



**Blood bike scheme launches in Oban**



**Trip on a timber lorry was no hoot for owl chicks**

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# Lockdown in Argyll helps Oban peak COVID-19 early

by Kathie Griffiths  
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Sticking to lockdown has seen COVID-19 peak six weeks earlier than expected in Argyll and Bute, but public health predictions suggest nearly 8,000 people across the region will be infected by the end of August.

Figures comparing actual numbers of acute patients with the virus in NHS Highland hospitals, revealed at a meeting of the Health and Social Care Partnership's Integration Joint Board (IJB), indicated the peak happened on April 12 instead of this week as originally forecast.

Our hospitals are now seeing reduced demand for COVID-19 treatment, and depending on relaxed lockdown arrangements it is 'possible/probable/likely' that the NHS's capacity to cope will not be exceeded.

The impact of social distancing is continuing so far but a COVID-19 readiness report, presented by HSCP Head of Strategic Planning and Performance Stephen Whiston

to the IJB via Skype last week, admits the real rate of the virus in the community still remains unknown because of limited testing capacity – although a mobile army-run testing unit was back at Oban hospital car park again last week.

Putting initial NHS Highland projections into context for Argyll and Bute from April to

## The peak happened on April 12 instead of this week as forecast

the end of August, figures in the report estimated around 8,000 of the area's 86,260 population will be infected, with only 5,300 showing symptoms.

The coronavirus outbreak could also mean 316 additional hospital admissions than usual for that time of year, with almost 108 of those admissions being for critical care.

At the time of the predicted peak in the first week of June, it was also expected hospitals

would need to use contingency beds and that by the end of August there would be an excess of COVID 120 deaths.

To work out estimates for expected coronavirus demand on the NHS, a range of scenarios were explored, with one factor being based on 40 per cent public compliance with social interventions such as lockdown, including school closures and stopping mass gatherings.

Over the coming weeks actual numbers experienced will be pitted against the figures that were forecast to give 'some assurance' about how future demand on the NHS will pan out, the IJB meeting was told.

Public Health projections were that about 40 NHS hospital beds would be needed for COVID-19 patients across the region in the peak week, with 13 possible ambulance transfers to critical care in Glasgow.

A bed occupancy report dated May 7 – around three weeks after the actual peak – showed

Continued on page four

## Having a ball!



Oban pro Bob MacIntyre joined COVID-19 survivor James Scott to officially reopen the golf course at Glencruitten on Friday (May 29). James has been a member of the club for eight years, and last week he also launched a crowdfunding campaign to raise £15,000 towards a special infection control room at Lorn and The Islands Hospital. Full story, turn to page two. Photograph: Kevin McGlynn

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OT

## Sound future for ObanFM

Oban FM is on the road to Rockfield, despite lockdown, with plans moving ahead for a new digital state-of-the-art studio, writes Kathie Griffiths.

Convenor of the Oban FM board Campbell Cameron said although many of the station's presenters are shielding from coronavirus, the popular station is still on air broadcasting four hours a day.

As well as its current two-hour morning and drive-time shows, a lunchtime show is expected soon and 'we will look to fill other gaps remotely by presenters broadcasting from home,' said Mr Cameron.

He said there was 'lots of work' ahead of them and added: 'We are grateful to our presenters who have been able to carry on during lockdown, our priority has to be making sure everyone at Oban FM stays safe.'

And he added that in due course Oban FM was looking forward to working with its presenters' 'side hustle', who are keeping their hand in with the new online Ardchattan FM station recently set up with Scottish Government funding.

With fundraising efforts under way an estimated £50,000 could be needed to make it happen.

Mr Cameron added: 'The plan is to create a central meeting



**Oban FM presenter and convenor Campbell Cameron.**

room flanked by two digital studios offering maximum flexibility for recording and broadcasts.'

Supporters can donate to the Road to Rockfield fund by visiting [www.obanfm.scot](http://www.obanfm.scot)

People can also go to the website to buy one of four membership packages to help support the station, which formed in 1992 and is licensed to serve North Argyll until 2028.

Looking forward to post lockdown, Oban FM also wants to hear from any budding presenters or other volunteers with practical skills interested in getting involved.

You can find Oban FM on 103.3FM, on the TuneIn Radio app, on your smart speaker or at [www.obanfm.scot](http://www.obanfm.scot)

# Celebration tee-off as lockdown eases

by Kathie Griffiths  
[kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk)



Scotland's top golfer Bob MacIntyre and COVID-19 survivor James Scott hit the first tee shots at Glencruitten today since the course went into lockdown.

The 2019 European Tour Rookie of the Year joined 63-year-old Mr Scott to officially reopen the course last Friday, May 29.

Mr Scott, whose mum Jessie died from coronavirus, has just launched a crowdfunding campaign to raise £15,000 towards a special infection control room at Lorn and The Islands Hospital.

The granddad, whose been a member of Glencruitten Golf Club for eight years, spent 38 days in hospital because of the virus and was put in an induced coma for more than two weeks.

He said: 'I'm doing really well with my recovery. I have made

a miraculous recovery, to be honest. Being able to come up here today and even hit a ball, I didn't think I would ever be able to do that again, especially when I came off the ventilator and out of high dependency when I had no strength at all.

'I am coming on now and hopefully in another few months I will be able to hit the ball a bit better - but I did manage to hit the ball today and I am happy with that.

'I have got to give all my thanks to Oban hospital, the paramedics and the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital in Glasgow. They were absolutely fantastic, they saved my life.'

So far his Justgiving page to help fund a negative pressure room for Oban hospital is going well, he said.

'People are really generous. It's going to make a big difference to the people who are working there. I think it's a worthy cause.



**James tees off after the club reopened to members.**

'Being a rural place, Oban doesn't get as much funding as anywhere else, so hopefully this will help a bit,' he added.

He was also 'absolutely honoured and so humble' when Glencruitten's club captain George Mackenzie invited him to join Bob MacIntyre to take the first tee-shot.

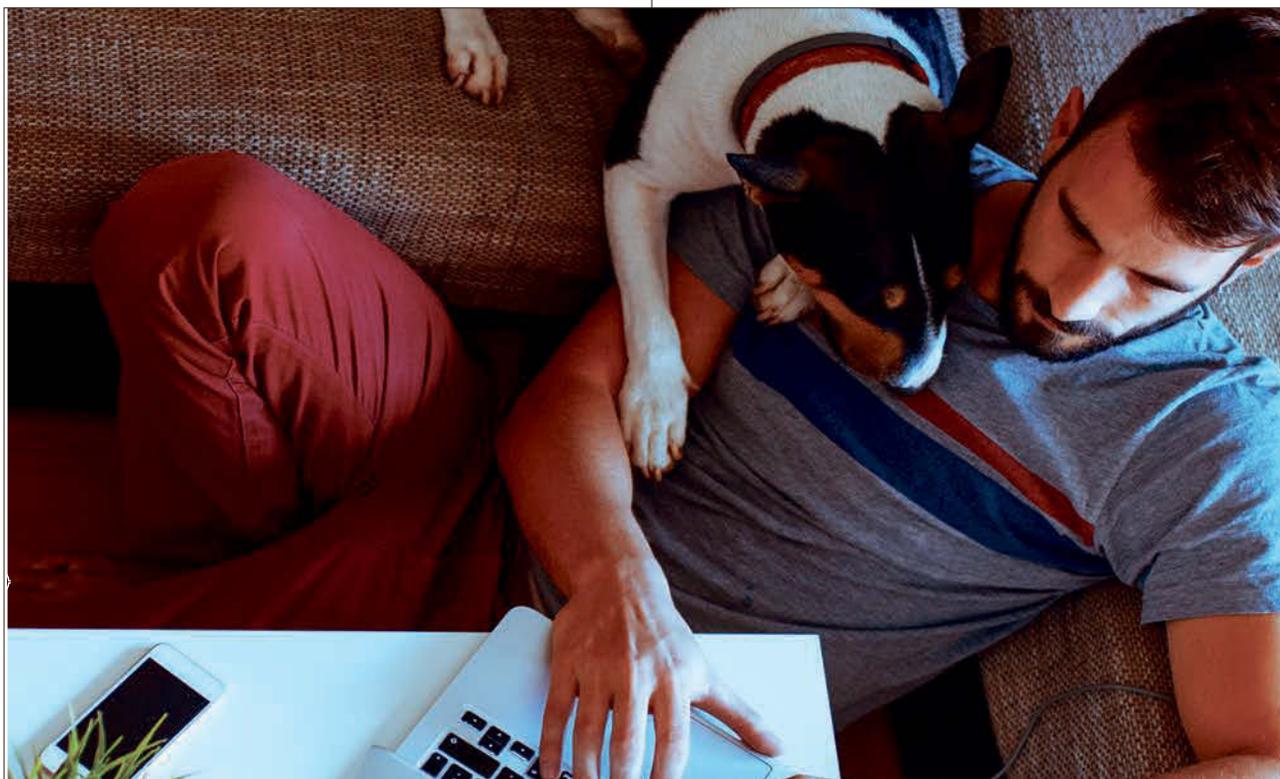
'I said it would be an absolute pleasure, and it has been. The course is looking fantastic.

Dougie the greenkeeper, Robert's dad, has done an excellent job and to be able to hit a ball off with Robert MacIntyre as well makes me feel so good. He is a lovely boy. I have known him since he was young. It's so nice and great to have the honour of doing this today,' he added.

When Oban pro Mr MacIntyre was asked what it meant to him, joining Mr Scott today, he said: 'I have been brought up to respect others and if someone is struggling you get behind them and give them a boost. Hopefully this has done that for James today.'

'The whole country is going to take a boost from golf but we have still got to stay safe. This is a serious danger to everyone. Some people don't see it affecting them but it can get anyone.'

To donate to James' fundraising, visit [www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/jessie-james-scott](http://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/jessie-james-scott)



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SJP12025 V1 (04/20)

## Oban Games off but options being explored

Organisers of the Argyllshire Gathering's Oban Games have cancelled the main event in August but are exploring ways to stage some events.

The summer spectacular was scheduled to take place at the Mossfield Stadium on Thursday August 27.

A statement said: 'It is with deep regret that following a meeting of the stewards of the Argyllshire Gathering, it has been decided that the 2020 Oban Games cannot be staged in their usual form, by reason of the pandemic.'

'While that is obviously extremely disappointing, the stewards are looking at innovative options and ways in which an event could be staged that would involve the whole of the town, as well as the school.'

'As matters are constantly evolving, the stewards are meeting regularly to discuss options and hope to make a statement in the near future. They will be guided by the appropriate advice at the time.'

# Dementia worker relays awareness message

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Oban dementia link worker Davy MacDonald is going the extra mile to raise funds and share the message that even in times of lockdown no one goes through the condition alone with Alzheimer Scotland.

Mr MacDonald and 10-year-old daughter Alyss hiked eight miles from their home in Connel to Oban with pet dog Sandy as their contribution to a relay of Alzheimer Scotland link workers who are walking 452 miles, across Scotland to spread the word.

From Monday, June 1, McCaig's Tower was lit up purple for Dementia Awareness Week. To make a donation go to [www.justgiving.com/fundraising/linkworkerswalkscotlandfordementia](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/linkworkerswalkscotlandfordementia)

Alzheimer Scotland is warning that dementia is not



Davy with daughter Alyss and their dog Sandy on the kilt walk.

on lockdown. Social isolation, loss of networks and disrupted routines will be a huge challenge for those people living with dementia and their carers during this crisis particularly since they will face restrictions for an extended period of time.

'Support at this time could make a real difference to the lives of people living with

dementia and their carers, many of whom are already at crisis point and are relying on Alzheimer Scotland as a lifeline,' said Mr MacDonald.

Mr MacDonald and colleague Mary MacAllister who are part of the Health and Social Care Partnership Community Dementia Team covering Oban, Lorn and the Islands

of Mull, Tiree, Coll and Iona, are working from home, as is Dementia Advisor Sue Pagan but they are all still checking in to make sure people are staying well and issues are tackled before they become problems.

They are busy helping make sure arrangements for food and medication are in place and that they are a friendly voice at the end of the phone if people need to talk or get information.

Video sites online are being used for meetings and talk to families wherever they are and to run virtual groups and offer other mind-stimulating activities like a recent Memory Lunch where everyone sat down at a single time via the computer to eat and chat.

Stan Morris whose mum has dementia is full of praise for the help he has received.

'The Community Dementia Team here in Oban have been brilliant from the first moment

my mum was diagnosed with dementia. Davy MacDonald has been a wealth of information and a great support, particularly throughout the COVID-19 lockdown. He keeps in regular contact by telephone to both my mum and me and also helps co-ordinate any additional help we may need through his host of contacts,' he said.

Dementia Advisor Sue Pagan can be contacted on 01631 570614 or email: [SPagan@alzscot.org](mailto:SPagan@alzscot.org) for advice, information and support with all aspects of dementia at any stage of the illness.

The Alzheimer Scotland Helpline is available 24/7 on 0808 808 3000. To support Alzheimer Scotland visit [www.alzscot.org/donate](http://www.alzscot.org/donate)

Join the Dementia Awareness Week conversation on Twitter @alzscot using #DementiaAwareness

## Islanders record lockdown life to raise funds for foodbank

More than 200 clips of footage capturing real-life Mull in lockdown are to be turned into a film to raise money for the island's foodbank as well as become a telling archive of these unprecedented times.

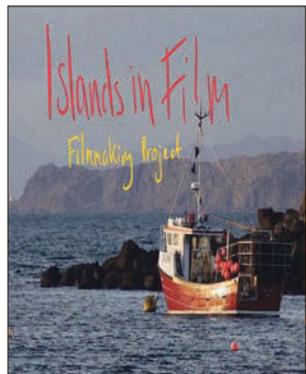
Filmmaking couple Alasdair and Georgia Satchel, who live near Dervaig, invited residents on Mull, Iona, Ulva and Gometra to send them short snippets of their lives caught on film during the COVID-19 outbreak.

The deadline for submissions has now passed and Alasdair and Georgia, who are also known for their What We Do In the Winter podcasts talking to islanders about their lives, have to start editing in time for a Watch Party on Youtube and online chat event in early June.

The film will be for everyone to watch and contributions will be voluntary, how to donate details will be announced soon.

Mr Satchel said people's response to filming their lockdown lives has been 'phenomenal' with incredible footage both diverse and beautiful.

'We have got lots of film that people have taken on their daily exercise, taking a breather



The film will help raise cash to fund the foodbank.

from lockdown showing us the flip side of confinement. Other bits of film show the mundanity of it all, one clip is of someone doing the ironing with the question 'Can I do an more ironing for you?'

'I don't want to give too much away. There's bees busy working, there's a time lapse of Dot Stewart on Iona who does a 10-minute dance every day, then in total contrast there's footage over her shoulder as she knits and the ferry slips back over to the mainland.'

There have also been 'simple and sincere' contributions from hardworking carers on

the islands. 'Some of those clips have brought tears to my eyes,' said Mr Satchel.

The final edit documenting everyday life during the coronavirus crisis will go to Mull Museum, Ross of Mull Historical Centre and the National Library of Scotland's Moving Image Archive.

'Just as our winter podcasts are a sincere testimony to island life, this film is to show that the people who live here have real lives and it's not just preserved in aspic for nostalgic tourists. It's to tell the truth. We don't exist in a bubble. We might be on the edge geographically but it depends where the centre of the map is,' said Mr Satchel.

The foodbank on Mull is sending out parcels to families across the island, Mr Satchel said: 'It's awful it has to exist. This is to help get money to keep it going for sometime, I think it will be needed for a long time yet.'

Musicians Hannah Fisher and Sorren Maclean who live on Mull and have worked with some great Scottish artists, including King Creosote and Dougie MacLean, have agreed to do the music for the film.

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## BuildBase hit by fire after reopening business

An Oban business was badly hit by fire on Thursday May 28, writes Ellis Butcher.

The front of the BuildBase industrial unit, next to Aldi on Lynn Road, was extensively burned, with a window also missing. A pile of charred pallets had to be moved from the face of the unit.

A spokesperson for the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service said: 'We were alerted at 11.09am to reports of a fire at business premises. Operations Control mobilised two appliances and a height vehicle to the scene.'

Three fire appliances and a fire jeep were in attendance



Firefighters hose down the front of the building on Thursday morning.

from around midday. A pair of firefighters were hoisted on a cherry picker to hose down the charred face of the building.

A spokesperson for the company said customers would be notified about a date for the

reopening of the branch in due course.

BuildBase provides supplies for the building and timber trade and the public. It had only recently reopened under social distancing measures.

## Argyll lockdown sees COVID-19 peak early

Continued from page one

Oban hospital had one suspected COVID-19 in-patient and three confirmed cases, while Mull and Islay hospitals had none and there was just one confirmed case being treated in hospital in Campbeltown.

IJB chairman and Argyll and Bute Councillor for Oban, Kieron Green, told The Oban Times: 'We have seen the benefit of people in Argyll and Bute

complying with the guidelines from government and that's really a credit to people locally for accepting the need to stay at home to save lives and protect the NHS. People took that to heart and it has saved lives, that's what the data showed us. It's meant people have not had to be admitted to hospital and there has been fewer deaths.'

He added: 'As the scientific evidence supports restrictions being lifted it's still important

people stay as close to home as possible and don't take risks.'

According to National Records of Scotland, there were 61 COVID-19 cases in Argyll and Bute up until the week starting May 18. In the week beginning April 12 there were five deaths in the area's care homes, one at home and six in hospital. Figures released for the week of May 18 are the latest, recording just two hospital deaths.



Blood bike brothers: Jason MacPhail, Oban, with Jeremy Richardson, chairman of Highland and Islands Blood Bikes and vice chairman Graham Allan, of Inverness.

# Blood bike volunteers in Oban for handover

by Ellis Butcher  
ebutcher@obantimes.co.uk



Fourteen experienced motorcyclists from across the Oban area have signed up to help the Highland and Islands Blood Bikes service.

At the North Pier on Sunday, the volunteers got the chance to see the fully-liveried 1300cc Yamaha FJR sports tourer as it was handed over to the town.

Local bikers, with decades of experience on two wheels at home and abroad, will now start sharing it on round-the-clock shifts every month.

The bikes are used to collect and shuttle important medical cargo between hospitals and surgeries – cutting couriering costs to the NHS.

Cargoes can include blood samples, pharmaceutical products, baby milk and top-of-the-range parts, right down to the humble printer ribbon.

The majority of the work lately has been running COVID-19 samples.

The bike will be seen on the roads between Oban, Campbeltown, Fort William and Inverness.

Experienced rider Jeremy Richardson, chairman of

Highland and Islands Blood Bikes, drove down on Sunday to deliver the bike.

He was accompanied by vice-chairman Graham Allan, of Inverness and Oban's Jason MacPhail, a HGV driver, who got a go on the eye-catching Yammy.

Mr Richardson said of the service: 'There's no payment to anybody and no charge to the NHS. What we do is to run things around for the NHS which they want moved between the major healthcare establishments.'

### Recruitment

'So we'll be running things from Oban's Lorn and the Islands Hospitals to the main laboratory for the Highlands at Raigmore Hospital in Inverness, or to one of the hospitals in Glasgow.'

He said the response to the recruitment drive from riders in Oban was 'superb' and appealed for more to come forward to volunteer.

Sunday saw a chance for volunteers to meet officials, check out the coveted luminous jacket and then be put through their paces in an assessment.

Volunteers attending included Stuart Lawrie, 45, of

Taynuilt; Paul Watson, 45, of Connel; along with Roman Gorecki and Andy Buchanan, 58, both Oban.

Mr Gorecki and Mr Buchanan said they wanted to 'help the NHS'. The latter has served as a special constable for 31 years.

Also there was Kinlochleven men, Mark McGregor, 42, who served as a retained firefighter for 11 years, while Andrew Milne, 59, has clocked up 42 years experience in motorcycling.

When temperatures dip down to 3C and the bike is out-of-action because of the weather, Jonathan McLaughlin, 33, of Oban, will act as a 'support driver'.

He owns a heavily-modified Vauxhall Monterey complete with heavy duty springs and shocks and 31.5-inch off-road tyres – making it fully-equipped to take on snow, rain and mud.

Mr McLaughlin previously volunteered for a similar scheme in the Brecon Beacons and said it was 'critical' people helped the NHS at this time.

To volunteer, please visit <https://www.haibloodbikes.co.uk/about/>

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# Financial support helping companies adapt and innovate

The UK Government has announced an unprecedented package of support to protect jobs and support business across the whole UK during the coronavirus outbreak. The financial support is helping firms across the nation to adapt, innovate and protect jobs. Here is how some companies have been helped, and what is available.

## CASE STUDY Macs Adventure

IT WAS a week that felt like a year for Neil Lapping, chief adventure officer at Glasgow-based Macs Adventure, as the crippling impact of the Coronavirus on the travel industry became clear.

The thriving guided tour business, accustomed to 30 per cent year-on-year growth, first saw international bookings collapse before a deluge of cancellations from domestic customers.

Neil said: "It was emotionally devastating. We went from a growing and profitable business to zero revenue coming."

"It was a week that felt like a year and I was in tears again and again."



**OPEN FOR BUSINESS:** Macs Adventure received financial help from the UK Government.

"We were faced with laying off the vast majority of our team and facing up to the fact that a business that we had spent 17 years building up was being threatened."

"The job support scheme was a game-changer for us and I cried when it was announced."

"I am now hugely positive as the business is now viable and we have a path back to where we were before."

Macs Adventure benefited from the UK Government's furlough scheme with 90 per cent of the company's staff

currently enlisted. The company also received £1m from Barclays from the UK Government-backed Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme (CBILS).

Neil said: "This support and our reserves have enabled us to trade through this period until domestic travel comes back later in the year and eventually international traffic returns."

"We have been able to retain our 60 staff in the UK through the furlough scheme. We would have been unable to pay them

with zero revenue coming in. The CBILS has allowed us to cover our overheads including rent, rates and IT systems."

Neil said he was impressed by the speed at which money from both schemes was delivered.

He said: "The process with Barclays was outstanding and the money was in our account in less than a week."

"The application process was painless and it was encouraging to see that the lending criteria was based on trading performance of the business before the Coronavirus."

"Once we made a furlough claim the funds were released quickly and it is great news that it has been extended until October."

Neil said that Macs Adventure was well-positioned for the recovery in the travel market and that the Coronavirus had accelerated industry trends. He said: "It will take us between three to five years to rebuild the business however we are very well-placed to recover."

"The market for impactful and active travel is growing."



**NEIL LAPPING:** 'Macs Adventure well positioned for recovery in travel market'.

## Protecting jobs and keeping firms afloat

Here are some examples of the support available for businesses and workers:

- The Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme has enabled businesses to put employees on a period of temporary leave (furlough) and apply for a UK Government grant to cover 80 per cent of those workers' usual monthly wage costs, up to a £2,500 a month.
- 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.
- Commercial tenants who cannot pay their rent because of coronavirus will be protected

from eviction.

- The UK Government's Bounce Back Loans Scheme provides loans of up to £50,000 to small businesses, with a 100 per cent UK Government-backed guarantee for lenders.
- The Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme is available for loans or finance of up to £5m. The UK Government will provide the lender with an 80 per cent guarantee to support the lending.
- The Coronavirus Statutory Sick Pay Rebate Scheme will repay employers the current rate of Statutory Sick Pay they pay current or former employees for sickness starting on or after March 13 2020
- The Future Fund will issue loans between £125,000 to £5 million to innovative companies which are facing financing difficulties due to the coronavirus outbreak.

**FINANCIAL AID:** Boris Johnston.



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)



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OT

# We're owl in this together

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



A family of owls logged an epic adventure after hitching a ride on the back of a timber truck.

When Mull haulage driver Eddie O'Donnell picked up a big stack of timber for the back of his double-wagon truck at Scoor Forest near Bunessan little did he know what extra cargo he had on board.

The fluffy stowaways remained undiscovered until a surprised Mr O'Donnell arrived at Pennyghael Pier 10 miles away and started unloading.

It was only when the logs were being stacked that three baby tawny owls tumbled out, said Mr O'Donnell, who quickly got help from nearby wildlife tour guide Bryan Rains from Wild About Mull.

Mr O'Donnell said: 'It was only by a stroke of luck I spotted them. I'd already taken a couple of grabs with the crane when I saw them.'

The owlets were given a quick health check to make sure they were unscathed and then were



then boxed up and driven back home to Bunessan.

Ash Soames, who lives close to the spot, agreed to keep an eye on them but the next day found one of the owlets had vanished overnight and the other two were getting weak and hungry.

With advice from Mull's RSPB officer David Sexton, the two baby owls were moved on a late night flit to the Lochdon home of David and Val Owen who have years of experience of caring for owls.

After a touch-and-go night, the weakest chick survived against the odds and now both

of them are thriving – eating well, putting on weight and are starting to show their first feathers.

The plan is to release them back into the wild soon but until then, adoptive parents Mr and Mrs Owen will keep leaving food nearby until they can fend for themselves and 'fly the nest'. As for the missing chick they can only hope it went walkabout and is now back under the wing of its real parents being fed.

Mr and Mrs Owen who moved up from Norfolk over two years ago bringing their own owls with them, have a

**The three fluffy stowaways who survived the 10-mile journey to Pennyghael on the back of the timber lorry.**

track record on Mull for rescuing birds of prey including a buzzard, a Tawny who got stuck behind glass and another owl trapped in a slurry pit.

'I can't believe these owlets managed to survive the lorry journey without being squashed in the middle of all the logs, they must've clung on tight,' said Mrs Owen.

Mr Sexton said: 'It's great to hear of a heart-warming story like this, especially now at times like this.'

'Clearly, this case was exceptional. Eddie must have been so skilled and careful picking up the logs not to injure the owlets! It's an incredible story of survival and now thanks to Ash, David and Val they're well on their way to a bright future back in the wild.'

Usually advice is to leave owlets alone as they have a bit of wanderlust, walking away from the nest and climbing about while still being fed by their parents is quite normal.

Around Oban

KAY MCDONALD

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WHERE IS THIS?



June already, where has the time gone? We're another step closer to opening up and I'm sure it's made a huge difference to many people being able to meet with family and friends again. Luckily the weather has been kind to us and it's been perfect for sitting in the garden.

Cakebreads Garden Centre has now reopened, as has Oban Whisky and Fine Wine, and Atlantis has reopened the tennis courts. I'm sure all the golfers out there are delighted at the news that Glencruitten Golf Club has also reopened to members. Do remember to phone and book ahead at Atlantis and the golf club, and to hear their rules for social distancing.

This weekend Oban was to have hosted Oban International Shanty Festival with bands from as far away as Canada and France, and thanks to the wonders of technology it will still be possible to have a digital version of the festival to whet our appetite for next year when it will hopefully take place live. This one is

called Oban Shanty Festival at Home, for more details on how to join in check the LoveOban Facebook page or Oban Town Diary where you can click on a link to attend on Zoom.

This weekend would also have been the RNLI Open Day which unfortunately won't go ahead, but they have lots of fun things on their Facebook page so please have a look and continue to show them your support.

Something else to look forward to is our town flower baskets going up this weekend which really cheer everything up, I so enjoy watching them grow and bloom.

There are lots of little things to look forward to as we edge slowly and carefully into opening up again.

The photograph last week was taken in Angus Terrace and this week's isn't too far from there.

## Coronavirus

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

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



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

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**Oban Business Improvement District**  
**www.bid4oban.co.uk**



# Shop adapts and delivers

by Fiona Scott

fscott@obantimes.co.uk



An island shop is playing a pivotal role in getting food and essentials to 180 residents unable to travel due to COVID-19 restrictions.

TES Coll, the only store on the island, adapted after having to close its doors overnight because of social distancing laws.

Islanders are currently unable to travel by ferry to Oban on the mainland for their shopping due to travel restrictions so, with the help of volunteers, owners Paula Jamieson and Dougie Brown now run an order and delivery service, quickly set-up after the shop closure.

Community group Development Coll was awarded £10,000 through the Supporting Communities Fund to help provide affordable food to islanders, purchase PPE for staff at the shop and fuel station, and for the volunteers who make deliveries.

TES Coll has received a share

**'Our business had to be creative and adapt literally overnight and the fund has made a big difference to us and will benefit everyone who lives on the island.'**

of the funds to cover some of the freight costs that bring food and essential items to the island which means residents can buy goods at a more affordable price than usual. For example, a two litre carton of milk usually sells for £2.35 but is currently selling for £1.69, a saving of around 20 per cent.

A website has been created to show residents all the goods on offer.

The shop restocks after freight deliveries arrive three times a week from Oban.

Paula from TES Coll said: 'Being resilient is a way of life for islanders and we know



Dougie Brown and Paula Jamieson from TES Coll.

how to cope when supplies don't arrive and when we are cut off from the mainland. We are always looking out for our neighbours.

'Our business had to be

creative and adapt literally overnight and the fund has made a big difference to us and will benefit everyone who lives on the island.

'No one has had to leave the

house for groceries and everyone gets what they need.'

The Scottish Government fund is administered by Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) and enables

community groups across the region to respond swiftly to local need for people impacted economically or through reduced contact with society, including anyone struggling to access food.

Peter McDonald, HIE senior development manager at HIE in Argyll, added: 'Because of COVID-19 restrictions, the ferry which would normally run daily at this time of year is now operating a lifeline timetable aimed at keeping essential goods, services and people going to and from the islands.'

'The local shop is providing a crucial service for islanders through its order and delivery service, which is helping the community massively. We are pleased Development Coll will also use the funds to buy much-needed PPE equipment including hand sanitiser.'

Nic Smith, vice chairperson of Development Coll, said: 'We are delighted the Supporting Communities Fund is able to benefit Coll residents during this difficult time.'

# 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

## Councillor re-admitted to Tory party

Kintyre and the Islands councillor Alastair Redman has been re-admitted to the Conservative Party.

Councillor Redman was one of 25 members suspended from the Tory party last November over claims of Islamophobic and other prejudicial social media posts. At the time, Councillor Redman claimed he was set up.

The news came via a phone call and email from the Scottish Conservative Central Office, he said, adding: I'm delighted that after a long and thorough process I've been re-admitted to the party. I never doubted I would. I'm not a prejudiced person and never have been.'

Management of the local Conservative Association has also been contacted, he said.

'I'm happy to be back, continuing to campaign and to fight for my area,' he said, adding he was 'hugely grateful' for all the messages of support he received from the public, Conservatives and non-Conservatives.

# Seil face shield project moves to Oban centre

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



A project making face shields and masks has found a new home to help keep more people safe from coronavirus.

Oban's Rockfield Centre read in The Oban Times that Seil Shields on Balvicar was looking for bigger room in a more central location to expand its making process, so it got in touch to offer space in its community huts.

Paul Vukovich who set up the PPE venture with Brandon Healy and Janine Tannahill gratefully accepted.

Over the last few weeks all equipment and production has moved into the community huts. Due to Mr Vukovich's ongoing business commitments and project co-ordinator Janine being based in Orkney, the manufacturing will now come under the umbrella of



The Rockfield Centre (TRC).

A growing need to keep NHS staff and other essential workers COVID-19 free first prompted Mr Vukovich and his engineer neighbour Mr Healy to start making the shields, based on a design from a friend and former colleague of Mr Vukovich's called Louie

Villaverde in the Philippines.

Mr Healy refined and enhanced the design and it has now been shared with Mr Vukovich's former colleagues around the world.

A local volunteer has been recruited and trained to take over the production and distribution of the face shields,

The manufacturing of the PPE visors will now be based at The Rockfield Centre.

supported by the other team members.

More than 200 shields have already been donated to NHS staff, GPs, care home staff and other key workers and more are in production for donating to key workers across the wider community.

The visor design means they are comfortable to wear even on long shifts, they do not fog up and give good head coverage, allowing full movement.

Ms Tannahill said Seil Shields was delighted to accept TRC's generous offer of a space for production and was equally thrilled and thankful for the offer of access to funding for materials from the Scottish

Government Communities Fund.

'A special thank you to Lyn Connelly, Customer Liaison and Corporate Event Officer at TRC for her recognition and partnership approach. The project can now move forward with momentum,' she added.

In addition, face masks are being made helped by donation of materials from Oban's Wool and Needlecraft Centre.

Homebase Oban and MacQueens Bros Ltd Oban have also generously donated much needed items to help with the project and volunteers from the Rotary Club of Oban have offered to help distribute the shields.

Help is still needed to source large lockable plastic boxes for safe and sterile transportation of the shields.

Anyone who can help should email lyn@therockfieldcentre.org.uk

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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

## CORONAVIRUS

**STAY HOME  
PROTECT  
THE NHS  
SAVE LIVES**



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

A classic that dates back to the 1930's makes for the perfect summer cocktail

Margarita - You will need

- 2 oz. silver tequila
- 1 oz. Cointreau
- 1 oz. lime juice
- coarse salt

How to make a Margarita  
Chill a cocktail glass, and then rub its rim with lime juice and dip it in coarse salt. Add tequila, Cointreau, lime juice, and ice together in a cocktail shaker. Shake and then strain into the glass over ice.

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

01631566885, 01631563900  
Order Online: [www.kebabishofoban.co.uk](http://www.kebabishofoban.co.uk)  
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# HEALTH AND PRODUCTIVITY IN ISOLATION

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



A healthy start to the day...I love breakfast and my personal favourite is porridge. On warm spring mornings though I turn to 'overnight oats' and this recipe is one of my favourite; I mean who doesn't want carrot cake for breakfast?!

Overnight oats are so simple to make; you simply mix together equal parts of milk, yoghurt and oats (along with what ever you fancy!) and leave the mixture overnight in a fridge.

The oats soak up the moisture which makes them perfect to eat the next day. You can eat overnight oats at home, on the go or at your desk and it's a great way of getting some essential protein, fibre, wholegrain, healthy fats as well as vitamins and minerals (including calcium) into your body.

This creamy bowl of goodness is ideal to make in bulk for the week ahead or to feed a family; the below recipe serves 1 person which you can simple double or triple as needed.

## Carrot Cake Overnight Oats

### Ingredients

- 1/2 cup (40g) oats
- 1/2 cup (125ml) almond milk (or other milk)
- 1/2 cup (100g) natural yoghurt
- 1/2 small (40g) finely grated carrot
- 10g (1/2-1 tbsp) honey - to taste
- 15g raisins - small hand full
- 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon vanilla
- Toppings: walnuts / extra cinnamon if desired

### Instructions

The night before mix together all of the ingredients apart from the walnuts in a bowl

Cover your breakfast mixture to make an air tight seal (you could use clingfilm) and refrigerate overnight

Wait for morning time, add some broken up walnut pieces and enjoy the creamy, high fibre goodness!

Follow @nicsnutrition on Instagram, Twitter and Facebook.

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## CARRY OUT & DELIVERY MENU

AVAILABLE THURSDAY TO SUNDAY – 4.30PM TILL 8.30PM. PHONE ORDERS CAN BE PLACED FROM 3PM THURSDAY TO SUNDAY – 01631 565078. HOME DELIVERY IS £4 IN OBAN AND £5 FOR DUNBEG

### ENCHILADAS

All served with wedges

- CHICKEN FAJITA 8.00
- SWEET CHILLI CHICKEN 8.00
- VEGETARIAN CHILLI 8.00
- BARBECUE CHICKEN 8.00
- CHICKEN ADOBO 8.00

### BURGERS

#### DOUBLE STACKER BURGER CLASSIC 8.00

Double pattie, burger sauce and chips

#### CHEESEMONGER 8.50

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

# BUSINESS NEWS

## Oban distillery hand over sanitiser to front line carers

The company which owns Oban Distillery has begun distributing almost 2,000 bottles of free hand sanitiser.

Diageo, working in partnership with local organisations, have been giving supplies out to emergency services, care homes, and volunteers helping the vulnerable.

Callum Rew, manager of the Stafford Street distillery, said: 'It's fantastic to have such a large supply of hand sanitiser available to donate to front line workers in Oban.'

'We admire the efforts of all of the people in our community who are working to fight against the virus and help others, and we're so glad to be able to contribute what we can to help them at this difficult time.'

More than 55,000 bottles of free hand sanitiser will be distributed to communities where the company has distilleries and operations.

The 500ml bottles of hand sanitiser have been made to World Health Organisation standards.

It comes in addition to an earlier global initiative by Diageo which has seen 500,000 litres of alcohol donated to be manufactured into hand sanitiser for the NHS across the UK and Ireland, with the global total now exceeding five million litres of spirit donated.

Ewan Andrew, president, Diageo Global Supply and Procurement, said: 'This initiative has been driven by our people at our sites who want to contribute locally in their communities, especially those who are in the front line of this crisis. I am extremely proud of every employee and our suppliers who have contributed to this project.'



Members of Oban fire station receive a consignment from Oban distillery

# Zoom meeting sees tourism members share concerns

by Ellis Butcher  
ebutcher@obantimes.co.uk



'Dream now - visit later' - was the message from members of the Oban and Lorn Tourism Alliance at its annual general meeting.

Nearly 30 OLTA members met on Zoom on Friday as Scotland's tourism and hospitality sectors reels from a collapse following COVID-19.

The meeting heard that 'recovery and reopening' would involve a tricky balance between concerns in tight-knit communities and a desperate need to reboot the local economy.

The meeting heard complaints about 'huge numbers' of motorcyclists appearing in Inverary and Oban in the wake of Scotland's relaxation of the lockdown.

But it also heard that when the time is right, a major charm offensive would be needed following some of the more explicit 'stay out of Scotland' messages.

Keynote speaker was David Adams McGilp, a regional director for Argyll at national tourism authority Visit Scotland.

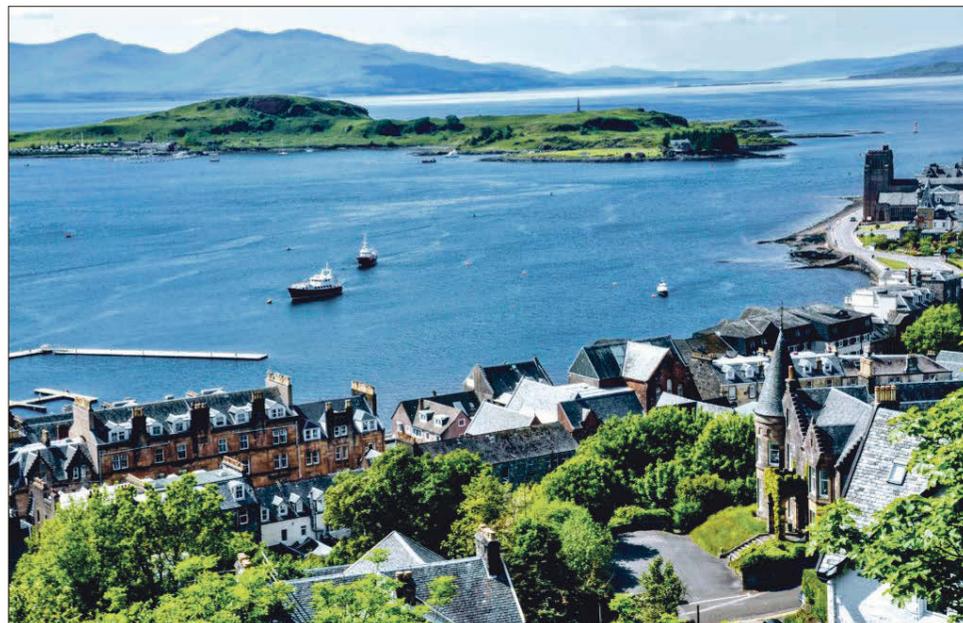
He said: 'I have seen physical evidence, signs in some places that say 'stay at home, go away, you're not welcome. The visiting public will remember those messages long after this crisis is over, so that can be quite damaging.'

Comments about a 'perceived hostility' towards visitors had also been received by Linda Battison, OLTA's marketing director.

She said: 'I think we really must be extremely careful with what language is used. Obviously, we are all part of our local community and it's extremely important we take the local community along with us on our road to recovery and to reopening.'

'Tourism is absolutely crucial in our area - it is the most important industry - but clearly we don't want to open any earlier than is safe to do so. Dream now, visit later is the message.'

The meeting heard that 'draft protocols' setting



Dream now, visit later is the message from Oban and Lorn Tourism Alliance.

out how tourism comes back from the brink are due before the Scottish and UK Governments soon.

But Mr Adams McGilp said: 'I've not got a crystal ball. I can't predict what the timeline will be or what the final set of agreed protocols will be.'

'It's likely that, for example, maybe only half of rooms will be able to be occupied. Or it's possible that there will be a longer delay in changeovers. You may not be able to do a changeover on the same day.'

He expects tourism to return inch-by-inch with day-trippers allowed first, then regional visitors, then visitors from wider Scotland followed by visitors from the wider UK and Ireland.

It is possible 'northern European neighbours' could return too, but much depended on the impact of the 14-day quarantine rule, he explained.

Major markets vital to Scottish tourism, like the USA, may not return until next year, said Mr Adams McGilp.

'Nobody thinks the long-haul markets will reappear in any significant numbers until 2021. That's assuming the majority of the world's airlines survive,' he told members.

Timetables for reopening remain uncertain but there are hopes of a possible announcement from the Scottish Government in mid-June and a possible reopening in 'mid-July,' according to Loch Melfort hotelier Calum Ross, a director of the Argyll and the Isles Tourism Co-operative Ltd.



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## Cruachan power station offer pupils underground tours online

School children and students can immerse themselves in how an underground power station in the heart of a mountain helps to keep Scotland's lights on, writes Ellis Butcher.

Drax Group, which operates the Cruachan power station in the hollowed-out mountain of Ben Cruachan at Dalmally, have created a new virtual tour accessed via Facebook, YouTube and Vimeo channels.

The aim is to support STEM education - science, technology, engineering and maths - during the COVID-19 crisis.

The free online resource allows students to take a look around the unique plant.

Every year the power station welcomes 50,000 visitors, including students, as part of its work with schools and colleges.

Tours have been suspended since the COVID-19 crisis to protect employees who are classed as key workers.

Vicky Bullivant, Drax Group's head of sustainable business, said: 'We work closely with schools in our communities to inspire children from all backgrounds to study STEM subjects,



The turbine hall at Cruachan Power Station, inside the hollow mountain.

so the next generation has the education and skills needed to support businesses like ours as we continue to develop and grow.

'With students having to be home-schooled it's essential they don't miss out on the opportunities businesses like Drax would usually provide in creating positive experiences for them to support their studies.'

Drax has also donated 853 laptops to 50 schools and colleges UK-wide - including 182 to 17 schools and colleges across Scotland.

The aim is to help ensure children without access to computers or the internet are not left behind in their studies.

'The virtual tours we've created builds on the work we've already done to provide laptops and free internet access, to ensure no students are left behind during the lockdown,' she said.

Quick guide to how the power station works Using reversible turbines, the station pumps water from Loch Awe to fill an upper reservoir

on the mountainside when demand for electricity is low.

The process allows the plant to act like a 'giant battery' to store the water for when it is needed. When demand increases, the stored water can be released through the plant's turbines to generate power quickly and reliably, the company said.

Through its unique design, Cruachan can generate electricity in as little as 30 seconds when the grid needs it.

The 'Hollow Mountain's' four generating units can provide enough flexible power for around 880,000 homes.

It was recently awarded a six-year stability contract by National Grid to help keep Britain's electricity system safe and secure.

Drax Group has also announced a 'world-leading ambition' to become carbon negative by 2030. It will see pioneering new negative emissions technology bio-energy with carbon capture and storage (BECCS).

The online tour can be viewed at <https://vimeo.com/418642646>

## Island businesses pen letter to local MSP, Michael Russell

More than 120 businesses across Mull and Iona have called on the Scottish Government not to 'isolate' them in the recovery from coronavirus.

In a letter signed by business owners in tourism, food, construction and farming, the message is that the islands face 'unique' challenges as Scotland moves forward, writes Ellis Butcher.

Joe Reade, owner of the Island Bakery at Tobermory, stressed that the letter should not be interpreted as either a call to reopen the islands immediately, or any criticism of the government's approach.

Businesses, said Mr Reade, simply wanted to provide ministers with a 'good, balanced, unified and coherent' message as the country's 'route-map to recovery' moves up the national agenda.

The letter to Argyll and Bute MSP Michael Russell, said: 'Island communities pose unique added complications in the face of a challenge such as COVID-19, but do offer the opportunity

to verify controls at our ferry access points.

'However, it is unrealistic to consider long-term isolation as a viable strategy. The damage already done to the island economy since March will pale into insignificance if economic activity remains stagnant.'

An estimated 250,000 visitors head to Mull, generally between March and October, with tourism its largest sector and employer. Businesses there have backed the government's 'test, trace, isolate and support' strategy.

But the letter added: 'What we strongly reject is a long-term isolation policy that differs from the general, science-based, trajectory of the rest of Scotland. Given clear unified rules from Edinburgh, we are sure that we will find the practical means to apply them in our own workplaces and public spaces. We are all in this together.'

Iona, which requires a two ferry, three-hour journey from the mainland and is accessed via

Mull, has 170 year-round residents and attracts at least 125,000 visitors per year, according to CalMac figures. Iona Community Council has told the government that COVID-19 'confronts' many businesses with 17-months of closure from winter 2019-20 to the end of winter 2020-21 - hitting many when they were already at their lowest financial point.

Dr Shiona Rhuemann, of Iona Community Council, said: 'Our core position is that Iona has to be in lockstep with - not isolation from - the mainland as we carefully navigate our way forward out of lockdown guided by the best available technical expertise, which is clearly at the national level. Iona is deeply integrated with the mainland, including our high school children being educated in Oban, and they must stay in step with their peers, not fall behind them.'

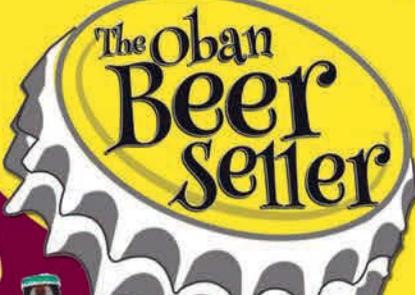
'We need to proceed with the mainland - not



isolated from it - in adjusting to an open-ended crisis and a long haul, in protecting our children's education, our community initiatives such as the village hall project, our businesses, and our community wellbeing.'

Mr Russell said he agreed that a 'careful, science-led' approach was needed and pointed to the recently-published government route-map as setting out the way forward.

Mr Russell said in his reply: 'I can assure you that the position of all the islands in my constituency is something I bring to the attention of my colleagues on a frequent basis and I am - as you know - very aware of the strong views on Mull about these matters and the desire to ensure that there is an orderly, safe and successful process being followed which allows the island to recover strongly, along with the rest of Scotland, from this unprecedented crisis.'



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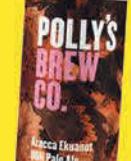
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OT

## LETTERS

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

## Well done, James!

Not four weeks ago, James Scott had just got out of hospital following his own touch-and-go battle with COVID-19 only to be told that his mum, Jessie Scott, had passed away from the virus.

It was a desperate shock for the 63-year-old, who had been in an induced coma for more than two weeks followed by another week on critical care and high dependency wards.

However, thanks to the wonderful care he received both at Lorn and Islands Hospital and Glasgow's Queen Elizabeth University Hospital he is now on the mend.

And it was wonderful to see him able to get back out on the golf course this week, with none other than Bob MacIntyre.

Bob and James were there to officially reopen the course to members last Friday, but James was also there to launch a crowd-funding campaign to raise £15,000 towards a special infection control room at Lorn and The Islands Hospital.

At the time of going to press this week, James had already raised nearly £3,000 towards his target.

We know Oban Times readers will get behind James and this great cause as a way of saying thank you to our local NHS staff – the negative pressure room will help them to continue treating patients suffering from COVID-19 and other infectious diseases now and going forward.

Well done, James.

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.



## Scottish Government are right to 'ca' canny

I read with interest Angus MacDonald's Around Lochaber column in the Lochaber Times of May 28. Angus is a competent businessman whose commitment and generosity to Lochaber is clearly seen. While I disagree with his conclusions, his piece is thought provoking and a useful contribution in giving a local perspective on the national debate. No one should underestimate the adverse effects of lockdown on physical, emotional, economic and societal health.

However I do wish to pick up on two points Angus made. Firstly contained within his quote attributed to Edinburgh biologist Professor Richard Ennos is the proposition that 'an appropriate policy is the targeted shielding of those who chose to be classified as vulnerable.' I find this choice of language unhelpful. Prof Ennos' primary academic interest is in the study of plants.<sup>(1)</sup> Many Lochaber residents will have received official shielding letters on account of medical conditions such as cancer, severe asthma, organ transplantation or treatment with powerful medicines which suppress the immune system. I know there will be many within this group who would feel they have little choice in being particularly susceptible to the serious effects of coronavirus.

Secondly, Angus contends that the Scottish Government was too slow to impose lockdown and also too slow to release restrictions. I have a degree of sympathy with the first contention. However in terms of releasing restrictions we must proceed with utmost caution. Returning to normal too early carries significant risk. It is worth pointing out that on 23 March (when lockdown was first imposed) the average daily number of new cases over the preceding week was 47. In the week leading up to 25 May that daily average stood at 61. (2). If the government were on the tardy side in imposing lockdown they would be foolish to release restrictions any more than they have done so given current number of cases.

Like most of your readers I long for a return to a more normal Lochaber summer. This does however need to be done at the right time; the Scottish Government are right to 'ca' canny' on this one.

1. The University of Edinburgh profile of Prof Richard Ennos: [www.ed.ac.uk/profile/richard-ennos](http://www.ed.ac.uk/profile/richard-ennos) 2. Derived from Scottish Government official figures: [www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-trends-in-daily-data/](http://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-trends-in-daily-data/)

(Dr) John Wallace, Banavie, Fort William.

## Don't blame the First Minister

In his Around Lochaber column, Angus Macdonald bemoans the lack of a timetable in

## Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL

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

Cluinnear tric faclan eadar-dhealaichte Gàidhlig air rud neo gnìomh àraid air choreigin, a' nochdadh beartas cànan anns na h-atharrachaidhean beaga sgìreil sin. Am buain na mòna agus san sgìre dam buin mise bhiomaid a' breacadh uachdar a' phuill an toiseach a' gearradh sios le spaid mun tèid gearradh fodha, agus an uairsin ga rùsgadh, ach fiù 's ann am pàirtean eile den Eilean Sgitheanach cluinnear bruidhinn air a bhith toirt an sgrath dhen pholl, neo ga fheanadh. Bhiodh sinne a' buain le "iarann mòna", cuid eile le "toirsgean" agus nuair a bhiodh uachdar nam fàdan air cruadhachadh bhiodh sinne gan "togail", feadhainn eile ga "rùdhadh". Bhithte cuideachd "a" rùsgadh" chaorach, neo gan "lomadh", is bha feur ga "ghearradh" is ga "ghabhail", agus meadhan an fhoghair bhiodh arbhar, neo coirce, ga "bhuaibh". Deireadh an fhoghair bhiodh buntàta ga "bhuaibh", neo ga "thogail".

Chan ann a-mhàin sa Ghàidhlig a tha leithid seo de dh'atharrachaidhean a' tachairt, agus tha fios gum feum a h-uile cànan ùrachadh, a' cruthachadh fhaclan agus abairtean ùra ma tha e gu bhith buan ann an saoghal a tha a' gluasad fad na h-ùine. Bidh sibh mothachail air faclan a' nochdadh ann an Gàidhlig nach aithne dhuibh, agus aig amannan cluinnidh mi fhin caoban mòra Gàidhlig nach eil mi gann a' tuigsinn! Ach sin adhartas a dh'fheumas tachairt agus fhad 's a ghlèidhear bun-stèidh a' chànain a bh' ann

cuiridh briathrachas ùr an tuilleadh beartais ris. 'S i an dùbhlann as cudromaiche dha faclan ùra gun gabh luchd-labhairt a' chànain riutha is gun tuig iad an ciall.

Bho àm gu àm anns a' ghàrradh molaidh mise flùr air choreigin is thèid innse dhomh gur e tha sin ach luibh! Dè an t-eadar-dhealachadh eadar lus is luibh? Cò cho-dhùin gum bheil an dàrna planntais math is am fear eile dona? An e dìreach cùis cànan a th' ann, cùis cèille? Mar a tha sinn a' faicinn gach latha tha sàr eòlaichean-lagha a' dèanamh fortan a argamaid ciall chùmhantan is sgrìobhainnean laghail far nach eil ciall nam faclan sgrìobhte cho soilleir 's a dh'fhaodadh iad a bhith. Ach nuair a thuir riaghaltas na dùthcha ri mòr-shluagh Bhreatainn gun robh còir aca fuireach aig an taigh gus sgapadh a' Choròna-bhiorais a bhacadh, agus gus beatha dhaoine a shàbhaladh, thuig sinn sin agus rinn sinn mar a dh'iarradh oirnn.

Cionnas ma tha a b' urrainn dha càraid fhoghlamaichte, agus dithis aig am bheil làn-thuigse air poileasaidh an Riaghaltais air an iomairt an aghaidh Covid 19, ciall eadar-dhealaichte a ghabhail agus siubhal còrr air trì ceud mìle ann an Sasainn? Doirbh a chreidsinn nach eil, agus pailt cho doirbh a chreidsinn gum bheil am Prìomhaire agus Buill a Chaibineat a' dìon an fhear a rinn sin!

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

the Scottish Government's plan to exit from lockdown. Of course there isn't a timetable – how could there be when each step depends on the success of the previous stage? The plan is a sequence, not a programme.

Whether businesses in England are being encouraged back to work is irrelevant; the vast majority of people in Scotland are endorsing the Scottish Government's cautious approach. Coupled with that scientists and clinicians advising the UK Government are now very concerned that the relaxation in England is going too quickly which may result in a second wave.

While Mr Macdonald cites a cost to Britain of £250 billion much of that is in loans. The cost of grants under the job retention scheme is likely to be £80 billion by October which is a fraction of the £1.2 trillion provided to the banks after the 2008 crisis. We need to look at these things in context.

It's easy for any of us to fish for statistics that support our argument but the eventual emergence of accurate international data on seasonal excess deaths will be the acid test of how this crisis has been handled in UK. Until then, the consensus seems strong that countries like the UK and the US locked down too late, perhaps by three or four weeks. Don't blame that on the First Minister.

Rather than concluding the column in a litany of inaccuracies it would have been better to have been correct. For example, the Scottish testing and tracing programme is up to speed, differing financial support has been adopted to recognise the different nature of the Scottish economy and allow more sectors to benefit. The NIKE conference story has been debunked some time ago and it's wrong to suggest otherwise – contact tracing always centres on the index case and their defined contacts which didn't involve

## Chunky Spiced Chicken Burgers

Burger and chips get a zingy Indian-style makeover



6 Syns per serving 45 minutes Serves 4  
Deduct 6 Syns if using Bread rolls wholemeal as a Healthy Extra 'b' choice.

## Ingredients

600g skinless chicken breast fillets, roughly chopped  
2½ tsp medium curry powder, plus a large pinch to garnish  
1 large carrot, peeled and coarsely grated  
4 tbsp fat-free natural Greek yogurt  
A small handful of fresh coriander, finely chopped, plus a little extra to garnish  
4 x 60g wholemeal rolls

## Method:

Preheat your oven to 200°C/ fan 180°C/gas 6 and line a baking tray with baking paper. Boil the wedges for 4-5 minutes, drain well, return to the pan and cover. Lightly shake to roughen up their edges, then arrange on the tray in a single layer. Spray with low-calorie cooking-spray, sprinkle with a pinch of curry powder, season lightly with salt and freshly ground black pepper and bake for 15-20 minutes, or until golden. Meanwhile, preheat your grill to medium-hot and line your grill tray with foil. Put the chicken and 2 tsp curry powder in a food processor, season and whizz until finely chopped. Transfer to a bowl, mix in the grated carrot and shape into 4 x low-calorie cooking spray and place on the grill tray. Grill for 6-7 minutes on each side, until golden and cooked through. Meanwhile, put the yogurt in a small bowl and stir in the coriander and remaining curry powder. Put the salad ingredients in a salad bowl and toss well. Cut the rolls in half, brown the cut side on a hot griddle pan then transfer to serving plates. Spoon a little of the salad over the base of each, top with the burgers, yogurt and a sprinkle of coriander and curry powder, then serve with the rest of the salad and the wedges.

## For the wedges:

800g floury potatoes, such as Desiree or King Edward, scrubbed and cut into wedges  
Low-calorie cooking spray  
A pinch of medium curry powder  
For the salad:  
2 little gem lettuces, thickly sliced  
½ cucumber, roughly chopped  
2 tbsp fat-free vinaigrette

## PLEASE NOTE:

**ALL CLASSES ARE CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

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everyone in the vicinity of the NIKE conference.

Last, there hasn't been a disproportionately higher death level in Scottish care homes, which myth has been debunked by the London School of Economics. Proportionately, there have been 25 per cent more deaths in care homes in England and Wales, compared with Scotland.

Someone writing a column in a reputable newspaper surely has a duty to present accurate information?

Bill Lees, Glenmallie, Banavie.

### Selfish bikers put us at risk

This weekend Oban was shaken out of lockdown by the roar of over 20 motorbikes coming in to town. It beggars belief that so many selfish, irresponsible people could break the Scottish Government guidelines.

I am afraid that unlike the First Minister I don't have the same faith in human nature. I have also noticed an increase in people visiting Oban. In one case, a minibus in George Street with at least eight people on board, not from the permitted five miles away.

The majority of Oban residents are doing the right thing but are being let down and being put in danger by the selfish acts of others. They came and they went, but goodness knows what they left us.

Councillor R McCuish, Deputy Provost Argyll and Bute Council.

### Thank you to our volunteers

Every year, Volunteers Week provides an opportunity to recognise the very significant contribution to community life made by those who give freely of their time and talents to help others. Given the challenges wrought on all of us by the coronavirus pandemic, in this year of all years it is more important than ever to acknowledge and show gratitude for the dedication of volunteers.

Across Argyll and Bute, thousands of people – as individuals and in groups – have stepped forward to do what they can to help in these highly unusual and completely unfamiliar circumstances. In doing so, they have very often put their own safety and health aside, focusing instead on assisting those who have found themselves in need of support or, sometimes, in very considerable hardship.

To all of those who are volunteering in and for Argyll and Bute, on behalf of the Lieutenantancy of Argyll and Bute, I say: thank you. We see and hear what you are doing, and we are so grateful for all that you do. As communities it would be impossible to get through a crisis of this scale without your help. Thank you, most sincerely.

The Lieutenantancy is always very keen to hear about volunteer activity across the area and if you know of a person or group in your community whose efforts should be recognised, please do contact me on [patrick@llab.org.uk](mailto:patrick@llab.org.uk)

Patrick Stewart CVO MBE WS,  
HM Lord-Lieutenant for Argyll and Bute.

# DISTRICT NEWS



Pamela Ingram, from Oban, celebrated her 12th birthday in lockdown on Saturday, May 16. Lots of Love from Mum and Dad.



Bella-Rose Beaton, from Oban, turned five on May 29. It was a lovely sunny day so her mummy and daddy got the pool out and she had a garden party. She misses her family and can't wait to have a party with them when they can all be together.

Charlotte Allan, from Oban, celebrated her first birthday on May 27. She spent the day in the garden, and saw some family and close friends at a distance. She had the best day playing with all her new toys and her daddy.



Cousins Archie MacAulay, from Connel, and Dexter MacLean, Oban, were due to have a joint birthday celebration for their third and 10th birthdays in March. Due to lockdown the boys celebrated their birthdays quietly at home eating nice treats, having family fun and singing happy birthday with the extended family via video call.



Daria Cacace of Bearsden celebrated her first birthday on May 22 with her mummy, daddy and big brother Lucca. There was a family and friends Zoom party with a children's entertainer which made it extra special. Daria's mummy is originally from Oban and the whole family are looking forward to celebrating properly with family, from Oban and Lochgilphead.

### Happy lockdown birthday!

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!

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# Isobel Wylie Hutchison: dancing on Greenland's remote shore

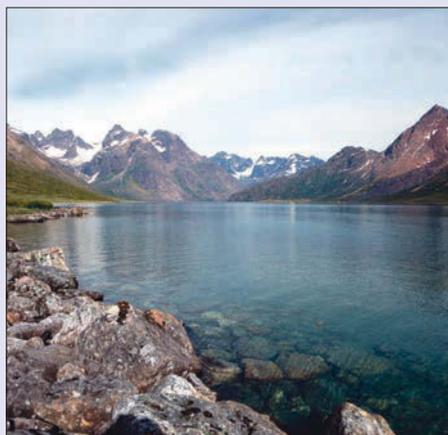
In 1927, Isobel Wylie Hutchison became the first Scotswoman ever to set foot in Greenland. A plant collector who was also a talented artist, poet and photographer, she travelled with an open mind and a lively curiosity, not just about nature and history but about the lives of the Inuit people who became her lifelong friends, writes Jo Woolf is Writer in Residence at the Royal Scottish Geographical Society.

At half past ten on a brilliant September morning, on the shore of Tasermiut fjord in south-west Greenland, a group of people were assembled around a traditional 'umiak' or sealskin boat. They were busy packing for an expedition. Into the bottom of the boat were placed two large packing-cases containing tents, cooking supplies, and enough food and provisions to last at least five days. On top was a pile of furs, which would bring some necessary warmth and comfort when the temperatures dropped well below freezing at night.

The boat was hauled down to the water, and into it stepped six Inuit people – five rowers and a steersman – followed by Isobel Wylie Hutchison, a 38-year-old botanist, and a young Danish girl called Olga, who would act as her interpreter. A ninth member of the party, a young Inuit named Ananeas, would paddle alongside in his own streamlined kayak, acting as a lookout and navigator.

Isobel was brimming with excitement. She had dreamed of travelling to Greenland ever since she was a young girl, roaming the countryside around her home at Carlowrie Castle in West Lothian. Now aged 38, she was finally here in this longed-for land of majestic icebergs, jewel-like flowers and near-perpetual summer daylight. While initially lodging with a Danish family, she had lost no time in befriending the Inuit people, learning some words of their language and finding out about their daily lives. On hearing that she was a plant collector, they had told her about a place called Kinguadal (Qinngua Valley) in the uppermost reaches of Tasermiut fjord. In this remote spot was a grove of birch trees, unique on their own account in such a windswept landscape, but also revered because they were said to be haunted by the strange figures of very tall men, who left their footprints in the wet sand.

Since Viking times, few people had ventured up Tasermiut fjord, and its inner reaches were only known to Inuit folk through the stories of hunters who occasionally ventured there. Lured



by the temptation of rare plants, breathtaking Arctic landscapes and a whiff of mystery, it was for Kinguadal that Isobel and her party were now bound. Isobel had hired the boats and crew for the sum of five pounds, and was delighted to see how eager the Inuit people were to join her; they relished the prospect of exploration just as much as she did. Sitting atop the packing-cases, 'throned like Cleopatra', as she jokingly put it, she breathed in the cool, clear air and listened to the rhythmic dip of the oars.

As the umiak slid through the icy water, a panorama of jagged, snowbound peaks began to unfold around them. Several hours later, they came to a place where a fast-flowing river emptied into the fjord. Here they needed to disembark and travel for a short distance overland. The umiak was therefore beached, upturned, and portaged on the backs of the rowers, giving it the appearance, in Isobel's opinion, of 'some monstrous moving centipede.' For the last stretch the boat was placed into the river and steered up through some rapids towards a glacial lake known as Taserssuak.

Dusk was falling, and it was time to make camp for the night. A fire was kindled beside the lake, and freshly-caught salmon were cooked. As the sun sank behind the mountains a golden moon rose in the east, and the northern lights began to flicker and dance in the darkening sky. Some of the crew whistled to them, believing that they were spirits or 'Merry Men' who would venture closer at the sound.

Next morning they were all up at sunrise, and a short walk brought them to the grove of trees at Kinguadal. This small patch of woodland, consisting of downy birch and willow, grew to

a height of about 20 feet and made a curious sight in the otherwise treeless landscape. Isobel wasn't the only visitor who was fascinated: the youngest member of her party, a lad named Kristian, had never seen trees before and couldn't resist the temptation to climb them. Isobel was slightly disappointed to find no footprints made by the mysterious tall men she'd heard about, but Filippus, who was said to have a strong sixth sense, announced that he could detect traces of unknown visitors.

Noticing some low-growing rowan bushes, Isobel explained how rowans, in Scotland, were believed to guard against all kinds of evil spirits. Some sprigs of rowan were promptly cut and brought back to the boat for protection.

Returning to the deep waters of Tasermiut, the explorers continued their voyage to the head of the fjord, where the sharp-toothed mountains gave way to inland ice known to the Inuit as 'Isblink'. They pitched their tents on a beach and pulled the umiak up onto the sand, turning it over to dry. Its owner, Ferdinand, told Isobel that it was necessary to do this, because the sealskin became porous if it was left for too long in the water. With no travelling in prospect for a day, Isobel clambered around the crumbling ruins of an early Norse settlement, now overgrown with juniper but still evoking a lost time of legendary warriors and heroes.

While another delicious supper of salmon was being prepared, the whole party decided it was time for some entertainment. Ananeas, the navigator and handyman of the crew, showed off his skill performing somersaults, and then Isobel organised everyone into a tug-of-war with one of the tent ropes, which soon had them all helpless with laughter. Later, someone suggested dancing, and begged Isobel to show them some dances from Scotland. It was impossible to resist. With her Inuit friends eagerly trying to match her steps, Isobel got to her feet and danced the sword dance and Highland Fling.

Isobel Wylie Hutchison made several more visits to Greenland, and later explored Alaska and Arctic Canada. She received the Mungo Park Medal of the Royal Scottish Geographical Society in 1934 and maintained close connections with the Society throughout her life. For more information about RSGS, visit [www.rsgs.org](http://www.rsgs.org)



# A regula

## Morvern Lines

IAIN THORNER

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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.

Charles C Lynam's logs of the Blue Dragon are by far the best description of West Coast cruising a century ago. The first yacht had no engine and was propelled by oars, sails or carried along by the tide. She was built by Theo Smith at Medley, Port Meadow in 1891. Her first voyage took her down the Thames, along the south coast, round Land's End and up to Oban via the Isle of Man where Lynam, known simply as 'Skipper', went to school. When they reached Ardrishaig she was pulled through the Crinan Canal by hand and by horse. There was accommodation aboard for four adults and a boy, although tents were carried and used at a few anchorages.

On an expedition from Oban they visited Heisker, five miles south west of Canna, and watched the 128ft high lighthouse, designed by David and Charles Stevenson, being built by Oban contractor, Messrs D & J MacDougall, warning of the presence of the Mills Rocks. On the same cruise they called at Rum and from their anchorage in Loch Scresort, saw Sir George Bullough's Kinloch Castle taking shape, recording in the log that it might be imposing on the banks of the Thames, but utterly out of place at the foot of Halival and Askerval. A similar caustic remark was made about Duart Castle on August 9, 1922: '...we set sail [from Cardingmill Bay] and with a nice northerly breeze passed Lismore Light, and just got the end of the tide past Duart Castle, now an ugly modern building, all the old ruin having disappeared, a d---d shame!' Ardtornish House at the head of Loch Aline, fared no better but there was no criticism of Connel bridge or the Ballachulish railway which were under construction at the same time.

Loch Etive was a favourite destination, but once Skipper misjudged the tide and recorded, 'The Falls of Lora were in full roar, the tide being almost low. Hugging the south shore I was whirled along head to wind, which ought to have been aft, the dinghy led the way, and down



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# Our yachtsman in Oban – part 3



The Blue Dragon being prepared for its long road journey from Argyll to Oxford in 2018. Photograph Douglas and Mary Lindsay; and right, The restored Blue Dragon in the grounds of the Dragon School, Oxford. Photograph the Dragon School.

the swirling decline went the Blue Dragon, stern first; only a few yards off was the great green waterfall over the central rock.

I remember a similar incident in the 1980s when John Foster Yeoman, who pioneered the Glensanda Quarry, accompanied by Oban boat builder Donnie Currie, came bouncing down these falls in like manner in the Rose of Devon. Fortunately, this sturdy Salcombe built, 30ft wooden motor cruiser, was well planked and only pride and not the hull was dented, but it was touch and go and I was glad I had turned down an invitation to join their picnic.

Blue Dragon often arrived in places in the dark, which sometimes created groundings but no serious damage was done other than on one occasion. Each morning all aboard were more or less compelled to leap over the side. There were few slackers regardless of the conditions even during winter and Christmas cruises - shades of cold showers and early morning runs

for Gordonstoun and other public school pupils. They had no weather forecast to go by - just a barometer, compass and a towing log. For picking up friends and crew at various ports they used letters, telegrams and wires, and made occasional telephone calls when a box could be found. The Skipper and Blue Dragon became so well known in Oban and along the West Coast that selections of her logs were regularly published in the Oban Times.

Almost all excursions were centred on Oban where the yacht was left with John and Neil Munro at their Kerrera yard when Lynam went south after the school holidays. There were trips to Eigg, Loch Nevis, Loch Hourn, Mallaig, Armadale and down to Crinan. He didn't much like going to Jura, Colonsay or Coll. A visit was made to the Summer Isles, taking in the Shiantes and the Outer Hebrides from Barra to Stornoway. He made friends readily, but as he did not speak Gaelic, language was sometimes

a problem. But for all that he wrote, 'As always, we experienced the heartiest welcome and the truest hospitality from the Highlander, whether of old or new acquaintance'.

His favourite anchorages were; Little Horseshoe, Shuna, Tobermory, Loch Aline, Salen Loch Sunart and Loch Don. When his family weren't sailing with him the crew were mainly friends and colleagues. According to the logs they could be rather untidy and, when not sailing, played cards, drank whisky and washed up. There were many walks ashore to sketch, paint and buy newspapers, often trudging miles to find hotels for a bath and a meal. They went to church services of various denominations and afterwards were entertained by the clergy who, in turn, were invited aboard to wine and dine on soup, lobsters, chops and drams. He used to say he had been through holes and narrows no yacht had ever been before, but never had a paid hand to help him and only once had to signal

for a pilot. Lynam's last cruise on Blue Dragon I was in 1904. She was then sold for him by John Munro in the spring of 1905 to a Mr Cameron of Ardgour for £50 and replaced by another of the same name the following year. Lynam kept her in Scotland for several seasons and then sailed her to Norway and eventually all the way to the North Cape - a voyage which earned him the Challenge Cup of the Royal Cruising Club in 1912. In the log of BD III he tells of visiting McGruer's yard on the Gareloch in July 1922 specifically to see the original BD. She was for sale for £55 and was in good condition and by then had an engine.

I know nothing of Blue Dragon's history from 1922 until 1980 when Oran Campbell, a keen sailor and a member of an Argyll family, found her lying on a beach in Tarbert a virtual wreck. Oran, who knew the yacht's history, was determined to save her and bought and loaned her to a maritime museum in 1985. It was not a success. The hull came back to Argyll in 2002 to be looked after by Douglas and Mary Lindsay, formerly of the Kerrera boatyard. In 2018, when the remains were almost past saving, the Dragon School agreed to have her. She was transported south on the back of a lorry and has been carefully restored.

The Skipper died at sea on 26 October 1938 on board a cargo ship, the MV Alcinous of the Blue Funnel Line, on his way to Australia aged 80. The ship's officer recorded the exact position and time of the burial, latitude 37.13 degrees north, longitude 11.107 degrees east. A fitting end for one who said: 'I love the sea and sea-folk. I love the west coast of Scotland, its islands and its people; and above all, I love the free life of the amateur cruiser'.



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# LEISURE & ENTERTAINMENT

YOUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S ON IN ARGYLL AND LOCHABER

## Mull Theatre announces new director

An Tobar and Mull Theatre is being joined by Beth Morton as its theatre director for 2020/21.

'Obviously these are difficult days and although we invited Beth on board before the countrywide shutdown, we are looking at meaningful ways of presenting new theatre and keeping a close eye on what happens elsewhere in the arts world,' said a spokesman for the theatre.

Beth's directing work has been critically acclaimed, including her 2018 production of Gary McNair's reimagined *After The Cuts* which played to sold-out audiences.

Theatre-maker Beth is an associate artist with Raw Material and the Beacon Arts Centre and has worked with, most notably, Tron Theatre, MacRobert Arts Centre, In Motion, Oran Mor, Manchester Royal Exchange, Theatre Royal Stratford East and National Theatre of Scotland.

# Global audience for Auld Lang Syne project

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Banish lockdown boredom by striking up an old tune in time for Make Music Day.

Musicians and singers of all ages and abilities are being invited to join together from their own homes to mark the occasion on June 21 by performing one of Scotland's most popular and enduring folk songs For Auld Lang Syne.

The National Lottery through Creative Scotland has launched the Auld Lang Syne Digital Participation project as a way of carrying on celebrating music despite COVID-19 restrictions.

The idea is for people to film their music-making endeavours on camera phones so they can be enjoyed by audiences all over the world, as part of a global Make Music Day event



Hamish Napier has been commissioned to create a special arrangement of the song.

us across our community, nationally and globally.'

Make Music Day UK has commissioned internationally acclaimed Scottish musician and composer Hamish Napier and in-demand drummer Cat Myers to create a special arrangement of this traditional folk song for the project and they want people to join them – homemade instruments welcome too.

Mr Napier said: 'The lockdown has kept so many apart, but this project has been created to bring us together. It was exciting to be asked to create this new arrangement of one of Scotland's most famous songs. I've been singing it for

as long as I can remember at ceilidhs, weddings and other public gatherings. It only has five chords in it: G, A minor, C, D and E minor. You can join in by singing, playing the melody, the chords, drums or bass line. Or get the pots and pans out, dance or juggle. The most important things is to enjoy getting involved, and I'm really looking forward to seeing the song come to life in the final project video.'

Contributions must be sent in by 5pm on Friday June 5 and the videos will be stitched together to create a musical collage, which will be premiered on the Make Music Day UK website and social channels, on Sunday June 21 as part of the festival's live stream.

Interested? Go to <https://makemusicday.co.uk/auld-lang-syne/>

involving 120 countries.

Alison Reeves, the Scotland Development Project manager for Make Music Day UK says: 'Make Music Day UK has been developing the presence of this global festival which recurs on the June 21 each year since 2017, and we decided early on in lockdown to divert all our efforts into supporting people to take part online. There

has been a huge outpouring of Scottish music making on social media over the past months, and the Auld Lang Syne project will capture the wealth and diversity of people playing and singing together from their own homes.

'The song is sung across the world and the message of friendship is perfect for celebrating how music connects

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**Is it essential for your pet to be vaccinated in the next two months to maintain #animalwelfare?**

In some cases, the answer will be no. Please respect your vet's decision if they say some procedures aren't essential right now. #RespectYourVet

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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# Quiz Challenge

1. The Pacific island country of Vanuatu had what former name?
2. What KP is a London Tube station on the Bakerloo Line between Maida Vale and Queen's Park?
3. Consumption is an old-fashioned name for which disease?
4. Mahon is the capital of which Mediterranean island belonging to Spain?
5. Jonagold, Gala and Pink Lady are all varieties of which fruit?



Frankie Bridge – see Question 8

6. England is divided into counties. What is Switzerland divided into?
7. Which former British car-maker shares its name with the state capital of Texas?
8. In 2014, singer Frankie Bridge was runner-up in which reality TV show?
9. Created by novelist Boris Pasternak, which doctor had the first name Yuri?
10. Which New Zealander is the only boxer to go the distance with Anthony Joshua in his pro career?

## BOX CLEVER

2		8	6
	4		
			2
6	2	4	
			2

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

## COMMON LINK

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

1. What word can describe a ventriloquist's doll or a counterfeit article?
2. Which Englishman became the principal conductor of the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra in 2002?
3. What name is given to a flat-bottomed dinghy or tender with a squared-off prow?
4. What word, originating in English public schools, means to plagiarise or steal another's work?
5. Which informal word means to be crazy or extremely enthusiastic about something?

## SOLUTIONS

2					
	4		2		6
		2			
			4		
	6	8		2	

BOX CLEVER

1 New Hebrides; 2 Kibburn Park; 3 Tuberculosis; 4 Come Dancing; 5 Apple; 6 Cantons; 7 Austin; 8 Strictly Menorca; 9 Dr Zhivago; 10 Joseph Parker.

### COMMON LINK

1 Dummy; 2 Sir Simon Rattle; 3 A Pram; 4 Crib; 5 Potty. Common link: Articles associated with babies.

# M'ALBA

## MY ALBA

<b>DIARDAOIN 4 An t-Ògmhios</b> <b>THURSDAY 4 June</b>	23:00 Spors – Hamilton Academical (rpt) 23:30 Spors – Motherwell FC (rpt) 00:00 Skipinnish aig Barrowland (rpt)	19:55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt) 20:00 An Là – News 20:30 ÙR/NEW: Dealbhan Fraoich 21:00 Tannadice '87 (rpt) 22:00 Trusadh – Bardachd Ghaidhlig/Gaelic Poetry (rpt) 23:00 Orain Oir! (rpt) 23:30 Fraochy Bay (rpt) 23:35 Slighe Anndra (rpt)	
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)	<b>DIDÒMHNAICH 7 An t-Ògmhios</b> <b>SUNDAY 7 June</b>	16:00 Scottish Junior Cup Final 2018 – Auchinleck Talbot v Hurlford United (rpt) 18:15 An Là – News 18:30 Celtic Connections (BBC ALBA Shorts) 18:35 Sgeul Seolaidh (rpt) 18:50 Ar N'Aran Laitheil/ Spiritual Service (rpt) 19:30 Slighe Anndra (rpt) 19:55 Fraochy Bay (rpt) 20:00 Aig Taigh-Fuine/The Bakery (rpt) 20:30 Dealbhan Fraoich (rpt) 21:00 Bannan (rpt) 21:30 Bannan (rpt) 22:00 Third Lanark (rpt) 23:00 Grace Harte (rpt) 23:50 Dhan Uisge (rpt)	
<b>DIHAOINE 5 An t-Ògmhios</b> <b>FRIDAY 5 June</b>	17:00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming 17:55 An Là – News 18:05 ÙR/NEW: Bundesliga nam Ban – Hoffenheim v Bayer Leverkusen 20:10 Celtic Connections (BBC ALBA Shorts) (rpt) 20:20 Celtic Connections (BBC ALBA Shorts) (rpt) 20:30 Fuine (rpt) 21:00 ÙR/NEW: Spors – Hamilton Academical 21:30 ÙR/NEW: Spors – Motherwell FC 22:00 Grace Harte (rpt) 22:50 Dhan Uisge (rpt) 22:55 ALT (rpt)	<b>DILUAIN 8 An t-Ògmhios</b> <b>MONDAY 8 June</b>	17:00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming 19:00 Sugh an Eorina/ History of Whisky (rpt) 19:30 Speaking Our Language (rpt) 19:55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt) 20:00 An Là – News 20:30 Fuine (rpt) 21:00 ÙR/NEW: Trusadh – Bardachd Ghaidhlig/Gaelic Poetry 22:00 Bannan (rpt) 22:30 Opryle Daniel (rpt) 23:20 Belladrum – Cridhe Tartan (Highlights) (rpt) 23:25 Julie Fowlis – Ceol Aig Baile (rpt)
<b>DISATHAIRNE 6 An t-Ògmhios</b> <b>SATURDAY 6 June</b>	16:00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming 17:45 An Là – News 18:00 Scottish Women's Cup Final 2018 – Hibernian v Motherwell (rpt) 20:30 Leugh Mi (rpt) 21:00 ALT (rpt) 22:00 Ameireaga air Film/America in Colour (rpt) 22:45 ÙR/NEW: Celtic Connections (BBC ALBA Shorts) 22:55 ÙR/NEW: Celtic Connections (BBC ALBA Shorts)	<b>DIMÀIRT 9 An t-Ògmhios</b> <b>TUESDAY 9 June</b>	17:00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming 19:00 An Lot/The Croft (rpt) 19:30 Speaking Our Language (rpt)



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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.

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

# St Columba's pupils have all the write ingredients

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



Pupils from St Columba's Primary School in Oban have been putting their culinary skills to the test over the last few weeks, creating delicious food for a lockdown charity recipe book.

Children from primary one through to primary seven have all taken part, each writing up a variety of delicious recipes, from sweet treats to fabulous main meals.

Every pupil has their own handwritten recipe in the book, alongside a photograph of their mouth-watering finished article.

The book is available to download and the children are encourage anyone who does to make a donation to their chosen local charity, HOPE Kitchen.

Argyll and Bute Council's Policy Lead for Education, Councillor Yvonne McNeilly, said: 'What wonderful initiative shown by pupils, creating a super recipe book, while helping to raise money for a local charity at the same time.'

'I would like to congratulate them all on their fantastic efforts and would urge people to download it. It's all for a great cause.'

The book is available to download now at: <https://drive.google.com/a/fionascottpr.com/uc?id=1wdSCbZ-M0tTpujPOEs2vSNvEDpbz-VAXvO&export=download> You can make a donation to HOPE Kitchen in Oban at: [bit.ly/hopekitchen](http://bit.ly/hopekitchen)

To celebrate the new book the Oban Times is giving our readers a taster, so this week's lockdown recipe comes from primary one pupil Niamh, who's truffle's are guaranteed to go down a treat.



St Columba's Primary School pupil Niamh, proudly shows off her truffles.

## Niamh's Truffles

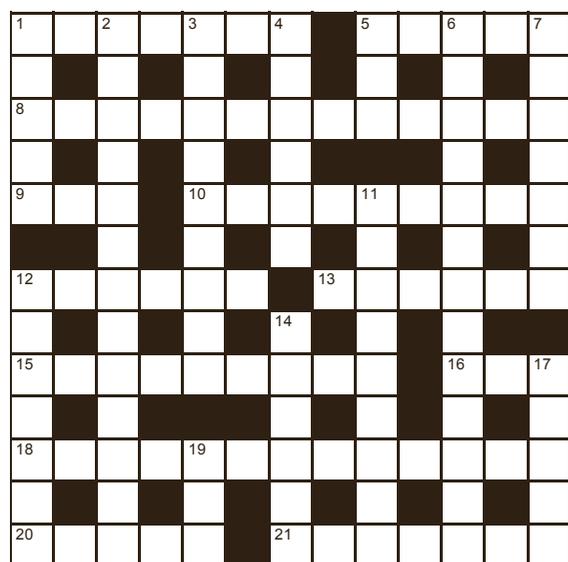
### Ingredients

- 1 tin of condensed milk
- 4 oz of drinking chocolate
- 4 oz of marg
- 4 oz of desiccated coconut
- 8/10 oz of tea biscuits (crushed to crumbs)

### Method

Melt the marg and condensed milk in a pan. Mix all the dry ingredients. Add the liquid to the dry ingredients and mix well. When cool roll the mixture into balls and then cover in coconut. Send your recipes, a photograph and a wee description of yourself to [editor@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk)

## Crossword



**Across**

- 1 Mad (7)
- 5 Compare (5)
- 8 Modern (2-2-3-6)
- 9 Spout (3)
- 10 Untie (9)
- 12 Rabbitlike rodent (6)
- 13 Hides (6)
- 15 Being loud (9)
- 16 Land over the Atlantic (3)
- 18 Obsolete (13)
- 20 Fashion (5)
- 21 Difficult situation (7)

**Down**

- 1 Threw (5)
- 2 A written history of oneself (13)
- 3 Clicked the tongue (3-6)
- 4 Fold (6)
- 5 Wreath (3)
- 6 Fist fighter's weapon (7,6)
- 7 Wanters (7)
- 11 One to write to when in trouble (5,4)
- 12 Helps (7)
- 14 Sillier (6)
- 17 Total (3,2)
- 19 Cereal grass (3)

### LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION



Keeping our community informed

# What we are doing to help

- We are continuing to bring you accurate and trustworthy news in-paper and online
- We are working with our wholesale and retail partners to make sure that your newspaper is still in the shops

All the information on our website is available free - you don't have to log in

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.

Stay safe, we're in this together

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



# A message to all local businesses...

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- Local press is globally regarded as the most trusted source for local news and information.

\*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.



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# OPEN FOR BUSINESS

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 & 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.

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### FARMFOODS

Mon-Fri 8am-8pm  
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### 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.

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Card Payments preferred. Call the shop on 01631 562016

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!

to place your order. We are open for customers who wish to visit the shop.

Also taking phone orders for collection.

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Millstones is open to customers 0915-1500 Mon-Sat. Pre-order available but not essential.  
Contact Saffron on 01631 562704 or email [contact@millstonewholefoods.co.uk](mailto:contact@millstonewholefoods.co.uk)

### OBAN BEER SELLER

Shop closed but order before 6pm for next day supply - email [obanbeerseller@gmail.com](mailto:obanbeerseller@gmail.com) for current list of stock  
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### OBAN FOOD HUB

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

### TASTE OF ARGYLL KITCHEN

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

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

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

### 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

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Open for take-away and delivery  
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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  
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### TASTE OF ARGYLL KITCHEN

From Langoustine Curry to Highland Beefburgers - lots in between  
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Tel: 07882226675

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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](mailto: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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:flit@btconnect.com)  
Tel: 07810391753

### KERRIE'S TYRES

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

### MCCONECHY'S

Open as usual: Mon-Fri 8.30am-5.30pm  
Sat until 12.30pm  
Tel: 01631 570047  
Email [oban@mcconechys.co.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.andersonbanks.co.uk)  
Anderson Banks Facebook page.  
Oban Office: 01631 563158 Email: [info@andersonbanks.co.uk](mailto:info@andersonbanks.co.uk)  
Benbecula office: 01870 602061  
Email: [uist@andersonbanks.co.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:law@macphee.co.uk)

### ETHORNTON 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  
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.



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



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 - 3pm  
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>

### THE JETTY GALLERY [www.thejettygallery.com](http://www.thejettygallery.com)

email [annie@thejettygallery.com](mailto:annie@thejettygallery.com)  
100, George St, Oban,  
PA344JL  
Tel : 01631 570102

## 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.**

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# Etive House: caring in a time of coronavirus

by Ellis Butcher  
ebutcher@obantimes.co.uk



It is a sunny day in Benderloch and the gardens at Etive House Care Home are in full bloom.

Across a window a large colourful message shouts: 'In this together'.

At the front doors, a 'care crew' stands guard to give staff a smile as they arrive for a 12-hour shift.

Welcome to the front line.

Etive House is one of the biggest care homes locally, with 67 staff - care assistants, senior care staff, maintenance staff, kitchen staff, admin workers and the NHS - all coming together here from places including Oban, Dunbeg, Benderloch and Kilmore.

Home to 41 residents, ranging from their mid-80s to 100 years young, some have dementia and all of them are 'vulnerable'.

Yet 10 weeks into lockdown and the home has not had a single case of COVID-19, nor have any residents or staff been symptomatic.

Official figures say around 1,600 care home residents have died - accounting for nearly half of all confirmed COVID-19 deaths in Scotland.

There have been 5,800 suspected cases in care homes in Scotland and 61 per cent, or at least 665, have reported at least one suspected case. But not Etive House.

Manager Georgina Taylor greets me at a distance and wears a face mask and has a bottle of hand sanitiser hanging from her belt.

She leads me into the grounds and tells me it's all about 'luck'.

'I am extremely grateful of people's comments that we have not had an outbreak but I think we need to be very careful,' said Georgina.

'There has been a narrative created that homes are 'stopping' COVID getting in. COVID is a virus and it's invisible.

'You can't stop it and you don't



Etive House care home manager Georgina Taylor.

see it. It's not a mugger running behind you. Ultimately no person and no action will ever stop an invisible virus getting into a building.'

Aged 44, she has worked in care since she was 16 and started here in 2017.

She accepts the early intervention of the home's parent company, Care Concern, has also played a part in keeping out COVID.

On March 12, it instructed a lockdown of its UK homes and began screening - a full 11 days before the address by UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson.

#### Dedication

Georgina, now of Dunbeg, is keen to praise the dedication of her team who have adapted to working in a sector where the killer bug can run rampant.

Social distancing, strict infection control and tight procedures over who does and doesn't step foot inside a home, have all been religiously learned and observed.

Staff are 'scanned' on arrival via a 'non-touch' thermometer. Anyone with a temperature of 37.8 or above is told to go home and self-isolate.

'We've not had that,' says Georgina, barely able to contain her relief. 'That hasn't happened

here.'

They now have to 'witness' each other hand-washing. They change into uniform on site.

Face masks, aprons, gloves and goggles are handed out. They have also been trained to carry out swab testing of residents.

A handful of staff are taking part in our photographs and they all agree on one thing: 'Everyone here has pulled together - they really have.'

The team includes activities co-ordinator

Nicole Rutherford, 22, originally from South Africa and now living in Oban, long-serving Russell Martin, 40, the home's maintenance officer and senior care assistant Arfon Jones, aged 28, both Oban.

One resident of Etive House is considerably younger than the rest. Senior care assistant Michelle Ward, 30, moved into the home, which meant leaving the flat in Oban she shared with two friends.

Michelle, the home's infection control lead, shrugged off the sacrifice.

'As long as the residents are safe,



Etive House care home team. Left to right: Nicole Rutherford, Gill Fairclough, Russell Martin. Front: Michelle Ward and Arfon Jones.

I'm happy,' she said modestly.

Georgina said: 'I am unbelievably proud of the sacrifices they are making. Just to come to work, they are putting themselves at risk.'

'They do it every day with a smile. Everyone's attitude has been

**'I am unbelievably proud of the sacrifices they are making. Just to come to work, they are putting themselves at risk. They do it every day with a smile. Everyone's attitude has been fantastic.'**

fantastic.' Under the restrictions, residents cannot socialise together or have family visits. So the home has used its gardens and embraced Skype and Face Time.

Facebook videos have been used to keep family members in contact and donations of iPads have come in from the community.

#### Applause

During clap for carers, residents living near the home have generously directed their applause towards it.

The outpouring of public recognition has brought tears to the eyes of staff watching from behind

curtains on the late shift.

Accordion player Duncan Campbell and piper Emma Hill have come into the grounds to entertain - drawing delighted residents to their windows.

Dr Kath McElroy from the surgery at Connel is name-checked for her 'fantastic support' and so too is NHS community team leader Gill Fairclough who told The Oban Times: 'The staff here have gone above and beyond.'

Etive House knows COVID is not going away soon but it is determined life will go on.

#### Manage

'Should it unfortunately get into the building, we will manage it like everything else,' explained Georgina.

'We will deal with it calmly and with confidence. Residents will still need a quality of life and my priority is not to let COVID swallow the home up.'

Karen Baird, of Connel, has her father in its care and cannot praise it highly enough.

'The communication ensures you are kept aware of your loved one's health and well-being. That gives you great confidence that they are in the best caring hands you could possibly wish for.'

# West Coast **MOTORING**

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PRESS RELEASE

## Drivers lack confidence in Government EV ownership advice

**As consumer appetite to reduce emissions grows, EV ownership doubts prevail**

Transport Secretary, Grant Shapps, has confirmed significant investment to support the UK in retaining the physical and environmental benefits of the coronavirus lockdown[1], including promoting the take up of electric vehicles (EVs).

However, a survey by Venson Automotive Solutions reveals motorists have little confidence in government bodies when it comes to advice on buying and owning an EV, with just 2 per cent of car buyers saying that the government would be their go-to information source.

The Venson survey showed that buyers favour independent advice from consumer motoring titles offering reviews by unbiased experts (58% use these sites). Manufacturers came in second with 44% of respondents seeking information here, followed by 31% of people seeking information and advice from friends and family who already driven an EV.

The survey also revealed that the recent increase in EV appetite has been driven by a desire

to reduce emissions (for 47% of respondents), but confidence in the practicalities of ownership remains low. Just 9% of women feel more confident in owning and maintaining an EV, and 18% of men.



The Transport Secretary stated that the car industry has been hit severely during the current crisis, but said it is encouraging to see that April's car sales reported, for the first time, the two most popular models were both electric. Mr Shapps went on to confirm a doubling of the funds available for the on-street residential

chargepoint scheme[2], with an additional £10 million now being made available, to encourage more drivers to switch to electric as cars will remain vital for many families.

Alison Bell, Marketing Director at Venson Automotive Solutions commented: 'It is encouraging to see the government making such an important financial injection to rekindle growth in the motor industry and boost EV take-up at the same time. As we take tentative steps out of lockdown restrictions, the industry needs to collaborate to ensure consumers – be

they private or company car drivers – have the confidence they need to make the switch and become EV drivers. Independent experts clearly have a big role to play in driving change and

supporting manufacturers, as do those friends and family who have already made the transition to electric.'

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

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# Busy time for Luings Cattle Society

On May 20 the Luings Cattle Society held their annual spring sale at Dingwall Mart in a different format due COVID-19.

The Luings Cattle Society and Dingwall and Highland Marts made a decision to conduct an online timed auction sale, which has been a huge success in these difficult times.

A spokesperson for the society said: 'We all sat poised in front of our digital devices for the sale of 129 pedigree and commercial Luings cattle. The online timed auction allowed many to view and bid on cattle that would not have been able to travel to Dingwall.

Adam Hunter, Yorkshire, is delighted to have purchased the foundations for his new herd having sold off his Limousin herd and joined a Native breed scheme. Having



**Natalie Cormack has joined the Luings Cattle Society as general manager.**

looked at all the native breeds he said he felt 'Luings were by far the best of the native breeds'.

Graeme MacRae, Kintail was delighted with his 'exceptional

sale', selling to top 3,020gns.

The success of this sale goes to show the popularity of the Luings breed from all over the UK.

The Luings Cattle Society can also announce that Natalie Cormack, who is well known for her high quality stockmanship, joins the Luings family as general manager from a background that includes events organiser for Scotland's beef events and managing the AHDB/DEFRA Beef Feed Efficiency Programme for the last five years. Alongside that, and a good deal more, she remains as secretary/treasurer for the Berwickshire Agricultural Association and County Show.

Ayton-based Natalie said, 'Over the years I've become increasingly interested in functional genetics and

efficiency. The Luings breed is a leader in identifying and focusing on such efficiencies of production. With the coming challenges to beef farming and the environment the Luings breed are in a great position and I'm delighted to have the opportunity to work with their members to further develop that.'

Luings chairman, Mark Thomson said: 'Natalie joining at this point in the Luings story is good timing given her detailed understanding of what is required to be profitable in beef farming. There is no doubt that the traits of the Luings breed are made for the future of farming in UK or any upland environment. Natalie's experience will help our very active society membership continue to breed and promote the best upland cow possible.'

## Around the markets

**Dingwall and Highland Mart, Luings Cattle Society Sale, May 20:** Pedigree bulling heifers (82) averaged 1,571gns (£1,650.29) with the top price being 3,020gns (£3,171.00), twice for 25 month old heifers from Mr G. MacRae, Kintail, 120 Newton of Ferintosh, selling to J. C. Innes & Sons, Duncroft, Huntly.

Pedigree yearling heifers (5) averaged 808gns (£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.

Yearling Sim/Luings heifers (13) averaged 1,034gns (£1,085.54) and sold to 1,280gns (£1,344.00) twice from Messrs J. Lawrie, Tillyrie, Kinross, selling to Mr C. Arnot, Hatton Mill, Angus.

Un-registered bulling heifers (9) averaged 889gns (£933.33) and sold to 1,080gns (£1,134.00) twice from Welbeck

Scottish Farms Ltd., Welbeck Estate, selling to Messrs Tulloch Farms, Upper Coullie, Laurencekirk.

Bulls (4) sold to 6,000gns (£6,300) for two 25 months old both from Messrs C. C. MacArthur & Co. Nunnerie Farm, Biggar, one selling to Firm of Ernest Crawford, Blarghour Farm, Dalnally, and the other to Mr A. Kennedy, Mitchell Hill Farm, Biggar.

Other leading prices: Pedigree bulling heifers: Culmally Farm, Golspie, 2,960gns (twice) & 2,420gns (thrice); Kintail, 2,580gns (twice); Clashnoir, Glenlivet, 1,980gns (twice) & 1,760gns; Nunnerie (twice), Inverbroom, Ullapool (thrice) 1,700gns. Pedigree yearling heifers: Lochan Farm (4 times) 800gns. Yearling Sim/Luings heifers: Tillyrie Farm (twice), 1,260gns; Lochan Farm (thrice), 1,020gns. Un-registered bulling heifers: Welbeck Estates (thrice), 1,040gns.

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

#### OPTION 1

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

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

#### PARTS LIST:

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



#### OPTION 2

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

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

#### PARTS LIST:

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

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- Made from heavy tubular steel
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- A funnel is incorporated into the race-way
- All hot dipped galvanised finish
- 3000mm (3 m) long
- 20 feet race
- 60 feet holding pen
- Includes all joining pins/stakes
- Total 200 feet of penning

#### Parts list:

- 10 x 3m (6 railed) Cattle Hurdles
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- 1 x Sliding Gate



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# Podcast offers food and farm focus for home schooling

The latest episode of OnFARM, Scotland's Rural Podcast, has been working in partnership with RHET (The Royal Highland Education Trust) to provide some rurally inspired home-schooling tips and advice for parents and teachers.

The episode also announces an exciting online event, taking place on June 18 and 19 – which would have been the start of The Royal Highland Show 2020 – during which children, parents and teachers can engage with a whole range of events, demonstrations and activities focused on animals, plants, soil, food and cookery, the countryside and much more.

Launched in January 2020, OnFARM showcases rural enterprise, rural community, rural creativity, rural charity, rural history and much more.

During early summer, OnFARM is working alongside The Royal Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland (RHASS) and The



Royal Highland Show, to produce a series of episodes investigating what gap will be left by the cancellation of the Show this summer, as well as looking at some of the behind the scenes the work of the Society.

RHET is the educational charity focused on food, farming and the countryside and

the organisation responsible for the learning activities enjoyed by thousands of children during the Royal Highland Show.

Anna Davies, OnFARM presenter, said: 'Making this episode not only inspired me to have a go at some food and

Youngsters will benefit from a whole range of online learning events.

farming-themed learning activities with my children, but it has also given many of us an online event to look forward to at the end of June when we would otherwise have been enjoying the Royal Highland Show.

'Teachers tell me that it's impossible to full delivery the Curriculum for Excellence without the resources provided by RHET and it's a superb charity doing a wonderful job of helping our children to understand more about farming, food production and the countryside.

I urge everyone to please spread the word about this podcast, the work of RHET and about the amazing learning events taking place on

June 18 and 19. As we come to terms with this 'new normal', resources such as this become even more valuable to teachers and certainly to parents like me.'

If you are interested in registering to participate in the online learning extravaganza you can do so at [www.survey-monkey.co.uk/r/RRT25X8](http://www.survey-monkey.co.uk/r/RRT25X8)

You can listen to the OnFARM podcast at [www.podfollow.com/onfarm](http://www.podfollow.com/onfarm) or visit the website at [www.on-farm.co.uk](http://www.on-farm.co.uk)



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## NFU remind people to act responsibly

As Scotland enters Phase One in easing COVID-19 lockdown restrictions, NFU Scotland is urging those enjoying time in the countryside to continue to do so responsibly.

NFU Scotland head of policy team Gemma Cooper said: 'As we enter Phase One, farmers are asking the public to act responsibly on farmland when accessing the countryside. The job of producing food and drink means farming activities continue in these difficult times. While the Scottish countryside remains open for people to access and enjoy, care and respect for those living and working in rural areas is requested.'

In particular, NFU Scotland urges the following:

- Don't cause damage to young arable crops or fields of long grass being grown for silage and hay.
- Don't disturb farm animals or wildlife.
- Keep all dogs under control and lift all dog poo.
- Avoid farmyards and buildings, keep access to farms and fields gates clear.
- Adhere to sign requests.
- Take all litter home.

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If you would like more information,  
please contact

MAKI Pups Manager Erin Kennedy  
07741582560 or

email erin@act-now.org.uk.

Closing date Friday 19th June at 12 noon,  
interviews 24th-26th June 2020

### 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. Having regard to Schedule 6, Part 3, s10 of the Coronavirus (Scotland) Act 2020, documents are only available to inspect electronically at this time. Customers requiring assistance can contact us by e-mail: planning.hq@argyll-bute.gov.uk or tel. 01546 605518.

**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
20/00841/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and installation of septic tank	Taigh Beag Kirkton Taynuilt Argyll And Bute PA35 1HW
20/00839/PP	Removal of Condition 2 relative to planning permission reference 04/01108/DET (Erection of Dwellinghouse) in relation to occupancy restriction	Cuiluiane Farm Achaleven Road Connel Oban Argyll And Bute PA37 1PF
20/00862/PP	Removal of existing jetty and installation of replacement jetty	Jetty Land East Of 5 Dalavich Dalavich Taynuilt Argyll And Bute
20/00756/PP	Installation of ground source heating system comprising boreholes, underground pipework as part of the Iona Heat Network	Land At Carraig Beag, Shore Cottage And Duncraig Isle Of Iona Argyll And Bute
20/00787/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and garage (integrating existing ruins), installation of biodisc treatment plant and formation of access	Logan House Land Approx 70M North West Of Machair Cottage And Redroofs Balevullin Isle Of Tiree Argyll And Bute
20/00780/PP	Erection of 4 dwellinghouses, installation of septic tank and formation of access	Land South Of Drimfin Cottage Tobermory Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute
20/00834/PP	Alterations and change of use from shop/studio to dwellinghouse	6 Star Brae Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 4NX
20/00653/PP	Installation of temporary site compound comprising modular buildings, pipe storage area, boundary fencing, formation of vehicular access and installation of septic tank	Land South Of McCalls Terrace Oban Argyll And Bute
20/00842/LIB	Internal and external alterations to form hot food takeaway (sui generis), to include; installation of replacement windows and doors, external flue, erection of signage and re-painting of building	Post Office Main Street Tobermory Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute PA75 6NT
20/00772/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse	Land West Of Goirtean Beag Ceo Mara Croft Taynuilt Argyll And Bute
20/00873/PP	Demolition of building, erection of dwellinghouse and detached garage, installation of septic tank and formation of access	Mulreesh Ballygrant Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA45 7QT

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



[www.highland.gov.uk](http://www.highland.gov.uk)



#### 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
20/00887/FUL	Ionad Nibheis Glen Nevis, Fort William	Installation of "Ranger Hut" and new counter
20/01935/FUL	Fort William Studios Glen Nevis, Fort William	Alterations
20/01909/FUL	Development Site Opposite Spean Crescent, Spean Bridge	Erection of 30 houses, commercial unit (Class 1, 2, 3, 4 & 10) sports pitch and associated infrastructure.
20/01949/FUL	6 Perth Place Upper Achintore, Fort William	Installation of pod
20/01933/FUL	Oak Cottage Banavie, Fort William	7 Erection of garage with self-contained residential letting unit above
20/01781/FUL	Macrae's Lane 92-94 High Street, Fort William	Alterations to shop front and new signage

**Time period for comments is 14 days**

ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX  
Email: [eplanning@highland.gov.uk](mailto:eplanning@highland.gov.uk)

#### MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010 BOAT MOORING, DRUIMYEON BAY, ISLE OF GIGHA

Notice is hereby given that The Scottish Salmon Company has applied to the Scottish Ministers of the Scottish Government, under Part 4 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, in respect of the addition of a boat mooring to Druimyeon Bay fish farm at:

Cost	Location	Latitude	Longitude
<£2,500	Druimyeon Bay, Isle of Gigha		
Associated Marine Farm		55° 42.510' N	05° 42.720' W
		55° 42.390' N	05° 42.380' W
		55° 42.060' N	05° 42.750' W
		55° 42.180' N	05° 43.090' W
Proposed Boat Mooring		55° 41.672' N	05° 43.543' W

Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at <https://bit.ly/2Xwmz30>

Objections relating to safety of navigation or environmental issues in respect of the application should be made by email to:

MS.MarineLicensing@gov.scot within 28 days of the date of this notice, quoting reference: 05362V and The Scottish Salmon Company.

#### Fair Processing Notice

The Scottish Government's Marine Scotland Licensing Operations Team (MS-LOT) determine applications for marine licences under the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 and the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. During the consultation process any person having an interest in the outcome of the application may make representation to MS-LOT. The representation may contain personal information, for example a name or address. This representation will only be used for the purpose of determining an application and will be stored securely in the Scottish Government's official corporate record. Representations will be shared with the applicant and/or agent acting on behalf of the applicant, any people or organisations that we consult in relation to the application and, where necessary, be published online, however personal information will be removed before sharing or publishing.

A full privacy notice can be found at: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/Licensing/marine/PrivacyNotice>. If you are unable to access this, or you have any queries or concerns about how your personal information will be handled, contact MS-LOT at: [ms.marinelicensing@gov.scot](mailto:ms.marinelicensing@gov.scot).

#### Notice of Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Event

South West Mull and Iona Development will be submitting a Marine Licence Application for an algal farm on an area of 6ha, located to the south of co-ordinate 56° 20.641'N, 006° 12.976'W.

Subject to licensing consent the farm will be deployed in Q4 2020. The consultation, with presentation of the license application, will take place as a Zoom Webinar as a result of COVID-19 restrictions. The event will take place on Thursday 16th July 2020 from 2pm to 4pm. For more information about the event and to register, please contact [mgibson@swmid.co.uk](mailto:mgibson@swmid.co.uk) by 10th July 2020. Comments should not be submitted to MS-LOT, there will be an opportunity for representations to be made to MS-LOT on the application.

#### PROPOSED ASSIGNMENT OF A CROFT

Ishbel Wilson is applying to assign the tenancy of the croft at 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16 Unachan to Bruno Berardeli of Hill Farm, Torlundy, Fort William. Written comments from those with a relevant interest (which may be made public) to: Crofting Commission, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW, [info@crofting.gov.scot](mailto:info@crofting.gov.scot) by 02/07/20.

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**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.

**CROFTING COMMISSION COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD DECROFTING DIRECTIONS ISSUED**

A M Macdonald  
5 Muirshearlich, Kilmallie 98905  
0.396 ha  
Reason – Existing croft house site & garden ground  
Condition – No conditions  
W Williams  
4 & 5 Uragaig, Colonsay 104394  
0.1657 ha  
Reason – Existing croft house site & garden ground  
Condition – With fencing conditions  
Full details at [www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk](http://www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk)

**THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL (LOCHABER) (DISABLED PERSONS' PARKING PLACES) ORDER 2011 AMENDMENT ORDER 2020**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that The Highland Council propose to make an Order entitled as above in terms of Sections 32(1) and 45(2) and Part IV of Schedule 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984. When the Order comes into effect the Order will create parking places for the use of disabled persons' vehicles only on the areas of road detailed in the Schedule 1 hereto and delete parking places for the use of disabled persons' vehicles on the areas of road detailed in the Schedule 2 hereto. Copies of the proposed Order, as drafted, together with a copy of the relevant plans, a copy of the Authority's Statement of Reasons for proposing to make the Order and a copy of the Orders to be amended, can be inspected via this link [https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/20006/parking\\_and\\_car\\_parks/711/decriminalised\\_parking\\_enforcement/4](https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/20006/parking_and_car_parks/711/decriminalised_parking_enforcement/4). Any person wishing to object to the proposed Orders should write to the undersigned specifying the Order to which objection is being made, and the grounds of the objection. All letters of objection must be received by the undersigned within 21 days from 4th June 2020. Richard Porteous, The Highland Council, Carr's Corner Ind. Estate, Fort William PH33 6TL. Or email [communityservices.lochaber@highland.gov.uk](mailto:communityservices.lochaber@highland.gov.uk)

**SCHEDULE 1**

**PROVISION OF DISABLED PARKING PLACES**

Town	Street	Area of road designated as a disabled persons' parking place	No. of places	Manner of standing in Parking Place
Kinlochleven	Sutherland Avenue	On the west side of the road, outside No. 4 Heatherlea Court for a distance of 2.5 metres or thereby as shown outlined in red on the Plan No.01 annexed and signed as relative hereto	2	Perpendicular to the kerb line
		On the west side of the road, adjacent to No.1 Heatherlea Court for a distance of 2.5 metres or thereby as shown outlined in red on the Plan No.01 annexed and signed as relative hereto.		
Fort William	Linnhe Road	On the south side of the road, outside No.1 Loch Linnhe Buildings extending in a westerly direction for a distance of 6 metres or there by as shown outlined in red on the Plan No. 02 annexed and signed as relative hereto	1	Parallel to the kerb line
Caol Fort William	Torlundy Road	On the west side of the road, adjacent to No.20 Torlundy Road for a distance of 2.5 metres or thereby as shown outlined in red on the Plan No.04 annexed and signed as relative hereto	1	Perpendicular to the kerb line
Fort William	Alma Road	On the north side of the road, opposite to No.71 Alma Road for a distance of 6 metres or thereby as shown outlined in red on the Plan No. 05 annexed and signed as relative hereto.	1	Parallel to the kerb line
Fort William	Kennedy Road	On the west side of the road, commencing at the south border fence of No. 101 Kennedy Road, extending in a northerly direction for a distance of 6 metres or thereby, as shown outlined in red on the Plan No.08 annexed and signed as relative hereto	1	Parallel to the kerb line
Caol Fort William	Blar Mhor Road	On the West side of the road, outside No.14 Blar Mhor Road, for a distance of 2.5 metres or thereby as show outlined in red on the Plan No.09 annexed and signed as relative hereto	1	Perpendicular to the kerb line
Inverlochy Fort William	Nevis Road	On the south east side of the road, adjacent to No.30 Nevis Road for a distance of 2.5 metres or thereby as shown outlined in red on the plan No.10 annexed and signed as relative hereto	1	Perpendicular to the kerb line
Roy Bridge	Mulroy Terrace	On the north side of the street, outside No. 13, for 6 metres or thereby as shown outlined in red on the Plan No. 11 annexed and signed as relative hereto	1	Parallel to the kerb line
Ballachulish	Park Road	On the north west side of the off-street parking area, opposite to number 13, for a distance of 2.5 metres or thereby as shown on the attached Plan No12	1	Perpendicular to the kerb line
Inverlochy Fort William	Lochy Road	On the north side of the street, outside No.35 Lochy Road, for 6 metres or thereby as shown outlined in red on the Plan No.13 annex and signed as relative hereto	1	Parallel to the kerb line

**SCHEDULE 2**

**REVOKE/REMOVAL OF DISABLED PARKING PLACES**

Town	Street	Area of road designated as a disabled persons' parking place	No. of places	Manner of standing in Parking Place
Caol Fort William	Glendessary Street	On the south-east side of the road, opposite number 5, for a distance of 6.6 metres or thereby as shown on attached Plan No. 3	1	Parallel to the kerb line
Caol Fort William	Erracht Drive	On the east side of the street, outside No.23 extending in a north easterly direction for a distance of 6 metres or thereby as shown outlined in red on the Plan. No.6 annexed and signed as relative hereto	1	Parallel to the kerb line
Caol Fort William	Clunes Avenue	On the east side of the street, outside No.24 extending in a south westerly direction for a distance of 6 metres or thereby as shown outlined in red on the Plan No.7 annexed and signed as relative hereto	1	Parallel to the kerb line

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## DEATHS

**CRAWFORD** - Peacefully, at Ardfenaig Residential Home, Ardrishaig on May 29, 2020, Amy Crawford, née Snowden, in her 76th year, of 4 Dochas Place, Lochgilphead, beloved wife of the late John Cameron (Cammy Crawford), dear mother of Catherine Ann and proud nanny of Andrea and Thomas. A respected mother-in-law of George and a good neighbour and dear friend to many. In line with current regulations, a private family service will be held at Ach nabreac Cemetery, today, Thursday, June 4, 2020.

**DUNN** - Peacefully, at St. Andrews Community Hospital, on Saturday, May 23, 2020, Alice Margaret Dunn (née Pearson), aged 90 years, Station Road, St. Monans. Dearly loved wife of the late Alex Dunn, very much loved and loving mum of Margaret, Marion and Alex and a devoted and loving granny to Nicole. Private family funeral due to Covid-19 restrictions.

**MACGREGOR** - Suddenly, on May 17, 2020, in his 91st year, James Campbell MacGregor (retired teacher), beloved husband of the late Jean Donaldson, dearly loved father of Andrew and Ella, and much loved grandad of Christopher, Stephen and Danielle. A private family funeral has taken place in line with current guidelines.

**SERVANT** - Jessie Brander (née MacFarlane), peacefully, with her family, at 36 Aldersyde, Taynuilt, on May 27, 2020, aged 84 years. Beloved wife of the late Leslie, very loved mother of Gordon, Lorna and Andrew, precious grandma to Alexander and Catriona, Iain and Eilidh, and great-grandma to Lexi. Cherished mother-in-law of Charlene and Sarah. A very dear aunt, cousin and friend to many. Will be so sadly missed by all. A life so beautifully lived.

**SIM** - Judi McNeil, aged 80, of Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, passed away peacefully, on Tuesday, May 26, 2020. Daughter of Robert and Lois, cousin of Murray Sim and the late Alma MacCallum, Taynuilt. Sadly missed.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

**ORR** - Jan Orr's family would like to thank Dr Danny Patterson for all his help; Leanna, Sedonia, Gaynor and all the community nursing team for their superb attention and caring; Amanda, Janine and Mark from Marie Curie for helping us through the nights; Helen and Annie from the care team and Hamish Hoey and Sons for their sensitive handling of the cremation.

## IN MEMORIAM

**CAMPBELL** - In loving memory of a dear auntie, Marie, who died June 8, 1989. Memories of you are fondly kept

Someone too special to ever forget.

- Catherine, Kenneth, Margaret and families.

**DOWNIE** - In loving memory of our mam and nana Aggie, who died June 7, 2001 and our dear dad and grampa, George, who died May 28, 1968.

There are no tomorrows for us to share  
But yesterday's memories are always there.

- Betty, Auriol and families, Fort William, Inverness and Edinburgh.

**HUNTER** - Precious memories of Mary, a much loved and very special lady, who left us so sadly, on June 3, 2005.

You are in our thoughts every day.

- Alasdair and Margaret x.

**MACINTYRE** - In loving memory of Mum, Annette, who died June 6, 1991.

Lovingly remembered.

- Donna x.

**MACINTYRE** - In loving memory of Peter Malcolm MacIntyre, who left us too soon, on June 3, 2018, aged 68

years. A much loved husband, dad and papa.

Always missed, always remembered, always loved.

- Geraldine and all the family.

Night night, Papa.

- Anna and Ruairidh.

**MCLAREN** - In loving memory of my beloved husband Donald, who died June 1, 2014.

I do not need a special day to bring you to my mind

I think of you every day and miss you by my side.

Love you always.

- Cressia Ann.

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The photograph shows the Procession on the day of Inauguration, June 9, 1920.

## Cathedral congregation face a very difference centenary

### THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

On Wednesday June 9, 1920, at 11am on St Columba's Day, St John's Church on George Street was inaugurated as the Diocesan Episcopal Cathedral by the then Bishop, The Rt Reverend Kenneth MacKenzie. This happened in the wake of the devastating Spanish Flu pandemic. One hundred years later, we were busily planning our Centenary Celebrations when the message was received that all churches were to be closed as COVID-19 took hold.

Having just entered Lent, we never dreamt that we would not be returning to worship for Holy Week or Easter,

Ascension or Pentecost. And yet maybe, the reading in the new Cathedral 100 years ago (read in Gaelic) was of greater significance than the gathered congregation could ever have imagined. It spoke of the church being made of living stones – its people.

Whilst it is hard not to be together in worship, hard to close the doors to those who love to come in and find some peace; we will rejoice when we can safely reopen at least for private prayer. But this time has reminded us that ultimately faith is not dependant on any building; faith is all about the Spirit filling us with love to live in ways that celebrate care, justice, joy and peace.

We are seeing glimpses of love in action every day, but faith reminds us that even after the fear of this virus has

passed, we still want to walk on the highway of the Lord, where the hungry are fed, the homeless find shelter and the sick are cared for, old or young, rich or poor with no discrimination.

We may be celebrating our centenary in a way that our predecessors (pictured on the day we became a Cathedral) could never have imagined, but Zoom and YouTube services, posted service texts and Virtual Moments of Peace have reminded us that, while it is a delight to worship in a building, faith is never confined within it; and the power of God's love that can transform us and the world, is unchanged.

**The Very Reverend Canon Margi Campbell, Provost and Rector of St John's Episcopal Cathedral**

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# Rugby club puts plans in place for uncertain future

by Fiona Scott  
fscott@obantimes.co.uk



Their season may have been stopped just as they were getting into their stride, but Oban Lorne RFC are looking ahead now and making plans for the future.

With the season declared null and void by Scottish Rugby there is no promotion or relegation, so the Glenruitten outfit will play in the same league with the same opposition next season.

'Oban were on a strong run of form having won their last few games and beating the first and third placed teams in the process,' said coach Andrew Johnston. Confidence was high and the boys were playing well and, if able to complete their fixtures, would hopefully have finished in third place.

'Looking ahead, the picture remains unclear about return to sport as we know it, with social distancing and other problems to be solved to allow a return to play.'

'This affects all levels of the club from the youngest to the oldest with lots of ideas being put forward about how to re-introduce training.'

Due to COVID-19 restrictions next month's annual general meeting has been postponed and the start date for the new season is uncertain.

Captain Iwan Roberts has stepped down from the captaincy and playing as he continues to recover from injury, while



**Main photograph: Calum MacLachlan will be vice captain while, inset, Fergus McCoss will don the captain's armband for Oban Lorne RFC next season.**

Photograph: Stephen Lawson.

'We pride ourselves on being part of the community and are looking at how we can integrate more while working as part of the new Mossfield group to improve the area for everyone,' he added. 'We also need to look at the bigger pictures going on around us.'

'How many of us rely on our fix of exercise to keep us sane - fine as we enjoy the summertime in Argyll but not so great if we are approaching a winter of doom and gloom. Be kind, be safe and look out for each other. We are in this together.'

The club has also been active on the fundraising front with a couple of players braving the shave and individuals from the men's and women's teams taking part in a virtual 178-mile race versus Wigtownshire RFC to raise funds.

vice captain Owen McDonald is moving to Inverness for the next part of his doctor training.

Johnston added: 'I would like to thank Iwan for his efforts over the last couple of seasons and hope he can look back with pride at how far he took the team in his spell as captain.'

'We hope to see him back on the field for the Green Machine at some point next season while we wish Owen all the best in his future career.'

Fergus McCoss will take on the captaincy as Calum MacLachlan steps in as vice

captain. A fresh influx of new young talent from the under-18 squad will also be welcomed.

Thom Catterwell, Ross McCaskill, Harry Johnston, Oran Charlton, Ellis Hunter, Jamie Blair, Jordan Norman and Kenni Gray are all championing at the bit to be involved with the senior squad. This addition will see the reformation of four individual teams within the club for training and selection purposes.

Linking to the Clan names from Oban High School - Diarmid, Fingal, Ossian and

Somerled - each player will be placed in a clan for the forthcoming season with points to be won in various categories including attendance at training, points scored and tackle completion.

Since the lockdown began, Oban Lorne players have been volunteering to help those shielding and isolating. Murray Hamilton and Allan Wright have been leading the response to calls for assistance and Andrew Johnston expressed his thanks to all the volunteers for their contributions.

## Shinty season to be localised in light of COVID

All shinty cup and league competitions have been cancelled for the rest of the season, to be replaced by localised matches when it is deemed safe to do so, writes Fiona Scott.

The decision was made by the governing body at a meeting last Thursday following discussions with sportscotland and an update from International Team doctor, John Wallace.

Having examined the latest guidance issued by the Scottish Government, the Camanachd Association board decided the focus should be on providing competitive opportunities and reducing travel.

Camanachd Association President Keith Loades said 'This decision was taken to provide clarity for clubs but also to highlight our commitment to the protection and wellbeing of our community.'

The Camanachd Association commended the important role shinty clubs continue to play during the pandemic to engage their members and support their communities.



## TIDES Thursday June 4, 2020

Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday June 4, 2020 are listed below with differences for major ports listed underneath. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

<b>Thur</b>	04.19	3.8	10.48	0.8
	16.45	3.8	22.55	0.6
<b>Fri</b>	05.02	3.9	11.30	0.7
	17.25	3.9	23.44	0.6
<b>Sat</b>	05.44	3.9	12.11	0.7
	18.06	4.0	**.**	*.*
<b>Sun</b>	00.31	0.6	06.25	3.8
	12.52	0.7	18.46	4.0
<b>Mon</b>	01.17	0.7	07.05	3.7
	13.34	0.8	19.27	3.9
<b>Tues</b>	02.02	0.9	07.44	3.5
	14.16	1.0	20.09	3.7
<b>Wed</b>	02.48	1.2	08.25	3.3
	15.00	1.2	20.53	3.5

## OBAN WEATHER

**THURSDAY**  
Sunny intervals and a moderate breeze  
Temperatures 7°C to 14°C.

**FRIDAY**  
Sunny intervals/moderate breeze 7°C to 12°C.

**WEEKEND OUTLOOK**  
**Saturday**  
Gusty winds and rain 8°C to 11°C.

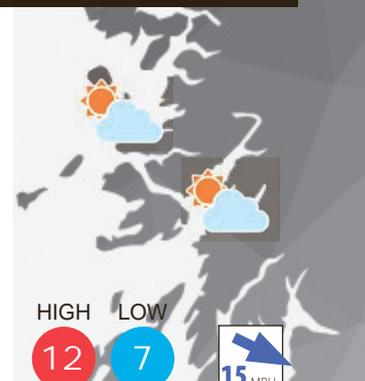
**Sunday**  
Light cloud / moderate breeze 8°C to 12°C.

## 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



# LOCHABER TIMES

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No 8514

Thursday 4 June, 2020

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95p



### Fort mum captures doorstep memories



### Youngsters help to create fire safety video

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MAKE THE SWITCH

# Travel advice is flouted as folk flock to beauty spots

by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

First Minister Nicola Sturgeon has threatened to tighten lockdown travel restrictions if there are repeats of the behaviour that saw people flock to sun-soaked Scottish beauty spots at the weekend, including Arisaig's beaches and Glencoe.

Giving her regular briefing on Monday, Ms Sturgeon singled out Glencoe as an example of somewhere that caused her particular concern.

She said: 'On Saturday, on the A82 by Loch Lomond, traffic was around three times higher than the previous Saturday. We saw a similar picture around Glencoe. I'm going to be blunt here – it is very hard to see how all of that can have been caused by local residents, or by people travelling a reasonable distance to meet loved ones.'

'So we will be considering all of this as we continue to assess the impact of the Phase 1 changes.'

Guidelines issued last week made clear that trips for leisure

or exercise should not exceed five miles.

In a joint statement, the chairpersons of community councils for Arisaig and District (Iain Macniven), Morar (David Newnham) and Mallaig (Sandra McLean), told us: 'Over the past few weeks a lot of local people have raised concerns about visitors ignoring the five-mile rule to visit our villages

**'We want you back – but in line with government advice.'**

and beaches and, while the majority of local businesses are almost totally reliant on tourism, we would respectfully request people to comply with the rule for their sake and the benefit of our community.

'We also ask that visitors treat our community land as they would treat their own property: put rubbish in the correct designated bins or take it away with them if there are no available bins.'

Local Mallaig police constable Hugo Martin said the numbers of people on beaches in the Arisaig area was nowhere near as many as would be seen on a normal summer weekend.

'But there were certainly more over the weekend than there had been in the weeks prior to the changes in the lockdown rules announced at the end of last week,' he told us on Tuesday.

Councillor Denis Rixson (Caol and Mallaig) said it was perhaps inevitable that as the lockdown was slightly relaxed, a number of people 'escaped' to the countryside.

'Living here I can't imagine the frustrations of being cooped up in a city flat with lively children desperate for some fresh air and a chance to play in the sand,' he told us.

But added: 'I would take this opportunity to urge restraint and self-discipline on all who are thinking of visiting.'

'We want you back, please – but slowly, cautiously, in line with Scottish Government advice.'

## Model T tale immortalised in bronze



Iain Blythe, left, Bill Cameron and Chris Robinson, of the Fort William group responsible for the installation of the life-size bronze Ford Model T, help to install a bronze plaque beside the monument to Henry Alexander. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

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**Fort William Household Waste Recycling Centre is now open.  
Restrictions apply. For more information please see page 2.**

LT

# Caitlin steps out for front door photography



Keira Taylor, Brian and Dougal of Angus Crescent, Fort William.



Above: Deborah Addison and her family at Angus Crescent, Fort William.

Right: The Sinclair family of Dumbarton Road, Fort William.

Mum of four Caitlin Knox has been celebrating family life during lockdown by photographing families on their front steps, writes Fiona Scott.

The amateur photographer, from Fort William, got the idea when a friend shared a Facebook post about #TheFrontStepsProject which had been started by a like-minded snapper in Boston who set out to capture families at home during lockdown.

Taking up the story Caitlin told the Lochaber Times: 'It went viral worldwide with lots of countries taking part and I thought I'd love to try that where I live in Upper Achintore. 'So, bearing in mind the



popularity of the local buying and selling page, I posted about heading round on a daily, socially distanced walk sometime to take photos and the response was phenomenal.'

Caitlin has loved taking photos as a hobby for more than 10 years and has documented the lives of her four children through the lens since they were little. She has never pursued it further except for family and friends.

The stay-at-home mum now works around the shifts of her paramedic husband, often with her four-year-old tagging along for her daily exercise.

'I've taken more than 50 family photos now including



Kim and Ewen Jamieson, Glenlochry Place, Fort William.

capturing birthday memories and a special pregnancy announcement,' she added.

Such is the appeal of what Caitlin is doing that a community group has been set up where everyone can share photos and let people know who is doing what in each area.

The hash tag has also been altered slightly to #FrontStepProject.

Caitlin said: 'With word of mouth and sharing there's been people from Caol, Corpach, Inverlochry and Claggan all taking part.

'It's become a real community project and it's entirely free. It's been lovely getting out and about and chatting to people who maybe haven't seen anyone in a while.

'Everyone has been so grateful for their photos and it feels like I'm spreading some joy when most of the news these days is doom and gloom.

'In 50 years, when our children set up memory pages on Facebook, it will be lovely to have all these photos on our doorstep.'

Anyone wishing to join in or find out more can join the public group on the Fort William Front Step Project Facebook page.



The Wallace family, Lochaber Road, Fort William.



Caitlin Knox, bottom right, with children Hailie, Rory and Gracie, dad Alan at the back and daughter Sophie.



## New Web page for Phase 1 Recovery

For information and essential details from the Glencoe and Loch Leven area during recovery, visit:

**discoverglencoe.scot/covid-19**

Thank you for following the guidelines so far. We would urge everyone to continue to respect the guidance during phase 1. Hopefully, then the next phases of recovery will run smoothly and safely.

**Be patient. Your safety is our top priority. We are working hard to implement the guidelines on social distancing and increased hygiene before we open.**

Businesses are mostly closed. We are opening as the phases of recovery allow – and only when we are confident that we can meet the standards and feel ready to welcome the public back into our premises.

**Plan before you travel. At the current time many car parks, conveniences and businesses remain closed.**

Be ready to adapt your plans. If you feel it's too busy when you arrive somewhere, have an alternative in mind. There are so many beauty spots and pathways here, we're very fortunate with our backyard!

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**Due to social distancing measures, there may be delays, please be patient.**

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www.highland.gov.uk ✉ recycle@highland.gov.uk ☎ 01349 886603

# Firefighter mum creates video with young stars' help

by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

A Western Isles firefighter has called upon a team of young stars to help create a fun and informative video on how families can stay safe at home.

Watch Commander Danielle MacGillivray, from Benbecula, set a task for her son Peter, eight, and other children of family friends, each undertaking a series of simple safety measures.

This included testing smoke alarms, ensuring candles are fully extinguished, switching off plugs, and making sure doors within the home are closed.

Watch Commander MacGillivray then compiled a compilation of her young stars – aged between two and 10, primarily from the Outer Hebrides but also as far afield as Glasgow and Aberdeen –



and hopes it might connect with other families and youngsters.

'With an eight-year-old at home, we know how important it is for children to have



Some of the youngsters who helped make the video on fire safety, including Danielle's son Peter, above.

tasks and be kept busy right now,' Watch Commander MacGillivray explained.

'I've also worked closely with schools on some really simple fire safety tasks, such as testing smoke alarm and learning their home address should they need to phone 999.

'So I asked some friends across the islands and across Scotland, all with a connection to the Hebrides, if their

children would help us make a fun and educational video highlighting some key fire safety advice.

'I thought this would be good tasks for the kids, and then I could package it together in a video that might be useful for other parents and families, and something that could maybe help other people to stay safe at home.

'We're all spending so much time at home right now, and using more gadgets, and it's important that people are aware of the potential dangers.'

Watch Commander MacGillivray, 30, joined the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) as a retained firefighter in 2013, and last summer took up a new position as part of the rural full-time cadre.

In this role, she offers key support to retained and volunteer fire stations in protecting

rural communities across North and South Uist.

'It's a fantastic job and I feel lucky to be able to work closely with so many different fire stations across the area,' Watch Commander MacGillivray said.

SFRS Chief Officer Martin Blunden added: 'We work together to protect every community not only by responding to incidents, but also by preventing them from happening in the first place.

'This is an absolutely fantastic video which demonstrates some of the innovative ways in which staff are connecting with communities across Scotland. I must thank all the young stars for helping us to educate and inform people on key advice to lower the risk of fires starting at home.

'I look forward to the future when we can invite them to visit their local fire stations.'

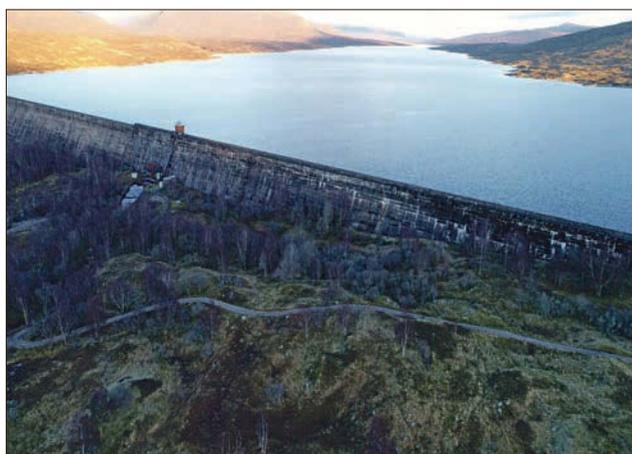
## Construction work starts on Blackwater Dam hydro scheme

SIMEC Energy, part of the GFG Alliance, started construction work on its new hydropower facility at Blackwater Dam, near Kinlochleven, on Monday of this week in response to updated Scottish government guidance on construction work amid the COVID-19 pandemic, writes Mark Entwistle.

The project, which will generate enough electricity to meet the annual needs of 1,200 Scottish homes, forms part of the GFG Alliance's strategy to integrate renewable energy development with its industrial operations in Scotland and globally.

The company says work on the Blackwater Hydro scheme will adhere to recently revised Scottish Government guidance, which enables building and construction work to resume with social distancing safeguards in place for workers and local residents.

General Manager of SIMEC Lochaber Power, Tom Uppington, commented: 'Across our aluminium and power operations in Lochaber, we have been following both UK and Scottish government



Construction work was due to start this week on the new hydro scheme at Blackwater Dam, pictured, near Kinlochleven.

guidance closely to ensure our staff, contractors and wider members of the public are kept safe amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

'Renewable energy from hydropower schemes is critical to the long-term sustainability of GFG Alliance by providing a clean and reliable source of power to industrial assets such as ALVANCE's aluminium smelter in Lochaber.'

In addition to hydro schemes, SIMEC is seeking to develop

a 168MW wind farm on the Glenshero estate, near Laggan, as part of the GFG Alliance's ambition to be carbon neutral across all its businesses by 2030 and in line with Scottish Government legislation last year committing Scotland to net-zero emissions of greenhouse gases by 2045.

Local residents that have any problems to report are asked to contact Mark Tayler at SIMEC on [mark.tayler@lochabersmelter.com](mailto:mark.tayler@lochabersmelter.com)

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](mailto:ian.blackford.mp@parliament.uk)  
[www.ianblackford.scot](http://www.ianblackford.scot)  
01397 700030

Stay Home.  
Stay Safe.  
Protect Our NHS.



LT

## Western Isles volunteers rise to challenge

Na h-Eileanan an Iar SNP MSP Alasdair Allan has paid tribute to volunteers who have helped the NHS and local communities in the Western Isles as people celebrate Volunteers' Week (June 1-7).

Mr Allan said: 'Many people in the islands have now taken on COVID-19 related volunteering roles and it's more important than ever to show our appreciation for their hard work.'

'Volunteers will be critical in our efforts to support and rebuild our communities, and we are all appreciative and grateful to those who are ensuring people get the help and support they need.'

During this pandemic, volunteers have signed up to help in record numbers through the Scotland Cares initiative – more than 53,000 in one month – joining the thousands of people who were already helping, either with one of Scotland's many voluntary and community sector groups or informally with neighbours.

# West Highland College on course for new term

by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

West Highland College UHI, which has a campus in Fort William, has confirmed that all of their courses will be going ahead on their planned start dates with students beginning their studies as scheduled this coming autumn.

Further Education Students' term will start on August 31 and Higher Education Students will begin their studies on September 7.

What makes this move possible during the current coronavirus lockdown is that West Highland College UHI has 10 years' experience of delivering courses using a combination of online teaching technologies and video conferencing that connects students and allows them to study from all over the Highlands.

Students say it has been a successful way for them to study



and gain their qualifications.

Adam Robertson, head of curriculum at the college, said: 'We were already planning to increase this type of delivery.'

'However as a result of the current COVID-19 health crisis our staff have utilised all their expertise and experience to quickly finalise the planned changes and allow all of our courses to go ahead for 2020.'

'This will give potential students the confidence that they can apply for the course

they want this autumn and go on to succeed on their chosen career path.'

'For our more practical courses, we are working with industry bodies and employers to rapidly assess what will be required in terms of social distancing measures, industry standards and safety measures.'

'We have therefore been able to put in place innovative and flexible ways of teaching to allow subjects such as Professional Cookery,

West Highland College UHI is gearing up for the new term, lifted.

Construction, Rural Skills and Maritime and Aquaculture Skills and Adventure to start as expected in September 2020.'

The college has been at the forefront of designing courses that can be studied by students anywhere in the Highlands.

Business, Social Care, Creative and Digital Design and Psychology are just some of the subjects already delivered by West Highland College UHI online.

Learning takes place in real-time, in an online classroom, collaborating with classmates and their lecturer using a combination of video conferencing, interactive chat and shared visuals.

Natassja Oulton, from

Ullapool, studied for an NC Early Education and Childcare and then HNC Childhood Practice, she said of the online teaching: 'It is a very easy system to use and you get lots more time for thinking about your studies. Studying from my hometown of Ullapool has been a breeze as it means I've been able to fit in study with my shifts at work.'

Fiona Grant, director of academic affairs, added: 'Our approach to learning and teaching focuses on the student, their experience, the quality of their learning.'

'Our flexible courses help students to combine study with family and work. Now we can also help students and their families stay safe, by giving an even greater choice of subjects that can be studied from anywhere with an internet connection. All of our students are supported by experienced staff.'

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Members of the Highlands and Islands Blood Bikes team. The charity is looking for more volunteer riders and car drivers.

## Bike charity aims to deliver speedy service

A service designed to deliver urgent medical samples in quick smart time is being rolled out across Lochaber, writes Fiona Scott.

Highland's and Island's Blood Bikes (HAIBB) started operating in Inverness on March 23, just prior to the COVID-19 lockdown, and after a busy start have quickly realised that, if they are to offer the speed of service to NHS Highland that they would like, they need bikes located in each hospital area.

A BMW F800GT is expected to arrive in Fort William on Saturday, June 6.

Jeremy Richardson, chairman of Highland and Islands

Blood Bikes, explained: 'We have been operating from Inverness up to now and this means a minimum of 1.25 hours (the time taken to get from Inverness to Fort William) to respond to a call. 'By having a bike in Fort William, the response will be instant, and we can have samples at the Raigmore Laboratory within the previous one way travel time.'

'We see this as a start, with our service developing along with the demand that is generated in the Lochaber area.'

HAIBB is entirely voluntary and is currently on the look out for riders in the area.

'Ideally we would like many

riders in the Lochaber area so that each one was only doing one or two shifts per month,' added Mr Richardson.

Car drivers are also needed to supplement the service during the winter months.

Go to [www.haibloodbikes.co.uk](http://www.haibloodbikes.co.uk) for more information.

HAIBB are always looking for financial support and are looking for support within the communities they serve. There are many corporate sponsorship opportunities available to local companies and funding groups. More information can be obtained from the HAIBB fund raising manager at [fundraising@haibloodbikes.co.uk](mailto:fundraising@haibloodbikes.co.uk)

LT

## Friends of friends get behind Kinloch Castle ownership bid

Kinloch Castle Friends Association are ramping up their bid to become beneficial owners of the 19th-century masterpiece on Rum, writes Fiona Scott.

Following the failure of their asset transfer proposal last year the group have been in talks with Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) to discuss the future for the castle.

SNH informed the charitable group that they were now seeking a beneficial owner that would contribute towards three key objectives and that any proposals from the Friends Association would be considered. The objectives are:

- Cultural heritage: securing the conservation and preservation of Kinloch Castle;

- Community: contributing to the socio-economic sustainability of the Rum community;

- Nature and climate change: enhancing the natural environment on Rum, promoting its enjoyment and minimising the carbon footprint and environmental impact from the use of the Castle.

Following meetings with

Highland and Islands Enterprise (HIE) and with Historic Environment Scotland (HES) the group are now seeking funding to move a phased plan forward.

'It has always been intended that green energy would be used as soon as possible but that there would be a time lag,' said a spokesperson from the association. 'We are confident we can demonstrate that we can fulfil the criteria.'

Proposals for phase one include creating bed and breakfast rooms in the former hostel, plus more bathrooms and restoring the bar and bistro.

The second phase is to work towards restoring the other better letting rooms, and the 'museum' rooms.

The group has the backing of Ian Blackford MP and Kate Forbes MSP who have both been supportive of the proposals.

Mr Blackford said: 'Their proposals appear to meet SNH's three key objectives for 'a beneficial owner' – securing the conservation and preservation of Kinloch Castle; contrib-

uting to the socio-economic sustainability of the Rum community; and enhancing the natural environment on Rum, while minimising the carbon footprint and environmental impact from use of the Castle.

'The project seeks to bring much-needed additional employment to Rum as well as ensuring a viable and sustainable future for the castle.

'I am happy to support any realistic plans that will ensure a viable and sustainable future for Kinloch Castle and wish the group well going forward.'

Ms Forbes commented: 'Though the group was very disappointed with the asset transfer decision, they are continuing to work hard behind the scenes and I don't think it is the end of the road for Kinloch Castle. I am keen to support Friends of Kinloch Castle, and met with them before the lockdown to look at this again and see if there is another way of achieving their aims.'

The association has also written to HRH the Prince of Wales and to Lord Thurso the chairman of Visit Scotland.



## Lockdown light-up comes full circle at Glenfinnan

In what will be the last of the series of light-ups, the iconic Glenfinnan viaduct joined famous venues and attractions across the country in lighting up in the colours of the NHS to salute the efforts of healthcare workers in the fight against coronavirus last Thursday, writes Fiona Scott.

National Trust for Scotland's Glenfinnan Monument also turned blue as a night time salute to the NHS and other key workers.

Network Rail in Scotland has lit up stations and structures every Thursday evening since the start of lockdown.

The 21-arch landmark, located at the top of Loch Shiel, was the first structure to be lit up in NHS blue to support front-line staff and key workers in early April, and to end the series it was thought coming full circle, and lighting the viaduct again, would provide a fitting finale and tribute.

Alex Hynes, managing direc-

tor at Scotland's Railway said: 'We are delighted to return to Glenfinnan viaduct and again illuminate what many consider to be one of Scotland's most iconic structures as a symbol of public support for the vital and fantastic work of NHS staff.'

Both the monument and viaduct light-ups were undertaken by the Stage Group, while adhering to the safe distancing messages from the government.

## Coronavirus

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

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



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

Email **info@bid4oban.co.uk**



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# Lochaber family-run monitor farm features in new report

by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

The importance of the Lochaber farm involved with the Monitor Farm Scotland programme has been highlighted in a new report.

Improved community spirit, better business performance and an openness to change are just some of the benefits experienced by farming groups and businesses involved in the 2016-2019 Monitor Farm Scotland programme, according to the report launched by Quality Meat Scotland (QMS) and Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board (AHDB).

Funded by Scottish Government, the aim of the Monitor Farm Project is to help improve the productivity, profitability and sustainability of Scottish farm businesses.

Strone Farm at Banavie is one of nine monitor farms es-



Chris Cameron, who runs Strone Farm with parents Malcolm and Eileen.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson

With farming often an isolating and lonely profession, one of the most profound effects of the initiative has been in bringing farming communities together.

Meeting regularly and sharing ideas and offering feedback has helped forge new friendships, build confidence and encourage knowledge sharing.

Bruce McConachie, head of industry development with QMS said: 'Every one of the nine monitor farms has embraced the support of the monitor farm network wholeheartedly.'

'The Monitor Farm Impact Report highlights the numerous improvements host farmers have made to their businesses, which, in turn, has made them more resilient and profitable.'

'The results also show that at the heart of the initiative is the support of the whole farming industry. Through regular farm meetings with industry experts

and a passionate group of local farmers, knowledge and experiences have been shared.'

Strone Farm is run by Chris Cameron and his parents, Malcolm and Eileen, who have 370 North Country Cheviot x Lleyens and 150 North Country Cheviot ewes, plus 50 Limousin cows.

Malcolm said the Lochaber Monitor Farm Programme has also helped bring people together and encouraged connections in a remote region.

'One of the biggest unspoken challenges farmers and crofters in this part of the world face is the isolation, we just don't see our farming neighbours like we used to,' he said.

'The Monitor Farm Programme has given us the opportunity to come together as a group with shared vision and vested interest in the future of our local community and share thoughts and ideas about how we can improve things.'

tablished across Scotland with the others being in Nithsdale, Sutherland, the Borders, North Ayrshire, Shetland, Morayshire, the Lothians and Angus.

The Monitor Farm Impact Report includes the changes

and improvements each of the monitor farms have made over the three-year programme.

The report also showcases the results of a survey conducted with those who were part of the project. The survey highlighted that 93 per cent of those who at-

tended a monitor farm meeting felt this was a good use of their time. The results also show that 70 per cent of attendees say the monitor farm programme allowed them to form new networks and build relationships with their farming community.

# 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

# Flood damage will not delay high school reopening

by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

A burst water pipe on the third floor of Lochaber High School which caused major damage to the building, will not impact on the school being reopened to pupils on August 11, according to The Highland Council education committee chairman, Councillor John Finlayson.

As soon as the burst was discovered over the weekend, local authority staff made alternative arrangements, allowing the coronavirus Key Worker Hub located within Fort William's secondary school to be moved, reopening first thing on Monday morning at St Columba's Joint Campus at Caol.

In a statement, Councillor Finlayson said: 'I would like to thank everyone involved for their quick work to set

up alternative arrangements so efficiently, working over the weekend to ensure that disruption to key workers and their children was kept to a minimum.

'All of the families affected were informed over the weekend and I am sure staff will be working extra hard to make

**'I'm sure staff will work extra hard to help children settle in.'**

sure the children settle in well at the Caol Joint Campus.'

Work to make safe the affected areas to allow a full assessment of the damage and repair work required is now under way, and in the meantime, the school's head teacher Scott Steele and his senior management team have moved to office space in Fort William.

The Keeping in Touch Hub was due to open at Lochaber High School for allocated pupils. Caol Primary has been chosen as the alternative venue for this hub. Parents were informed and staff were working hard to open yesterday (Wednesday).

A Keeping in Touch Hub is specifically for young people and their families who require more support and is part of managing the phased return to school for all pupils.

Asked later by the Lochaber Times if the flood damage meant there would be any delay to the school being open to receive students in August, Councillor Finlayson told us: 'No I don't think there is any threat to plans to reopen the school in August. My understanding is that it was a burst copper pipe, possibly involving a seal of some description.

'Because it was discovered

on the Saturday it was able to be stopped before the damage was made worse and allowed the clean-up operation to get started and that is now well under way.

'I can't think of any reason for it to affect the reopening of the school on August 11.'

The Lochaber Times understands it will take around three weeks to repair the damage caused by the burst pipe.



A burst water pipe caused major damage to Lochaber High School over the weekend, but the clean-up operation is now under way.

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## LETTERS

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

## Online classrooms are way forward for students

This must be a worrying time for students across the country not only for those in the middle of courses, but for those youngsters hoping to start their further education studies after the summer.

But there was good news this week for those who attend, or who plan to attend a course run by West Highland College UHI.

For staff are busy preparing for the new term, and the reason staff are able to do so with such confidence is that the college has 10 years' experience of delivering courses using a combination of online teaching and video conferencing that connects students and allows them to study – and gain their qualifications – from across the Highlands.

This flexible way of working is no doubt the way forward and West Highland College UHI is to be commended for all its hard work and innovation.

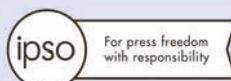
## Video stars

Well done to Danielle MacGillivray, from Benbecula, and her cast of young stars who helped her create a fun and informative video on how families can stay safe at home.

The Watch Commander told us: 'We're all spending so much time at home right now, and using more gadgets, and it's important people are aware of the potential dangers.'

Make sure you watch the video!

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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## Scottish Government are right to 'ca' canny

I read with interest Angus MacDonald's Around Lochaber column in the Lochaber Times of May 28. Angus is a competent businessman whose commitment and generosity to Lochaber is clearly seen. While I disagree with his conclusions, his piece is thought provoking and a useful contribution in giving a local perspective on the national debate. No one should underestimate the adverse effects of lockdown on physical, emotional, economic and societal health.

However I do wish to pick up on two points Angus made. Firstly contained within his quote attributed to Edinburgh biologist Professor Richard Ennos is the proposition that 'an appropriate policy is the targeted shielding of those who chose to be classified as vulnerable.' I find this choice of language unhelpful. Prof Ennos' primary academic interest is in the study of plants.<sup>(1)</sup> Many Lochaber residents will have received official shielding letters on account of medical conditions such as cancer, severe asthma, organ transplantation or treatment with powerful medicines which suppress the immune system. I know there will be many within this group who would feel they have little choice in being particularly susceptible to the serious effects of coronavirus.

Secondly, Angus contends that the Scottish Government was too slow to impose lockdown and also too slow to release restrictions. I have a degree of sympathy with the first contention. However in terms of releasing restrictions we must proceed with utmost caution. Returning to normal too early carries significant risk. It is worth pointing out that on 23 March (when lockdown was first imposed) the average daily number of new cases over the preceding week was 47. In the week leading up to 25 May that daily average stood at 61. (2). If the government were on the tardy side in imposing lockdown they would be foolish to release restrictions any more than they have done so given current number of cases.

Like most of your readers I long for a return to a more normal Lochaber summer. This does however need to be done at the right time; the Scottish Government are right to 'ca' canny' on this one.

1. The University of Edinburgh profile of Prof Richard Ennos: [www.ed.ac.uk/profile/richard-ennos](http://www.ed.ac.uk/profile/richard-ennos) 2. Derived from Scottish Government official figures: [www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-trends-in-daily-data/](http://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-trends-in-daily-data/)

(Dr) John Wallace, Banavie, Fort William.

## Don't blame the First Minister

In his Around Lochaber column, Angus Macdonald bemoans the lack of a timetable in

## Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL

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

Cluinnear tric faclan eadar-dhealaichte Gàidhlig air rud neo gnìomh àraid air choreigin, a' nochdadh beartas cànan anns na h-atharrachaidhean beaga sgìreil sin. Àm buain na mòna agus san sgìre dam buin mise bhiomaid a' breacadh uachdar a' phuill an toiseach a' gearradh sìos le spaid mùn tèid gearradh fodha, agus an uairsin ga rùsgadh, ach fiù 's ann am pàirtean eile den Eilean Sgitheanach cluinnear bruidhinn air a bhith toirt an sgrath dhen pholl, neo ga fheanadh. Bhiodh sinne a' buain le "iarann mòna", cuid eile le "toirsgean" agus nuair a bhiodh uachdar nam fàdan air cruadhachadh bhiodh sinne gan "togail", feadhainn eile ga "rùdhadh". Bhithte cuideachd "a" rùsgadh" chaorach, neo gan "lomadh", is bha feur ga "ghearradh" is ga "ghabhail", agus meadhan an fhoghair bhiodh arbhar, neo coirce, ga "bhuaibh". Deireadh an fhoghair bhiodh buntata ga "bhuaibh", neo ga "thogail".

Chan ann a-mhàin sa Ghàidhlig a tha leithid seo de dh'atharrachaidhean a' tachairt, agus tha fios gum feum a h-uile cànan ùrachadh, a' cruthachadh fhaclan agus abairtean ùra ma tha e gu bhith buan ann an saoghal a tha a' gluasad fad na h-ùine. Bidh sibh mothachail air faclan a' nochdadh ann an Gàidhlig nach aithne dhuibh, agus aig amannan cluinnidh mi fhìn caoban mòra Gàidhlig nach eil mi gann a' tuigsinn! Ach sin adhartas a dh'fheumas tachairt agus fhad 's a ghlèidhear bun-stèidh a' chànan a bh' ann

cuiridh briathrachas ùr an tuilleadh beartais ris. 'S i an dùbhlán as cudromaiche dha faclan ùra gun gabh luchd-labhairt a' chànan riutha is gun tuig iad an ciall.

Bho àm gu àm anns a' ghàrradh molaiddh mise flùr air choreigin is thèid innse dhomh gur e tha sin ach luibh! Dè an t-eadar-dhealachadh eadar lus is luibh? Cò cho-dhùin gum bheil an dàrna planntais math is am fear eile dona? An e dìreach cùis cànan a th' ann, cùis cèille? Mar a tha sinn a' faicinn gach latha tha sàr eòlaichean-lagha a' dèanamh fortan à argamaid ciall chùmhnanntan is sgrìobhainnean laghail far nach eil ciall nam faclan sgrìobhte cho soilleir 's a dh'fhaodadh iad a bhith. Ach nuair a thuit riaghaltas na dùthcha ri mòr-shluagh Bhreatainn gun robh còir aca fuireach aig an taigh gus sgapadh a' Choròna-bhiorais a bhacadh, agus gus beatha dhaoine a shàbhaladh, thuig sinn sin agus rinn sinn mar a dh'iarradh oirnn.

Cionnas ma tha a b' urrainn dha càraid fhoghlamaichte, agus dithis aig am bheil làn-thuigse air poileasaidh an Riaghaltais air an iomairt an aghaidh Covid 19, ciall eadar-dhealaichte a ghabhail agus siubhal còrr air trì ceud mìle ann an Sasainn? Doirbh a chreidsinn nach eil, agus pailt cho doirbh a chreidsinn gum bheil am Prìomhaire agus Buill a Chaibineat a' dìon an fhear a rinn sin!

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

the Scottish Government's plan to exit from lockdown. Of course there isn't a timetable – how could there be when each step depends on the success of the previous stage? The plan is a sequence, not a programme.

Whether businesses in England are being encouraged back to work is irrelevant; the vast majority of people in Scotland are endorsing the Scottish Government's cautious approach. Coupled with that scientists and clinicians advising the UK Government are now very concerned that the relaxation in England is going too quickly which may result in a second wave.

While Mr Macdonald cites a cost to Britain of £250 billion much of that is in loans. The cost of grants under the job retention scheme is likely to be £80 billion by October which is a fraction of the £1.2 trillion provided to the banks after the 2008 crisis. We need to look at these things in context.

It's easy for any of us to fish for statistics that support our argument but the eventual emergence of accurate international data on seasonal excess deaths will be the acid test of how this crisis has been handled in UK. Until then, the consensus seems strong that countries like the UK and the US locked down too late, perhaps by three or four weeks. Don't blame that on the First Minister.

Rather than concluding the column in a litany of inaccuracies it would have been better to have been correct. For example, the Scottish testing and tracing programme is up to speed, differing financial support has been adopted to recognise the different nature of the Scottish economy and allow more sectors to benefit. The NIKE conference story has been debunked some time ago and it's wrong to suggest otherwise – contact tracing always centres on the index case and their defined contacts which didn't involve

## Chunky Spiced Chicken Burgers

Burger and chips get a zingy Indian-style makeover



6 Syns per serving 45 minutes Serves 4  
Deduct 6 Syns if using Bread rolls wholemeal as a Healthy Extra 'B' choice.

## Ingredients

600g skinless chicken breast fillets, roughly chopped  
2½ tsp medium curry powder, plus a large pinch to garnish  
1 large carrot, peeled and coarsely grated  
4 tbsp fat-free natural Greek yogurt  
A small handful of fresh coriander, finely chopped, plus a little extra to garnish  
4 x 60g wholemeal rolls

## Method:

Preheat your oven to 200°C/ fan 180°C/gas 6 and line a baking tray with baking paper. Boil the wedges for 4-5 minutes, drain well, return to the pan and cover. Lightly shake to roughen up their edges, then arrange on the tray in a single layer. Spray with low-calorie cooking-spray, sprinkle with a pinch of curry powder, season lightly with salt and freshly ground black pepper and bake for 15-20 minutes, or until golden. Meanwhile, preheat your grill to medium-hot and line your grill tray with foil. Put the chicken and 2 tsp curry powder in a food processor, season and whizz until finely chopped. Transfer to a bowl, mix in the grated carrot and shape into 4 x low-calorie cooking spray and place on the grill tray. Grill for 6-7 minutes on each side, until golden and cooked through. Meanwhile, put the yogurt in a small bowl and stir in the coriander and remaining curry powder. Put the salad ingredients in a salad bowl and toss well. Cut the rolls in half, brown the cut side on a hot griddle pan then transfer to serving plates. Spoon a little of the salad over the base of each, top with the burgers, yogurt and a sprinkle of coriander and curry powder, then serve with the rest of the salad and the wedges.

## For the wedges:

800g floury potatoes, such as Desiree or King Edward, scrubbed and cut into wedges  
Low-calorie cooking spray  
A pinch of medium curry powder  
For the salad:  
2 little gem lettuces, thickly sliced  
½ cucumber, roughly chopped  
2 tbsp fat-free vinaigrette

## PLEASE NOTE:

**ALL CLASSES ARE CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

Your consultant for Lochaber and Oban is Gillian on 07796 040803, Lochgilhead & Campbeltown Rhona 07880 878906. Available for Slimming World phone support and guidance.



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everyone in the vicinity of the NIKE conference.

Last, there hasn't been a disproportionately higher death level in Scottish care homes, which myth has been debunked by the London School of Economics. Proportionately, there have been 25 per cent more deaths in care homes in England and Wales, compared with Scotland.

Someone writing a column in a reputable newspaper surely has a duty to present accurate information?

**Bill Lees, Glenmallie, Banavie.**

## Selfish bikers put us at risk

This weekend Oban was shaken out of lockdown by the roar of over 20 motorbikes coming in to town. It beggars belief that so many selfish, irresponsible people could break the Scottish Government guidelines.

I am afraid that unlike the First Minister I don't have the same faith in human nature. I have also noticed an increase in people visiting Oban. In one case, a minibus in George Street with at least eight people on board, not from the permitted five miles away.

The majority of Oban residents are doing the right thing but are being let down and being put in danger by the selfish acts of others. They came and they went, but goodness knows what they left us.

**Councillor R McCuish, Deputy Provost Argyll and Bute Council.**

## Thank you to our volunteers

Every year, Volunteers Week provides an opportunity to recognise the very significant contribution to community life made by those who give freely of their time and talents to help others. Given the challenges wrought on all of us by the coronavirus pandemic, in this year of all years it is more important than ever to acknowledge and show gratitude for the dedication of volunteers.

Across Argyll and Bute, thousands of people – as individuals and in groups – have stepped forward to do what they can to help in these highly unusual and completely unfamiliar circumstances. In doing so, they have very often put their own safety and health aside, focusing instead on assisting those who have found themselves in need of support or, sometimes, in very considerable hardship.

To all of those who are volunteering in and for Argyll and Bute, on behalf of the Lieutenancy of Argyll and Bute, I say: thank you. We see and hear what you are doing, and we are so grateful for all that you do. As communities it would be impossible to get through a crisis of this scale without your help. Thank you, most sincerely.

The Lieutenancy is always very keen to hear about volunteer activity across the area and if you know of a person or group in your community whose efforts should be recognised, please do contact me on [patrick@llab.org.uk](mailto:patrick@llab.org.uk)

**Patrick Stewart CVO MBE WS,  
HM Lord-Lieutenant for Argyll and Bute.**

# DISTRICT NEWS

Send us your district news.  
Email: [fort@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:fort@obantimes.co.uk)  
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## Happy lockdown birthday!

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

**Declan Dunn, right, from Kinlochleven, celebrated his 11th birthday on May 15. Declan was lucky enough to get a trials bike but unfortunately couldn't go out on the hills until after lockdown so he has been practicing in the garden.**



**Riley Morrison, from Kinlochleven, turned 10 on May 13. Riley received presents from a distance and got lots of football things to practice with.**

## Lewis-based trust launches new COVID services

Isle of Lewis community wind farm organisation Point and Sandwick Trust (PST) has launched a new delivery, meals on wheels and befriending service in its latest effort to support the community in the fight against COVID-19, writes Mark Entwistle.

Three new members of staff have been appointed to make the deliveries and check in by telephone on the wellbeing of people in need in the Point and Sandwick area.

Peter McNeill and Matthew Smith have been appointed as delivery drivers, while Sandra Macleod has been appointed as co-ordinator of the service.

They will be in post for several months and the jobs have been funded by grants to PST from the Corra Foundation and the Scottish Government's Supporting Communities Fund via Highlands and Islands Enterprise.

A flyer informing households of the service has been produced and will drop through every letterbox in the Point and Sandwick area.

The grocery delivery service aims to help those residents who are self-isolating, unable to get to the shops due to transport difficulties or who have any other circumstances that have been exacerbated by the pandemic lockdown.

The drivers will safely pick up and deliver



**The new delivery team, from left, Peter McNeill, Matthew Smith and Sandra Macleod.**

Photograph: Sandie Maciver of SandiePhotos

shopping that has been ordered and prepaid from local stores and will also be helping with deliveries from the food bank.

The launch of the service, with its two elements, is the latest action from Point and Sandwick Trust to help mitigate the impacts of the coronavirus pandemic.

Announcing the creation of the pandemic community fund in March, Calum Macdonald,

the former MP for the Western Isles who is also the development manager for PST, said the trust board had decided to devote 'all the income that isn't already committed to key local organisations like Bethesda to support the community effort we are going to need to get through the pandemic.'

He added: 'Whatever happens, we will have to pull together to help each other.'

the-bathroom-showroom.co.uk

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# OPEN FOR BUSINESS

We realise that many more businesses would love to be open, serving locals and visitors alike – our deepest empathy goes out to these businesses and we look forward to seeing their doors wide open when this is all over. Please feel free to get in touch with us if you would like to feature your business, or know a business that should be included. Email nmurphy@obantimes.co.uk or get in touch via our Facebook page on messenger. Let's spread the word as much as we can!

## SUPERMARKETS AND FOODHALLS

### MARKS & SPENCER FOODHALL

Open 8am-8pm Mon-Sat, until 6pm Sun  
Mon and Thurs 8am-9am elderly customer priority  
Tues and Fri 8am-9am NHS staff only  
Social distancing measures in place  
Tel: 01397 600208

### MORRISONS

Open Mon-Sat 7am-8pm  
7am-8pm Sunday  
Weekdays 7am-8am for NHS workers priority and 7am-8am Sunday  
All colleagues with an NHS badge will be able to get into the store to stock up on the products they need.  
Please note all our cafes are now closed.  
Tel: 01397 700333  
Tel: 0345 6116111 option 5 for doorstep deliveries for elderly and vulnerable

### LIDL

Open Mon-Fri 8am-10pm  
Sun 8am-8pm  
Tel: 0800 977 7766

### ALDI

Open Mon-Sat 8am-8pm  
Sun 9am-8pm  
8am-9am for example plus key worker priority at tills  
Tel: 0800 042 0800

### FARMFOODS

Open: 8am-8pm Mon-Fri  
Sat: 8am-7pm  
Sun: 9am-6pm  
Tel: 0121 700 7160

### CO-OP STORES

CAOL, CORPACH, MALLAIG  
Mon-Sun: 7am-8pm  
Key worker priority shopping: 8am-9am (Sun 10am-11am)  
Tel: 01397 703302

### TESCO EXPRESS

Open: 7am-9pm Mon-Sat. Sun: 10am-5pm  
NHS/Key Worker Priority Hour: Tuesday/Thursday 9am-10am Sunday 9am-10am.  
Vulnerable customers Monday 9am-10am, Wednesday 9am-10am, Friday 9-10am

## TAKEAWAY FOOD

### THE GEOGRAPHER

Open for orders Fri-Sun, from 4.30pm  
Order from 2.30pm  
See FB page for full menu  
Delivery service  
Tel: 01397 705011

### SPICE TANDOORI

Open daily from 4pm  
Phone orders only  
Payment preferred over telephone by card  
Deliveries from 5pm  
Tel: 01397 705192

### MACARI'S FISH & CHIPS

Order via JustEat  
Order from 3.30pm for collection from 4pm.  
Social distancing rules apply for queuing customers  
Tel: 01397 703333

### BEN NEVIS TAKEAWAY

Inverlochy  
Pizza!  
Place your order via JustEat or  
Tel: 01397706171

### THE STABLES RESTAURANT

Extensive takeaway available with weekend specials.  
Tel: 01397 700730, Wed-Sat, 5pm-9pm  
Contactless collection service.

### TORLINNHE GUEST HOUSE

Starts next week  
3-course special menu and Healthy Juice menu  
Collection from Achintore Road.  
20% discount for NHS workers  
Visit Facebook page for more information

### CAFE MANGO

Special take-away menu  
From Friday 1st May and every Tuesday to Sunday.  
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Delivery service or open to one-person collection  
Check FB page for full menu

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Drive-in takeaway and delivery  
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Spean Bridge, PH34 4DZ

## LOCAL FRESH FOOD SUPPLIERS

### LOCHABER LARDER

Blar Mhor Ind. Estate  
Collection or delivery  
Shop open: 9am-1pm, Tues to Sat for collection  
In conjunction with Iain Stewart Fishmonger, JM Breckenridge and Glen Spean Brewery  
Great selection of meats, fish, vegetables, eggs, milk, butter and flour  
Check out FB for list of details  
Order by 1pm for next day delivery  
Fort William and surrounding area, Mon-Sat  
Mallaig Tues & Thurs  
Strontian & Acharacle Wed  
Kinlochleven & Ballachulish Thurs  
Spean Bridge & Roy Bridge Sat  
Telephone orders: 01397 703070

### IAIN STEWART FISHMONGER

Collection or delivery – Blar Mhor Ind. Estate  
Open 9am-1pm Tues to Sat  
lobster, langoustine, kings scallops, mussels, also fresh in from peterhead fish Market  
wild halibut, monkfish, Haddock, lemon sole, hake, cod  
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

Glenug  
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  
Open 8am-5pm Mon-Fri for collections  
Telephone your order ahead on 01397 705159  
Visit: [www.hisltd.co.uk](http://www.hisltd.co.uk)

## MACTAVISH PLUMBING & HEATING

Open for emergency call-outs  
Tel: 07547 237737

## LEGAL SERVICES

### 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: 01397701000  
Email: [law@macphee.co.uk](mailto:law@macphee.co.uk)

## GARAGES

### FORT WILLIAM TYRE SERVICES

Open for essential workers and commercial freight organisations  
Tel: 01397 700277 or 07702 433 495

### MCCONECHY'S TYRES & EXHAUSTS

Open as usual Mon-Sat 8.30am-5.30pm  
Sat 8.30am-12.30pm  
Social distancing measures in place  
Tel: 01397 706197  
Email: [fort-william@mcconechys.co.uk](mailto:fort-william@mcconechys.co.uk)  
[www.mcconechys.co.uk](http://www.mcconechys.co.uk)

## FUEL/SERVICE STATIONS

### BP ROAD TO THE ISLES

Open 7 days, 24 hours  
Jet wash, shop and off license  
Tel: 01397 703406

### ESSO GARAGE

Open 24 hours, 7 days  
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)  
Tel: 01855 811308

### THE FERRY STORES & KILCHOAN FILLING STATION

Open Mon-Sat 9am-5.30pm,  
For all your essential supplies.  
Free local delivery.  
Tel: 01972 510201

## JOHNSTON BROS FILLING STATION, MALLAIG

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Recovery 01687 462118  
E. [morarmotors@aol.com](mailto:morarmotors@aol.com) (Mallaig)  
E. [contact@morarmotorskyel..](mailto:contact@morarmotorskyel..) (Kyle)

## STRONTIAN FILLING STATION

Open Mon-Sat 8am-7pm. Sun 10.30am-6pm  
Tel: 01967 402135

## TAXIS

For essential travel only:

### A&A TAXIS

Available 24/7  
Tel: 01397 701702

### SPEEDERS CABS

Available 24/7  
Tel: 01397 704000

## CHEMIST & HEALTHCARE

### BOOTS THE CHEMIST

Open Mon-Fri 9am-6pm, Sat 9am-5.30pm  
Please call ahead to ensure repeat prescriptions are ready  
Tel: 01397 705143

## CONVENIENCE STORES/ NEWSAGENTS

### STRONTIAN STORES

Free delivery for those unable to leave their homes  
Telephone orders to 01967 402268  
Email [strontianshop@gmail.com](mailto:strontianshop@gmail.com)

### SPAR

Claggan and Grange Road  
Open 8am-9pm, 7 days  
Fruit, veg, meat, lottery, wines, beers and spirits  
Tel: 01397 702558 – Claggan  
Tel: 01397 705562 – Grange Road

## PET SUPPLIES

### DIRECT PET SUPPLIES/PETSTOP

Open Tuesday - 9:00am until 5:30pm  
Thursday - 9:00am until 5:30pm  
Saturday - 10:00am until 5:00 pm  
Social distancing measures in place  
Tel: 01397 700715

## SHOPS & ONLINE SHOPPING

### GLEN SPEAN BREWERY

Message via Facebook page for delivery to your door all around Lochaber  
See FB for full menu and pricelist  
[www.glenspeanbrewing.com](http://www.glenspeanbrewing.com)

### GREAT GLEN CHARCUTERIE

Delivered to your door  
Check FB for recipe ideas and updates  
[www.greatglencharcuterie.com](http://www.greatglencharcuterie.com)  
Use code FREEDELIVERY for orders over £20  
Tel: 01397 712121

### SKIRR SKINCARE

Skirr is the sustainable solution for adventure and endurance athletes who love nature and the outdoors.  
[www.skirrskin.co.uk](http://www.skirrskin.co.uk)  
Tel: 07709014479

## EMPORIUM OF WORLDLY GOODS

We are delivering to the local area for free (minimum order £10, Fort William to Corpach to Torlundy) or you can collect food, soaps, disinfectant, essential oils, or anything else you might need, from the shopfront by appointment  
Visit FB page for details on how to order online

## THE HIGHLAND SOAP COMPANY

Beautiful selection of handmade soaps, candles, bath, body and skincare products  
[www.highlandsoaps.com](http://www.highlandsoaps.com)

## MARSHALL & PEARSON

Telephone orders taken on Wednesday between 10am and 12pm for same day delivery.  
Order on 01397 700500  
Enquiries via messenger

## THE GRANITE HOUSE

Lots of games and toys, books and more  
FREE local delivery on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays (check FB page for delivery areas on these days)  
Email [gillian@granitehousefortwilliam.co.uk](mailto:gillian@granitehousefortwilliam.co.uk)  
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

### SHIEL BUSES AND CITYLINK

Both companies continue to run reduced timetable for essential journeys  
[www.shielbuses.co.uk](http://www.shielbuses.co.uk)  
[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.*

# OPEN FOR BUSINESS

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COMMUNITY



# Networking to develop the future of aquaculture

Scotland has an ambition to grow aquaculture production to 350,000 tonnes for marine finfish and 21,000 tonnes for shellfish by 2030.

The industry continues to evolve rapidly and Scotland has the natural resources, knowledge and capabilities to increase benefits significantly from aquaculture production growth to 2030 and beyond. (SAIC, HIE, Scottish aquaculture: a view towards 2030, Feb 2017)

To realise this ambition a number of key sector organisations based within Lochaber, namely global fish-farming production company, Mowi, and manufacturer of fish farm equipment, Norfab Equipment Ltd, are leading the way in both processes and ensuring that the future foundations of the industry is being actioned now, using Lochaber as a platform of acceleration for the local and national economy.

Chris Jones, Director of Norfab Equipment Ltd, recently took an enquiry for one of its fish by-product machines from a fish farming and wild catch processing company in Costa Rica. This client is in a similar position to salmon farmers in Scotland, in having some mortalities and typical processing by-products.

Starting from scratch and needing not only equipment,



DYW Highland will deliver an online event for young people on June 17 at 2.30pm.

but also key advice on potential end-products and markets of trade, using more than 35 years of industry knowledge and networking allowed Chris to offer Scottish expertise to an expanding market.

Chris commented on this development, saying: 'I've been involved in this kind of work for most of my nigh-on 35 years in the fish industry, so I have a great deal of experience, both at home and internationally. Relevant to this enquiry, I've worked in Argentina,

Venezuela and Ecuador over the past 20 years, and built up some long-term working relationships. I make sure to maintain contact, keeping links with key contacts to help the global market develop.'

Chris added that it is not just networking that is important, but 'sharing the well', keeping an open-mind, open-heart and continuing to develop links with new markets. Even from his small home office in Fort William he is building relationships in Latin

America. Networking is important, but so is the future workforce. Networking takes many forms from face-to-face, events, online virtual contact, email, letters, phone calls, social media reach and much more.

Lochaber Chamber of Commerce is the hub of business in Lochaber and is host to Developing the Young Workforce West Highland (DYW West Highland). This programme works with a national network to reduce youth unemployment and driving forward employers' engagement with schools and colleges; better preparing young people for the world of work.

DYW West Highland are partnering with Premium Members, Mowi, to deliver an online event for young people on Wednesday June 17 at 2.30pm. This will offer an interactive online discussion with a range of Mowi staff who will speak from the heart to provide valuable insights into their aquaculture career to inspire potential future colleagues.

Aquaculture offers a rewarding career path and this event has been designed to break down the stereotypes, especially around gender, and showcase the vast number of exciting roles available for young people right here in Lochaber plus Skye, and Wester Ross.

A career-path as a fish farmer is well-known, but many people do not realise the scope and opportunity is much wider. Using the salmon life cycle process from hatchery, farm, factor and distribution you will have the potential to use a number of skills and have the opportunity to work in a wide range of departments, there is more than one role available in the aquaculture industry.

This upcoming event is aimed at school-leavers but also open to all young people, those who may have been made redundant, are unemployed, or simply looking for a career opportunity or change. Teachers, parents, and carers are also strongly encouraged to join and learn about the opportunities available.

Donald Waring, learning and development manager at Mowi and DYW West Highland employer board member said: 'At Mowi, we are delighted to be participating in this virtual event and being able to showcase to pupils, teachers, parents, carers and the numerous and varied career opportunities available in their local area.'

For more information about this event and other ways that DYW West Highland are promoting the world of work for young-people head to [www.dywwesthighland.org](http://www.dywwesthighland.org) today.

## VIEW FROM THE CHAMBER



Networking (noun): the action or process of interacting with others to exchange information and develop professional or social contacts.

Lochaber Chamber of Commerce is the hub of business in Lochaber and thrives through networking

with, and connecting, businesses as well as promoting success, challenges, development, plus much more.

To highlight one particular local business that has used networking to their advantage is Norfab Equipment Ltd, based in Fort William.

A Chamber member, as well as a leading manufacturer and supplier of fish farm equipment to the aquaculture industry, has found recent success during the

pandemic by engaging with new markets and developing contacts in Latin America by using their wealth of experience and existing networks – a prime example of why laying the networking groundwork is so crucial to ingoing success and navigating through the ever-changing business landscape we all find ourselves in today.

Networking, albeit in new and diverse ways, is one of the positive actions that we, and the business community, can continue to do in

the current COVID-19 phase. In a nutshell, networking is a business and personal tool that will deliver your overall personal or business and marketing strategy.

It's important to remember that creating and nurturing strong business relationships across your networks remains an incredibly powerful way to build and strengthen your business connections. Ensuring that we nurture best practice, sharing this with our industry networks, contacts

and friends also allows growth to continue.

Lochaber Chamber of Commerce offer a range of opportunities to the Lochaber business community and membership to engage, network and share success. If you would like to find out more, join an upcoming event or to reach out to your local Chamber then please contact us today by emailing [membership@lochaberchamber.co.uk](mailto:membership@lochaberchamber.co.uk) or find out more online at [www.lochaberchamber.co.uk](http://www.lochaberchamber.co.uk)

## Cautious preparations for a return to action

### Golfers back on course but no more league or cup shinty this season

by Fiona Scott  
fscott@obantimes.co.uk



As lockdown laws begin to ease slightly, sporting groups in and around Lochaber have been cautiously preparing to get back in action.

One of the first to get back into the swing of things is Fort William Golf Club which opened its gates on Friday.

Club captain Dougie Duncan told the Lochaber Times: 'It was fantastic to see golf getting played again. We had a pretty busy weekend thanks to the glorious weather.'

'The course isn't in the best condition as we had to furlough our greenkeepers but everyone made the most of it and seemed to be glad to be playing again.'

'A terrific team of volunteers, mostly members, has been helping out during lockdown and I think everyone now appreciates the hard work that goes into keeping the course maintained. We have one of our greenkeepers back this week, so it shouldn't be too long before we get back to where we should be.'

The club asks anyone who wishes to play to book a tee time in advance by calling 01397 704464 or 07380 274537.

The course is open to all members and for any local non-members wanting to play there will be a fee of £30 for a full round.

Social distancing must be observed at all times with no more than a two-ball being permitted to tee off at any one time until further notice.

Fort William Football Club has announced manager Calum MacLean has agreed to extend his contract for the 2020/21 season.

Chairman Peter Murphy said: 'Calum, along with Martin, Andy and the coaches, have done a fantastic job since they took control of the first team in January of last season.'

'We are excited at the prospect of football coming back in the not too distant future.'

The club is currently working on the team ahead of the new season.



Fort William Golf Club has limited opening following the easing of COVID-19 restrictions. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos



Fort William Football Club's manager Calum MacLean.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, Alba.photos

Elsewhere, the Camanachd Association has announced all shinty cup and league competitions have been cancelled for the rest of the season, to be replaced by local matches when it is deemed safe to do so.

The decision was made by the governing body at a meeting last Thursday following discussions with sportscotland and an update from international team doctor John Wallace.

The Camanachd Association board met to consider the implications of COVID-19 and having examined in detail the latest Scottish Government guidance it was decided the focus should be on providing competitive opportunities and reducing travel for everyone.

Camanachd Association president Keith Loades said: 'This decision was taken to provide clarity for clubs but

also to highlight our commitment to the protection and well-being of our community.'

'We can only deliver competition when it is safe to do so and in line with what our clubs and officials are comfortable engaging with at that time.'

The Camanachd Association commended the important role shinty clubs continue to play during the pandemic to engage their members and

support their communities.

If you are involved in a sporting group in or around Lochaber, let us know your plans for re-opening by emailing fort@obantimes.co.uk



### TIDES Thursday June 4, 2020

Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday June 4, 2020 are listed below with differences for major ports listed underneath. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Thur	04.19	3.8	10.48	0.8
	16.45	3.8	22.55	0.6
Fri	05.02	3.9	11.30	0.7
	17.25	3.9	23.44	0.6
Sat	05.44	3.9	12.11	0.7
	18.06	4.0	** **	**
Sun	00.31	0.6	06.25	3.8
	12.52	0.7	18.46	4.0
Mon	01.17	0.7	07.05	3.7
	13.34	0.8	19.27	3.9
Tues	02.02	0.9	07.44	3.5
	14.16	1.0	20.09	3.7
Wed	02.48	1.2	08.25	3.3
	15.00	1.2	20.53	3.5

### FORT WILLIAM WEATHER

#### THURSDAY

Light cloud and a gentle breeze  
Temperatures 6°C to 13°C.

#### FRIDAY

Showers and a moderate breeze 7°C to 10°C.

#### WEEKEND OUTLOOK

##### Saturday

Light rain / fresh breeze 8°C to 12°C.

##### Sunday

Light cloud/ gentle breeze 7°C to 13°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

