery and all her family.

Do you have a child celebrating their birthday during the lockdown? Since they cannot enjoy a birthday celebration with all their friends and family - we would love to give them a shout out in the paper. Send us a picture of your wee one enjoying their special day and we will publish it and 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 fort@obantimes.co.uk



Adele MacMillan celebrated her 16th birthday at her home in Kinlochleven during lockdown on May 3. Her dad David had been stuck offshore in Cameroon for 76 days (standard trip is 28 days) and returned home on May 17 but has been in quarantine since. 'I will give Adele a big hug...at the end of the month,' he said.



Alisha Cameron spent her long awaited 16th birthday in lockdown in Fort William. To celebrate Alisha had a lovely cake made while family and friends dropped off gifts at a safe distance.

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# OPEN FOR BUSINESS

We are publishing this information **in association with** Lochaber Chamber of Commerce. Featuring the businesses in Lochaber that are open and able to offer vital products and services to our community during the current Covid-19 pandemic. Many of these businesses are working under extreme pressure to bring quality products and services to the people of Lochaber 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](mailto: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

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**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**  
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8am-9am for example plus key worker priority at tills  
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**FARMFOODS**  
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Sat: 8am-7pm  
Sun: 9am-6pm  
Tel: 0121 700 7160

**CO-OP STORES**  
CAOL, CORPACH, MALLAIG  
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Key worker priority shopping: 8am-9am (Sun 10am-11am)  
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**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

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Deliveries from 5pm  
Tel: 01397 705192

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Order from 3.30pm for collection from 4pm.  
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Inverlochy  
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Mallaig Tues & Thurs  
Strontian & Acharacle Wed  
Kinlochleven & Ballachulish Thurs  
Spean Bridge & Roy Bridge Sat  
Telephone orders: 01397 703070

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Open 9am-1pm Tues to Sat  
lobster, langoustine, kings scallops, mussels, also fresh in from peterhead fish Market  
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Deliveries available outwith these hours  
Check out Facebook for updates  
Tel orders: 07795 232324

### THE WILDCAT

Fort William  
Open 11am-4pm  
Tues, Thurs, Sat  
Doors closed but we will assist at the door  
Usual selection of delicious vegan food  
Ordering in advance helps.  
Wildcat.groceries@gmail.com

### FOOD LOCHABER

We're back soon!  
Orders for locally grown fresh produce open on Thursday 23rd April, and we'll deliver safely to your doorstep on the 30th. There's never been a more important time to shop locally and support small scale growers in the community.  
Visit: [www.foodlochaber.org](http://www.foodlochaber.org) for more info.

### WILDCAT

Vegetables!  
Deliveries can be arranged locally please pre-order fruit and vegetables. Check FB for catalogue. Please place orders by 2pm  
Sundays for delivery to us the following Thursday. If you can't collect, have a delivery from us on the Thursday, we can keep fruit and veg for you for the Saturday or following Tuesday.

### ARDSHEALACH SMOKEHOUSE & FINE FOODS

Glenuig  
Order online: [www.smokedproduce.com](http://www.smokedproduce.com)  
Tel: 01687 470266

### NEVIS BAKERY

Fort William shop closed to the public but products available from Road to the Isles filling station, Spar Claggan, Grange Stores, Co-op stores in Caol, Corpach and Mallaig  
Tel: 01397 772087

## BUILDING, PLUMBING, DIY SUPPLIES

### LBS

the shop floor is closed to non-staff. emailed orders/ enquiries preferred.  
alternatively by phone  
[sales@lochaberdiy.co.uk](mailto:sales@lochaberdiy.co.uk) or 01397 700350  
orders will be left out the back of our yard at a pre-arranged time.

deliveries may be possible but please enquire first. we will try our best to accommodate.

### H.I.S

Call/email to order then collect  
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Visit: [www.hisld.co.uk](http://www.hisld.co.uk)

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### MACPHEE & PARTNERS

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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.  
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[www.mcconechys.co.uk](http://www.mcconechys.co.uk)

## FUEL/SERVICE STATIONS

### BP ROAD TO THE ISLES

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### ESSO GARAGE

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Tel: 01397 702706

### GLEANERS

(Ben Nevis Filling Station Fort William and Onich Services)  
Tel: 01397 702346 ahead of travelling for opening hours

### MORRISONS SERVICE STATION

Open 6.30am-10.30pm,  
Tel: 01397 700333

### GLENCOE FILLING STATION

Open 7 days 8am-6.30pm (from 10am Sun)  
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E. [contact@morarmotorskyel..](mailto:contact@morarmotorskyel..) (Kyle)

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### A&A TAXIS

Available 24/7  
Tel: 01397 701702

### SPEEDERS CABS

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Tel: 01397 704000

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### BOOTS THE CHEMIST

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Saturday - 10:00am until 5:00 pm  
Social distancing measures in place  
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Visit [www.granitehousefortwilliam.co.uk](http://www.granitehousefortwilliam.co.uk)

## OTHER INFO FOR ESSENTIAL SERVICES

### FOODBANK BALLACHULISH

Visit FB page for more information FB: Covid-19: Ballachulish Community Support  
New foodbank at the Ballachulish Village Hall on Fridays 12PM-2pm

### FOODBANK LOCHABER

Tel: 01397 700212/077785 03276  
[www.lochaberfoodbank.org](http://www.lochaberfoodbank.org)  
FB: lochaberfoodbank

### OFF BEAT BIKES

Bike Hire & Shop  
Open Mon, Wed, Fri 12pm-4pm  
or by appointment only

### LOCHABER CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU

We are still working, although we are working from home we are still here for you.

Due to COVID-19, we are running a reduced service. To help keep you and our staff safe, our bureau will only be operating a telephone and email advice service. Tel: 01397 705311 (10 am to 4 pm), Email: [adviser@lochaberCAB.casonline.org.uk](mailto:adviser@lochaberCAB.casonline.org.uk)

### LOCHABER HOPE

Running a fully remote service.  
Tel: 01397 704836,  
email: [reception@lochaberhope.org.uk](mailto:reception@lochaberhope.org.uk)  
FB: lochaberhope or [www.lochaberhope.org.uk](http://www.lochaberhope.org.uk)

## TRAVEL & TRANSPORT

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[www.citylink.co.uk](http://www.citylink.co.uk)

*Information correct at time of going to press. Check [www.obantimes.co.uk/openforbusiness](http://www.obantimes.co.uk/openforbusiness) for updated information. This page will run in the Lochaber Times every week for as long as necessary - printed information will be updated weekly.*

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# A destination to be proud of

## Endless possibilities in Lochaber: The Outdoor Capital of the UK

Sports and events are a mainstay of Lochaber's calendar within a destination that provides a world stage for showcasing a portfolio of events which have been enhanced over the years and are of huge economic value.

Our destination, The Outdoor Capital of the UK, is famous for its natural landscape of Glencoe, the 'Sliver Sands' of Morar, The Great Glen, Ardnamurchan, Fort William and much, much more with Ben Nevis, of course, the most 'stand-out' natural asset.

For many, Ben Nevis is recognised as the home of modern-day ice climbing since the historic ascents in the early 1900s.

Fitting of the highest mountain in Britain, Ben Nevis offers some of the finest mountaineering in the land with its unique winter climbing sought out by mountaineers from all over the world.

Fine rock climbs of alpine proportions, Ben Nevis and the mountain range has got it all, just maybe not perfectly predictable weather.

We can't forget the water. The West Coast offers opportunities to



sail between wild islands, explore sea caves and sheltered coves by sea kayak, sailing its waterways and observing the array of wildlife throughout the number of islands

and viewing from your vessel. The Outdoor Capital of the UK is home to two of Scotland's ski resorts, Glencoe Mountain Resort and Nevis Range, attracting a large

**'We'll continue to build on strategic alliances and help to rebuild a calendar of events that keeps visitors coming back year after year.'**

number of snowsport enthusiasts throughout the winter and beyond, looking for the powder.

With biking events held at both centres, Nevis Range is home to the world-famous UCI Mountain Bike World Cup in Fort William.

Sticking with two wheels, the events calendar has been shaken by the outbreak of coronavirus which has seen a number of high-profile events cancelled, including the Mountain Bike World Cup and the Scottish Six Days Trial (SSDT). The oldest motorsport event in the world, the first SSDT event ran in 1909 over five days. It was not until

1911 that it became a six-day event and has only been interrupted before during the war years and during the Foot and Mouth crisis in 2001.

The loss of these events can be felt across the industry from businesses to spectators. We must look ahead and innovate where we can as part of the national recovery processes laid out by VisitScotland and the Scottish Tourism Emergency Response Group in April.

The Outdoor Capital of the UK lives and breathes sports tourism, hosting world class events and attracting visitors to explore our rich products, history and heritage. We'll continue to build on strategic alliances and help to rebuild a calendar of events that keeps visitors coming back year after year. This is your home, this is our destination. Let's share it when the time is right and bring smiles to everyone who visits us.

Join the story and share your memories with The Outdoor Capital of the UK across social media by using the hashtag #MyOutdoorCapital

## VIEW FROM THE CHAMBER



When you join Lochaber Chamber of Commerce, you become a valuable part of the organisation.

Our members make the Chamber of Commerce and we need your input, views and collaboration to guide what we do.

We offer a number of great ways to connect with industry and the business community, letting you add your voice to discussions and contribute to growing Lochaber as THE place to live, work, study, stay and conduct business.

Following the Scottish Government announcement of its route map out of lockdown and the easing of restrictions, the tourism and hospitality sector, in particular, is eagerly anticipating timescales and introduction of conditions to allow them to trade once again.

You may have already read the Scottish Tourism Emergency Response Group's national action plan and the phased re-boot of the visitor economy in which it states: 'We're approaching 'restart', but we're in need of confirmed support for the industry to return.'

Scottish Tourism Alliance (STA) continue to lobby for support on behalf of the sector, but we must all join as a community to work

together, adapt to the changing environment and change the 'normal' so we can prosper once again.

As we continue to engage with industry on behalf of our membership, the chamber hosted an audience with Marc Crothall, Chief Executive Officer of STA last week and he confirmed STA will help to share the message to potential visitors that they must be mindful of the environment they're visiting, care for it and remember communities live in the destinations. Community is tourism, tourism is community.

Further clarity is required with regards to re-opening tourism and to provide the industry with confidence around bookings and revenue generation as we look past

the route map announcement. Support funds must continue and be further developed to allow businesses to comply with new conditions. This will further ensure we can all market our destination, as well as our own business, to attract customers. An extension of support will allow us to maximise the opportunity of returning visitors but also make business viable.

A balance of thought continues between being able to open for visitors when the time is right and the range of businesses that will be open to offer a positive visitor experience.

The tourism season has changed and the full challenge awaiting us isn't clear, but what we do know is we must all come together and

help the destination as a whole to survive. Working together as a community to be open, to perhaps present a new 'high-season' in November and December 2020 and focussing on that goal of recovery - being accommodating and prepared to receive visitors.

To re-iterate, part of the Chamber's role is to help businesses get their views across to those in power through the lobbying strength of the Scottish Chambers of Commerce network.

When you join a Chamber, you become part of that network. If you have an issue you think is important, get in touch with Lochaber Chamber of Commerce and we'll do our best to help. Find out more at [www.lochaberchamber.co.uk](http://www.lochaberchamber.co.uk)

## Taekwon-Do club continues to make positive impact

by Fiona Scott  
fscott@obantimes.co.uk



A Fort Augustus martial arts club has been kicking above its weight during its inaugural year.

Loch Ness Taekwon-Do (TKD) opened its Dojang doors last March and has enjoyed a run of successes since.

Launched and run by 43-year-old Simon Canning, a third degree black belt, who originally started his journey in martial arts more than 30 years ago, the club is also managing to keep their students active during lockdown.

In fact Simon, and 12-year-old TKD student Lucy Burnett will enter their first online competition in the ITC Open Video Patterns competition this weekend.

The duo have already tasted international success this year.

In February, Simon travelled to Swindon to take part in his first competition in 18 years for the PUMA International Open and won a silver medal for patterns and silver medal for sparring, being beaten in both divisions by sixth degree black belts.

A month later he travelled to Swindon to compete in the EMAP Open Championships earning a bronze medal in the sparring category against competitors 20 years younger than himself.

'There are Veteran Categories but competing is a way for me to encourage my students to compete and for newcomers to give Taekwon-Do a try, so



Main photograph: Simon Canning, second from left, joins black belt members of Albyn and Beyond Association of TaeKwon-Do, on the abbey steps; top right, the recent seminar which celebrated LN-TKD's first year. Master Crosbie VII degree and Simon holding the cake, with participants from Inverness, Dores and Fort Augustus; and right, Simon presents Lucy Burnett with her Loch Ness Student of the Year Award at a recent seminar.

I feel the Open competitions provide a better platform to do this from,' said Simon.

'When I moved to Fort Augustus I could see potential for

Taekwon-Do to make a positive impact on the rural area and I believe we are doing so and more.'

Promising young student Lucy Burnett has also enjoyed a successful year since taking up the art.

Lucy travelled with Simon to Swindon for her first competition and made an excellent impression on the judges and

the spectators by earning a bronze medal in patterns and a bronze medal for sparring.

Also in March, Simon hosted a technical seminar conducted by Master Claire Crosbie VII Degree and saw many of his students promoted to various grades.

Lucy was promoted to Green Belt with an 'A' pass (the highest level) and is now the highest graded student at the club. Additionally, the youngster was awarded the Loch Ness TaeKwon-Do Student of the Year award presented by Simon at a recent seminar.

'Lucy has trained with great effort, dedication, ability and continual improvement,' he added.

'I fully expect her development to continue the way it has been, and this will increase her confidence to go forward with the determination we have already been impressed with.'

For this weekend's online tournament the duo must provide two patterns by video with strict guidelines and they must be of a high standard to ensure they have a chance to become medal holders once



ence. He explained: 'While I have a focus on competition, the club does not stray from the fact TaeKwon-Do is a self-defence system with over 3,000 moves and often spends time going through control and restraint moves.

'We are largely a family-oriented club and I am keen to move forward.

'TaeKwon-Do is for everyone from six years of age and all abilities. It helps improve confidence, builds strength and stamina, and teaches self-defence and we look forward to welcoming all new members.

For more information, contact Simon Canning at [canningsimon@rocketmail.com](mailto:canningsimon@rocketmail.com) or phone him on 07375 890572.

more. Loch Ness TKD is part of the Albyn and Beyond Association of TaeKwon-Do which covers Inverness, Dores and Fort Augustus, which itself welcomes students from Lochaber.

The sport itself is a dynamic Korean Martial Art first recognised in 1955 and is practiced by an estimated 70 million worldwide.

For the future, Simon hopes to encourage more people to give it a try and for the club to see more competitive experi-



### TIDES Thursday May 28, 2020

Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday May 28, 2020 are listed below with differences for major ports listed underneath. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Thur	03.10	1.4	09.12	3.1
	15.31	1.3	21.23	3.3
Fri	04.17	1.6	10.14	3.0
	16.32	1.4	22.29	3.2
Sat	05.41	1.6	11.39	2.9
	17.42	1.4	23.53	3.2
Sun	07.04	1.5	13.29	3.0
	18.55	1.3	***	**
Mon	01.29	3.3	08.15	1.4
	14.34	3.2	20.04	1.2
Tues	02.38	3.5	09.14	1.1
	15.23	3.4	21.07	0.9
Wed	03.32	3.7	10.03	0.9
	16.06	3.6	22.03	0.8

### FORT WILLIAM WEATHER

**THURSDAY**  
Light cloud and a gentle breeze  
Temperatures 13°C to 20°C.

**FRIDAY**  
Sunny intervals and a gentle breeze 14°C to 23°C.

**WEEKEND OUTLOOK**  
**Saturday**  
Sunny intervals and a gentle breeze 12°C to 22°C.

**Sunday**  
Sunny intervals and a gentle breeze 11°C to 22°C.

### Tidal Constants:

(Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrishaig	-5.35	Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Portree	+0.55
Campbeltown	-5.30	Lochboisdale	+0.30	Tobermory	+0.16
Crinan	-0.47	Mallaig	+0.25	Dover	+5.30

### FRIDAY FORECAST

Map showing weather forecast for Friday with icons for sun, clouds, and rain.

High 15, Low 9, Wind 19 MPH