



## £48,000 windfall floats Rhoda's boat



## Plans for Oban to host a new Parade of Heroes

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# DEVASTATED

## Blaze ravages units at Oban's auction mart

by Ellis Butcher  
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A local businessman whose offices were gutted by a fierce blaze at Oban Livestock Centre on Sunday has vowed his company will carry on.

Fire broke out in mid-afternoon at the Upper Soroba site – sending plumes of black, acrid smoke billowing across the sky.

Sunday's blaze ruined a portable building used as offices by David Connor, a haulage and transport handling contractor, who has been on the site since 2012.

At the burned-out scene this week, Mr Connor confirmed that the business, started 25 years ago, had no vehicles damaged

and said it would remain open. But he added: 'I have lost my offices. I don't have a computer and everything was on paper. All of my invoices, my diaries, all my work I've got on, my banking – gone.'

Of the blaze, he said: 'The firemen tried their best.'

Mr Connor had managed to keep his business ticking over during the COVID-19 crisis and said that, despite the setback, his customers all knew and supported him.

The most important thing, he said, was that no-one was injured in the incident.

A water hydrant at the side of the A816 – some distance from the seat of the blaze – was seen

Continued on page two.



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OT

## Canna House archivist dies aged 70

Former Canna House archivist Magda Sagarzazu has died aged 70.

The retired archivist, who was a personal friend of well-known folklorist John Lorne Campbell and his Pittsburgh-born wife Margaret Fay Shaw and became the highly-respected keeper of their nationally important collection of Gaelic culture and language, passed away in San Sebastian on Wednesday June 3, with her husband Joaquin and family around her.

'Her family in Scotland were unable to travel to be with her but hope to have a memorial in Scotland when travel restrictions ease,' said Fiona Mackenzie, current Canna House archivist.

The Literary Archive at Canna House consists of many thousands of individual items including personal diaries, 9,000 photographs, transcribed music, original letters and manuscripts.

A full obituary will appear in next week's Oban Times and Lochaber Times.



Firefighters blast high-pressure water at the blaze but some units were destroyed despite their best efforts.



# Blaze ravages units at Oban's auction mart

From page one.

to be in use on the day. The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service issued a statement by Andrew Watt, a local senior officer for Argyll and Bute.

It said: 'We were alerted at 3.47pm on Sunday June 7 to reports of a fire at a livestock

market in Oban, Argyll and Bute. Operations control mobilised a number of resources to the scene to extinguish the fire.

'Crews were able to locate the nearest water supply and had sufficient resources to bring this incident to a safe con-

clusion. Two cylinders were located and removed from the building in the initial stages of the incident.

'Crews employed external firefighting tactics, outside the building, due to concerns over the integrity of the roof structure.

'They left after making the area safe.'

The fire service said initial indications suggested the fire was accidental.

At its peak, up to 30 firefighters were in attendance as they tackled clouds of black and

grey smoke with fierce flames visible.

Crews from Oban were backed up by engines from outlying stations at Dalmally, Appin, Inveraray and Lochgilphead.

Flames destroyed a large industrial unit let by John MacAlister (Oban) Ltd, a local fishing vessel owner and agent, which provides marine services. At the company's offices at the South Pier this week, both Mr MacAlister and fellow director Ian Fletcher declined to comment.

Donald Morrison, regional managing director for United Auctions, confirmed no damage was caused to the livestock centre.

Businesses on site opened on Monday with social distancing in place.

Andrew Spence, of business group BID4Oban, said: 'We're really sorry to hear about the fire and if there's absolutely anything at all we can do to help, we are more than willing to do so.'

Police said the fire was not being treated as suspicious.

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The scene at Aray Gardens after the water main burst.

## Oban street floods as main bursts

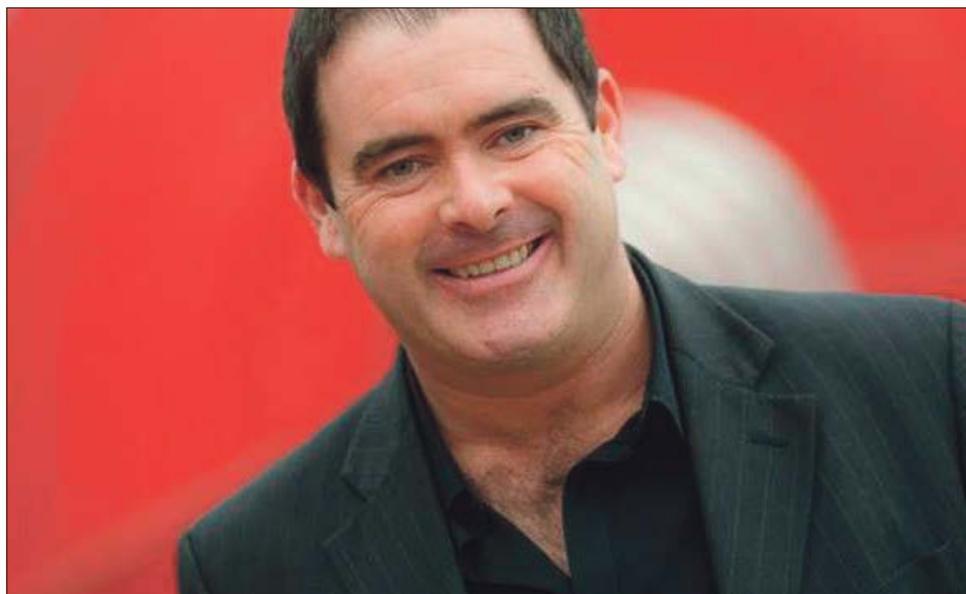
Water supplies in a residential area of Oban were lost temporarily after a water main burst on Monday morning.

The incident occurred at the junction of McCaig Road, Lonan Drive and Aray Gardens.

The street and a neighbouring grassy area were soon flooded with hundreds of gallons of water pouring down McCaig Road and Soroba Road.

Officials from Scottish Water attended and turned off the supply.

The problem is said to have been caused by old infrastructure coming to the end of its life. It is understood the repair job could require some excavation of the green area which is home to mature trees and bushes.



Comedian Des McLean is headlining The Rockfield Centre's Zoom comedy night.

# Friday fun Zooming its way to you

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



From Las Vegas to Oban, stand-up comedian Des McLean is zooming his way into your front room.

The Rockfield Centre (TRC) hosts the funnyman's online show this Friday with tickets being snapped up by lockdowners looking for a laugh.

With The Big Yin, Billy Connolly, among his top fans, Des, who is just back from a tour of America, says live comedy brought to your 'hoose' is the best night out you can have staying in.

Glasgow-based Des, who got Las Vegas's iconic Riviera resort laughing, says people in lockdown need to hear laughter again.

So the multi-award-winning comedian is on a mission to bring quick-fire joy into homes across Oban with his show on Friday June 12 from 8pm, joined by other funsters entertaining on the night.

Tickets are for a minimum donation of £10 and have been limited to 100.

Those who sign up will need to make sure they have downloaded Zoom first and log in by 7.45pm. Details will be sent out on the day.

Go to The Rockfield Centre's Facebook page for details and the link to eventbrite

(www.facebook.com/events/258139978582515/).

'Join us on Zoom for the first Rockfield Centre Oban Comedy Night, a night of comedy, fun and laughter just for Oban! See locals, pals and family on Zoom and enjoy and laugh together!' said TRC's Lyn Connelly.

She added: 'Thanks to Des for organising such a great line up to entertain the people of Oban. We are looking forward to bringing friends and family who are apart together for great night of online comedy.'

## 'Zoom comedy is the best night out you can have...in the hoose!'

Des said: 'Since COVID and lockdown people have been missing going out to pubs, restaurants, theatres and comedy clubs. Zoom comedy is the next best thing, it brings people together, real live comedy in your front room, and top comedians are enjoying seeing an audience, and more importantly hearing laughter again! Zoom comedy is the best night out you can have... in the hoose!'

As well as keeping nations laughing, Des is also a radio and TV presenter, hosting

various STV programmes and appearing on the BBC's The One Show as an on-location presenter. Streetcast, his comedy podcast, has also received rave reviews and his many YouTube sketches have over a million views.

Joining Des on Friday will be former construction worker Susie McCabe from Glasgow who took her first steps into comedy as part of a drunken dare. She is now one of the fastest selling acts at the Glasgow international comedy festival, with multiple Scottish comedy awards for best show and best headliner. Her solo show Domestic Disaster sold out at last year's Edinburgh Fringe.

Also up for a laugh will be Dubliner Rory O'Hanlon whose observational style of comedy has made him an instant hit with crowds up and down the country, and Yorkshireman Matt Green is on the comedy bill too, having worked extensively as a comedian, actor and writer for more than a decade, performing on screen, on radio and in venues up and down the UK and across the world.

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## World's oldest bug is Kerrera millipede

A 425-million-year-old millipede fossil from Kerrera is the world's oldest bug, according to American researchers, writes Kathie Griffiths.

The story of the fossil and the research that found it fame it will definitely take pride of place in a new exhibition being planned on the island about its heritage.

A call has already gone out for other tales, photographs and artefacts to help piece together Kerrera's past - and the story of the ancient millipede will fit in nicely, says Aileen Shields who is project co-ordinator for the Isle of Kerrera Development Trust.

'I've been rescuing millipedes out of my wee one's sandpit in our back garden on the island and I'm now looking at them in a whole new light!

'So much of Kerrera feels unspoiled and untouched by human life- this is partly why the island feels so special. We're proud that this landscape can help scientists around the world to make discoveries like this about the evolution of life on earth.

'The discovery of this millipede and the Tortotubus fungus in 2016, the oldest example



The millipede fossil.

of a land-dwelling species ever discovered, really help to put Kerrera on the world map. It will certainly be forming part of our Heritage exhibition.'

Scientists at The University of Texas at Austin say the millipede fossil is older than any known fossil of an insect, arachnid or other related creepy-crawly and that it suggests bugs and plants evolved much faster than previously believed.

After analysing the remains of the insect which had fossilised into stone, the researchers believe the ancient creatures left lakes to live in complex forest ecosystems within just 40 million years.

The team used a technique to extract microscopic material known as zircons to help them find out the millipede is 75

million years younger than previously estimated. The research was recently published in the journal Historical Biology.

Although it is certainly possible there are older fossils of both bugs and plants, Professor Michael Brookfield who led the study said the fact they have not been found - even in deposits known for preserving delicate fossils from this era could show that the ancient millipede and plant fossils that have already been discovered are the oldest specimens.

Earlier this year Kerrera was awarded more than £100,000 to turn its former school into a community hub. One idea is that the possible heritage exhibition will find a home in that fit-for-purpose centre when its doors open in the future.

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

Other fossils if found may also feature.

To get in touch email heritagekerrera@gmail.com

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OT

# Easy does it for Easdale ultrathon couple

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Close encounters with 'aliens', dolphins and toads are just some of the stories to come from a 24-hour fundraising ultrathon on Easdale.

To celebrate lockdown restrictions starting to ease, Catherine Forsyth and her fiancée Michele Halbert took on the challenge of running round the island for 24 hours.

So far the couple, whose May wedding had to be postponed because of COVID-19, have raised more than £600 on their Justgiving page in aid of NHS Charities Together.

With a new wedding date fixed for next year, Catherine who works for Seafari Adventures and Michele who had just started a new job at Owen Sails in Benderloch before lockdown, covered 31.97 miles between 6am on May 28



and 6am on May 29 – and even managed to sneak in 40 winks.

To get ready for the challenge, the couple had taken up yoga as part of their daily training to help build up strength, in particular for Michele recover-

ing after she broke her arm in a car crash moving up from the Borders.

The pair's plan was to run two laps every hour, on the hour, and with a few diversions and tweaks they smashed their

**Catherine and Michele celebrated the easing of lockdown with a 24-hour run round Easdale, cheered on by their neighbours.**

target by 600 per cent and funds are still growing.

'What with COVID, we knew there wasn't a lot of money about so we just set our goal for £100 but people have been so generous, they are amazing. We've smashed it!' said Catherine.

Support from the island and its wildlife both day and night during the challenge was mind-blowing.

'We have quite a lot of stories to tell. We mistook for aliens two neighbours who came out at 1am to clap us but I think we were losing the plot by then.

'At sunrise a pod of dolphins with some calves swam slowly

alongside us it was like something you'd read in a book and in the pitch dark on the overgrown side of the island we had to dodge the toads – there was a toad at every step on the narrow path but we made it without squishing any!' said Catherine.

Neighbours turned out to cheer the pair on, as well as soaking them down with a hose in the strong heat of the day, and Keren Cafferty from The Puffer kept them fuelled with meals and baked treats.

Catherine said: 'We are extremely grateful for everyone's support. We're proud to call Easdale home and can't wait to get married next year – it'll be a big party!'

If you would like to donate to Catherine and Michele's NHS Charities Together fundraising, visit [www.justgiving.com/fundraising/catherine-and-michele](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/catherine-and-michele)

## Two charged after drug find in Oban

Two people have been arrested following a police drugs operation in Oban last week.

Police Scotland seized a quantity of heroin in the Ulva Road area on June 3.

A 28-year-old man and a 42-year-old woman have been arrested and charged in connection with drugs offences. They both appeared in court on Thursday June 4.

Detective Inspector Andrew Doherty, from Dunoon CID, said: 'Drug misuse brings nothing but misery to our communities and I want to reassure people that we will continue to use every tool at our disposal to remove these illegal substances from our streets. These efforts have continued throughout the ongoing pandemic and offenders should not believe themselves to be beyond the reach of the law.

'Our work often relies on public support, so if you have concerns about drug misuse call Police Scotland on 101 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.'

## 'Chemical' stink forces residents indoors as temperatures soar

People living in the Quarry Road area of Oban have complained of a strong 'creosote'-like smell forcing them to shut windows and doors as outdoor temperatures soar.

Some residents suspect the smell is coming from piles of treated telegraph poles being stored in a yard nearby.

Argyll and Bute Council says it has received complaints and is investigating.

A number of residents who got in touch with The Oban Times said the smell left them with burning eyes, nose and throat and an irritating cough, as well as headaches when the stink was as its strongest as the recent heatwave peaked.

Posts about it have also appeared online.

One woman, who did not want to be named, said it was not the first time complaints had been made about the odour.

People have also been affected in the Mossfield area and in Glencruitten Road.

'The smell comes and goes all year and that's gone on for quite a few years now, but it has been a lot worse recently, since before lockdown. The council and SEPA (Scottish Environment

Protection Agency) know about it. My nose, eyes and the back of my throat feel as though they are burning and I'm coughing. Normally, I don't have any problems like that as I'm fit and healthy.

'If the smell is coming from the poles in the yard, they shouldn't be allowed to pile them up there. It should be away from a residential area,' she said.

Another woman who lives nearby described it as 'a head-achey smell', making her and her family wheeze and cough.

'When it's very bad like that, everything you eat and drink tastes of it. You go to bed at night and can smell it in your hair - that's not right. It's crazy. The simple solution would be to store these poles somewhere else, away from people's homes,' she said.

Oban councillor Roddy McCuish said if people want to contact him, he will look into it.

When The Oban Times contacted John MacNiven of JAM Drilling Ltd, he said about 110 'fresh' poles had recently been delivered to the yard but would be moved soon.

The business is still active during lockdown because it

is classed as essential work supporting the telecommunications industry.

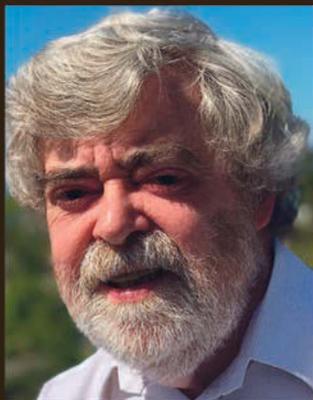
The poles, which are treated with a non-creosote substance in Wales and also come from a second supplier elsewhere in Scotland, are only stored at the Quarry Road yard, said Mr MacNiven, who said irritations to nose, throat and eyes can only be caused by touching or ingestion.

Mr MacNiven said: 'If it is the case that just the smell of it could have that kind of impact on people, we would not be doing it. We are not wanting to cause people any harm or upset. If someone wants to speak to me about it, they can. There's no hiding anything but I will put a fresh tarpaulin over it to reduce any odour.'

Mr MacNiven said creosote was no longer used to treat poles, but instead a more eco-friendly substance is used. In the recent hot weather, the quarry site had become a suntrap and that could have something to do with the smell.

A spokesperson for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'We have received reports about this and are currently investigating it.'

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# Family has anti-racism for beginners website

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



A North Connel family has been spurred into action to set up a new website helping people to be anti-racist.

The death of George Floyd in Minneapolis, killed by a police officer leaning a knee on his neck, shocked much of the world but for the family, who previously lived in Minnesota then San Francisco before moving to Argyll last year, it has prompted them to take a stand in solidarity with all those affected by racism.

This week they launched their 846solidarity.org website as a way of bringing together a host of resources to help themselves and others learn more about racism and how to halt it.

Mum Jakki Spicer, dad Andy Lambert and their 14-year-old



Andy Lambert and his family Dr Jakki Spicer with their daughter Billie have set up 846solidarity.org to make a stand against racism.

daughter Billie hope people from Oban and beyond, also heart-broken by George Floyd's death, will visit and share their website to find out more about the issue of racism and how it can be eradicated.

'We're not experts but we are

responding to what we see as an injustice. We don't have all the answers - but we know we can learn more. It's a call for action for others to join us on this journey.

'It's not Oban-centric. We hope the website will draw

people from all over and that it will grow from here,' said Dr Spicer, who has a doctorate in cultural studies and comparative literature.

Mr Lambert added: 'We would like the website to be a catalyst for people to come

**'It's a call for action for others to join us on this journey.'**

together. We will do what we can as a family but we hope others will join us to do what they can do too.'

The website will have details of a broad range of helpful resources including a section on anti-racism for beginners. The list will be continually curated and updated and is open for people's suggestions.

As well as being a platform

for learning, the website will also be encouraging people to turn their knowledge into action to help change the world for the better.

Writing letters to powers-that-be and policy-makers and supporting organisations working for racial equality are a good place to start, said Mr Lambert.

The family has already written to MPs, MSPs and Oban High School calling for anti-racism to be taught in classes.

Billie said: 'It would be amazing if we could get the history of racism and the journey of black people made mandatory learning. With knowledge comes power and with power comes change.'

Anyone wanting to get involved, or has ideas to share or questions to ask, should contact 846Solidarity@gmail.com.

## Now all set to court sporting success again

Atlantis Leisure tennis courts re-opened successfully last week guided by Scottish Government public health advice and Scottish Tennis.

Staff are carrying out the appropriate cleaning protocols and customers have been adhering to the rules keeping everyone safe.

The courts are open to the community seven days a week, and members and non-members can book through the Atlantis Leisure website or on the iscuba app.

Players must bring their own rackets and balls. The balls must be marked with initials so that they can be identified.

The Oban Sports shop is selling everything you need at 25 per cent off. Call the shop on 01631 562 050 or 07941 419790 to place your order.

Court four has been designated the family court which has a mini tennis and full-sized court available, and there is no limit on the number of participants as long as you are from the same household.

# 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

## Around Oban

KAY MCDONALD

editor@obantimes.co.uk



Things certainly seem to be continuing in the right direction just now, as more shops are opening to everyone's delight, the queue outside the Pokey Hat every day shows how much that is appreciated and Oban Beer Seller has finally been able to open to the public.

Takeaway food continues to keep us happy until we can eat out again, with Piazza and Cuan Mor operating as takeaways while we're locked down.

I love one of the quotes I saw recently on social media which said you'll come out of lockdown a hunk, a chunk or a drunk.

I think a mixture of the last two for me but judging from the number of people I see striding out for their walks or cycling everywhere, I may be alone in that. Whatever gets you through this tough time.

After encouraging everyone to join the online Oban International Shanty Festival at home, it was fantastic to see an audience of over 140 people on the night to watch bands from

## WHERE IS THIS?



Scotland, England, France and Canada. The bands were amazing, as was the organisation of it and thanks must go to Tom Malone who was the principal organiser, and all the people who gave of their time and technical ability to make it happen.

I really can't wait till next year when hopefully the live event can happen.

This Friday we have something similar but different to look forward to with the Rockfield Centre hosting Oban Comedy Night, in your front room, with Zoom! Tickets need to be booked so have a look at the Rockfield Centre's Facebook page or details are also available on LoveOban or Oban Town Diary's Facebook page. Join friends and family on zoom for a laugh this weekend.

The photo last week was of Glencruitten Hostel and this week's might be slightly harder to find.

# Junk busters clean up local woodland

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



A four-cylinder engine, a big mattress, a car chassis, office chairs and bikes are just some of the junk cleared from Dunollie Woods by clean-up volunteers.

Laura Corbe, Maggie Clayton and Daniel Brooks were among a tidy-it team who recently set to work restoring the Oban woodland to its greener space.

Some of the bigger items have probably been there years, said Laura, who lives nearby.

Efforts have been made before to clean up the wood and it has remained clean, but there was still a section by the burns that needed clearing - in particular the lower part.

Sticking to social distancing rules, keep-it-tidy volunteers dug in and started pulling junk out.



Left, young tidy volunteers Hazel and Blue Brooks with just some of the rusty haul from Dunollie Woods, Oban.

'Before we knew it, we were covered in mud and had a ton of junk from office chairs to bikes, a car chassis, a four-cylinder engine, a big sodden mattress. I think we'll need a crow bar and more strapping-strong folk to get stuff out at some later stage,' added Laura, who supports Keep Oban Beautiful.

'The trust was going to get

a contractor in to remove the junk but there's so much more other good work for contractors to do there. In times of coronavirus, it just felt really good to do something like this and give back to our community and the natural world.

'We are so lucky in Oban to have this amazing asset and to have the joy of these woods that are home to so many wild species, including wood warblers. It's such a beautiful

habitat and it deserves to be kept pristine and junk free,' added Laura.

This week Laura returned to tidy more of the area by the burn, finding more old rubbish to clear and about 100 dumped bags of dog poo.

'There's lots more to come out and unfortunately it's from an even more awkward location but hopefully the last efforts will be the most rewarding,' she said.

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## Finders keepers for lucky Mull shepherdess Rhoda

Mull shepherdess Rhoda Munro is the proud new owner of a £48,000 boat washed up near her home, writes Kathie Griffiths.

Rhoda, who has a croft at Fanmore and looks after 400 ewes on Gometra, found the 25ft upturned boat on the shore at Camus on her way to work on Friday March 13 - Friday the 13th might be unlucky for some but for this 43-year-old it turned out to be her lucky day.

She checked it out with the Coastguard and wreck investigators, and also got in touch with the boat's Danish makers who turned out to know all about it.

She said: 'They knew it had gone missing. It had slipped off a freight boat in rough sea going from Denmark to customers in Greenland back in April last year.'

Eventually Rhoda was told the good news that the boat was hers because the insurers had already paid out for it.

Now it is back at her croft and has become a lockdown project. It had a few scuffs



Rhoda, who has a croft at Fanmore and looks after 400 ewes on Gometra, found the 25ft upturned boat on the shore at Camus on her way to work on Friday March 13.

and bashes, but after it had a good scrub down removing all the barnacles and a fibreglass repair, it is starting to look good and should be ready for a celebratory launch next year.

The boat will need a new engine, which could cost £20,000 but Rhoda is not put off.

She said: 'It won't be my work boat, I'll save it for best. I'll probably start off taking it to Coll or Tiree until I get braver and go any further,' she added.

'The owners were so delighted I found the boat, they couldn't believe it was still in

one piece. It's a good advert for its makers Poco,' said Rhoda who has spoken to a man who saw what happened when the boat fell into the stormy sea.

'He suggested Sarfaq as a new name for it that in Danish means Ocean Current so that's what I'm going to call it because it's true, it was brought to me by the current of the sea.

'I'm superstitious but lucky for me it's okay to rename a boat when it's out of the water! After all, Friday 13 didn't turn out to bad for me this year,' she said.

# Oban Rotary Club donation helps Argyll's young carers

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Dozens of unpaid young carers across Oban, Lorn and the Isles will continue to get emotional and practical support with help from rotarians.

Oban Rotary Club handed over £4,000 to Judith Hawcroft, manager of the North Argyll Carers Centre this week.

It is the third installment of a three-year £12,000 pledge by the town's rotarians to the organisation which helps young carers across the area - aged from eight to 18.

Judith Hawcroft, manager of the Albany Street service, said it supported around 124 young carers across the area and around 600 over the age of 18.

She thanked Oban Rotary Club and said the sum was 'very significant' to the work it does for young carers and 'hugely valued'.



Past president Tommy McQuade said: 'The Rotary Club of Oban are very proud to have been able to assist in some small way with the fantastic work by the North Argyll Young Carers group. Many of these children are hidden from view and can so easily be overlooked.'

North Argyll Carers Centre is Making Caring Visible this Carers

Week from Monday June 8 to Sunday June 14.

Although COVID-19 meant the centre's office had to close and stopped face-to-face contact, its workers have tried to think creatively while working

North Argyll Carers Centre manager Judith Hawcroft receives a cheque for £4,000 from Oban Rotary Club President Douglas Small.

from home, looking at it as a new challenge to find ways of extending its service.

'These are difficult times but in almost any situation it is possible to find positives and we have seen this with the introduction of remote delivery of carer support.

'As well as maintaining connections through regular support calls to all or registered carers, we are using Facebook and Whatsapp groups, video calling and Zoom. We are making full use of our website and social media to ensure that information carers need is available to them,' said manager Miss Hawcroft.

A wellbeing blog has been

set up and weekly wellbeing groups are being replaced with virtual sessions. There are daily groups for young carers, replacing after-school clubs, lunchtime drop-ins and 1:1s, and the

introduction of homework clubs, craft activities, projects and challenges.

'The use of these remote ways of accessing services has opened up their availability to carers in more remote areas. We have seen island carers join in with our weekly coffee mornings and meet up with the team and other carers from across North Argyll,' added Miss Hawcroft.

To mark Carers Week the Centre is running a Creative Writing, Arts and

Crafts competition on Facebook inviting carers to express how they feel as a carer during lockdown - the deadline for entries is June 14.

Voting for the categories Adult Writing, Adult Arts and Crafts, Young Carer Writing and Young Carer Arts and Crafts will run on Facebook from Monday June 15 to Thursday June 18 with the winners announced on Friday June 19 online. The lucky winners will get gift vouchers to buy themselves a treat.

'We would encourage everyone to go to our Facebook page, view the gallery and vote for their favourites; and should someone recognise their own situation, or that of someone they know, from what they have read here or in the creative work on our Facebook page, we would welcome them to get in contact with us to see what support we can offer them,' said Miss Hawcroft.

Entries for the creative writing and art competitions should be emailed to Mairi@northargyllcarers.org.uk

## LOOKING FOR HELP DURING CORONAVIRUS?

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

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

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

### Health

[www.nhsinform.scot/coronavirus](http://www.nhsinform.scot/coronavirus)  
0800 028 2816 for general information only

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

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

### SAMH:

0344 800 0550

#### 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.

#### 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

#### Your rights at work

[www.stuc.org.uk](http://www.stuc.org.uk)  
0141 337 8100

#### For business support

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

#### 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 for older people

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

#### Dementia - Alzheimer Scotland

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

#### Scottish Autism Advice Line

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

#### Domestic Abuse Helpline

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

#### Rape Crisis Scotland Helpline

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



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# Helping our businesses

The UK Government has announced an unprecedented package of support to protect jobs and support business across the whole country 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.

A SOCIAL enterprise in Edinburgh which repairs used furniture and IT equipment and trains people with the skills to do so has launched a phased return to business after lockdown.

The Edinburgh Remakery, which suspended all services on March 24, started accepting donations of used IT equipment from June 4.

The organisation has asked for donations of laptops, tablets and mobile phones from individuals and businesses, and has put in place stringent hygiene and safety measures to allow for it.

The equipment is given free of charge to those in the community, including homeless people, who are in need of it. The organisation also aims to reduce waste by repairing items rather than them being sent to landfill.

Managing director Elaine Brown said the Remakery's services are in greater need than ever because lack of access to public facilities means people are relying more on digital services.

Library closures have meant those without a laptop no longer have access to a shared computer. Others who may previously have been able to buy or repair their own IT equipment cannot due to reduced income.

While three staff members of the Remakery have been furloughed, the remaining three have been working during the lockdown to donate a total of 47

keyboards and mice, 41 PCs, 20 laptops, 12 tablets and six iMacs.

Ms Brown said: "The furlough scheme was absolutely crucial to our business model to survive Covid. Without that, we would undoubtedly have faced immediate redundancy. It allowed us breathing space and it allowed us to retain our staff."

While the organisation is receiving extra funding as a charity, the furlough scheme has been needed to plug the gap left by a lack of shop revenue.

The scheme has been extended until the end of October, and Ms Brown said some Remakery staff will remain on furlough until then, while others may come back on a part time basis.

The scheme pays workers 80 per cent of wages up to £2,500, but the Remakery is topping up the remaining 20 per cent of wages.

Ms Brown said: "We always knew there was a need for us, we always knew there was digital isolation, but really Covid has intensified that and magnified the need.

"We're dealing with people who need the equipment for wellbeing needs, because of isolation, and also the impact of families trying to homeschool children.

"These issues were probably always there, but Covid has definitely increased the need."

The workshops and furniture repair normally run by the Remakery will remain suspended for the time being.



**GOOD TO BE BACK:** Edinburgh Remakery is making a phased return to operations after the Covid-19 crisis.

## What help can firms access during the current climate?

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 £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 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.

# towards brighter futures

## Restaurant boss optimistic after crucial support

A BUSINESSMAN has been able to get over lockdown and put 70 per cent of staff at his pizza business back to work thanks to support from the UK Government.

Giuseppe Fallone (below) and his wife Fiona own La Dolce Vita Pizzeria restaurant in O'Hagan Street, Newry, as well as takeaway outlets in Patrick Street in the city and in Warrenpoint and Camlough.

He is particularly pleased that he has not had to make a single one of his 130 staff redundant and is now feeling optimistic about the future.

Giuseppe is one of countless businesses that have survived thanks to UK Government support schemes, which include government backed loans and the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme, also known as furloughing.

Giuseppe, whose father came to Northern Ireland from Italy after the war and went into the fish and chip trade, said: "The restaurant closed on March 17 and the takeaways closed on March 20."

Grants from the UK Government and Stormont helped him get through the initial period when they had no turnover.

Giuseppe said: "Stormont had the £10,000 grant and then there was the £25,000 grant for higher threshold rate payers.

"But furlough has been the main one, a big

saviour for the business."

Government grants and other measures helped keep the business afloat..

Giuseppe said: "The government pause in the VAT payments and rates were also a big help. Our VAT bill was due in April so the government deferred our payments and we were able to use the money we had in our VAT account to pay the furlough wages."

Taking the pressure off their VAT and rates bills has also allowed him to pay utility bills and finance on catering equipment, vehicles and software.

He and his wife had been discussing starting cook-at-home pizza kits before the pandemic. As they were musing on how they could launch it, they had a call from O'Hare's, a local supermarket chain, asking if they could offer the product.

The finished product contains two 10-inch Dolcezza dough balls, freshly grated mozzarella, Tomato sauce and an instructional card with a YouTube link.

Giuseppe said their outlets either make deliveries only or allow the public to queue in a socially distanced manner outside to collect orders placed online.

They are not handling any cash.

He said: "You can see it, week by week, getting back."



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



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

OT

# Mull's at home Gaelic choir has plans to gives us a tune

Isle of Mull Gaelic Choir has gone online to help lift lockdown blues, writes Kathie Griffiths.

The rousing sound of the choir singing Mull anthem An t-Eilean Muileach had more than 3,000 hits on Facebook just 24 hours after it was posted by choir secretary Donna Dugdale.

Hundreds of people have also viewed it on YouTube said Donna whose 15-year-old son Alexander, a pupil at Tobermory High School, pieced together song lines from videos sent in by members all over the island – and one from Sweden.

Donna put out a special request for contributions after it was suggested the choir might like to make some recordings to help lift people's spirits during the coronavirus crisis. 'At that point, it was just



As this year's Mod has had to be cancelled, Mull Gaelic Choir are going online.

before lockdown but we'd already stopped weekly rehearsals so it wasn't possible to get the whole choir

together. There's about 30 of us who live from one end of the island to the other, so a lot of people would have to have

travelled quite a distance and we would've needed a massive space to get all of us distancing 2ms apart!' said Donna.

Inspired by other community choirs going online from their individual homes to perform, Donna decided to have a go on Mull.

Members stepped up to the challenge to appear in home-videos of them singing parts of the much-loved Mull song - including singer-songwriter and part-time member Iain Thompson, known as The Singing Shepherd, who is away living in Sweden.

'It was amazing what Alexander was able to do with the raw files of us all singing separately, I was gobsmacked at how well it merged together. Everything he's been doing in music technology at school was put to good use.

'Originally we did this just to help boost moral on the island and so that people could see familiar friendly faces but it's reached far beyond Mull

now thanks to Facebook and YouTube,' said Donna who lives in Tobermory.

COVID-19 also put pay to the choir's hopes for this year at the now cancelled Royal National Mod.

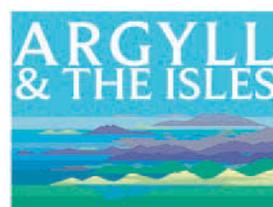
At the 2019 prestigious event, the choir's ladies section won everything on offer in the rural choirs sing two-songs competition, including the Grampian Television Trophy, the Rod MacKenzie Sgir' a' Bhac Memorial Baton, as well as the Angus MacTavish Memorial Trophy and the Rotary of Blairgowrie Trophy for achieving the highest marks in Gaelic and music.

Donna said: 'We're all heart-broken there's no Mod this year but our little video has cheered us up. It's been lovely to feel united again even if it's only online for the time being!'

## Coronavirus

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

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



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

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



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



# Parent Club offers families and carers extra support

## Parent Club

As schools and nurseries prepare to reopen in August, many parents and carers are facing the summer period trying to keep children motivated and entertained, stay calm and manage to get through their workload as well as tackling everyday tasks. It can be challenging and stressful for everyone in the family.

Keep in touch, keep going and be kind to yourself are just some of the messages being shared with families to promote good health and well-being during these challenging times.

The Scottish Government's Parent Club's 'Here For You'



The club offers practical advice and support for parents and carers across the country.

campaign is encouraging parents and carers to look after themselves as they juggle the additional pressures being placed on them as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. Parents all have an internal frustration meter and some

situations with kids can push that dial higher than others but there are ways that can help calm things down.

Chelsea French, 21, a mum of one from Dundee, has been feeling the pressure of looking after a toddler and the

concerns the pandemic has brought with it.

Chelsea said: 'I've definitely noticed some changes in Kiera since we went into lockdown. Just like us, it's clear that this situation has affected her and as a result she has been getting irritated and acting out. Usually she is so well behaved but it's hard for her not seeing her friends and family for so long, so we have been letting her have her moments of frustration.'

'We've been using Parent Club to come up with new ways to keep Kiera busy and entertained but also to help remind ourselves that we are doing the best we can as parents. We try and go for walks together as a family to give us all a break from the house and spend some quality time together doing something more refreshing.'

Dr Punam Krishan, 37, has

been a doctor for over 13 years and currently works as a GP in Glasgow. She studied at the University of Glasgow where she now teaches medical students and junior doctors in her role as a senior clinical lecturer alongside her full-time job. Having only recently given birth, she is currently juggling life at home with newborn, Ellora and her six-year-old son, Aarish.

Dr Krishan said: 'My children are at completely different stages - one needs all my attention day and night and the other is looking for my attention because his whole life as he knew it has changed.'

'It's impacting children as much as adults and we must remember we can only do the best we can.'

'Parents are under so much pressure and there is no right way to do it, but it's great to see support hubs like Parent Club

being provided to help and suggest tips for a whole range of situations.'

Parent Club is a digital information resource, support hub and online community offering practical advice and support for parents and carers across Scotland. From mental health advice, tips for play and learning at home, keeping active and eating well to talking to your kids about coronavirus, advice comes from the trusted voices of other parents and is backed by experts and the Scottish Government.

To find out more and get help to make the day a little easier, visit [parentclub.scot/coronavirus](http://parentclub.scot/coronavirus), and follow @ParentClubScotland on Facebook and @parentclub-scot on Twitter. Parents can also find tips from other families across Scotland by searching #ParentClubTips on social media.

## Plans launched for Oban to host a new Parade of Heroes

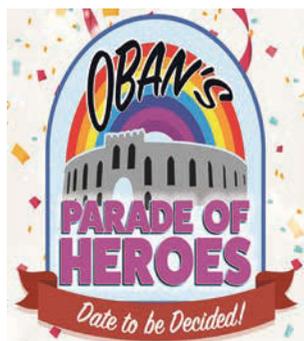
by Neil Mackay  
[editor@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk)

The success of the weekly clapping in recognition of the work and commitment of our wonderful NHS is quite noticeable, and from its first week there's been great support.

For some, including myself, there were thoughts that the clapping could be enhanced, hence a call to our very own Pipe Major Angus McColl to suggest that a tune from the members of our world champion Oban High School Pipe Band playing from their home locations could be a great addition.

This proved to be a big success but not only locally, as it progressed to pipers country-wide and then internationally. The actual thank-you was also extended to include carers and all key workers.

Martin Gillespie, a founder member and one of the pipers in the band Skerryvore, inspired by the ethos of the whole thing, composed the tune Everyday Heroes. He and his band colleagues joined forces with musicians from



other well-known Scottish acts to produce a fundraising single of the tune for the NHS that reached number one nationally.

Now a Parade of Heroes may be perceived as a further step on this journey.

I certainly hope it will have a two-fold purpose: first, creating an opportunity for our community or indeed any other community to have an achievable positive focus and, secondly, providing a collective occasion when everyone young and old can join together to say a big thank-you to the people and their organisations who have been at the forefront of supporting us all through this devastating crisis.



Neil Mackay.

While Oban parades are famous, they, like all events, cannot happen until mass gatherings are allowed, and presently we have no indication when this might be, so it could be a while but we are planning ahead and hopefully will give the town a great focus for a great cause.

I am delighted to say that we already have Oban Pipe Band and Oban High School Pipe Band agreeing to take part. And The Oban Times, BID4Oban, Oban and Lorn Tourism Alliance and Oban FM are among a raft of individuals and organisations supportive of the parade, including my locally based colleagues in event organising.



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.

OT

## Funding keeps communities connected

A lottery award of £8,715 has been given to Lorn and Oban Healthy Options.

The award is one of 11 across the whole of Argyll and Bute sharing in £82,707 of funding from The National Lottery Community Fund to help get people through the COVID-19 crisis.

Healthy Option's funding will be used to help people affected be self-isolating and shielding and who live with a range of health conditions.

Founder and chairman of Lorn and Oban Healthy Options Hugh McLean said: 'We are delighted...We will use this money to create an online resource of exercises and workouts, manage our growing WhatsApp client group and run our one-to-one telephone and video support calls and consultations. It is so important at this time that people stay safe at home but also that they keep active as this has huge benefits for their health and wellbeing.'

For full list of recipients, visit [www.obantimes.co.uk](http://www.obantimes.co.uk)

# Oban's Lynsey takes pupils on virtual world tour challenge

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



An Oban woman has joined pupils and staff from the Nicolson Institute in Stornoway in a virtual challenge to see how far round the world they can travel in various, non motorised, ways.

Lynsey MacKenzie has been a PE teacher at the Institute since 2010 and helped set up the Wellbeing Lockdown Challenge.

'The PE department decided we needed to develop something to give pupils focus during lockdown,' she told The Oban Times. 'We wanted something that would motivate pupils to keep active in a safe way at this time.'

Teachers Darren Beattie and David Macleod came up with the initial idea having both tracked their progress when training for a marathon a few



Lynsey MacKenzie, centre, was part of the Western Isles badminton team at last year's Island Games in Gibraltar.

years ago. Lynsey, who represented The Western Isles at two previous Island Games in football and badminton, continued: 'The main aim of the challenge is to encourage pupils, staff and school partners to engage in exercise during lockdown as everyone knows the importance of physical activity and its link to mental

wellbeing. The challenge has also provided a less formal connection with pupils while we are teaching from home.'

Participants use the Strava app as a platform to record their progress and update the community daily through the school Facebook page.

Types of exercise have varied from walking, running,

cycling and scootering and, since the ease in lockdown, kayaking has been added. Wild swimming and surfing are also expected to make an appearance as restrictions are slowly lifted.

'Initially we set the target of 800 miles, but soon realised that was going to be too easy,' added Lynsey. 'We clocked up 154.96 miles on the first day, which is longer than the length of the Western Isles, and had made it to just outside London on the second. Having seen this, I had the idea to make the challenge more interesting by seeing how far we could travel by the end of lockdown. As we travel through the different

countries, we try and add some facts relating to the places.'

There are now more than 150 participants. By Monday June 1, they had travelled 7,503.5 miles and had just passed Mount Everest. The challenge will run until the last day of the school session when the group will record how far they got.

'The challenge has been a great motivator for staff and pupils to get out and exercise in these unusual times,' said Lynsey. 'It has been especially motivating for me after having an operation on my heel in September last year. It has pushed me to get my fitness levels back up and be ready for training once we return to normal.' The app can also track the pupils and staff who hope to be selected to represent The Western Isles at the International Island Games in Guernsey next year.

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## Wind farm delivers latest grants

More than £30,000 has been awarded as part of the latest batch of grants from the Carraig Gheal Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund.

And more good news is that applications are now open for the next lot, with a closing date of July 31 this year.

Out of eight bids made for the most recent funding round, all were approved.

Kilninver and Kilmelford Community Council, Dalavich Improvement Group, Kilchrenan, Taynuilt and Portsonachan village halls all received funding, as did Kilmore and Kilbride Public Hall Committee.

The £500 limit for micro-grants is a temporary increase from £250 for 2019/20.

The Fund covers the Avich and Kilchrenan, Taynuilt, Glenorchy and Innishail, Kilinver and Kilmelford with Kilmore Community Council areas.

Email Jennie Cowley at [jennie@greenpowerinternational.com](mailto:jennie@greenpowerinternational.com) for application forms.

# Alison's hill challenge raises £400 for lifeboat

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



Alison Rennie has climbed higher than Everest's summit to raise hundreds of pounds for Oban lifeboat.

The 70-year-old fundraising secretary has been climbing Battleship Hill near her home as part of her daily exercise ever since lockdown and on Sunday finally reached the equivalent of 8,900 metres - a little higher than the world's loftiest mountain.

Alison, who is a chronic asthmatic, said: 'That's it, over 8,900m since lockdown started! My initial idea was just to try to get a bit fitter to help avoid the worst consequences of the virus if I get it. I've certainly got fitter but - maybe more important - with the help of my supporters, I've done something useful to others, raising over £400 for the



RNLI.' As Alison's challenge ends, Oban RNLI begins its Virtual Open Day campaign.

Normal plans to open the station's doors to the public in June have been put on hold and instead the lifeboat plans to have a virtual open day through their Facebook page instead.

Oban Lifeboat's Press Officer

**Alison Rennie conquers Everest, Oban style, raising more than £400 for the town's lifeboat.**

MacDonald and there will be a RNLI-themed board game lined up too.

'We know that social media isn't for everyone, we are used to welcoming supporters face to face. But for now, we hope this will bring some of the spirit of our usual open day to our supporters in their own homes and hopefully raise some money in the process,' added Leonie.

The open day usually raises around £2,500 helping the charity continue saving lives at sea.

Supporters can donate straight to the RNLI on its Facebook page. To make an off-line donation, contact treasurer Lachie Beaton on 07467 020516 for more information.

Details on how to enter the open day competitions can be found at [www.facebook.com/rnliobanlifeboat](http://www.facebook.com/rnliobanlifeboat)

Leonie Mead said: 'Our Open Day was scheduled for June 20. Sadly this won't be possible, so we've decided to get creative and think of ways to bring our Open Day to our supporters.

'Through our Facebook page we will effectively be holding a virtual Open Day, for the entire month of June. We will be hosting various competi-

tions including RNLI-themed baking, colouring in and a Guess The Weight of a Lobster competition. All will be held and judged digitally from the safety of our own homes, and there are RNLI-themed prizes too.'

The station will also be sharing some video tours of its lifeboat the Mora Edith

## Take time to clear your head

The coronavirus pandemic has changed life for everyone in Scotland and had a real impact on how many of us are feeling.

Not being able to see friends and family over the past few weeks, the loss of livelihoods and for some the pain and loss of health and loved ones, has understandably resulted in feelings of anxiety, grief, worry and frustration.

Some people will have felt low while coping with the necessary restrictions, maybe struggling with their emotions for the first time and finding themselves angry or upset for no reason.

As the nation moves into the first phase of easing lockdown restrictions, the coming weeks may bring a mixture of different feelings and emotions as people start to think about going outside again - but there are things that can be done to make it easier, with help and support available.

The Scottish Government's Clear Your Head campaign provides practical tips on the things we can do to feel better, reminding people that what they are feeling is alright.

Supported by SAMH, Breathing Space and the Samaritans, the campaign website [clearyourhead.scot](http://clearyourhead.scot) also provides sources of help for those who need to talk about

how they're feeling.

Whether it's dealing with the pressure of juggling childcare with work commitments, facing continued isolation at home, or feeling anxious about returning to work, there are things you can do every day that will help you through it.

Keeping to a routine as much as possible, by sleeping and waking at the same time and eating at regular times can give your day structure and help you feel more in control.

Now we're able to go outside more than once a day, making time to go for a walk, jog and cycle can help boost self-esteem, energy levels, and importantly help us sleep better.

Staying connected has never been more important, particularly if you've had a bad day or are feeling stressed. A problem shared is a problem halved and a phone call or video chat with family and friends can lift your mood, relieving tension and easing worry. And if you are feeling good, sharing that with your loved ones can be positive.

If you find yourself feeling anxious when you're outside, taking deep breaths and focusing on something still until your breathing has calmed can help.



Make a plan for what you'll do when you head out - don't put any pressure on yourself, take it a day at a time.

Minister for Mental Health Clare Haughey,

pictured, said: 'It's never been more important to look after our mental health, and this campaign highlights the things we can do every day to feel better and stay mentally healthy. It's important people know what support is there if they need to speak to someone. We appreciate everyone's efforts to prevent spreading the virus, and hope this campaign helps people to take care of themselves over the coming weeks.'

Tony McLaren, Breathing Space National Coordinator, added: 'Mental health has a huge impact on our thoughts, behaviours and emotions. It's so important to prioritise our mental health, particularly during times of stress. The Breathing Space phonenumber is available in the evenings and at weekends, to provide listening, advice and signposting to anyone who is struggling.'

For tips on how to clear your head and feel better, and details of helplines, visit [www.clearyourhead.scot](http://www.clearyourhead.scot)

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# BUSINESS NEWS

## Unemployed women to get free interview outfits and advice

Women out of work can now get help with interview training and a pack of high-quality work clothing in the post.

Smart Works, previously only available in Scotland to those in Edinburgh, is now extending its service to unemployed women in the Highlands and Islands.

It provides interview clothes, styling advice and interview training - giving women 'the confidence, self-belief and practical tools to succeed at interview and transform their lives', said the company.

Smart Works has its headquarters in

**'Our ambition is that every unemployed woman in Scotland should be able to reach Smart Works ahead of her job interview.'**

London, with other centres around the UK.

Its virtual service allows women to receive free online interview coaching from human resources professionals as well as a clothes parcel in the post. Clothes are donated by retailers including M&S, John Lewis and Hobbs.

Smart Works has helped over 1,000 women since it launched in 2014 and 60 per cent who used it got work within a month.

Support is also available for women who have not been offered an interview with coaches providing advice on CVs and job hunting.

Maggie Darling, chairwoman of Smart Works in Edinburgh, said: 'We are delighted to be able to offer our life-changing service to women in the Highlands and Islands. Our ambition is that every unemployed woman in Scotland should be able to reach Smart Works ahead of her job interview.'

Previous clients have called it 'a wonderful, positive experience' after being made redundant. For more information, or for an appointment, call 0131 516 7787.

# One-metre distancing or many pubs and restaurants will close

by Ellis Butcher  
ebutcher@obantimes.co.uk



Scotland's tourism bosses have called on the Scottish Government to agree a one-metre social distancing rule or face a string of pub and restaurant closures.

The Scottish Tourism Alliance (STA) said the World Health Organisation considered one metre a safe distance and that it had been implemented in Spain, Italy, Austria, Finland, Sweden and Norway.

But if Scotland insists on maintaining a two-metre rule, it would be 'unviable' for many businesses, including those licensed to sell drinks, according to the STA.

Marc Crothall, chief executive, said all business operators recognised that 'the focus must be on staff and customer safety and not putting profit before safety'.

The industry's concerns were outlined in a letter to Cabinet Secretary Fergus Ewing.

The letter was signed, among others, by the Argyll and the Isles Tourism Co-Operative, the Association of Scotland's Self Caterers and the Association of Scottish Visitor Attractions.

Mr Crothall said 'the majority' of businesses believed that a two-metre rule would require them to remain shut until such time as there was a change in distancing measures.

'Many may not be able to hold out until then and the difference could mean many tens of thousands of jobs being saved or lost,' wrote Mr Crothall.

He echoed calls that the Scottish tourism industry needs a 'clearer timescale' to reopening or the public would book elsewhere.

The STA has said tourism must be up and running again 'within a month' in some form - such as self-catering, caravan and camping parks.

Having defined dates would allow businesses to plan, accept bookings, arrange for the return of staff from furlough, carry out training, prepare premises, make orders and manage



Marc Crothall of the Scottish Tourism Alliance.

finances, said Mr Crothall. 'Most businesses need at least three weeks' notice to be ready to open. It would also avoid the potential risk of businesses having no other option than to consider redundancies,' he wrote.

First Minister Nicola Sturgeon recently addressed the calls for a one-metre rule. She said: 'Some voices are saying one-metre is sufficient so I want to take the opportunity to stress that the clear and the strong advice from the Scottish Government is to stay two metres apart from those in other households.'

A Scottish Government spokesperson said it did not 'underestimate' the impact of the pandemic on tourism.

But it said it was 'essential' that reopening of the sector was on 'phased and gradual' to protect public health.

'As we slowly and cautiously ease lockdown measures, we have been clear we simply don't want, in this phase, to see large numbers of people at tourist hot spots or local beauty spots,' said the spokesperson.

'Crowds of people - even if they're trying to physically distance - bring more risk than we judge is acceptable and safe at this point.'

'No one wants this to go on any longer than is needed to protect people from the spread of the virus, and the timeline for further changes to restrictions will be based on the best scientific evidence available.'

'The plan developed by the Scottish Tourism Emergency Response Group (STERG) on how to respond to the impact of the virus will help inform how we move forward as we slowly and carefully emerge from this crisis.'



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## Around Lochaber

ANGUS MACDONALD

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



What does corona mean for house prices?

For most of us middle-aged or older folk, our homes are where our savings are, a nest egg to be released following decades of house price increases when we retire and downsize.

In the West Highlands we have not had the generation-long soaring house prices seen in Edinburgh, London or Aberdeen, but then again we haven't seen the declines that have been suffered following stock market crashes, recessions and oil price slumps.

I wrote in my column a couple of months ago of the threat of falling property prices. As sure as night follows day a major shake in the economy leads to cracks in the property market – buyers are nervous, banks tighten up lending, surveyors lower their valuations in their home reports and a downward spiral of lower prices begins.

By any measure, COVID-19 will result in a massive economic collapse despite the extraordinary and unprec-

edented financial support dished out by the Westminster government. The Centre for Economics and Business Research (CEBR) expects house prices to fall by 13 per cent by the end of 2020. That equates to £30,000 being wiped off the average value of a UK home. Perhaps a wave of forced sellers will drive down prices once the furloughing and mortgage payment holiday schemes cease.

For hundreds of years there has been migration to the central belt and beyond as mainly the young move south for well-paid jobs, culture, love and more recently, good internet and the many urban diversions.

But pandemics are anti-urban, congested areas; imagine suffering several children locked down in a flat. Perhaps we could now see migration back to the countryside.

Regardless of whether you live in a city or the country, there has not been a residential property bubble.

Prices are still down by 10 per cent on 2007 if you take inflation into

account. A Rettie report shows that first-time buyer mortgage payments as a percentage of mean take-home pay were 31 per cent at the end of 2019, well below the 52 per cent peak in 2007.

Banks are financially sound now, and interest rates are low and likely to remain so.

Online property agent Zoopla said searches for rural properties were up 68 per cent in May, which they attribute to millions of people missing out on hours of commuting. (Who wouldn't want to win back two hours a day?) Internet surfing for property always rises substantially when people are stuck at home.

Rettie, a Scottish firm of estate agents, has two northern English outlets that reopened on May 13, likely to be five weeks ahead of the Phase 2 unlocking in Scotland. These branches describe business as

buoyant, with demand for viewings described as extraordinary. Perhaps the West Highlands will avoid a house price crash; we have missed out on the worst of the virus, we have lots of countryside and fresh air, and offer spacious properties at relatively low prices compared to cities. Many of us have decent internet and 4G



now so we can work remotely, likely to be the new norm for a day or two a week. Perhaps better-off city dwellers will invert their two home life-style, have a decent house in the country and a bolt hole in the metropolis for their two-night, midweek stay.

Katie Lamont, pictured, the property director at MacPhee and Partners, is bullish, saying: 'We have a number of clients wishing to list their property for sale, just as soon as restrictions are lifted, as well as willing purchasers looking for their new home. We have seen a real increase in the number of people wishing to

move to our communities, from more densely populated areas, due to the virus, which should see our property prices remain steadier than in other parts of the country.'

MacPhee has seen prices remain firm over the past quarter. There will be those who bought properties to rent out on Airbnb who are struggling to pay their mortgage, but it seems clear that if the glacial release from lockdown we are experiencing can be speeded up, there will be a substantial staycation opportunity for the Scottish hospitality market.

Last year the UK tourism industry brought in £41 billion, and we spent £59 billion going abroad. There will be a fantastic opportunity for highland tourism over the next year as people holiday here rather than go abroad.

So, flip a coin: it's either the expected property tumble following economic collapse, or rural Scotland is going to see a fillip due to people escaping the cities for their nirvana. I don't know which myself.

## New online directory is launched to boost businesses in Oban



BID4Oban's Andy Spence.

A new online business directory for both visitors and residents of Oban aims to become the 'go-to digital destination' for the town, writes Ellis Butcher.

The project, launched on Wednesday June 10, has involved a link-up between the BID4Oban business group and E&A Directories.

Its purpose is to provide a comprehensive business listing service for Oban for anyone looking for up-to-date information.

The plan is to have hundreds of the town's businesses on the site and help browsers navigate directly to their website or Facebook page.

Andy Spence, chief executive of BID4Oban, said the project had been made possible

through resilience funding handed down in the aftermath of the coronavirus pandemic.

The fund came from the Scottish Government and was distributed via the Scotland's Towns Partnership.

Mr Spence said: 'The Oban Business Directory has been set up as an addendum to our website to list every business in the Oban Business Improvement District. This is something that many levy payers have asked for some time.'

'We have been working on this project since November last year in an effort to bring our levy payers' businesses onto one site and generate a culture of shop local, buy local, use local, book local and consume local. We plan

to sell Love Oban Vouchers online to increase spending in Oban shops and businesses.

'Oban businesses are going through one of the most challenging times in the town's history with the COVID-19 pandemic impeding many from trading. To that end we need to reach out to every business and encourage them to get their business listed. The Oban Business Directory will be a one-stop web page for every business in Oban.'

Although many businesses in the town remain closed by the coronavirus restrictions, the plan is that as more open, those with up-to-date levy payments will be added to the directory.

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

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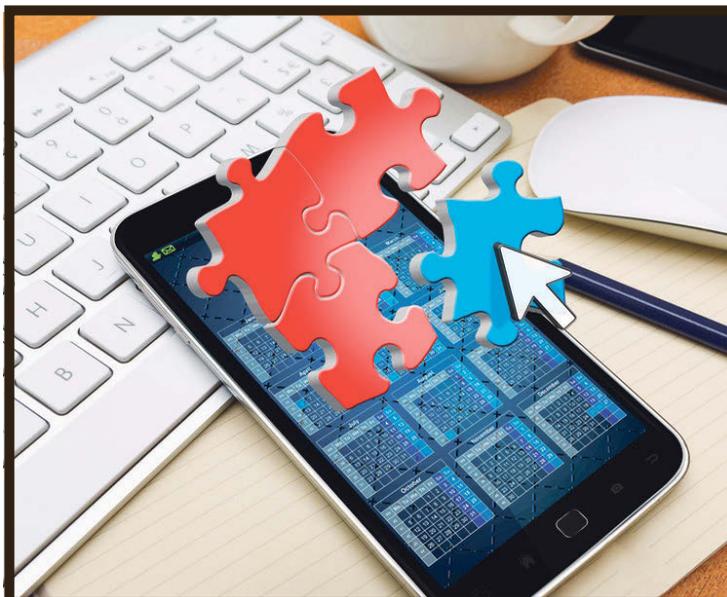
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OT

## 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

## Livestock centre site will bounce back after fire

It was an almost apocalyptic scene over Oban on Sunday afternoon as billowing clouds of dense black smoke rose above the town's skyline.

The smoke was the result of a major conflagration at Oban Livestock Centre, where a number of industrial units were destroyed. The auction itself was undamaged and, thankfully, no-one was injured in the incident.

Emergency services responded, as they always do, with speed and determination and dealt with the devastating scene. The police, as we report this week, have said they are not treating the blaze as suspicious.

Incidents of this sort often bring out the best in people from our communities, despite them suffering losses, and this was evident from the words of David Connor, who has a neighbouring transport yard on the site. The fire had gutted his offices which were housed in a portable unit at the rear of the large industrial unit. However, Mr Connor stressed the most important thing was that no-one was hurt and thanked the fire service.

The damage can and will be repaired and those units affected will hopefully rise from the ashes.

However, we all owe a debt of gratitude to the emergency services.

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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## Columnist's lockdown easing argument very one sided

I respond to Angus MacDonald and his political article in support of Westminster rule over Scotland. He puts forward a very one-sided argument.

Those people who live in high-rise flats with little opportunity to breath fresh air in gardens and/or parks are really suffering. Many of these people will join others who will be left destitute by adhering to lockdown rules by losing their jobs as a result of the pandemic. There is no doubt there is an economic crisis but it is irresponsible to put lives at risk by encouraging the government in Holyrood to lift the lockdown when they are being advised that they should proceed cautiously to save lives.

Mr MacDonald argues that disease annually kills millions of people worldwide, and all their deaths did not close the world down. He goes on to say that 'of the 34,500 who have died of the virus across the UK only three have been under 15 years old and up until the start of May only 375 people under the age of 45 died of the virus. The average age of those others who have died is 79.5 years of age and they had health complications'. He also mentions other deaths as if there should be a play-off with the number of deaths we already deal with to back up his reason for breaking the lockdown.

He is of course right to highlight the disruption that this pandemic is having to people's lives and to the tourist and construction industries. However, he could, of course, have balanced out his views by quoting Unite Union leader Pat Lafferty who said, 'the last thing we need is a second spike as it would be devastating for the economy and it would cost lives'.

Or he could have quoted the new YouGov poll of 2883 UK adults which asked 'Which country has handled the virus outbreak better between England and Scotland?' - 44% of UK citizens believe Nicola Sturgeon's government has handled the outbreak better while only 17% believed that Westminster has handled the outbreak better than Holyrood. Of those who voted for Scotland, 48% were based in London. That blows the argument in support of Westminster's handling of the pandemic as opposed to Holyrood's approach out the water.

The two large construction projects Angus MacDonald is providing are indeed going to be of huge benefit to Lochaber and his efforts should be applauded. He should not waste the goodwill that those builds will provide by bringing his support for Westminster politics into the equation. Many people are already well

## Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL

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

Chan e an ro-chabhadh as fhearr! 'S i an fhoighidinn mhath a chlaoidheas an anshocair!

Chan eil gainnead comhairle sheanfhaical againn air gliocas foighidinn, agus dha fear aig am bheil cliù a bhith car mi-fhoighidneach dh'fhaodadh gur e rud math a th' ann dhòmhsa gum bheil foighidinn air a bhith air m' aire bho chionn ghoirid. Ag èisteachd ri neach-labhairt bho ghnìomhachas turasachd a' gearan mun aonarachd cola-deug a tha a-nise mar fhiachaibh air feadhainn a tha a' siubhal gu ruige Breatann, cha mhòr nach saoiladh neach gur e an riaghaltas a dh'adhbharaich Covid 19.

Far am bheil èiginn an tinneis agus cruadal eaconamach a' cogadh tha an dùbhlann aig luchd-riaghlaidh nas dòrainniche na bha riamh, agus ged a thuigear dìth foighidinn luchd-gnothaich chan fhaodar beatha a' mhòr-shluaigh a chur an tuilleadh cunnairt gus gnìomhachas sam bith a riarachadh.

'S e faoinas eagalach a bhiodh ann toirt a chreidsinn oirnn fhìn gum bheil a' choròna-bhioras dol a dh'fhalbh cho luath 's a thàinig i. Aig an aon àm tuigear carson a tha daoine a' faighneachd cionnas is ann aig an ire seo a tha leithid de smachd ga chur air luchd-siubhail an dèidh dha milleanan tighinn is falbh gun bhacadh sam bith fad mhiosan.

Tha an aon rud fìor a thaobh an Riaghaltas a bhith a-nise ag iarraidh gun cleachd luchd-obrach agus luchd-tadhail ionadan-slàinte de gach seòrsa brat-gnùise, an dèidh uimhir de dh'ùine far nach robh sin ga iarraidh.

Ach a' faicinn bàs Sheòrais Floyd agus modh-giùlain brùideil chuid de dh'oifigearan phoileas Ameireagaidh an aghaidh dhaoine dubha, am

aware of his extreme unionist views. His attack on Nicola Sturgeon was simply flying the flag for Westminster. People of all political persuasions believe Nicola Sturgeon and the Scottish Government's response to COVID-19 has been head and shoulders above the UK Government in dealing with this pandemic. As for his unionist supporting friends in Westminster, their behaviour speaks for itself.

Bill Clark, Banavie.

## Hong Kong to Killundine

As part of the UK's obligation under the 1985

bheil da-riaribh dearbhadh againn gum faigh foighidinn furtachd?

'S i fianais mhilltean slòigh ann an iomadh dùthaich gum bheil gràin-cinnidh fhathast ann an saoghal "saor" beartach thaobh an iar an t-saoghail, na dùthchannan sin a tha gam meas fhèin mar shàr eisimpleirean saorsa agus deamocrasaidh.

Ma tha a' mhòr-chuid againn gu bhith onarach feumaidh sinn aideachadh gum bheil sinn air eisimpleirean de ghràin-cinnidh fhathast ann an Ameireagaidh agus san dùthaich seo cuideachd. Tha an fhìrinn tric searbh, agus feumar aideachadh nach do bhuannaich leithid Lincoln agus Wilberforce, sònraichte 's gun robh na rinn iad, ach na ciad cheumnan beaga san t-srì gus co-ionannachd chòraichean agus aithne dha daoine de gach dath craicinn.

Bliadhnaichean air ais choinnich mi air ceann-cinnidh tùsanach Apache ann an Ameireagaidh agus thuir e gun deach e na "laoch" air tìr air Tràigh Omaha san Dàrna Cogadh, agus nuair a thill e dhachaigh beò chaidh a chur air ais gu tèarmann thùsanach. Chuala mi bho chionn ghoirid neach-obrach seirbheis slàinte ag ràdh gur e an cunnart a bhith nad "laoch" gum bheil dùil ri laoch bàsachadh!

An online dictionary says that an example of 'democracy at work' is in the United States, where people have political freedom and equality. Will George Floyd's family agree?

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

Sino-British agreement to allow citizens of Hong Kong holding British National (Overseas) passports to come to this country, perhaps the Westminster government should consider acquiring Killundine estate in Morvern under a compulsory purchase order as part of a resettlement package. Imagine what 20 hard-working, conscientious, Chinese families could achieve on the foothills of Tom Mor. Why they'd be self-sufficient in no time and less of a burden than the proposed local community buyout.

Iain Thornber, Knock House, Morvern.

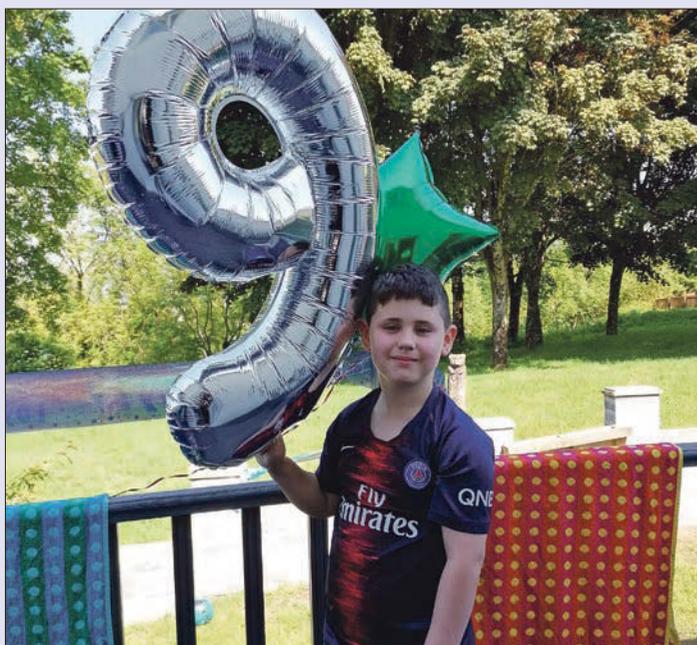
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# DISTRICT NEWS



Top left: Dylan Welsh, from Oban, turned nine on Monday June 1 and enjoyed a barbecue in the garden.

Above: Noah Barron, aka The Ginger Prince, lives in Tobermory and turned two on May 26, the same day as his daddy Scott's birthday. Noah and his family had waffles with fruit for breakfast, went for a nice walk to see the sheep and cows next to their house, and had a disco later in the day with lots of birthday cake!

Left: Ronan Dougall, from Oban, celebrated his first birthday. He spent the day in his house with some family and some neighbours who have been there since lockdown started.

## 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)

## Hall guardians keep busy in Benderloch

Doors to the Victory Hall in Benderloch may be firmly closed at the moment but committee members have been working hard behind the scenes, and at a social distance, in preparation for when they can be thrown open once again.

Centenary celebrations have been put on hold for the time being but will resume again once it is safe to do so.

Committee member Joy Cameron, pictured, told us: 'The hall wasn't built in a short time so the centenary can run on as did the construction time.'

The hall now has a new sign above the glass doors courtesy of Lewis Morrison and his son Alan, whose family have such strong links with the hall, while Jim MacKie has done a splendid job of brightening up the outside with his beautiful planters.

Bookends 2020, due to be held in September, has been cancelled and organisers are throwing their efforts into bringing the community many more pop-ups when it is deemed safe to do so.

These will incorporate events with the artists already booked including Kenneth Steven, whose book titled 2020 was going to be this year's launch event; Leoni Charleton, with her new book Marram which was launched this year; and the internationally renowned playwright, poet and performer, Alan Bisset.

Many Bookends volunteers have been lending books out from their own collections to those who are in short supply, following all social distancing guidelines, of course.



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

Volunteers now required in Oban.

Call **01546 60 5550** or email [info@abcab.org.uk](mailto:info@abcab.org.uk) to find out more.



## Zesty salmon pasta

This faff-free fish supper is packed with good things and tastes every bit as fantastic as it looks!

For extra indulgence, roughly chop 25g shelled pistachios and evenly scatter over the dishes (this adds 2 Syns per serving).



### Ingredients

500g dried fusilli pasta  
Low-calorie cooking spray  
4 skinless and boneless salmon fillets, cut into bite-size chunks  
2 peppers (any colours), deseeded and chopped

1 garlic clove, crushed  
300g green beans, trimmed and halved  
100g fat-free natural fromage frais  
1 large unwaxed lemon, zested and cut into wedges  
Small bag of watercress, a few sprigs reserved, the rest chopped

### Method:

Cook the pasta according to the pack instructions, then drain and return to the pan, reserving 100ml of the pasta cooking water.  
Meanwhile, spray a wide non-stick frying pan with low-calorie cooking spray and place over a medium-high heat. Add the salmon chunks and cook for 1-2 minutes, stirring occasionally. Transfer to a plate.  
Add the peppers, garlic and green beans to the frying pan and cook for 6-8 minutes or until tender and lightly charred, stirring often. Add to the salmon cubes and mix gently.  
Toss the salmon mixture through the pasta and stir in the fromage frais, lemon zest, chopped watercress and as much of the pasta water as you need to make a good sauce.  
Season lightly and divide between plates or shallow bowls. Scatter over the watercress sprigs and serve with lemon wedges to squeeze over.

Syn FREE 25 minutes Serves 4

### PLEASE NOTE:

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## Centenarian Cathie celebrates 100 years of life in Latharna

Not many of us will be fortunate enough to celebrate our 100th birthday, but local lass Cathie Potter will be doing just that tomorrow (Friday June 12), writes Fiona Scott.

Despite being in lockdown, Cathie has many happy memories of her life in Lorn to fall back on and, thanks to her daughter Kareen, can share just a few with us ahead of her big day.

Catherine Potter, nee MacCall, was born on June 12, 1920, at Knipochmore, Kilmore, the third of six children born to Malcolm and Catherine MacCall.

Her earliest memories are of playing on the shores of Loch Feochan, the coal boat arriving to be unloaded by horse and cart, and the annual salmon netting. A great highlight was a circus passing through on the way to Kilninver.

She remembers going to Oban to see the last of the evacuees from St Kilda arriving at the pier.

Cathie attended Kilmore school, walking the three miles from the age of four, before progressing to a bicycle when she went on to study at Oban High School.

Cathie completed her nursing training in the Southern General Hospital, returning to the area to nurse at Dalintart hospital in Oban and then the military hospital in Killin where she met Thomas Potter from Manchester. A Sergeant in the Cameronians, Tom was recovering after being wounded. The couple married in Kilmore Church in March 1943, and held their reception in McGillivray's guest house beside Kilmore shop.

When Tom was posted to Cultybraggan Camp in Comrie, Cathie and their first child Irene moved to be near him. Cathie can remember hearing the POWs being marched from the train to the camp and singing at the top of their voices.

VE Day was a time of mixed emotions for Cathie as Tom had been posted to Burma, part of the Forgotten Army still fighting the Japanese, while her brother Duncan had been held for five years as a POW in Germany.

When Tom returned, the couple set up home in Dunstaffnage and Tom worked for Oban Town Council as a painter and decorator. Cathie recalls Dunstaffnage being a very friendly village with lots of young families, and life centred around the Nissen Hut School which also served as the village hall. Their son Iain was born at home there.



Cathie Potter will turn 100 tomorrow.

After moving to Oban and Loch Awe they bought the old youth hostel in Dalmally and built their house An Airigh, and it was here Kareen was born.

Cathie and Tom were very involved in the life of Glenorchy Church, running the Sunday school for 25 years, both serving as elders, organising Christmas parties and fundraisers that allowed them to purchase the font and praise board for the venue.

As a fluent Gaelic speaker, Cathie has been a lifetime supporter of Gaelic culture and tutored her children in Gaelic in preparation for national and local MODs. On moving to Taynuilt she became a regular attendee at the local ceilidhs as well as the local flower show and SWRI.

Cathie says she has had a great life so far but would love to have travelled more. However she did manage three trips to Brisbane to visit her grandson, the first being when she was 81 years old.

Last year Cathie moved to North Argyll House and now enjoys a beautiful view of Oban bay and the islands, and the kindness and care of the people who help her.

She is looking forward to celebrating her 100th birthday with her children, seven grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren just as soon as it is safe for everyone to meet again.

# Our fast disa

## Morvern Lines

IAIN THORNER

ian.thorner@btinternet.com



If you were rummaging around a shelf of books in a charity shop and found *A Vertebrate Fauna of Argyll and The Inner Hebrides*, by J Harvie-Brown (H-B) and T Buckley (TB) 1892, the chances are its outward appearance and title would put you off and you would pass on. But, if you paused, picked it up and turned a few pages you would find yourself looking at one of the most interesting and fascinating books about Argyll you are ever likely to come across.

A vertebrate is an animal of a large group distinguished by the possession of a backbone or spinal column, including mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and fishes, but don't let that mouthful put you off either. This is no dry tome. Relying on the unique knowledge and experience of local crofters, landowners, gamekeepers, sportsmen, shepherds and lighthouse-keepers, Harvie-Brown and Buckley produced their monumental *Fauna* series covering the natural history of every parish in the west, from Argyll to Orkney and Shetland, and occasionally to the east.

Much more than a list of animals, fishes and birds, these eight volumes covering Deeside; the Moray Basin; Orkney; Shetland; Sutherland; Caithness and West Cromarty; the Outer Hebrides; Argyll and the Inner Hebrides and the North West Highlands and Skye, have just as much information about the people who lived there and how they interacted with its wildlife.

Harvie-Brown (1844-1916) was a Stirlingshire landowner educated at Murchison, Edinburgh and Cambridge Universities and was passionate about hunting, fishing and shooting. He was a big powerful bearded man and a great talker, full of humour with a fund of good stories. Aged 18, he published the first of many ornithological notes in the *Zoologist*. His other books were; *The Wonderful Trout*; *The Annals of Scottish Natural History* (co-edited); *The Capercailzie in Scotland* (1879) followed by *The History of the Red Squirrel in Great Britain* which sold out so quickly that even Queen Victoria had difficulty in getting a copy for the Balmoral Library.



Harvie-Brown regularly visited Sutherland. From the information he gathered there he was able to publish his first *Fauna* of the county with Buckley, an English resident, in 1887. In that year his private steam yacht, *Shiantelle*, was launched in Fraserburgh which helped him get around the Hebrides and further afield. John Love, the well-known Scottish naturalist and author of *Rum - A Landscape Without Figures*, (Birlinn 2001) and many other remarkable books, records: "That at the time of his death [Harvie-Brown] had published some 250 titles, a priceless historical record, which greatly advanced Scottish natural history and which remain a worthy and abiding tribute to a remarkable man."

However, it is for his monumental *Vertebrate Faunas* that he will always be remembered. His esteem as a naturalist earned him fellowships from the Royal Society of Edinburgh and the



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# Disappearing wildlife



The corncrake, left, heading to extinction. Photograph John Love; and above, Thomas Buckley, joint author of many of the Fauna series (taken from A Fauna of the North-West Highlands and Skye).

1902 aged 56. The value of the Fauna series lies in the references to the sheer volume of birds and animals which were around at the time when Harvie-Brown and Buckley were collecting data, but are no more. There is a reason for their disappearance and that is, firstly, the law against shooting birds of prey was very lax, secondly, the Victorian bug for killing everything that moved so that it could be examined, drawn, stuffed and then mounted in glass cases to stand in some stately hall or fill thousands of drawers in natural history museums. Osgood Mackenzie (1842-1922), creator of the famous gardens at Inverewe and author of A Hundred Years in the Highlands, first published in 1921, writes of killing thousands of birds and animals, many now rare or almost extinct, then wondering towards the end of his life why so many of them were no longer to be seen.

Sadly, for all their interest in the natural world, Harvie-Brown and Buckley were not squeaky clean in this respect although, in all fairness in the 1890s the first named printed

privately a leaflet on ospreys which he circulated to all of Scotland's county councils, pleading for better protection of the species.

In the Vertebrate Fauna of Argyll and the Inner Hebrides, Harvie-Brown puts up a little prayer to the proprietors and shooting tenants of lands formerly and presently occupied by white-tailed eagles to take active measures for their future protection. Rum is specifically mentioned in that respect, an island he had considered purchasing in 1886. Had he not been persuaded against it, it is likely that the species may never have become extinct in Britain, although today it has made a remarkable come-back. Too many, too quickly, some shepherds would say given their liking for new born lambs. But then if estates in Morvern and Mull, for example, are over-shooting deer in favour of planting quick-growing trees and continue to annihilate the common rabbit with that vile disease myxomatosis, what can they expect? If a fox or an eagle can get a rabbit or a deer calf to take back to its young, it will be less likely to look at a lamb.

These days, when farming consists of filling in a grant or a subsidy form, why worry about a few rabbits? Perhaps if SNH and DEFRA (Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs) were to lobby for a grant for rabbits and deer in the spring, the situation would quickly change.

Corncrakes, formerly called land or corn rail, are on the verge of extinction. Why? In the Fauna of the North West Highlands and Skye (1904), we read that in certain lodges they were considered such a nuisance at night, disturbing the sleep, especially of the lady guests, that the owner ordered them to be shot.

I am told that I shouldn't be too hard on Harvie-Brown or Buckley as they were no worse than many of their day. Harvie-Brown initiated a series of detailed bird reports from lighthouse keepers all over the country which were published in annual reports and ultimately collated by Eagle Clarke in the RHS, Edinburgh as 'Studies in Bird Migration' 2 vols (1912). H-B also had a perceptive eye for conservation and left his library to the Royal Scottish Museum. I suppose these old naturalists were just pursuing their hobby in the only way they knew how, before binoculars and field guides, so some of them, we should have a certain sympathy for.

## DOWN MEMORY LANE



It is sometimes amazing to realise the reach of The Oban Times. This photograph has no date but does bear a caption which says: 'Carol Shechter of Bolton, Lancashire, reading The Oban Times in Xi'an, Shaanxi, China. Behind her are approximately 1,000 of the Terra Cotta Army.'



There is no information at all about this photograph but it clearly shows a celebration of some kind. Can anyone provide any background to this?

Zoological Societies of both Edinburgh and London. He was especially proud to have been elected an honorary member of the American Ornithologists' Union and in 1912 the University of Aberdeen conferred upon him an honorary degree of LL.D.

'He died on 26 July 1916 and was buried in the family graveyard at Dunipace.'

Love, whose next book is about Highland Naturalist, tells me Buckley, Harvie-Brown's colleague and co-writer, was the son of a clergyman from St Thomas's, Old Trafford, near Manchester and educated at Rugby and Cambridge. He first arrived in Scotland in 1869 as a guest of Donald Cameron of Glenbrittle, Skye. The following year he took the shooting rights of Gordonbush, Brora, eventually buying the small estate of Rossal on the River Cassley in Sutherland which he quickly sold for whatever reason and moved to Inverness where he lived until his death in



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# LEISURE & ENTERTAINMENT

YOUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S ON IN ARGYLL AND LOCHABER

## A fishy tale from Scottish Opera

On June 18, Scottish Opera is premiering *The Narcissistic Fish*, a new 12-minute film in collaboration with Scottish Opera's Composer in Residence Samuel Bordoli, Scottish poet and novelist Jenni Fagan (*The Panopticon*), and Scottish Opera's in-house filmmaker, Antonia Bain.

Set in the kitchen of a restaurant called *The Narcissistic Fish*, in the Leith area of Edinburgh, the opera tells the story of the stormy relationship between chefs Angus, Kai and Belle, and touches on the themes of narcissism, gender bias and class. The concept of the film was first conceived by Antonia and Samuel two years ago, who had the idea of creating a narrative set in a commercial kitchen.

To watch *The Narcissistic Fish* on June 18, visit [www.scottishopera.org.uk](http://www.scottishopera.org.uk)

For full story visit [www.obantimes.co.uk](http://www.obantimes.co.uk)

## Album blows charity away with donations

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

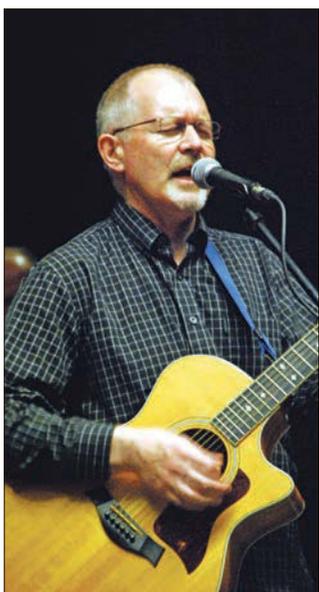


Renowned Gaelic singer and musician, Calum Martin, is launching a new album to help raise funds for Macmillan Cancer Support.

The album, *Stoirm* released under the band name, O.L.C.O.T.E., features music written by Calum and guests from as far afield as the USA, with all the proceeds are going to Macmillan Cancer Support's award-winning Isle of Lewis Fundraising Group.

Dedicated to 'Granny Martin', a very special lady and Calum's mother, Catherine sadly passed away last year. One of the songs on the album, *Feels Like a Storm*, her grandson sings in her memory.

'I asked a few musical pals along with members of my own



family to help out and of course they were delighted to take part. It has just grown arms and legs,' said Calum.

Calum Martin is launching the new album to raise money for Macmillan.

'Some of my favourite singers and musicians have contributed, along with amazing new talent which I always love to encourage.

'The album is fantastic and has something for everyone. My family have close links across the water in Nashville – so it has reached far and wide.'

Chairwoman of the fundraising group, Maggie Martin is Calum's daughter-in-law and the idea behind the album was prompted by the hugely positive response to a concert the musical family held on the Isle of Lewis last year.

'Words cannot explain how grateful and proud we all are of making this happen,' she added.

'A huge thanks to Calum, my

husband Do and all our family and friends who came together to make it possible.'

Macmillan Cancer Support are doing everything they can to help address the immediate and unique challenges that having cancer during this pandemic brings but the charity cannot stress enough how vital donations are to enable them to continue to be there for people living with cancer.

Shirlie Geddes, senior fundraising manager in the north of Scotland, said: 'This is yet another innovative fundraising initiative from an award-winning team of volunteers and their supporters, near and far, which I'm sure will be a great success.'

'An incredible pool of talent has come together to make this project possible. Macmillan needs that support more than

ever just now and we are very grateful to everyone involved, for their contribution.'

*Stoirm* is now available to purchase with all sales and downloads going exclusively to the charity. All production costs have been donated. The album is available to download on iTunes <https://music.apple.com/us/album/stoirm-the-o-l-c-o-t-e-connection/1513370105> and Spotify <https://open.spotify.com/album/2iQvJKN-5NgWD8bs4zCXC5v>

To purchase a copy of the CD please visit: <https://macmillan-org.charitycheckout.co.uk/isleoflewis/profile>. A minimum donation of £10 will be required plus £1.50 for postage and packaging. Please make sure to include your address when making your donation. (This will be hidden from public view and for postage purposes only).

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# Kebabish of Oban



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## STARTERS

All starters are served with fresh salad

1. Chicken Pakora	£5.50
2. Chicken Pakora (large)	£7.50
3. Mix Pakora	£6.50
4. Vegetable Pakora	£4.00
5. Vegetable Pakora (large)	£5.25
6. Mushroom Pakora	£4.50
7. Fish Pakora	£5.50
8. Chicken Nuggets	£4.75
9. Onion Rings	£4.25
10. Garlic Mushrooms	£4.75
11. Spicy Mushrooms	£4.75
12. Onion Bhaji	£3.75
13. Vegetable Samosa (2 pieces)	£3.25
14. Mince Samosa (2 pieces)	£3.95
15. Chicken Tikka	£4.00
16. Seekh Kebab	£4.00
17. Chicken Chaat	£3.95
18. Grilled Mint Lamb Chop (4 pieces)	£7.50
19. Grilled Chili Fish (heavily spiced 4 pieces)	£5.50

## POPULAR INDIAN DISHES

20. Bhoona	
Pieces of chicken breast cooked with ginger, garlic, & fresh tomatoes in a bhoona sauce.	
21. Dopiaza	
Chicken cooked with extra onions also added ginger, garlic & tomatoes.	
22. Dansak	
Chicken cooked with lentils to make a special flavor.	
23. Madras fairly hot curry.	
24. Patia Chicken cooked in sweet & sour sauce.	
All above dishes can be prepared in:	
Chicken	£7.25
Lamb	£7.95
25. Chicken Curry	£6.50
26. Lamb Curry	£6.95

## VEGETABLE DISHES

These dishes are priced as main meals

27. Aloo Gobi Potato & cauliflower	£6.00
28. Aloo Saag Potato & spinach	£6.00
29. Palak Paneer Spinach & cottage cheese	£6.00
30. Bombay Aloo	£6.00
31. Vegetable Bhoona	£6.00
32. Vegetable Rogan Josh	£6.00
33. Channa Curry (Chickpeas)	£6.00
Channa Bhoona (Chickpeas)	£6.00
34. Mixed Vegetable Curry	£6.00
35. Turka Dall - a lentil based curry	£6.00



## KEBABISH SPECIAL DISHES

All speciality dishes are carefully prepared & marinated in Indian spices, yoghurt & fresh lemon juice then cooked in a clay oven.

<b>36. Tikka Masala</b>	
Cooked with masala sauce, green peppers & fresh cream	
<b>37. Tikka Chasni</b>	
Cooked in a sweet & sour sauce with added cream.	
<b>38. Tikka Jalfresi</b>	
Cooked with green peppers, onions, tomatoes, fresh green chillies, ginger & garlic, topped with fresh coriander. (hot)	
<b>39. Tikka Rogan Josh</b>	
Cooked in bhoona sauce then garnished with fresh tomatoes, onions, green peppers & fresh coriander.	
<b>40. Tikka Makhani Masala</b>	
Cooked in masala sauce & coconut cream, topped with almond flakes.	
<b>41. Tikka Kashmiri Masala</b>	
Cooked in mild creamy sauce & fruit cocktail /pineapple.	
<b>42. Tikka Achari</b>	
Bhoona style cooked with green pepper, onion, tomato, green chilli & special mixed pickles (hot).	
<b>43. Tikka Punjabi Masala</b>	
Cooked in tomatoes, chopped ginger, green chillies, herbs and spices garnished with grated ginger and coriander (Kebabish special hottest dish)	
<b>44. Tikka Chilli Masala</b>	
Tomato & green chillies done in a special spicy sauce.	
<b>45. Tikka Bhoona Special</b>	
Cooked with tomatoes, garlic, ginger & fresh coriander.	
<b>46. Tikka Pardesi</b>	
Prepared with fresh mushrooms & spinach with bhoona sauce & Indian spices.	
<b>47. Tikka Jaipuri</b>	
Cooked with green peppers, onions, mushrooms in a medium sauce.	
<b>48. Tikka Pasanda</b>	
A very mild dish with ground almonds & fresh cream.	
<b>49. Tikka Masalendar</b>	
Prepared carefully into a slightly tangy sauce to desired strength using freshly ground Punjabi spices & capsicums.	
<b>50. South Indian Garlic Chilli</b>	
Cooked in fresh garlic and ginger with pepper, onions fresh tomato and garlic chilli sauce (hot)	
<b>51. Malai Tikka</b>	
Prepared with spinach & fresh cream (mild / med)	
<b>52. Butter Chicken</b>	
(Cooked with butter and blend of warm spices giving an excellent buttery dish of medium to hot)	
<b>53. Special Handy</b>	
(A traditional Lohori style dish with a hot creamy sauce which give unique flavor to those who like spicy food)	
<b>All curries available in:</b>	
Chicken Tikka	£8.50
Lamb	£9.50
King Prawns	£10.50
All curries available in:	
Madras (hot) 60p extra and Vindaloo (very hot) 90p extra	

## BALTI DISHES

Tikka style meat cooked with fresh chopped ginger, garlic, tomatoes, green peppers, fresh coriander and special Balti sauce

54. Chicken Tikka Balti	£8.50
55. Lamb Tikka Balti	£9.50
56. King Prawn Balti	£10.50
57. Mixed Meat Garlic Balti	£9.95
(Chicken Tikka and Lamb Tikka)	

## KARAHI DISHES

A very famous Indian dish cooked with fresh garlic, pepper, green peppers, onions & a touch of yoghurt. Medium to hot

58. Chicken Karahi	£7.95
59. Lamb Karahi	£8.50
60. Chicken Tikka Karahi	£9.50
61. Prawn Karahi	£7.95
62. House Special Karahi	£9.95
(chicken tikka, lamb tikka, prawns and mushrooms)	

## TANDOORI SIZZLERS

All meat, chicken, lamb, king prawns etc are marinated in Indian spices, herbs and yoghurt before being cooked in the clay oven. Tandoori dishes are served with salad, rice & curry sauce.

63. Tandoori Chicken ½	£10.50
64. Chicken Tikka	£10.25
65. Lamb Tikka	£11.50
66. Mixed Tikka Sizzler	£11.00
67. King Prawns	£12.50
68. Tandoori Mixed Platter	£13.75
(chicken tikka, lamb tikka, seesh kebab, tandoori chicken, chicken wing, rice, nan, salad & curry sauce)	

## KORMA DISHES

Korma dishes are traditionally mild & creamy. A very popular dish offering a unique & mouth-watering taste.

69. Chicken Ceylonese Korma	£7.50
Prepared with fresh cream & coconut.	
70. Chicken Muglai Korma	£7.95
Smooth & creamy.	
71. Chicken Mirchi Korma	£7.95
Prepared with yoghurt, fresh cream & fresh green chillies. (medium / hot)	
72. Chicken Kashmiri Korma	£7.95
Cooked with fresh cream & fruit cocktail or pineapple	
73. Chicken Mango Korma	£7.95
Cooked with fresh cream & sliced mango	
74. Kebabish Korma	£7.95
Cooked with yoghurt, green chilli & kebabish special sauce (Medium / hot)	
75. Vegetable Korma	£7.50
Prepared with fresh cream & coconut.	

## BIRYANI DISHES

These dishes are cooked in a wok with onions, peas & basmati rice, served with separate mild, medium or hot sauce

76. Chicken	£8.95
77. Lamb	£9.50
78. Chicken Tikka	£10.50
79. Prawn	£8.95
80. Mixed Vegetable	£8.50
81. Kebabish Mix Special	£8.95

## RICE

82. Pilau Rice	£2.95
83. Boiled Rice	£2.50
84. Onion Pilau Rice	£3.50
85. Mushroom Pilau Rice	£3.50
86. Egg Pilau Rice	£3.50
87. Coconut Pilau Rice	£3.95
88. Special Pilau Rice	£3.95
(mushrooms, green pepper & onions)	

## SET MEALS

### Set Meal for 2

2 Poppadoms,  
Spiced Onions  
or Mango Chutney  
Choice of 2 starters from:  
Onion Bhaji,  
Vegetable Pakora,  
Mushroom Pakora,  
Chicken Pakora  
Choice of 2 curries from:  
Korma, Bhoona, Patia,  
Madras, Dopiaza, Dansak  
(chicken lamb or prawn)  
2 Pilau Rice,  
Nan  
£24.95

### Special Set Meal for 2

2 Poppadoms  
Spiced Chutney  
Choice of 2 Starters from:  
Chicken Tikka,  
Chicken Pakora  
Mix Pakora  
Kebabish Tikka Mixed  
Choice of 2 Curries from:  
Chicken Tikka Punjabi Masala,  
Chicken Tikka Chilli Garlic,  
Chicken Tikka Balti,  
Chicken Tikka Karahi,  
Chicken Tikka Jalfrezi,  
Chicken Tikka Bhoona  
(chicken tikka, lamb tikka or prawns)  
2 Pilau Rice &  
2 Chapati  
£32.95

### Set Meal for 1

2 Poppadoms, Spiced  
Onions, Vegetable Pakora,  
Chicken Curry or Korma or  
Bhoona  
Pilau Rice & Plain Nan  
£13.95

### Special Set Meal for 1

2 Poppadoms, Spiced  
Onions, Chicken Pakora,  
Chicken Tikka Masala or  
Jalfrezi or Bhoona  
Pilau Rice & Plain Nan  
£14.95

# Kebabish of Oban



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## KEBABS

All kebabs served in a pitta bread with salad & chilli sauce or garlic mayo.

	Medium/Large
89. Donner Kebab Seasoned minced lamb cooked on a revolving skewer.	£4.75 £5.75
90. Chicken Donner Seasoned chicken breast cooked on a revolving skewer.	£5.95 £6.95
91. Mix Donner (lamb donner & chicken donner)	£6.95
92. Chicken Tikka Kebab Pieces of marinated chicken cooked on Charcoal grill.	£6.95
93. Barbecued Chicken Chunks of seasoned chicken cooked on Charcoal Grill with onions, green peppers & mushrooms.	£6.95
94. Lamb Tikka Kebab Pieces of marinated lamb cooked on Charcoal Grill	£7.95
95. Shaslik Kebab Chunks of seasoned lamb cooked on charcoal Grill with onions, green peppers & mushrooms.	£7.95
96. Mixed Kebab Selection of lamb shaslik & barbecued chicken, all of the above served in a pitta bread with salad, chilli sauce or garlic mayonnaise.	£7.75
97. Special Kebab Selection of lamb shaslik, barbecued chicken & donner meat, all of the above served in a pitta bread with salad, chilli sauce or garlic mayonnaise.	£7.95
98. Donner Bursa Donner on a bed of sliced onions & pitta bread, topped with garlic mayonnaise & mozzarella cheese, served with chips.	£7.95
99. Chicken Bursa Chicken Donner on a bed of sliced onions & pitta bread, topped with garlic mayonnaise & mozzarella cheese, served with chips.	£8.95
100. Separate Tub of Sauce	£0.60
101. Separate Garlic Mayonnaise Tub	£0.60
102. Separate Kebab Salad	£0.60

## NAN KEBABS

All Nan Kebabs below are served on Large Nan with salad, chilli sauce or garlic mayonnaise

103. Chicken Tikka Nan Pieces of chicken tikka cooked on Charcoal Grill	£8.95
104. Chicken Barbecued Nan Chunks of seasoned chicken cooked on Charcoal Grill with onions, green peppers & mushrooms.	£8.50
105. Lamb Tikka Nan Pieces of marinated lamb cooked on Charcoal Grill	£9.95
106. Lamb Shaslik Nan Chunks of seasoned lamb cooked on charcoal Grill with onions, green peppers & mushrooms.	£9.95
107. Mixed Nan Kebabs Selection of lamb shaslik & barbecued chicken, all of the above	£9.50
108. King Donner Nan seasoned minced lamb cooked on a revolving skewer.	£8.50
109. Special Nan Kebab Chicken tikka, lamb tikka, barbecued chicken & donner meat served on a nan bread with salad, chilli sauce or garlic mayonnaise.	£9.95
110. Mix Donner Nan Lamb donner & chicken donner	£9.95
111. Kebabish Delight Nan Kebab (mixed donner, chicken and lamb donner cooked in curry sauce with pepper, onions and mushroom, served on nan bread)	£10.95

## BURGERS

All burgers are served in a seeded bun with salad & mayonnaise

	Single/With Chips
112. Veggie Burger	£3.50 £4.50
113. 4oz Beef Burger	£3.95 £4.95
114. 4oz Cheese Burger	£3.95 £4.95
115. Chicken Burger	£3.95 £4.95
116. Donner Burger	£3.50 £4.50
117. Double Beef Burger	£5.95 £6.95
118. Double Cheese Burger	£5.95 £6.95
119. Zinger Burger	£5.50 £6.50

## CHIPS MIX

120. Chips	£2.25
121. Chips & Donner	£4.75
122. Chips & Donner (large)	£6.25
123. Chips & Cheese	£3.75
124. Chips, Cheese & Donner	£5.75
125. Chips, Cheese & Donner (large)	£7.50
126. Chips & Spicy Chicken	£5.75
127. Chips & Chicken Nuggets	£5.75
128. Chips & Curry Sauce	£3.95
129. Chips & Korma Sauce	£4.40
130. Bombay Chips	£2.75
131. Fish & Chips	£5.50

## CHAPATIES & NANS

132. Plain Nan	£2.95
133. Garlic Nan	£3.50
134. Cheese Nan	£3.75
135. Cheese & Garlic Nan	£4.50
136. Vegetable Nan	£3.75
137. Peshwari Nan (sweet nan)	£3.75
138. Tandoori Chapati	£2.00
139. Plain Paratha	£3.50
140. Vegetable Paratha	£3.75

## SUNDRIES

141. Two Poppadoms	£1.25
142. Mango Chutney	£1.00
143. Spiced Onions	£1.25
144. Mixed Pickle	£1.00
145. Curry Sauce	£4.00
146. Bhoona Sauce	£4.50
147. Korma Sauce	£4.50
148. Massala Sauce	£4.50
149. Chasni Sauce	£4.50
150. Fresh Side Salad	£1.75

## KEBABISH PIZZAS

All pizza bases are made in house fresh to order and served with Kebabish's own Pizza Sauce

	10"	12"	14"
150. Margherita Cheese & tomato	£6.00	£7.50	£10.50
151. Vegetarian Cheese & tomato, red onion, mushrooms, green peppers & sweetcorn.	£7.00	£8.50	£11.95
152. Veggie Hot Cheese & tomato, mix pepper, red onion, green chilli & olives	£7.50	£8.75	£12.50
153. Tropical Feast Cheese & tomato, sliced banana, pineapples & a touch of our own special sauce.	£7.50	£8.75	£12.50
154. Eastern Spice Cheese & tomato, red chillies & donner meat.	£7.50	£8.75	£12.50
155. Rosara Cheese & tomato, chicken, sliced mushrooms, sweetcorn & pineapple.	£7.75	£8.95	£13.75
156. Oban Seashore Special Cheese & tomato, prawns, tuna & red onions.	£7.75	£8.95	£13.95
157. Farmhouse Cheese & tomato, sliced mushrooms & lamb	£7.95	£9.50	£14.50
158. Hawaiian Cheese & tomato, Ham & Pineapple	£7.95	£9.50	£14.50
159. Fajita Feast Cheese & tomato, ham, pepperoni & mushroom	£7.95	£9.50	£14.50
160. Pepperoni Sicilian Cheese & tomato, pepperoni & olives	£7.95	£9.50	£14.50
161. Salami Extreme Cheese & tomato, Extra salami & mushroom	£7.95	£9.50	£14.50
162. Hot 'N' Kickin Cheese & tomato, green peppers, chicken tikka, red onions & green chillies.	£7.95	£9.50	£14.50
163. Spicy Mince Cheese & tomato, minced lamb, red onions & green chillies.	£7.95	£9.50	£14.50
164. Spicy Beefeater Cheese & tomato, sliced mushrooms, beef chunks, red onions & fresh red chillies.	£7.95	£9.50	£14.75
165. Spicy Chicken Cheese & tomato, spicy chicken, jalapeno, & sweetcorn	£7.95	£9.75	£14.75
166. Meat Feast Cheese & tomato, chicken, spicy chicken, chicken tikka and lamb tikka	£7.95	£9.75	£14.75
167. Lovers Delight Cheese & tomato, chicken, chicken tikka & spicy chicken with green peppers.	£7.95	£9.75	£14.75
168. Kebabish House Special Cheese & tomato, chicken tikka, lamb tikka, donner meat minced lamb, mixed peppers and sweetcorn	£8.25	£9.95	£14.95
169. Garlic Bread	£5.00	£6.00	£8.00
170. Cheesy Garlic Bread	£6.00	£7.50	£10.50

Extra Vegetable Topping	£0.75	£1.00	£1.50
Extra Meat Topping	£1.00	£1.50	£2.00
Extra Cheese Topping	£1.00	£1.50	£2.00

## CALZONES

Excellent folded oven baked pizza bread then topped with sauce and cheese

	10"	12"
171. Donner	£7.50	£8.95
172. Spicy Chicken	£7.75	£9.75
173. Four Seasons Ham, pepperoni, chicken & mushroom	£8.50	£9.95
174. Kebabish Special Chicken tikka, lamb tikka & donner	£8.50	£9.95
175. Curry Special Choice of Curry from Chicken Bhoona or Chicken Korma	£8.50	£9.95

## WRAPS

176. Donner	£5.00
177. Chicken Donner	£5.50
178. Mixed Donner	£5.50
179. Donner & Chicken Donner	£5.50
180. Chicken Tikka	£5.50
181. Mixed Wrap Chicken tikka & lamb tikka	£5.75
182. Special Wrap Donner, chicken & lamb tikka	£5.95

## HOAGIES

183. Donner	£5.50
184. Chicken Donner	£6.50
185. Mixed Donner Donner & chicken donne	£6.50
186. Chicken Tikka	£6.50
187. Mixed Hoagie Chicken & lamb tikka	£6.75
188. Special Hoggie Donner, chicken & lamb tikka	£6.95

## NACHOS

189. Donner	£4.50
190. Chicken Donner	£5.00
191. Mixed Donner Donner & chicken donner	£5.00
192. Chicken Tikka	£5.00
193. Mixed Nachos Chicken tikka and lamb tikka	£5.50
194. Special Nachos Donner, chicken & lamb tikka	£5.75

Ice cream, shakes, cakes, sweets and soft drinks also available

## MUNCHY BOXES

### Small Munchy Box - £8.50

Mixed Pakora, Onion Rings  
Donner, Chips,  
Salad & Chilli Sauce

### Large Munchy Box - £10.50

Mixed Pakora, Onion Rings  
Donner, Chips, 2 Pitta Bread,  
Salad, Chilli Sauce, Can of Coke

### Grill Box - £11.50

Chicken Tikka, Lamb Tikka, Chicken  
Chaat, Donner, Chips, Pitta Bread,  
Sauce, Salad & Can of Coke

### Mega Munchy Box - £12.50

Mixed Pakora, Onion Rings  
Donner, Chicken Nuggets,  
Chips, Salad, Chilli Sauce,  
served on nan with Can of Coke

### Special Grill Box - £11.50

Chicken Tikka, Lamb Tikka,  
Chicken Chaat, Chicken Donner,  
Fresh Green  
Salad, Pitta Bread,  
Sauce & Can of Diet Coke

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Find us on Facebook

We are also open from 11am daily for tea, coffee and ice cream, lunch favourites including Pizza, Burgers, Kebabs and Pakora - safe distancing measures in place.

# Robert in lockdown!



**ROBERT ROBERTSON**

robert.d.robertson@hotmail.co.uk

Thanks to all who got in touch last week to express their concern after the absence of my column.

Contrary to popular belief, I can confirm that (even after 11 weeks with me in the house), my mum and dad have not done me in. They would never do such a thing - at least not until the hedge has had its second cut of the year.

As Mark Twain famously said in response to an American newspaper prematurely printing his obituary: 'Rumours of my death have been greatly exaggerated.'

Readers' concern was, nevertheless, much appreciated!

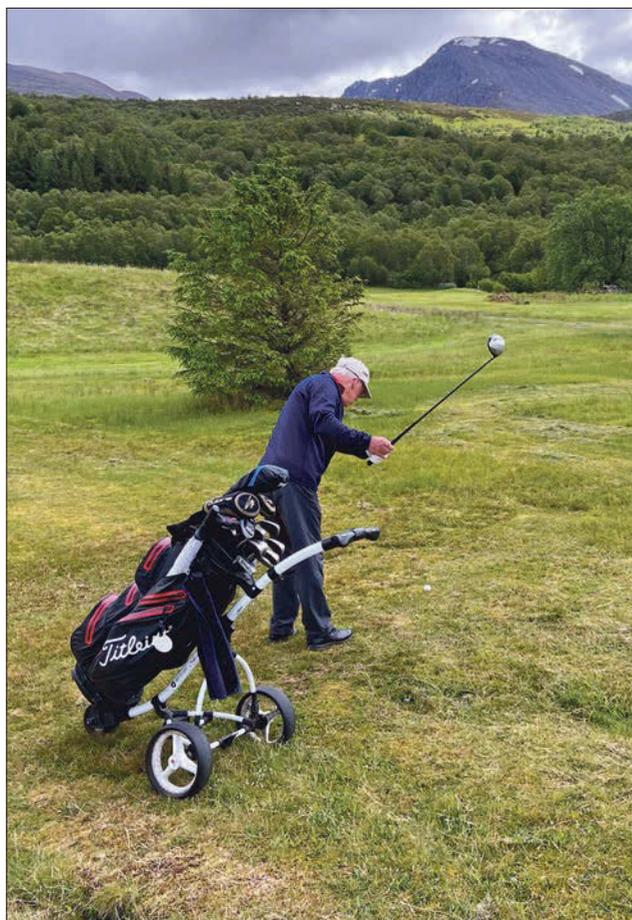
The mundane truth is that I got my days mixed up. Something that is proving all too easy in lockdown. A real shame, too, because last week marked the reopening of Scotland's golf courses (a momentous occasion in our household) and I had planned to adopt the persona of a golf reporter rivalling Peter Alliss!

Dad and I had a spring in our steps as we stood on the first tee at Fort William but my own fine fettle didn't last long. The fact I hadn't properly swung a club in almost three months was writ large across my face as I spent most of the round looking deep into Leanachan forest for my golf balls.

On one occasion, I sliced the ball right into daisies where it was perfectly camouflaged. On the next tee, seeing a similar field of daisies in the rough, I teed up a yellow ball - thinking I was being smart. This time, I hooked the ball left into a field of buttercups!

My golf didn't get much better but it was great to get out and spend some time doing something that felt like a step back towards normality.

For musicians, there is still no sign of live gigs returning in the near future so (until it



My dad back on the golf course for the first time since lockdown began.

is safe to get out and play live again) our lives will be very different.

We should have been touring Denmark, England and Scotland over the past couple of months and the last fortnight had gigs we were particularly looking forward to such as the Kelvingrove Bandstand and Inverness Cathedral.

We've had a number of online substitutes including, most recently, a version of Taste the Rain from our new album by a Tide Lines virtual choir for which we had an amazing 150 submissions. These fans joined us on screen and sang along. Many bands and musicians

are diversifying similarly. This was in full evidence last weekend which would have been Skerryvore's 15th anniversary gig.

Not letting lockdown get in the way of a party, the boys instead put on a full day of online events: including the top five Skerryvore songs as voted by their fans; a virtual cocktail night; a virtual quiz; and an online after party.

When it is safe to play live again, it is going to be the most amazing feeling.

Until then, the virtual gigs and parties will continue - and hopefully my golf will improve.

# M'ALBA

## MY ALBA

### DIARDAOIN 11 An t-Ògmhios

#### THURSDAY 11 June

- 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 Bliadhna na Sgoile (My School Year) (rpt)
- 22:00 ÙR/NEW: Julie Fowlis – Ceol Aig baile
- 22:30 Ameireaga air Film (rpt)
- 23:15 ÙR/NEW: Binneas na Trads
- 23:25 Belladrum- Cridhe Tartan (Highlights)
- 23:30 Seoid a' Chidsin – The Kitchen Coves (rpt)

### DIHAOINE 12 An t-Ògmhios

#### FRIDAY 12 June

- 17:00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
- 18:35 Machair (rpt)
- 19:00 An Là – News
- 19:25 Fraochy Bay (rpt)
- 20:00 Orain Oir (rpt)
- 20:30 Fuine (rpt)
- 21:00 ÙR/NEW: Spors – St Johnstone FC
- 21:30 ÙR/NEW: Spors – Dundee FC
- 22:00 ÙR/NEW: An Bronntanas
- 23:00 ALT (rpt)

### DISATHAIRNE 13 An t-Ògmhios

#### SATURDAY 13 June

- 11:50 Bundesliga nam Ban – SGS Essen v Wolfsburg
- 13:55 Celtic Connections (BBC ALBA Shorts) (rpt)
- 14:00 As an Eilean (rpt)
- 15:35 Cuairt Chaiseach/Wallace & Gromit in A Grand Day Out (rpt)
- 16:00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
- 17:45 An Là – News
- 18:00 SWPL – Glasgow City v Hibernian Ladies (rpt)
- 20:30 Leugh Mi (rpt)
- 20:55 Binneas – Na Trads (Phil & Amy) (rpt)
- 21:00 ALT (rpt)
- 22:00 Ameireaga air Film/America in Colour (rpt)

### DIARDAOIN 14 An t-Ògmhios

#### SUNDAY 14 June

- 13:00 ÙR/NEW: Bundesliga nam Ban – Bayern Munich v Jena
- 14:55 My Life as a Courgette (rpt)
- 16:20 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
- 18:15 An Là – News
- 18:30 Celtic Connections (BBC ALBA Shorts) (rpt)
- 18:40 Sgeul Seolaidh (rpt)
- 18:50 Ar N'Arán Laitheil/ Spiritual Service (rpt)
- 19:30 Slighe Anndra (rpt)
- 19:50 Fraochy Bay (rpt)
- 20:00 Aig Taigh- Fuine/The Bakery (rpt)
- 20:30 Dealbhan Fraoich (rpt)
- 21:00 Bannan (rpt)
- 21:25 Bannan (rpt)
- 22:00 Tannadice '87 (rpt)
- 22:55 An Bronntanas (rpt)

### DILUAIN 15 An t-Ògmhios

#### MONDAY 15 June

- 17:00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
- 19:00 Sugh an Eorna/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 Mgr Ailein agus na Faclan - Trusadh (rpt)
- 22:00 Bannan (rpt)
- 22:30 Opry le Daniel (rpt)
- 23:20 Fraochy Bay (rpt)
- 23:30 Julie Fowlis – Ceol Aig Baile (rpt)

### DIMÀIRT 16 An t-Ògmhios

#### TUESDAY 16 June

- 17:00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
- 19:00 An Lot/ The Croft (rpt)
- 19:30 Speaking Our Language (rpt)

### DIARDAOIN 17 An t-Ògmhios

#### WEDNESDAY 17 June

- 13:00 Bundesliga nam Ban – Wolfsburg v Freiburg
- 14:55 Celtic Connections (BBC ALBA Shorts) (rpt)
- 15:00 Two Go To Tolsta – Sgeulachd Syd agus Millie (rpt)
- 15:30 Am B.F.G/The B.F.G (rpt)
- 17:00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
- 19:00 Sugh an Eorna (rpt)
- 19:30 Speaking Our Language (rpt)
- 19:55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)
- 20:00 An Là – News
- 20:30 ÙR/NEW: Leugh Mi
- 20:55 Binneas – Na Trads (Phil & Aly) (rpt)
- 21:00 ÙR/NEW: Opry le Daniel
- 21:50 Celtic Connections (BBC ALBA Shorts) (rpt)
- 22:00 Bannan (rpt)
- 22:30 Port – Siorrachd Chorcaigh/Cork (rpt)
- 23:00 Bliadhna na Sgoile (My School Year) (rpt)

### DIARDAOIN 18 An t-Ògmhios

#### THURSDAY 18 June

- 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 ÙR/NEW: Mathair
- 21:40 ÙR/NEW: Port – Druthag Bheag Eile
- 21:55 Eadar Chluich (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)



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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

# Getting the hang of this homemade bread malarky

This week's recipe comes from the inspiration behind Catchacarrot Vegan Pop-Up Cafe, Janine Calder, who's kneady antics in the kitchen gave us cause to smile this week, writes Fiona Scott.

'I have never been able to master the art of bread, it always turned out dense and unpalatable,' she told us. 'So after seeing everyone else having a go I thought that I would use my time in lockdown to practice,' she said.

'Yeast and strong white and wholemeal flour were very hard to come by but after looking through my cupboards I found some still in date.

'I was gifted some granary flour and set about making some ...

'To my absolute surprise, so far every loaf has worked out fine and tasty. I think the good weather is helping!'

Janine was going to be opening her Vegan cafe in Kilmelford @catchacarrot vegan pop up cafe in April, however, during lockdown she has been delivering her deli-



Janine Calder with another successful loaf.

cious homemade vegan cakes to people's doors.

Check out her Catchacarrot Vegan Pop Up Cafe Facebook page for more info.

**Ingredients**

- 500g wholemeal, granary or strong white flour
- A handful of vital wheat gluten

- 1 tsp dried yeast
- 2 tablespoons sugar or 1 tablespoon maple syrup
- 2 tablespoons olive or Rapeseed oil
- 1 tablespoon salt
- 1 cup of hot water
- 1/2 cup of oat or soya milk
- Sesame seeds and extra plant milk for the top.

If the mixture is too wet add more flour by the handful.

**Method**

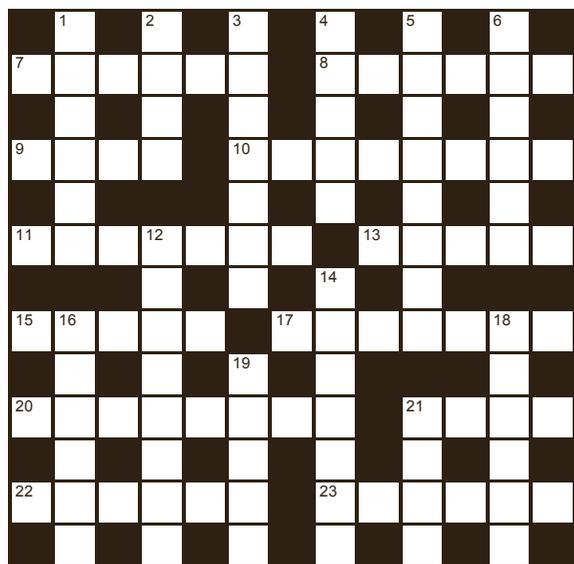
My method is to just chuck all the ingredients in a bowl, stir it about, add the wet ingredients to the dry. Knead for a bit, not too long as I get bored.

Coat in oil, leave to rise, either by the log burner if you have one or outside in the sunshine. When doubled in size, bring in, knock back (an easy way is to hold the dough with one hand and stretch it out over the work surface with the other, then bring it back to a ball and repeat with the other hand. Keep kneading until it has a smooth texture and can be stretched without tearing), put in a tin, basted with oat or soya milk and sprinkle with sesame seeds.

Cover again. Leave to grow then put in the oven for 30 to 40 mins. My oven only has one temp but approx 180°.

Send your recipes, a photograph and a wee description of yourself, to [editor@oban-times.co.uk](mailto:editor@oban-times.co.uk)

## Crossword



**Across**

- 7 Annoy (6)
- 8 Elephant driver (6)
- 9 Part of the head (4)
- 10 Prominent player (4,4)
- 11 Rally round (7)
- 13 Put out (5)
- 15 Throat part (5)
- 17 Twist (7)
- 20 Secret (8)
- 21 Jeer (4)
- 22 Unseat (6)
- 23 Devil (6)

**Down**

- 1 Take a nap (6)
- 2 Cargo (4)
- 3 Bouillon broth (4,3)
- 4 Suggest (5)
- 5 Game pieces (5,3)
- 6 Funafuti is this state's capital (6)
- 12 Religious offering (8)
- 14 Yield (7)
- 16 Evening bell (6)
- 18 Hair tie (6)
- 19 With weapon (5)
- 21 Secluded valley (4)

**LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION**



## New animation to help schools post lockdown

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



Highland-based production company, Big Sky, has made a new full-length animation of their award-winning musical adventure story, The Boy and the Bunnet, available for free streaming.

They are also promising to donate free books and CDs to education authorities based on the number of views it receives.

The show's writer, James Robertson, said: 'The Boy and the Bunnet introduces children to traditional music and musical instruments, as well as the Scots language, and I'm delighted the animation will have free watch-at-home access.

'When we first did the book and the live show the response we got was terrific - it was clear it appealed way



James Robertson, author and the writer on the show, Boy in the Bunnet.



beyond the seven to 10-year-old category we originally aimed at.'

Additional SQA approved education resources have also been made available during lockdown to try and alleviate pressure on teachers, parents and children alike.

Composer, James Ross, added: 'I love the fact that folk can take it as a piece of pure entertainment, or if parents are looking to teach kids at home during lockdown, they can use the free education material.'

'And we've made the sheet music available, too, for all the tunes, so older kids and adults can play along or use it to teach themselves.'

The animation was created by John McGeoch of Arts in Motion, who said: 'This grew out of the short animated sequences we used during the live show.

'It just seemed the right thing to do for lockdown - kids love the story so much it's nice to give it life in another format.'

Big Sky has confirmed that for every 250 views of the animation they'll donate a Boy and the Bunnet book or CD to an education authority to share in schools after lockdown.

The animation and associated activities and resources can be found at [www.the-boyandthebunnet.com](http://www.the-boyandthebunnet.com) and [www.bigsky.scot](http://www.bigsky.scot)

**BLACK  
LIVES  
MATTER**

## **YOUR VOICES MATTER**

**Much of the world watched what happened to George Floyd in Minneapolis with horror and outrage, and have been spurred to learn more and to act for anti-racism.**

**If you are interested or want to get involved, visit [www.846Solidarity.org](http://www.846Solidarity.org) or email [846Solidarity@gmail.com](mailto:846Solidarity@gmail.com)**

***“You are not obligated to complete the work but neither are you free to abandon it.” - the Talmud***

# OPEN FOR BUSINESS

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

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.

### MARKS AND SPENCER

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

### FARMFOODS

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

### BOOKERS CASH AND CARRY

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

## LOCAL FRESH FOOD & DRINK SUPPLIERS

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

### JACKSON BUTCHERS

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

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

wish to visit the shop.  
Also taking phone orders for collection.

### IAIN DARLING/WYNNE BUTCHERS

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

### TASTE OF ARGYLL

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

### MILLSTONE WHOLEFOODS

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

### 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 0779 6418973

### OBAN FOOD HUB

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

### TASTE OF ARGYLL KITCHEN

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

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

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

### D WATT & SON

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

## TAKE-AWAY FOOD

### CUAN MOR

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

### GEORGE STREET FISH RESTAURANT AND TAKE-AWAY

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

### OBAN GRILLHOUSE

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

### CORIANDER

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

### PIAZZA

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

### KEBABISH OF OBAN

Open daily from 11am.  
For full menu see this week's Oban Times  
Tel: 01631 566885  
Order online at [kebabishofoban.co.uk](http://kebabishofoban.co.uk)  
Collection or fast delivery

### OBAN FILLING STATION

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

### BIRCHWOOD FILLING STATION

Hot filled rolls  
Open 7am-6pm

## BUILDING, TRADES, GARDENING & DIY

### CITY PLUMBING SUPPLIES

Closed doors - phone and email orders only  
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Kerbside deliveries available  
Tel: 01631 567640

### CITY ELECTRICAL FACTORS

Closed doors but open Mon-Fri 8am-5.30pm  
Telephone orders 01631 562362  
Email: [sales.oban@cef.co.uk](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)

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

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



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



are working from home from 9am-5pm, Mon-Fri. If you email us, we will respond.

If you call us, the phone will be answered (or the call returned if a message is left). Whether it's the renewal of an existing policy, enquiries about new insurance arrangements, queries on cover or guidance on loss prevention and risk mitigation, we are here to help. Please don't hesitate to get in touch.  
Office telephone number: 01631 567675 (please note calls to this number are being re-routed and thus will not always be answered immediately - please DO leave a message);  
Graeme Bass mobile: 07872 131073

## BANKS

### ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND

Open for essential business:  
Mon-Fri  
10am - 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

### ALBA ART

Phone Graham on 07778003833 to discuss your requirements  
Payment over the telephone and your goods delivered to your door  
Delivery free in Oban.  
Small charge for delivery outwith Oban

## 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.*

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# OPEN FOR BUSINESS



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# Oban beer seller Karen plans to reopen shop

by Ellis Butcher  
ebutcher@obantimes.co.uk



A new Oban business which had to close before it had properly opened is planning to start welcoming back customers on Thursday.

Karen Lindsay had always planned to open The Oban Beer Seller, opposite The Oban Distillery in Stafford Street, on March 27 - in time for the tourism season.

The former licensee had worked for 18 months, investing thousands of pounds to build the dream base for selling the finest craft beers from across Scotland and England, along with lagers, ciders and fruit sours.

But the pandemic put paid to those plans and it only opened for half a day on March 20, before she shut the doors and the lockdown was then imposed days later.

By the time it opens, it will have been shut for 12 weeks.

Armed with guidance from the government on how to keep customers and herself safe and ensure social distancing, Karen plans to partially open for half a day on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturday.

The hours are likely to be between midday-6pm, Thursday and Friday, and midday-5pm on Saturday.



**'The business has to grow. While the sales have been really brilliant and fantastic, I need to sell more beer and can only sell more beer by being open.'**

Karen, a former licensee of The Barn Bar at Lerags, said: 'Until the shop is open, I don't know what's going to happen. I do not expect

a stampede of people. Little by little, places in Oban are opening and the more places that open, the more people will think it's worth

having a wander around town.

'Hopefully, not long after and depending on how things go, it will reopen five days a week.'

Yellow and black tape has been laid on the shop floor and Karen will limit the number of customers, has installed a bench outside, and has an extensive cleaning and sanitising regime lined-up.

The mum-of-two said: 'I'll be

Karen Lindsay is planning to partially open her shop for half a day on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturday.

limiting numbers, there will be clear guidelines for distancing, a cleaning regime, limiting the hours and still allowing online orders so people can still choose, if they prefer, to order online.'

Despite the pandemic, Karen managed to get in stock from breweries all over Scotland, and also turned to Derek Wilson Carrier Services of Oban.

She created a rudimentary way of selling beer by emailing customers a weekly stock list and asking them to choose which beers they wanted.

Customers paid online and then either picked up from the shop, or had it delivered to the door if they lived local to Oban. Beer has even been sent to Iona, Mull and Colonsay.

Karen said: 'The business has to grow. While the sales have been really brilliant and fantastic, I need to sell more beer and can only sell more beer by being open. I just want it to be a shop, because the business was always going to be a shop, that was always the story.'

## Work needed before tourists return, says VisitScotland chief

A VisitScotland director has said a lot of preparatory work needs to be done before local communities are 'ready and willing' to accept tourists again.

David Adams McGilp, regional director for Argyll and the Isles, said while he understood the 'urgency' to look beyond lockdown and get things restarted, the safety of staff, customers and the wider community of Argyll and Bute was 'paramount'.

Mr McGilp said: 'It's clear there's a really important balance to get right here. We want to help tourism businesses survive and get back on their feet but the safety of staff, customers and the wider community is paramount.'

Argyll and Bute contributes nearly half a billion pounds of revenue to the visitor economy, and eight out of 10 visitors are from the UK, he said, adding: 'We are well placed once Scots are allowed to

get out and about again.' He added: 'One thing that's kept me going through these challenging weeks is the sense of community businesses have been showing.'

He praised the roles of Whitetail Gin Distillery on Mull and Islay's Spirited Soap which have made hand sanitiser. He also said The Harbour Inn on Islay had delivered food and supported vulnerable people. Glenegedale on Islay had been contacting other local

businesses to help and assist with mental health tips and advice.

He also said he had been impressed at the 'innovation' businesses had shown from The Puffer Bar and Restaurant on Easdale to TES Coll. The Tree Shop in Cairndow had also been able to take orders and make deliveries. The Yellow Hare Café on Tiree had also launched a baking delivery service, with home baking being delivered by owner Kate MacLeod.

More than 250 boxes were baked and delivered within the first month - reaching locations as far as London and Devon, said Mr McGilp. 'Tragically, this virus is having a terrible human cost and is devastating for our tourism and events industry. But what will get us through only when the time is right to accept visitors, is the passion we have for our region, the enterprising spirit of our operators and our welcoming communities.'

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**Around the markets** – the latest prices paid for livestock in Oban

Oban – United Auctions on Saturday June 6 sold 241 store cattle, 31 breeding cattle, 553 ewes and lambs and 430 feeding sheep. Bullocks averaged £826.81 per head and sold to £1130 for a 512kg, CharX from M/s Epps, Ardnave Farm, Islay. Heifers averaged £737.70 per head and sold to £970 for a 362g, LimX also from M/s Epps, Ardnave Farm. Bullocks averaged 253.73p/kg to a top of 325.80p/kg for a 198kg, LimX from F Boa, Antuim, Mull and Heifers averaged 241.91p/kg to 289p/kg for 2, 176.50kg, Lim crosses from H Boa, Antuim, Mull. Breeding cattle sold to £2250 for a SimX heifer with bull calf at foot from D Dempster, Barguillean Farm, Taynuilt. Ewes and lambs sold to £81/life for TexX ewes and twins from The Execs of The Late D MacDougall, Strathorchy, Dalmally. Whilst keeping with current legislation and social distancing, the Market was full to capacity. With such a strong force of buyers

in attendance, all classes of stock sold readily and to sellers advantage.  
Leading prices  
Bullocks per head – AAx - £1005, £975(4), £880(5), Ardnacross. BSx - £1035, Innishewan; £970(2), £815(4), Auchlyne. CHARx - £1130, £1100(2), £1065, £1020(2), £980, £960(2), £950, £935(2), £905(2), Ardnave Farm. LIMx - £1065, £1040, £1010(3), £960(4), £960(3), Ardnave Farm; £955(4), Achnaba Farm; £940, Dall Farm. SALx - £885, Barnakill. SIMx - £930, Achnacone; £930(4), Cornaigmore, Coll; £900(4), Barguillean; £830(2), Cornaigmore, Coll.  
Heifers per head – AAx - £820, Ardnacross. BSx - £910, £865(2), £800(5), Auchlyne. CHARx - £965, £950, Ardnave Farm; £945, Salum, Tiree; £945(3), £940, Ardnave Farm; £905, Salum, Tiree. LIMx - £970, £960, Ardnave Farm; £960, Ardchatten HF; £945(2), Ardnave Farm; £910(2), Achnaba Farm; £905,

Ardnave Farm. SIMx - £865(3), Cornaigmore, Coll.  
Bullocks per kilo – AAx – 271p(2), Poltalloch; 257p, Ardnacross. BSx – 262p(2), Daltote. CHARx – 284p(2), 283p, 274p(2), Ardnave Farm; 268p(3), Barnakill; 261p, 254p(2), 253p, 248p(2), 242p, Ardnave Farm. HERx - 235p, 1 Blaich. LIMx – 326p, Antuim; 325p(2), 302p, Ardnave Farm; 301p(4), Sorisdale, Coll; 297p(2), 291p(3), Ardnave Farm; 290p(2), Antuim; 286p, Kilmalieu; 286p, Ardlarach; 286p(4), Poltalloch; 285p, Antuim; 282p(3), Poltalloch; 277p, Tullochcan; 274p, Ardlarach; 269p(2), Ardlarach. LRx – 257p(4), 254p, Antuim. SALx – 243p, Barnakill. SIMx – 287p, Cornaigmore, Coll; 271p(2), Sandaig, Tiree; 270p(2), 260p(4), Cornaigmore, Coll; 257p(2), Sandaig, Tiree; 257p(3), Ardnacross; 256p, Ellary Farms; 253p(4), Barguillean.  
Heifers per kilo – AAx – 248p(4), Ardnacross. BSx – 239p(2),

237p(3), Auchlyne. CHARx – 280p(2), 268p, 260p(3), Ardnave Farm; 259p(2), Tullochcan; 256p(3), 255p, 254p, Ardnave Farm. LIMx – 289p(2), Antuim; 286p(4), Sorisdale, Coll; 276p, Tullochcan; 274p, 268p, Ardnave Farms; 265p, Kilmalieu; 260p(2), Ardnave Farm; 256p(2), Achnaba; 255p, Ardlarach; 255p, Salum, Tiree; 254p(2), 1 Knockvologan; 252p(3), Ardnave Farms; 251p(2), 1 Knockvologan. LUIx – 235p, Aird Farm. SIMx – 259p, Cornaigmore, Coll; 257p(3), Sandaig, Tiree; 256p(3), 255p(2), Cornaigmore, Coll; 246p(2), Sandaig, Tiree.  
Breeding cattle – heifers with calves - £2250, £2150, Barguillean; £2000(3), Innishewan Farms  
Cows with calves - £1300, £1280, Barguillean; £1300, 16 Eoligaray, Barra; £1280(2), £1200(2), £1150, Kilvaree; £1180, £1100, Ellary Farms; £1080, Dalrannoch; £1060, Barguillean & Barnakill; £1050, Kilvaree.

Ewes with twin lambs at foot – per life – Cross - £81, Strathorchy; £70, Ellary Estate; £64, 24 Balephetrish, Tiree; ; £62, Kilvaree; £61, High Balantyre; £61, Strathorchy; £60, Maam Farm; £59, £58, 83 Borve, Barra; £54, Gribun, Tiree; £54, Clachan, Barra. BF - £46, Clachan, Tiree; £46, Kilvaree; £45, Creag A Mhadaidh; £45, Barbreck; £44, 15 Ardmhor, Barra; £43, 13 Ardevenish, Barra; £40, Ellary Estate.  
Ewes with single lambs at foot – per life – Cross - £76, £72, £70, £60, Dunans; £66, Ellary Estate; £61, 83 Borve; £60, High Balantyre; £63, £60, Strathorchy; £58, Clachan, Tiree; £58, 83 Borve, Barra; £58, Maam, £58, 17 St Brendan Road, Barra; £56, Strathorchy; £56, Strathorchy; £52, 4 Glebe Hill; £50, 4 Middlequarter, Uist; £50, 6 Leanish, Barra; £50, 17 St Brendan Road, Barra. BF - £51, Barbreck; £50, 83 Borve, Barra;

£50, Clachan, Tiree; £50, Maam Farm; £50, Ellary Estate; £48, 24 Balephetrish, Tiree; £48, Creag A Mhadaidh; £44, Ellary Estates. Hogs – Suffx - £78.50, Kilbride Farm; £71.00 – 4 Middlequarter, N Uist. TexX - £80, Clachan, Tiree. CHEV - £70.00, Maam Farm. Mule - £67.00, Maam Farm. BF - £60.00, Fiart; £59.00, Stroneskar.  
Feeding Ewes – SuffX - £77, 7 Middlequarter, N Uist. TexX - £88, High Balantyre; £85, Barcaldine HF; £70, Tyree; £70, 56 Tangasdale, Barra. Chev - £69, Balligarve; £66, Stalker Cottage; £65, Balnagown; £63, 56 Tangasdale, Barra. Cross - £64, High Balantyre; £63, 15 Ardmhor, Barra; £63, 56 Tangasdale, Barra. Mule - £68, Lusraganbeag; £65, 83 Borve, Barra; £62, Balligarve; £62, Oban Seil Croft; £60, Ricruin. BF - £69, Dunrostan; £67, Fiart; £64, Brackley; £57, Dunrostan; £56, Musdale.

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**FINANCE AND DELIVERY ARRANGED**

# PUBLIC NOTICES

## Argyll and Bute Council

### Unaudited Annual Accounts for the period from 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020

Public notice is given in accordance with the Local Authority Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2014, that:

- (a) A copy of the Unaudited Annual Accounts of Argyll and Bute Council and applicable charities from 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020 will be available for inspection on the following website: [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk) from Monday 29th June 2020 to Friday 17th July 2020. Please note that due to the restrictions in place as a result of the Covid-19 Pandemic there are no council offices open to the public therefore access to the annual accounts and supporting documentation is limited to the website this year.
- (b) Any person interested may object to the annual accounts or to any part of those statements, no later than Monday 20th July 2020, by:
- (1) sending their objection in writing, together with a statement of the grounds thereof to John Cornett, Audit Director, Audit Scotland, 4th Floor (South Suite), The Athenaeum Building, 8 Nelson Mandela Place, Glasgow, G2 1BT and;
  - (2) sending their objection in writing, together with a statement of the grounds thereof to the Controller of Audit, 4th Floor, 102 West Port, Edinburgh, EH3 9DN and;
  - (3) sending a copy of that objection and statement to the authority and to any officer of the authority who may be concerned, both at Financial Services, Council Headquarters, Kilmory, Lochgilphead, PA31 8RT.
- (c) Any request which Argyll and Bute Council receive in relation to the annual accounts plus any documents provided, will be published on the same website. When it is not possible to provide the information in electronic format the request, together with the statement that the authority will not comply, will also be published in the same place on the website as the inspection notice.
- (d) The auditor shall, if requested by the person objecting, the authority, or by any officer of the authority who may be concerned, afford to that person or authority or officer, as the case may be, an opportunity of appearing before and being heard by the auditor with respect to that objection; and any such person or officer may so appear and be heard either personally or by a representative.

Pippa Milne,  
Chief Executive  
8 June 2020

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



## MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010 NEW PONTOON, AULISTON, DRIMNIN

Notice is hereby given that Drimnin Estate has applied to the Scottish Ministers of the Scottish Government, under Part 4 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, in respect of deposit of a new pontoon at:

Cost Location	Latitude	£10,000 Longitude
Auliston, Drimnin	56° 39.006' N	006° 00.077' N
	56° 39.010' N	006° 00.070' N
	56° 38.995' N	006° 00.046' N
	56° 38.991' N	006° 00.054' N

(WGS84)

Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at <https://bit.ly/3g0uzfB>

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: 07287 and Drimnin Estate.

### 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).

## MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010 CONSTRUCTION OF NEW AND TEMPORARY BRIDGES, INVERCOE, GLENCOE VILLAGE

Notice is hereby given that The Highland Council has applied to the Scottish Ministers of the Scottish Government, under Part 4 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, in respect of construction of new and temporary bridges at:

Cost Location	Latitude	£350,000 Longitude
Invercoe, Glencoe Village	56° 41.152' N	005° 06.288' N
	56° 41.133' N	005° 06.297' N
	56° 41.145' N	005° 06.394' N
	56° 41.179' N	005° 06.365' N

(WGS84)

Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at <https://bit.ly/3csQoQw>.

Objections relating to safety of navigation or environmental issues in respect of the application should be made by email to: [MS.MarineLicensing@gov.scot](mailto:MS.MarineLicensing@gov.scot), quoting reference: 07253 and The Highland Council.

### 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).

## Argyll and Bute Integration Joint Board

### Unaudited Annual Accounts for the period from 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020

Public notice is given in accordance with under the Local Authority Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2014, that:

- (a) Copies of the Unaudited Annual Accounts of Argyll and Bute Integration Joint Board for the period from 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020 will be available for public inspection on the following websites: [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk) and [www.nshighland.scot.nhs.uk](http://www.nshighland.scot.nhs.uk) from Monday 29th June 2020 to Friday 17th July 2020. Please note that due to the restrictions in place as a result of the Covid-19 Pandemic there are no council offices currently open to the public. Therefore access to the annual accounts and supporting documentation is limited to the website this year.
- (b) Any person interested may object to the annual accounts or to any part of those statements, no later than Monday 20th July 2020, by:
- (1) sending their objection in writing, together with a statement of the grounds thereof to John Cornett, Audit Director, Audit Scotland, 4th Floor (South Suite), The Athenaeum Building, 8 Nelson Mandela Place, Glasgow, G2 1BT and;
  - (2) sending their objection in writing, together with a statement of the grounds thereof to the Controller of Audit, 4th Floor, 102 West Port, Edinburgh, EH3 9DN and;
  - (3) sending a copy of that objection and statement to the authority and to any officer of the authority who may be concerned, both at Head of Finance and Transformation, Kilmory, Lochgilphead, PA31 8RT.
- (c) Any request which Argyll and Bute Council receive in relation to the annual accounts plus any documents provided, will be published on the same website. When it is not possible to provide the information in electronic format the request, together with the statement that the authority will not comply, will also be published in the same place on the website as the inspection notice.
- (d) The auditor shall, if requested by the person objecting, the authority, or by any officer of the authority who may be concerned, afford to that person or authority or officer, as the case may be, an opportunity of appearing before and being heard by the auditor with respect to that objection; and any such person or officer may so appear and be heard either personally or by a representative.

Joanna Macdonald, Chief Officer,

8 June 2020



Argyll & Bute Health & Social Care Partnership

## Argyll and Bute Council

### PLANNING

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

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

Ref. No.	Proposal	Site Address
20/00759/PP	Erection of eco-pod for use as holiday accommodation	Orcadia Glencruitten Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 4QB
20/00695/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse, detached garage, installation of sewage treatment plant and retrospective formation of vehicular access/access gates and boundary wall	Land West Of Kilmelford Fire Station Kilmelford Argyll And Bute
20/00878/PP	Erection of extension	Grove House Connel Oban Argyll And Bute PA37 1PA
20/00844/PP	Erection of 2 dwellinghouses and detached workshop, installation of 2 septic tanks and formation of vehicular access	Land North East Of Dun Ardnish Nerabus Port Charlotte Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute

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

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



## PROPOSED ASSIGNATION OF A CROFT

Timothy Godfrey is applying to assign the tenancy of the croft at 3 Aird Point, Sleat, to Mr Mark de Vries of 11 Pier Road, Ardvasar, Isle of Skye. Written comments from those with a relevant interest (which may be made public) to: Crofting Commission, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW, [info@crofting.gov.scot](mailto:info@crofting.gov.scot) by 09/07/20.

## GOODSVEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE

Travis Perkins Trading Company trading as Travis Perkins of Lodge Way House, Lodge Way, Lodge Farm Industrial Estate, Harlestone Road, Northampton, NN5 7UG is applying to change an existing licence as follows: To keep 0 extra vehicles and 1 extra trailer at Unit 1, Ben Nevis Drive, Ben Nevis Industrial Estate, Claggan, Fort William, PH33 6RU. Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre, who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Application Services, Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, LEEDS, LS9 6NF stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to making representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office.

## MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010 MOORINGS, LOCH STAOSNAIG, COLONSAY

Notice is hereby given that Colonsay Community Development Company has applied to the Scottish Ministers of the Scottish Government, under Part 4 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, in respect of the deposit of moorings at:

Cost Location	Latitude	£50,000 Longitude
Loch Staosnaig, Colonsay	56° 03.640' N	006° 11.388' W
	56° 03.640' N	006° 11.352' W
	56° 03.640' N	006° 11.316' W
	56° 03.640' N	006° 11.280' W
	56° 03.640' N	006° 11.243' W
	56° 03.616' N	006° 11.404' W
	56° 03.616' N	006° 11.368' W
	56° 03.616' N	006° 11.332' W
	56° 03.616' N	006° 11.296' W
	56° 03.616' N	006° 11.259' W

(WGS84)

Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at <https://bit.ly/2BwD33P>

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: 07289 and Colonsay Community Development 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).

# PUBLIC NOTICES

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

**The Highland Council**  
Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd

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

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

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

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description
20/01920/FUL	Land 2315M South of Garrygualach Kingie, Invergarry	Installation of small scale (795kW) run of river hydro-electric scheme on Greenfield Burn (Amendment to planning permission 17/05863/FUL)
20/01844/PIP	Land 60M West Of 3 Stronaba Stronaba, Spean Bridge	Erection of house
20/02044/PIP	Land 40M SW Of Sunart View Kilchoan	Erection of house (renewal of planning permission 17/02988/PIP)
20/01986/MS	Land 50M W Of 72 Camaghael, Fort William	Erection of house install sewage treatment system and form access to public road. Install temporary residential caravan for duration of build
20/01921/FUL	Land 3520M SW Of Bothy Kingie, Invergarry	Modification of infrastructure location (Amendment to 17/05862/FUL - Small scale run of river hydroelectric scheme on the Allt Garaidh Ghualaich)
20/02027/S42	Boyd Brothers (Haulage) Ltd Annat Pier, Corpach	Section 42 application to vary Condition 1 of planning permission 99/00458/FUL - allow berthing and disembarking of vessels on Sundays but maintain no operational use is allowed
20/01760/FUL	Land 135M West of Inbhirhaolain Glenetive	Variation to access track/ penstock in consent 18/05439/FUL

**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)

**PROPOSED ASSIGNATION OF A GRAZINGS SHARE**

Dr Emma Jane Scobie is applying to the Crofting Commission for consent to assign the grazing share pertaining to the croft at 4 Keil, Benderloch (share), Ardchattan & Muckairn, to Mr Nicholas Alastair Milton in the Selma & Keil Common Grazing, Benderloch, Argyll, PA37 1QS.

If you have an interest in this application, you may submit comments on the proposal in writing or some other permanent form to the Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW (e-mail [info@crofting.gov.scot](mailto:info@crofting.gov.scot)) within 28 days from the date of publication of the advert.

Please note that any comments you provide are part of an open process and will be made available to interested parties. Your comments would also be released under a Freedom of Information enquiry.

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<http://termsandconditions.wyvexmedia.co.uk>



**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010 MOORING, GALLANACH, SOUND OF KERRERA**

Notice is hereby given that Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd has applied to the Scottish Ministers of the Scottish Government, under Part 4 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, in respect of the deposit of a new mooring at:

Cost	£7,000	
Location	Latitude	Longitude
Gallanach, South of Kerrera	56° 23.848' N	005° 30.644' W

Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at <http://marine.gov.scot/ml/marine-licence-mooring-gallanach-sound-kerrera-07290>

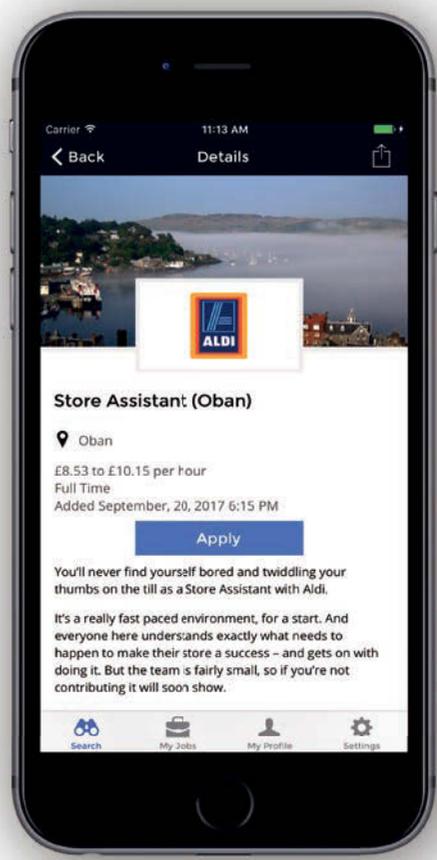
Objections relating to safety of navigation or environmental issues in respect of the application should be made by email to:

[ms.marinelicensing@gov.scot](mailto:ms.marinelicensing@gov.scot) within 28 days of the date of this notice, quoting reference: 07290 and Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd.

**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: <https://www2.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)



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## DEATHS

**ALEXANDER** - June Iris, at Royal Alexandra Hospital, Paisley, on June 5, 2020, in her 91st year, beloved wife of the late Bert, dearest mum to Christine, Eunice and Iain, loving mother-in-law, and precious granny, great gran and great great gran.

**BLACKSTOCK** - Peacefully at home, following a short illness, on Friday, June 5, 2020, John Blackstock, aged 79 years, of Isle of Seil. Beloved husband of Mary, dearly loved father of Fiona and Andrew, much loved grandpa to Calum and Grant. With very grateful thanks to Miranda Barkham, Cathy Ford and all at Easdale Medical Practice for all the wonderful care provided. Due to covid restrictions, all friends on the island are invited to pay their last respects as hearse passes between Clachan Bridge and Balvicar crossroads, around 12.30pm on Friday, June 12, prior to private graveside service.

**BUTLER** - Peacefully, at Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban, after a short illness, on May 31, 2020, 91 years young, Kenneth Walton Butler, beloved husband of the late Joyce. Ken will be sorely missed by so many friends and neighbours. A memorial service will be held as soon as circumstances allow.

**CLARK** - Margaret MacLean (née Campbell), suddenly but peacefully, surrounded by her family, at 9a Dalintart Drive, Oban, on June 6, 2020,

aged 86 years, beloved wife of the late Alexander (Tam) Clark, much loved and loving mother of Alec, Peter, Isobell and Jean and the late Lindsay and Robert. Respected mother-in-law to Senga, Mary, Bryan, Lynn, David and the late Willie and a devoted granny and great-granny. A very dear friend and neighbour. Irreplaceable. In line with current regulations, a private funeral service will be held at Pennyfuir Cemetery.

**GILLIES** - Peacefully, at North Argyll House, Oban on June 1, 2020, Cathie, née MacColl, in her 86th year. Beloved wife of the late Alex, much loved mum to Jim and Sandra, granny to Joanna, Alan and Jack and sister of Donnie, Moira, Iain and Allan. Funeral was held, under current restrictions, at Cardross Crematorium, on Tuesday, June 9. Donations to North Argyll House, Oban.

**MACKINNON** - Duncan, in his 66th year, peacefully, at home at Clachan Mhor, Kilchrenan, on June 3, 2020, after a long and courageous battle with illness. Much loved husband of Mary, beloved sister of Anne, Ishbel and the late Donald, dear uncle and brother-in-law, and friend to many. A life well lived. In line with the current Covid-19 restriction, a private family funeral will take place, on Thursday (today), June 11 at 1.00pm, at Kilchrenan Parish Church.

**MCALLISTER** - Peacefully, at Ardfenaig Care Home, Ardrishaig, on June 4, 2020,

Donald Harvey McAllister, in his 84th year, formerly of Caledonia Court, Ardrishaig, only son of the late Walter and Agnes McAllister and dear brother of the late Jean. Also a much loved uncle to Kenneth and James. Private service to be held at Cardross Crematorium, on Monday, June 15, 2020.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

**HILL** - The family of the late Archie Hill would like to thank everyone for their kind messages, cards and flowers. Also Mr Cameron for his nice service at the graveside. A big thank you to all the staff at the Lorn and Islands Hospital and doctors' surgery for looking after Archie the last few years.

**GILLIES** - Margaret. The family of the late Margaret Gillies offer their heartfelt thanks to all relatives, friends and neighbours who showed respect, during her final journey from Inverloch Village to Kilmallie Cemetery, on Friday, May 23, and to those that couldn't be present because of current restrictions, but conveyed sympathy from afar. Our thanks to the Rev Richard Baxter and John McLellan, Funeral Directors, for their compassion and care on the day. Margaret lived her 96 years to the full, with her great loves, in no particular order being her family, Rangers FC, her bingo, her dram, and her church. I'm glad to say that each of these interests was represented at her send off, and as a family, we are eternally grateful.

## IN MEMORIAM

**BANEY** - In loving memory of Helen Harold Baney, psychologist and historian, who died June 16, 2007, beloved wife of the late Trevor H Baney. Loved and never forgotten. - Inserted by Teresa.

**FERGUSON** - Precious memories of Angus, died June 11, 1993. A dear husband, dad, granpa and great-granpa. Lovingly remembered every day. - Catherine and family.

**MACALLISTER** - In loving memory of our dear parents, grandparents and great-grandparents,

Margaret, passed away June 17, 1995, and William, passed away July 20, 1996. Always in our thoughts, Forever in our hearts. - Themie, Margaret, John, Fay and family.

**MACPHERSON** - In loving memory of a dear husband and father, Gordon, who died June 16, 1990. Also a dear son and brother, Royal Marine Commando, Gordon Cameron, killed in action during the Falklands conflict, on June 12, 1982. Loved and remembered always. - Mum, David and Jean.

**STEWART** - Precious memories of my dear husband Bob, who passed away June 11, 2016. Loved and remembered every day.

- Inserted by his loving wife Fiona xx

**STEWART** - In loving memory of Bob, a dear brother and brother-in-law, who passed away June 11, 2016.

Always in our thoughts. - Bill and Violet, Balforn.

**STEWART** - Remembering Bob, who passed away June 11, 2016.

Sorely missed. - Ken and Delia, Australia.

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## THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

1 Corinthians 13-13: 'And now these three remain - faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.' We have a choice of how to react to the uncertainties of life including the COVID-19 pandemic and the suffering it is causing.

Sometimes a natural disaster has been referred to as an 'act of God'. This is a reference back to ancient pagan beliefs but it is much more positive to recognise that the act of God is His ever present support that, together with our faith and hope, enables us to find ways to cope with changes in lifestyle and inspires us to serve God with acts of kindness.

We have cause to be thankful in these troubled times for the spirit of neighbourliness and new friendship that has been awakened as a positive response to the changes forced upon us. Supporting neighbours in lockdown by shopping for them, donating food for the disadvantaged, selfless caring for the sick and comforting the bereaved are all expressions of love.

Even from lockdown, we can support friends and family by phone or other IT facilities to share goodwill between giver and receiver. Although no one would have chosen this period of lockdown, it has given us the opportunity to pause and re-evaluate our lifestyle hoping for the growth of a more caring and forward thinking society.

Janet and Geoff Fairbairn  
(Quakers)

## Veteran MSP David to retire at next election

Veteran Highlands and Islands Labour MSP David Stewart is to retire at the next Scottish Parliament election at the age of 65.

Mr Stewart is one of a small band of Scottish politicians who have served as a councillor, an MP and an MSP.

He became the first Labour MP to represent the previous constituency of Inverness East, Nairn and Lochaber in 1997, doubling his majority in 2001 before losing his seat to Lib-Dem Danny Alexander in 2005.

In 2007, he re-entered politics as a Highlands and Islands Labour MSP on the regional list, and was elected for a further two terms, the latest ending next year at the election. In fact, Mr Stewart will be 65 the day before polling day.

'For me, retiring is a bitter-sweet moment,' said Mr Stewart. 'I've been dedicated to politics and the Labour Party for most of my life. I've met thousands of people, worked cross-party with countless politicians, been on the doorstep with many activists for Westminster and Scottish Parliament elections' and I don't regret a moment of it.

'It's been a privilege to serve Inverness and the Highlands and Islands throughout my career but it's time to move over for new blood.'

Fellow MSP Rhoda Grant said she will be sad to see him go. 'David is a dedicated politician and a good friend,



David Stewart MSP.

always willing to fight for his constituents and not afraid to launch campaigns to achieve his goal,' she said.

'He has achieved respect from across the parliamentary divide which is no mean feat in today's political world. He will have hard shoes to fill and will be a great miss to the parliament. However, I will continue to seek his advice and use his knowledge.'

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## Village golfers swing into action

Golfers around the region have been making a beeline for the fairways since Phase 1 of the Scottish Government's lockdown lifting plan came into play, writes Fiona Scott.

Courses reopened on Friday May 29, with Dalmally and Taynuilt among the many smaller golf clubs who made the most of the new found freedoms.

Founded in 1987, Dalmally is one of the newest clubs in the region and boasts a beautiful and peaceful nine-hole course set in some of the country's most breathtaking scenery.

Happy golfers, Martin O'Keeffe and Angus MacGillivray were first to take to the tees, in a socially distanced manner, with both enjoying a much anticipated round in the most glorious weather.

Following the issue of guidelines from the sport's governing body, Scottish Golf,

play resumed at Scotland's 570 golf courses at the end of May and while the season has seen a very late start, Dalmally's captain, Graeme MacKechnie welcomed the move.

'Members are out in force and we've seen a substantial boost to membership from local people who now see golf as a much-needed source of exercise and recreation after weeks of lockdown,' he said.

Despite the restrictions the club has been able to carry out course maintenance, led by Jim and Alison Livingstone, and have managed to ensure, helped by the good weather, that the course is playing beautifully.

'We all thank them for everything they have done over these past weeks,' added Graeme.

At present, the clubhouse is closed but it will be open once the Scottish Government announces further easing meas-



Martin O'Keeffe and Angus MacGillivray socially distancing on the first tee and Dalmally Golf Club.

ures, with members and guests being able to take advantage of the new external patio area overlooking the 9/18th fairway and green.

The club's competition programme and coaching are also on hold at the moment, but organisers will be reviewing these in the coming weeks.

At present, play is restricted to members of the club. That said, there is currently a half price introductory offer to new members.

Anyone interested should contact membership secretary Catriona O'Keeffe, emailing: [dalmallygcmembership@gmail.com](mailto:dalmallygcmembership@gmail.com)

Just 12 miles up the road, Taynuilt Golf Club committee were also delighted to reopen and to welcome back members.

Moira MacVicar, Taynuilt

Golf Club secretary, told us: 'The course is in great condition and many golfers have been taking advantage of the great weather to practice their game again.'

Located close to the base of Ben Cruachan, and also founded in 1987, Taynuilt Golf Club offers a stunning nine-hole parkland course.

As well as ensuring that the course was in tip-top condition for the return of its members, there has also been some redecorating going on, with the addition of new flags on the greens in support of the NHS. Taynuilt is also running a members-only policy at the moment and tee times must be booked.

'We are hoping competitions can resume soon,' added Moira. Membership applications



Stuart Laurie and his son Aiden showing off Taynuilt Golf Club's NHS Support flags.

can be made by visiting [www.taynuiltgolfclub.co.uk](http://www.taynuiltgolfclub.co.uk)



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**MAKE THE SWITCH**

# Virus poses a 'greater risk than ever' to communities

by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

The coronavirus pandemic has created a greater risk than ever to the health, safety and well-being of communities in Lochaber and elsewhere across the Highlands and to the provision of essential council services.

While details of the adverse wider impact COVID-19 is having on the Highland economy are yet to fully emerge, it is still expected to be substantial with businesses folding and jobs being lost.

That was the depressing scenario confronting councillors taking part in last week's virtual Highland Council Corporate Resources Committee, with the members being left in no doubt about the significant and serious impact COVID-19 continues to have on the local authority's budget.

The scale and immediacy of financial challenges to be faced were laid out in a report that modelled two different

potential scenarios. In the 'mid case' scenario, a budget gap of £65.7m is projected while, in the most severe, a potential gap of £96.9m is projected.

In a statement following the meeting, the council said at this time the level of risk it faces is perhaps greater than ever before. The risks cover those to staff and their health

### 'We have had no grants to make up for lost income.'

and well-being, to the health, safety and well-being of communities and risks to the provision of essential council services.

The council said its staff, partners and communities have all stepped up to provide a response to the immediate challenges posed, including providing support to the most vulnerable as well as providing care for key workers. At the same time the council has been

continuing to provide essential public services.

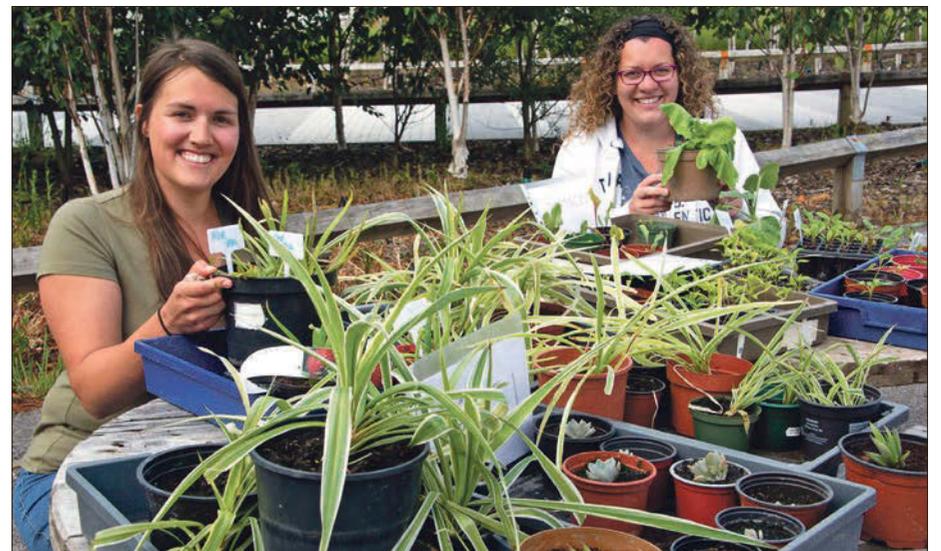
The long-term impacts of these factors will be felt by the council, both in terms of reduced income generation and increasing demand for services over many years to come.

Asked to comment from a Lochaber perspective, Councillor Ben Thompson, Caol and Mallaig, told the Lochaber Times: 'The statement from the Highland Council should make it clear that the Scottish and UK governments need to support councils urgently.'

'Unlike many businesses, local authorities have had no grants to make up for lost income and no furlough scheme is available to replace local tax spent on employees who can't work because they are shielding. It's even more shocking to me there is no Bellwin Scheme - the scheme that finances councils during national emergencies.'

And Councillor Thompson  
Continued on page six.

## High school's new growth industry



Economists talk about 'green shoots' in the economy but at Lochaber High School, green shoots have already made a significant financial contribution to its polytunnel project. Teachers Iona Beagent, left, and Ruth MacCallum potted up a range of plants from catci to vegetables and flowers, grown at the school, then sold them from outside the entrance, raising more than £250 in a morning. The proceeds will buy compost and seeds for the project to continue next term. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

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LT

# Family launches anti-racism for beginners new website

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



A North Connel family has been spurred into action to set up a new website helping people to be anti-racist.

The death of George Floyd in Minneapolis, killed by a police officer leaning a knee on his neck, shocked much of the world but for the family, who previously lived in Minnesota then San Francisco before moving to Argyll last year, it has prompted them to take a stand in solidarity with all those affected by racism.

This week they launched their 846solidarity.org website as a way of bringing together a host of resources to help themselves and others learn more about racism and how to halt it.

Mum Jakki Spicer, dad Andy Lambert and their 14-year-old



Andy Lambert and his family Dr Jakki Spicer with their daughter Billie have set up 846solidarity.org to make a stand against racism.

daughter Billie hope people from Oban and beyond, also heart-broken by George Floyd's death, will visit and share their website to find out

more about the issue of racism and how it can be eradicated. 'We're not experts but we are responding to what we see as an injustice. We don't have all

the answers – but we know we can learn more. It's a call for action for others to join us on this journey.

'It's not Oban-centric. We

hope the website will draw people from all over and that it will grow from here,' said Dr Spicer, who has a doctorate in cultural studies and comparative literature.

Mr Lambert added: 'We would like the website to be

## 'It's a call for action for others to join us on this journey'

a catalyst for people to come together. We will do what we can as a family but we hope others will join us to do what they can do too.'

The website will have details of a broad range of helpful resources including a section on anti-racism for beginners. The list will be continually curated and updated and is open for people's suggestions.

As well as being a platform

for learning, the website will also be encouraging people to turn their knowledge into action to help change the world for the better.

Writing letters to powers-that-be and policy-makers and supporting organisations working for racial equality are a good place to start, said Mr Lambert.

The family has already written to MPs, MSPs and Oban High School calling for anti-racism to be taught in classes.

Billie said: 'It would be amazing if we could get the history of racism and the journey of black people made mandatory learning. With knowledge comes power and with power comes change.'

Anyone wanting to get involved, or has ideas to share or questions to ask, should contact 846Solidarity@gmail.com.

## Nevis Radio crowdfunder gets £5k match-funding pledge

The Highland Club in Fort Augustus has pledged to help Nevis Radio weather the economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic.

The station has been forced to turn to the public for help as money usually raised from its events has dried up due to lockdown restrictions.

But The Highland Club now says it will match fund up to £5,000 whatever Nevis Radio raises from its crowdfunding appeal.

'As with other businesses and charities, we are feeling the financial effects the COVID-19 lockdown restrictions have brought, as events that would have generated income for us have had to be cancelled,' said a station statement.

'Previous projects and events not only added something a bit different to the Lochaber area, but were also a valuable source of income for us, contributing to the day-to-day running of the station.'

'With the current restrictions COVID-19 brings, all our usual sources of income have either ceased or have been cancelled and the worry of being able to even keep the



lights on is real. Funds from this campaign would help keep our doors open during these challenging times and ensure once the world returns, we can continue to support and develop those in the music industry whilst giving Lochaber a voice via FM and online.'

However, by the end of last month, the initial fear the lockdown could pose a threat to the survival of the station, had dissipated somewhat, according to chairman John Weller.

'We have now got some funds through from the Community Radio Fund which is a big help,' he told the Lochaber Times at the end of last week. 'The crowdfunder target was £5,000 and the offer of a matching donation from the Highland Club has also made a big difference.'

Mark Dallas, manager at The Highland Club in Fort Augustus, speaking on behalf of the Sandhu Charitable Foundation – set up by the club's owners Bim and Pardeep Sandhu – added: 'The station desperately needed some funding to carry on.'

'The station is hugely involved in the community and to lose such a service to us would be awful.'

'Community radio is a great thing to have to keep everyone informed of local events and information.'

'So the offer was made to match whatever Nevis Radio can get in donations on their funding page up to 5k.'

Nevis Radio, a charity station based in Fort William, has been broadcasting 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to Lochaber and beyond since 1992.

Nevis Radio works with the community to help promote clubs and activities. It has one paid member of staff, Simon Abberley, who is responsible for the day-to-day running of the station with the majority of the air-time hosted by 40 volunteers.

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Graham Allan, centre, chairman of Highlands and Islands Blood Bikes, at the headquarters of Lochaber Mountain Rescue, where one will be located. Photographs: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

## Volunteers gear up for Blood Bike duties at the Belford

A Fort William blood bike is all revved up and raring to go after being delivered to its new home at Lochaber Mountain Rescue on Saturday.

Volunteer riders and NHS staff from around the region gathered at the venue on the Glen Nevis Industrial Estate to welcome the vehicle as part of the Highland and Islands Blood Bikes (HAIBB) growing fleet.

The Inverness-based charity,

which couriers vital medical supplies and samples free of charge for the NHS, is still in its operational infancy and has been transporting COVID-19 samples in recent weeks, running 14-hour shifts per day.

HAIBB chairman Graham Allan said: 'Having a bike in Fort William will halve the current time it takes to run samples up to Raigmore Hospital in Inverness.'

'As a group we have only been

in operation since just before lockdown and I have been blown away by the dedication and belief shown by both our committee and our volunteers to get us here.'

HAIBB is an independent local charity, serving the Highland and Islands area, and one of many such charities forming part of a larger Nationwide Association of Blood Bikes across the UK.

All funds raised keep the

charity operating, with all volunteers and all free, serving NHS Highland and the local community.

Tina Webster, lab manager at the Belford Hospital, said: 'Getting samples to Inverness is vitally important to what we do and having the blood bikes transport them means that we don't have to rely on taxis so the money we save from that can be used in other ways within the unit.'

Recent grant funding has allowed the charity to expand its fleet and it can now boast five bikes, in four areas with 30 volunteers on board so far to run the operation.

Ross Sharp, president of HAIBB, said: 'It has always been our aim to have motorcycles based across the area, so we can react more effectively to the call from the NHS when we get it.'

'I'd like to thank all the vol-

unteers for giving us their free time for this very worthwhile cause. This is a milestone for us here at HAIBB, tying up all the regions within Highland.'

Mr Sharp added: 'If you see our riders out doing their bit please give them a wave and give them some space as they are doing it for free to help our NHS.'

Further information including how to become a volunteer, make a donation or becoming

## Staff at hotels may lose jobs

Hotel workers in Lochaber face losing their jobs following the announcement that the family-run Crieff Hydro Group has entered a consultation period due to a significant downturn in business.

The process will involve 241 people across its portfolio of seven hotels in Scotland, including the Isles of Glencoe Hotel, Kingshouse Hotel and the Ballachulish Hotel. However, the company hopes that through consultation the number of compulsory redundancies, if needed, may be fewer than half this number.

Stephen Leckie, CEO and chairman of Crieff Hydro Family of Hotels, said closing the doors at the end of March was one of the darkest days in the group's 150-year history and that this current situation was another.

'The impact coronavirus has had on our industry and business has been immediate and drastic,' he added.

'As a family-run business

built on the strength of our people, discussing potential redundancies is the toughest step we've ever had to consider.

'I am personally devastated for every one of our team who could lose their job.'

Mr Leckie stated that, despite measures taken so far to reduce costs, he anticipated bookings being down by 30-50 per cent for the best part of a year when they reopen for business.

'This will amount to a revenue loss of at least £17 million in the current financial year,' he said.

'For every month we've been closed with zero income, we've had to pay £500,000 just to keep our buildings safe and insured. This would have a profound effect on any business.'

'To try to navigate our way through this crisis, we've made use of the government's Job Retention Scheme as well as securing an additional £5 million in loans from our bank to give us the best chance of sur-

vival when we are eventually allowed to reopen.

'This comes with a heavy financial burden but is the only way forward to rebuild the business and protect the remaining jobs.'

'We know we have many loyal customers who visit us year after year, so we hope the recovery is quick and we can welcome families back to our hotels in the coming months.'

'The effects of this pandemic can't last forever and our long-term vision is to rebuild the team when business returns.'

Marc Crothall, chief executive of the Scottish Tourism Alliance, described the announcement as 'a harsh reality of the impact of COVID-19'.

He added: 'Without any income for many months and coupled with high levels of fixed costs and with no long-term grant support available to help bridge the gap in the months, businesses are now faced with little or no choice but to cut employee costs.'

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[mathesons.co.uk](http://mathesons.co.uk)

LT

# New financial support for small bed and breakfasts

## Business leaders welcome news money is to be re-purposed to help in crisis

News small bed and breakfast establishments across Lochaber will now qualify for financial help to weather the impact of the coronavirus pandemic have been welcomed by business leaders.

Businesses across the country were awarded more than £100 million through the Scottish Government Business Support Fund.

The scheme, announced by Cabinet Secretary Fiona Hyslop at the end of April, has to date helped more than 2,500 businesses and 4,160 self-employed people.

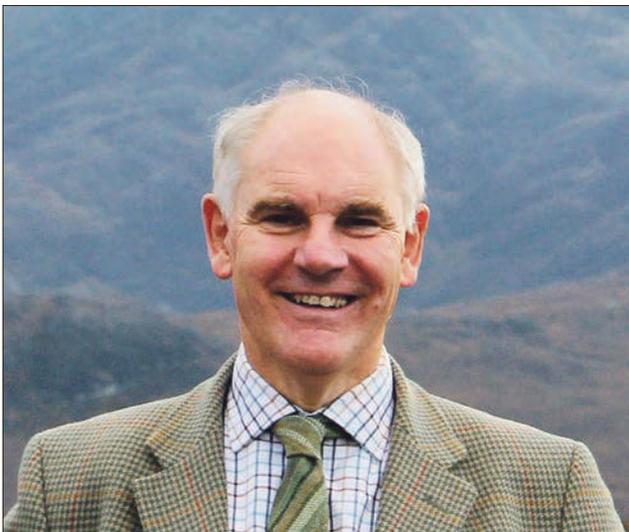
Now the fund, which started with £100 million of grant support for individuals and companies affected by COVID-19 and has since been topped up to £185 million, is being expanded.

Small B&Bs, which were ineligible for other support due to not having a business bank account, can now apply for a share of £3 million re-purposed from the Newly Self-Employed Hardship Fund.

The funding for small B&Bs will be administered by local authorities and applications are expected to open on June 15.

Ms Hyslop commented: '£3 million of the Newly Self-Employed Hardship Fund allocation will be re-purposed to support B&Bs who were ineligible for other support due to not having a business bank account.

'These businesses are an important part of Scotland's tourism sector, particularly in rural areas, yet were not eligible for support from



the hardship fund. I hope this change will help ensure they are ready to welcome visitors once again as soon

as circumstances allow.' The Federation of Small Business (FSB)'s Highlands and Islands Development Manager David

**The Federation of Small Business Highlands and Islands Development Manager David Richardson, who welcomed news of the extra support.**

Richardson told the Lochaber Times: 'I have been approached by long-established B&B operators during this crisis, all concerned they were missing out on Scottish Government support because they did not have business bank accounts.

'It seemed very unfair they were being refused funding on a technicality.

'FSB Scotland is campaigning hard to ensure cracks in

the support mechanism for smaller business are filled in and we are sure many B&B operators will be drawing a huge sigh of relief at this news.'

MSP for Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch Kate Forbes said she hoped this would help B&B operators who had 'fallen between the cracks'.

Ms Forbes said: 'As of June 15, B&Bs can apply to a scheme administered by local authorities for a lump sum of £3,000, which was the default amount through the Hardship Scheme. This is specifically for B&B businesses that don't have a business bank account.

'I realise many people are facing significant difficulties as we look ahead to a challenging tourism season and that this funding will not replace lost income. I do hope, however, it offers some help.'

**A Thank You from  
Ian Blackford MP,  
Ross, Skye & Lochaber.**

On behalf of everyone in Ross, Skye & Lochaber, I would like to thank all health and social care staff and other key workers for helping our communities through this Covid-19 crisis.

I would also like to thank every one of you for playing your part by staying at home.

**Ian Blackford MP**

Contact details:  
ian.blackford.mp@parliament.uk  
www.ianblackford.scot  
01397 700030



Stay Home.  
Stay Safe.  
Protect Our NHS.



## LOCKDOWN HEROES: LOCHABER SENSORY CARE

This week's Lochaber Lockdown Heroes spotlight focuses on Caol-based Lochaber Sensory Care (LSC), which has stepped up its efforts to support clients with sight and hearing loss during the COVID-19 lockdown. It is now dealing with almost twice as many enquiries than in previous months.

The charity was quick to respond to lockdown with the immediate closure of its office in Caol shopping centre to protect visitors and volunteers, most of whom were in the 'at risk' group.

Despite this, work continued for manager Esther Briers and senior support assistant Lisa Jamieson who took up the challenge rather than furlough and rapidly introduced new systems to ensure all clients still received a high level of care.

By making greater use of the postal service and a telephone befriending service, links have been maintained while meeting all restrictions on no close physical contact.

They also offer 'real time' advice and support to clients on matters including how to use mobile phones and tablets, which can be challenging for elderly people unused to them,



Lisa Jamieson, left, and Esther Briers are keeping in touch with clients while the office is closed. Photograph: Iain Ferguson.

while also coping with hearing or sight loss.

The importance of their efforts was highlighted when in the first month of lockdown they supported more than 250 individuals across Lochaber – almost twice the number they would usually see in the sensory centre.

Esther said: 'We are still providing practical help. We are carrying out or arranging hearing aid repairs, replacing batteries, supplying volume enabled phones or other equipment.

'We are also ready to help with shopping, picking up prescriptions and passing on messages to other relevant ser-

vices. We are here to help and are happy to do everything we can for clients and our volunteers, who normally would be undertaking some of this work from the office, but are themselves confined by restrictions.'

Board member Jackie Stuart told the Lochaber Times: 'Esther and Lisa are both doing a great job in these difficult times and should be praised for their extra efforts.'

Sensory Care services can still be accessed by post: Lochaber Sensory Care, Caol Shopping Centre, Caol, Fort William, PH33 7DR; email enquiries@sensorycare.org.uk; telephone 01397 704889 or text on 07780 285278.

# Anger after campers rip up and burn safety fence rails

There has been widespread anger after wild campers ripped up safety fence rails in Glencoe and burned them on their camp fire.

The incident was discovered after the warm weather on the last weekend in May, which saw crowds of people flout the coronavirus lockdown 'five-mile only' travel guidance to visit Glencoe.

As well as the destruction of the fence, there was also rubbish - including a discarded pop-up tent - strewn about which has provoked the ire of the National Trust for Scotland (NTS) which cares for Glencoe, and Highland Council elected member Niall McLean.

On its Facebook page, the NTS stated: 'We struggle to understand why someone would remove the safety rails on a fence beside a big drop near a bridge over the River Coe to burn in their campfire,

before leaving a pop-up tent and other rubbish for us to dispose of.

'If they get a pang of regret, they might like to make a donation to fund the fence's replacement, which will be going up today.'

NTS then gave the web address where money could be donated.

The charity added: 'While the vast majority of visitors to NTS Glencoe National Nature Reserve cherish this incredible place as much as we do, dealing with the impact of thoughtless, 'dirty' campers is a habitual and unwanted part of our Ranger team's role.

'Most of our team is currently furloughed to reduce costs when our charity's funds are challenged by the COVID-19 crisis.

'This makes litter picking and damage patrols across the 14,000 acre estate and 60km



Above left: The fence from which safety rails were removed then used on a camp fire. Photograph: NTS. Above right: The site of a campfire in Glencoe.

of footpaths in our care even less welcome than usual. We appreciate the efforts of locals who volunteer their time to assist and make us aware when

they spot something that needs dealing with.'

An equally angry Councillor McLean added: 'It's an outrage. People need to respect

the countryside. The NTS does a great job making access to the countryside for as many people as possible a reality, then this sort of thing happens.

It makes me sick. This sort of behaviour needs punished. People should be observing the lockdown rules and respect the countryside.'

## 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

# Lights, camera, action – cinema is back on track

by Fiona Scott  
fscott@obantimes.co.uk



Work on the new Highland Cinema will be rolling back into action over the next couple of weeks with the anticipated opening now scheduled for September.

Work was delayed on the High Street development, which was due to open on May 9, owing to the COVID-19 lockdown restrictions but careful planning and re-scheduling of pending work has been undertaken in the meantime to ensure a safe working environment for all contractors.

With phase one of the Scottish Government's easing of lockdown plans now in effect, the cinema is preparing to restart construction soon, with a new opening target of September this year.

Commenting on the situa-



Work may soon restart on the cinema in Cameron Square.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

tion, owner Angus MacDonald said: 'We're working away behind the scenes to get our fantastic cinema open as soon as safely possible for the community.'

'There are some excellent films in the wings that we can't wait to show.'

Cinema came early to Fort William, with the establish-

ment of the Picture House in the old town hall in April 1913, before the First World War broke out.

In those days, films were typically short and an evening of cinema would often involve a variety of clips, ranging from newsreel to comedy, cartoons and travelogues of far away places. The Picture House was



The Town Hall, home of the Picture House and then CB Pictures from 1913-1926. Photograph reproduced from www.ambaile.org.uk

renamed CB Pictures in 1919 and continued to operate in the Town Hall until 1926.

In 1929, the Shalee, named after a native American tribe, opened on the High Street along from the Volunteer Arms. It brought the exciting new 'talkies' to the town.

Within a year, the Shalee was renamed as The Lochaber for

a brief period, before a final name change to the Playhouse in 1931, following considerable investment and refurbishment in the art deco style. It ran for almost 50 years before becoming a bingo club. It was finally closed by the council in 1979 due to poor wiring, a leaking roof and lack of a fire exit.

Studio Cinema came next,

built on the former site of the Town Hall in Cameron Square as a two-screen theatre and tourist office. Run by John McDermott from its opening in 1986, Studio Cinema had the same chief projectionist as the Playhouse – Kevin Brooks. Since it closed in 2005, Fort William has been without a permanent cinema, leaving the local film loving community bereft of the big screen experience.

Until now.

Designed by Skye-based architects Dualchas, Highland Cinema is being built on the same site on the High Street at the top of Cameron Square.

It will have two screens, one with 100 seats and one with 85 seats. It will also have a restaurant with an open fire at one end and a stage at the other, as well as a terrace looking out on to the Square that can accommodate 16 people seated.

## Virus poses 'greater risk than ever' to communities

From page one.

warned: 'If no support is forthcoming, I fear we are going to see a huge reduction in council spending that ultimately helps keep our local economy going.'

Councillor Denis Rixson, Caol and Mallaig, commented: 'The current Scottish Government likes to centralise command and control. It needs to trust local government in Scotland.'

'We have a symbiotic relationship. They hold the purse strings – but they need us to deliver on their behalf. We have the knowledge, the skills and the workforce to perform at ground level.'

'We have done an enormous amount of work for the Scottish Government – setting up Humanitarian Assistance Centres, putting in place Keyworker Childcare Hubs, dispensing grants to thousands of businesses. And there's still more to do and holes to plug. Please, finance us fully to do this. In short, devolution of power, responsibility, money and trust should not just be to Scotland – but within Scotland.'



Councillors Ben Thompson, left, and Denis Rixson.

Chairman of the resources committee, Councillor Alister Mackinnon, said: 'COVID-19 has impacted on all of our communities. To respond, the council has had to quickly adapt to provide new services, including the Humanitarian Assistance Centres, the helpline, food projects, hardship and welfare projects, business grants, childcare for key workers and virtual education. All of this comes at a cost and we do not know how long these services will need to be provided.'

'We need to be in a position to plan for the future but there are so many variables

and future uncertainties that forecasting and modelling is impossible to do with any accuracy. There is a great risk that whatever scenario we plan for may be significantly different from what actually transpires, with the council potentially facing a financial deficit that significantly outweighs our reserves.'

Following discussions, the committee agreed to make representations to the government to advise the council may require significant further financial support or other intervention from government to manage its budget in the 2020/21 financial year.

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# Donations from Lochaber lodges help Belford staff keep cool heads

by Fiona Scott  
fscott@obantimes.co.uk



Lochaber lodges have pulled together to purchase items that will brighten up the lives of NHS staff at the Belford Hospital during this stressful time.

Tea, coffee and an under-the-counter fridge are just some of the gifts to make their way to the Belford over the past week thanks to the concerted efforts of Freemasons across the region.

The goods were purchased by using funds from a dedicated bank account set up by Duncan Crilley, past-master of Lodge St Kieran 1155 in Kinlochleven, after he saw a similar project ran by the Inverness lodges for Raigmore Hospital.

'My partner works in the Belford Hospital so I'm fully aware of the stresses that they



Masons supplied a fridge and other items for Belford Hospital, from left, Jane Morrison, John MacIntyre, Master of Lodge Lochiel 1200, Banavie; Duncan Crilley, past-master of Lodge St Kieran 1155, Kinlochleven; Dave Crilley, provincial grand master, Inverness; Cat Lear, Nicki Burnham; Hugh MacDougall, Master of Lodge Mallaig 1056. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

are all under, especially with this current crisis,' he told us.

'So after seeing what was happening in Inverness, I decided to follow suit.'

Duncan put up a post up on the Lodge Lochiel 1200 Facebook page asking for

donations of teas, coffees, biscuits and so on as a small token of thanks. 'I was astounded by the generosity of our members,' he added.

'I then opened up a bank account for members to donate into as the isolation zone in

the Combined Assessment Unit (CAU) had a small staff room but nothing to keep their lunches or dinners fresh.'

Duncan purchased an under-the-counter fridge for the unit and took it over himself.

Shortly afterwards, Hugh

MacDougall from Lodge Mallaig 1056 contacted Duncan to say he and other members of his unit would like to join in. Details were transferred and another fridge was purchased for Ward 1 isolation unit, a panini maker for Ward

1 and a toaster for CAU, along with a couple of deliveries of cakes, biscuits and coffee pods.

Lodge Lochiel members have also been heavily supportive towards the Lochaber Foodbank, making several large deliveries of essential shopping, carried out by Ian Campbell-Elliott and Colin Pinkett.

'Freemasonry prides itself on its charitable donations throughout the globe and the work that all our NHS does is worthy of any support,' added Duncan. 'I will continue to deliver goods to them while we have money in the nurses fund.'

The Lodge of Fort William 43 has also donated many hundreds of pounds to the frontline services and the Lochaber Times believes that more than £4,000 has been donated to the frontline services and the foodbank since lockdown began.

## LOOKING FOR HELP DURING CORONAVIRUS?

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

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

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**NHS 24:** Call 111 if symptoms worsen or if fever for 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

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**Advice for pregnant women**  
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Helpline: 0300 303 0660

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**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 for older people

[www.agescotland.org.uk](http://www.agescotland.org.uk)  
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Helpline: 0808 808 3000

**Scottish Autism Advice Line**  
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LT

# Raasay community works with FLS to keep hydro scheme on track

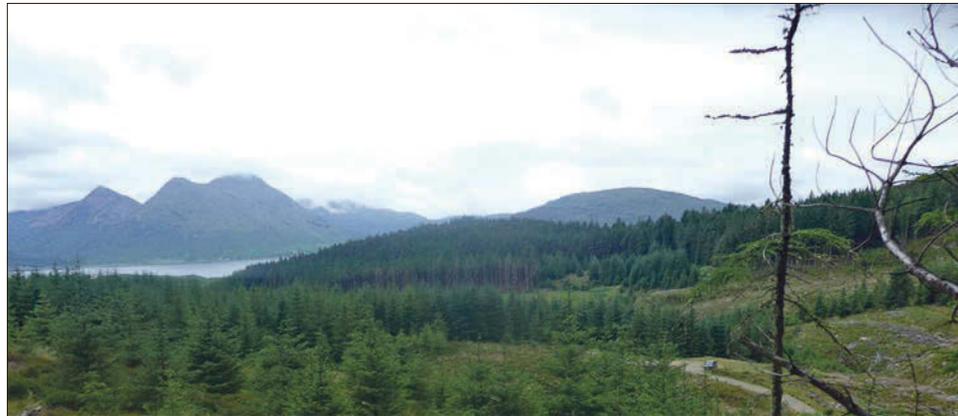
by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS) has been working with Raasay Development Trust (RDT) to help keep a renewable energy scheme on track.

The Inverarish Hydro Scheme is the first application of its kind to FLS's Community Asset Transfer Scheme - to build and operate a community-owned 'run-of-river' hydro scheme.

But to secure feed-in tariff for providing power to the National Grid, the scheme has to be operational by September 2021.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the community is having to make some major adjustments to its plans to meet the deadline - and that includes working with FLS to reschedule some harvesting work.



RDT chairman Iain Hector Ross said sustainable energy solutions will help tackle fuel poverty on the island and strengthen its continuity of supply while helping fulfil a commitment to safeguard the environment for future generations.

'The hydro scheme will improve the resilience of our community, giving us

access to power, reducing our reliance on imported fossil fuels and establishing a small income stream that can fund other projects and contribute to a community benefit fund,' added Mr Ross.

'In this initiative, RDT is being supported and funded by Scottish Government's CARES (Community and Renewable Energy Scheme)

and private match funding (Community Benefit Grant) which has also been secured for the project.

'We have now received planning permission, have the necessary CAR licence from SEPA, are pre-accredited with Ofgem and have a valid grid offer from SSEN.

'The current COVID-19 restrictions have meant some

Near the scheme's top intake on Raasay.

rearranging and fine tuning of timescales, but we believe that we can quickly build momentum when things return to something near normality.

'We believe this is only a pause and minor inconvenience considering the longer-term sustainability benefits this project will deliver for the island.'

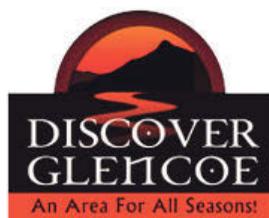
The renewable energy scheme sits within RDT's five-year development plan and will be the newest addition to a long line of achievements, including buying out the island's shop and post office, purchasing 2.4 acres of land for the purpose of building affordable houses and purchasing an old quarry site to develop a local wood fuel enterprise processing logs purchased from FLS.

Graeme Prest, FLS's north

region manager, explained: 'We've worked with the RDT for some time and were involved in the initial stages of the planning for the hydro scheme, helping out with environmental surveys and assessing the access route to the site and carrying out some harvesting along the proposed line of one of the intakes and pipelines.'

'COVID-19 restrictions meant we all had to have a bit of a rethink, both to make the necessary adjustments, and to assess what could be done to keep the project moving forward and be ready to get cracking once restrictions ease.'

'We've made alterations to our proposed felling works to align them with RDT's plans so that construction can go ahead as soon as possible in line with SG guidelines and still meet the FiTs deadline.'



## Discover Glencoe...

### Enjoy Bike Week UK in the Glencoe and Loch Leven area!

Running from 6-14 June Bike Week aims to promote the benefits of cycling and the places you can go.

So, get on your bike, take advantage of this great weather and experience activities in your own backyard!

We're often too busy to enjoy this beautiful area we live in. During lockdown why not get out and explore the super, family-friendly track around much of the Nether Lochaber coastline (Sustrans route number 78). It's an incredibly scenic route with interpretive panels and benches along the way - and, as most of it was once a railway track it offers very few steep challenges.

There are off-road pathways linked in taking you to Ballachulish and on to Glencoe where you can access a network of local off-



road trails near the village. If you're a confident road cyclist, you can detour on the roads down to Kinlochleven.

Cycling is great for your physical and mental health, it's good for the environment and with off-road cycle routes it can be enjoyed safely during lockdown here.

Remember to be kind, wear something bright or hi-vis and have a bell, just to help other path users hear and see you approaching.

When you are using paths please observe social distancing and sanitise hands before and after touching any gates to stop the spread of coronavirus.

#### PLEASE...

- Bring your own food and drink.
- Take your rubbish home with you.
- 'Go before you go' - many public toilet facilities are still closed.

Check your bike before you go out - if it needs a repair, spare part or a service, or if you need to buy a bike, contact Crankitupgear here in Glencoe. They are open for bike repairs, spares and sales by arrangement/pre-booking: 01855 811694 [www.glencoebikehire.com](http://www.glencoebikehire.com)

There is no better way to experience your local environment than by bicycle, it gives you a new perspective. You can hear the bird song, the waterfalls, smell the wildflowers and enjoy views you don't see from the car.



[discoverglencoe.scot/covid-19/](http://discoverglencoe.scot/covid-19/)

# Normal life may have been stopped but the fun Disney



Donald and Daisy Duck hitch a lift in a pick-up truck.

Villages in Lochaber have been enjoying specially authorised visits from some A-list celebrities over the past month or so.

Since April 24, children and adults in Ballachulish, Glenachulish and Glencoe have been entertained every Friday evening at 6pm by characters from Mickey Mouse's Club House.

Mickey Mouse himself was the first to pop by but, as the welcome was so fantastic and the children so good all week for their mums and dads, the love of his life, Minnie, joined in too. Blowing the best kisses and giving air hugs has become a common occurrence ever since.

Because the comic duo were spreading such happiness and fun to all age groups, Mickey's agent kindly arranged for Donald and Daisy Duck to visit Glencoe. This was equally a huge hit with everybody and even better for Donald and

Daisy when Glencoe residents arranged a pick-up truck so the duo travelled in style and did not get painful webbed feet from all the walking about through the village.

Not to be outdone, Ballachulish residents not only got their own pick-up but it came with its own Disney chauffeur all kitted out for the occasion.

For a brief time Princess Elsa joined the rest of the team and visited North

Ballachulish and Onich but sadly her services were in demand elsewhere and she very reluctantly had to leave. Due to the hot weather, Olaf the snowman had to stay at home as it was considered a bit risky for him to join the Princess.

It is hoped very much the Disney fun will continue after 'normality' resumes and the Lochaber Times has it on good authority that discussions are ongoing with the agent.



Mickey and Minnie Mouse enjoy a stroll.

## Parent Club is here for parents and carers all across Scotland

As schools and nurseries prepare to re-open in August, many parents and carers are facing the summer trying to keep children motivated and entertained, stay calm and manage to get through their workload as well as tackling everyday tasks.

It can be challenging and stressful for everyone in the family.

Keep in touch, keep going and be kind to yourself are just some of the messages being shared with families to promote good health and well-being during these challenging times.

The Scottish Government's Parent Club's 'Here For You' campaign is encouraging parents and carers to look after themselves as they juggle the additional pressures being placed on them as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. Parents all have an internal frustration meter and some situations with kids can push that dial higher than others but there are ways that can help calm things down.

Chelsea French, 21, a mum of one from Dundee, has been feeling the pressure of



looking after a toddler and the concerns the pandemic has brought with it.

Chelsea said: 'I've definitely noticed some changes in Kiera since we went into lockdown. Just like us, it's clear this situation has affected her and as a result she has been getting irritated and acting out. Usually she is so well behaved but it's hard for her not seeing her friends and family for so long, so we have been letting her have her moments of frustration.'

'We've been using Parent Club to come up with new ways to keep Kiera busy and entertained but also to help remind ourselves that we are doing the best we can as parents. We try to go for walks together as a family to give us all a break from the house and spend some quality time together doing something more refreshing.'

Dr Punam Krishan, 37, has

been a doctor for more than 13 years and is a GP in Glasgow. She studied at the University of Glasgow where she now teaches medical students and junior doctors in her role as a senior clinical lecturer alongside her full-time job. Having only recently given birth, she is currently juggling life at home with newborn, Ellora, and her six-year-old son, Aarish.

Dr Krishan said: 'My children are at completely different stages - one needs all my attention day and night and the other is looking for my attention because his whole life as he knew it has changed. It's impacting children as much as adults and we must remember we can only do the best we can. Parents are under so much pressure and there is no right way to do it, but it's great to see support hubs like Parent Club being provided to help and suggest tips for a range of situations.'

To find out more, visit [parent-club.scot/coronavirus](http://parent-club.scot/coronavirus), and follow @ParentClubScotland on Facebook and @parent-clubscot on Twitter. Parents can also find tips from families by searching #ParentClubTips.



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.

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WEST HIGHLAND HOUSING ASSOCIATION SUPPORTING OUR TENANTS AND COMMUNITY.

LT

# Students stride out on virtual world lockdown challenge

by Fiona Scott  
fscott@obantimes.co.uk



Pupils and staff from the Nicolson Institute in Stornoway are aiming for world domination through a virtual challenge.

Lynsey MacKenzie has been a PE teacher at the Institute since 2010 and helped set up the Wellbeing Lockdown Challenge to see how far round the world students, staff and school partners could travel in various, non motorised, ways.

'The PE department decided we needed to develop something to give pupils focus during lockdown,' she told the Lochaber Times. 'We wanted something that would motivate pupils to keep active in a safe way at this time.'

Teachers Darren Beattie and David Macleod came up with the initial idea having both tracked their progress when



training for a marathon a few years ago. Lynsey, who represented The Western Isles at two previous Island Games in football and badminton, continued: 'The main aim of the challenge is to encourage pupils, staff and school partners to engage in exercise during the lockdown as everyone knows the importance of physical

activity and its link to mental wellbeing. The challenge has also provided a less formal connection with pupils while we are teaching from home.'

Participants use the Strava app as a platform to record their progress and update the community daily through the school Facebook page.

Types of exercise have var-

**Lynsey MacKenzie, centre, was part of the Western Isles badminton team at last year's Island Games in Gibraltar.**

ied from walking, running, cycling, and scootering, and, since the ease in lockdown, kayaking has been added. Wild swimming and surfing are also expected to make an appearance as the restrictions are slowly lifted.

'Initially we set the target of 800 miles, but soon realised that was going to be too easy,' added Lynsey. 'We clocked up 154.96 miles on the first day, which is longer than the length of the Western Isles, and had made it to just outside London on the second.'

'Having seen this, I had the idea to make the challenge more interesting by seeing how far we could travel by the end of lockdown. As we

travel through the different countries, we try and add some facts relating to the places.'

There are now more than 150 participants. By Monday June 1, they had travelled 7,503.5 and had just passed Mount Everest. The challenge will run until the last day of the school session when the group will record how far they got.

'The challenge has been a great motivator for staff and pupils to get out and exercise in these very unusual times,' said Lynsey. 'It has been especially motivating for me after having an operation on my heel in September last year. It has pushed me to get my fitness levels back up and be ready for training once we return to normal.' The app can also track the pupils and staff who hope to be selected to represent The Western Isles at the International Island Games in Guernsey next year.

## Canna House archivist dies aged 70

Former Canna House archivist Magda Sagarzazu has died aged 70.

The retired archivist, who was a personal friend of well-known folklorist John Lorne Campbell and his Pittsburgh-born wife Margaret Fay Shaw and became the highly-respected keeper of their nationally important collection of Gaelic culture and language, passed away in San Sebastian on Wednesday June 3, with her husband Joaquin and family around her.

'Her family in Scotland were unable to travel to be with her but hope to have a memorial in Scotland when travel restrictions ease,' said Fiona Mackenzie, current Canna House archivist.

The Literary Archive at Canna House consists of many thousands of individual items including personal diaries, 9,000 photographs, transcribed music, original letters and manuscripts.

A full obituary will appear in next week's Oban Times and Lochaber Times.

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# Lockdown sees Loch Arkaig ospreys' audience quadruple

by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

A livestreaming camera from an osprey nest in the Lochaber area has proven to be a lockdown hit across the UK and the world – quadrupling its audience since last year.

The camera feed from Woodland Trust's Loch Arkaig Pine Forest has been running for four years thanks to support from players of People's Postcode Lottery.

Three cute chicks have hatched and are delighting viewers around the world.

The first chick arrived on Friday May 29. The second on Monday June 1 and the third on Wednesday June 4.

In the early part of the season to mid May, the livestream has attracted some 160,000 viewers (that is viewers, not views), up more than 300 percent on this stage last year.



The live webcam has been a huge hit with the public, helped by being featured on TV programmes including BBC Breakfast.

George Anderson of Woodland Trust Scotland told us: 'The livestream has really found a special purpose this year, with so many people stuck indoors and hankering for some experience of the natural world. After the birds

appeared on BBC Breakfast on Monday we saw 11,000 new web-watchers in one day. They have also featured on Channel 4 news a couple of times as an "and finally" and on BBC Springwatch.

'The chicks are due to be

measured and ringed in July, after which we will have some idea if they are male or female. There will then be some debate on what names to give them. Previous chicks from the nest are called Lachlan, Mallie and Rannoch,' added George.

This year's trio should take their first flight towards the end of July and by the end of August or beginning of September will migrate to West Africa. Until then you can follow their adventures 24 hours a day on the webcam.



## Keeping count

Contributors to the comments below the livestream have been keeping a running tally of the fish brought into the nest since the adults reunited at the nest on April 6.

As of Wednesday June 3:

- Louis has brought in 140 fish comprising:
- 137 brown trout
- One silver tourist (sea trout or grilse)
- One flat fish (probably flounder)
- One pike.

Woodland Trust Scotland purchased Loch Arkaig Pine Forest in 2016 in partnership with local group Arkaig Community Forest.

## Take time to clear your head

The coronavirus pandemic has changed life for everyone in Scotland and had a real impact on how many of us are feeling.

Not being able to see friends and family over the past few weeks, the loss of livelihoods and for some the pain and loss of health and loved ones, has understandably resulted in feelings of anxiety, grief, worry and frustration.

Some people will have felt low while coping with the necessary restrictions, maybe struggling with their emotions for the first time and finding themselves angry or upset for no reason.

As the nation moves into the first phase of easing lockdown restrictions, the coming weeks may bring a mixture of different feelings and emotions as people start to think about going outside again – but there are things that can be done to make it easier, with help and support available.

The Scottish Government's Clear Your Head campaign provides practical tips on the things we can do to feel better, reminding people that what they are feeling is alright.

Supported by SAMH, Breathing Space and the Samaritans, the campaign website [clearyourhead.scot](http://clearyourhead.scot) also provides sources of help for those who need to talk about

how they're feeling.

Whether it's dealing with the pressure of juggling child-care with work commitments, facing continued isolation at home, or feeling anxious about returning to work, there are things you can do every day that will help you through it.

Keeping to a routine as much as possible, by sleeping and waking at the same time and eating at regular times can give your day structure and help you feel more in control.

Now we're able to go outside more than once a day, making time to go for a walk, jog and cycle can help boost self-esteem, energy levels, and importantly help us sleep better.

Staying connected has never been more important, particularly if you've had a bad day or are feeling stressed. A problem shared is a problem halved and a phone call or video chat with family and friends can lift your mood, relieving tension and easing worry. And if you are feeling good, sharing that with your loved ones can be positive.

If you find yourself feeling anxious when you're outside, taking deep breaths and focusing on something still until your breathing has calmed can help.



Make a plan for what you'll do when you head out – don't put any pressure on yourself, take it a day at a time.

Minister for Mental Health Clare Haughey, pictured, said: 'It's never

been more important to look after our mental health, and this campaign highlights the things we can do every day to feel better and stay mentally healthy. It's important people know what support is there if they need to speak to someone. We appreciate everyone's efforts to prevent spreading the virus, and hope this campaign helps people to take care of themselves over the coming weeks.'

Tony McLaren, Breathing Space National Coordinator, added: 'Mental health has a huge impact on our thoughts, behaviours and emotions. It's so important to prioritise our mental health, particularly during times of stress. The Breathing Space phonenumber is available in the evenings and at weekends, to provide listening, advice and signposting to anyone who is struggling.'

For tips on how to clear your head and feel better, and details of helplines, visit [www.clearyourhead.scot](http://www.clearyourhead.scot)



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## LETTERS

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

## Counting the cost of continuing coronavirus

We are a considerable time away from being able to assess the full impact of the dreadful coronavirus pandemic that has caused such devastation across our communities, country and further afield.

However, as we report this week, a virtual meeting of the Highland Council Corporate Resources Committee left members in no doubt about the significant and serious impact COVID-19 continues to have on the local authority's budget.

The scale and immediacy of financial challenges to be faced were laid out in a report that modelled two different potential scenarios – in the 'mid case' scenario, a budget gap of £65.7m is projected while, in the most severe, a potential gap of £96.9m is projected.

The council has been proactive in putting in place measures to assist our communities, to maintain services and to protect its staff.

All this, of course, comes at a considerable cost in financial terms, so it is little surprise the resources committee agreed to make representations to the government to advise the council may require significant further financial support or other intervention.

It is to be hoped the government responds to this sympathetically.

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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## Columnist's lockdown easing argument very one-sided

I respond to Angus MacDonald and his political article in support of Westminster rule over Scotland. He puts forward a very one-sided argument.

Those people who live in high-rise flats with little opportunity to breath fresh air in gardens and/or parks are really suffering. Many of these people will join others who will be left destitute by adhering to lockdown rules by losing their jobs as a result of the pandemic. There is no doubt there is an economic crisis but it is irresponsible to put lives at risk by encouraging the government in Holyrood to lift the lockdown when they are being advised that they should proceed cautiously to save lives.

Mr MacDonald argues that disease annually kills millions of people worldwide, and all their deaths did not close the world down. He goes on to say that 'of the 34,500 who have died of the virus across the UK only three have been under 15 years old and up until the start of May only 375 people under the age of 45 died of the virus. The average age of those others who have died is 79.5 years of age and they had health complications'. He also mentions other deaths as if there should be a play-off with the number of deaths we already deal with to back up his reason for breaking the lockdown.

He is of course right to highlight the disruption that this pandemic is having to people's lives and to the tourist and construction industries. However, he could, of course, have balanced out his views by quoting Unite Union leader Pat Lafferty who said, 'the last thing we need is a second spike as it would be devastating for the economy and it would cost lives'.

Or he could have quoted the new YouGov poll of 2883 UK adults which asked 'Which country has handled the virus outbreak better between England and Scotland?' – 44% of UK citizens believe Nicola Sturgeon's government has handled the outbreak better while only 17% believed that Westminster has handled the outbreak better than Holyrood. Of those who voted for Scotland, 48% were based in London. That blows the argument in support of Westminster's handling of the pandemic as opposed to Holyrood's approach out the water.

The two large construction projects Angus MacDonald is providing are indeed going to be of huge benefit to Lochaber and his efforts should be applauded. He should not waste the goodwill that those builds will provide by bringing his support for Westminster politics into the equation. Many people are already well

## Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL

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

Chan e an ro-chabhadh as fhearr! 'S i an fhoighidinn mhath a chlaoidheas an anshocair!

Chan eil gainnead comhairle sheanfhaical againn air gliocas foighidinn, agus dha fear aig am bheil cliù a bhith car mi-fhoighidneach dh'fhaodadh gur e rud math a th' ann dhòmhsa gum bheil foighidinn air a bhith air m' aire bho chionn ghoirid. Ag èisteachd ri neach-labhairt bho ghnìomhachas turasachd a' gearan mun aonarachd cola-deug a tha a-nise mar fhiachaibh air feadhainn a tha a' siubhal gu ruige Breatann, cha mhòr nach saoiladh neach gur e an riaghaltas a dh'adhbharaich Covid 19.

Far am bheil èiginn an tinneis agus cruadal eaconamach a' cogadh tha an dùbhlann aig luchd-riaghlaidh nas dòrainniche na bha riamh, agus ged a thuigear dìth foighidinn luchd-gnothaich chan fhaodar beatha a' mhòr-shluaigh a chur an tuilleadh cunnairt gus gnìomhachas sam bith a riarachadh.

'S e faoinas eagalach a bhiodh ann toirt a chreidsinn oirnn fhìn gum bheil a' choròna-bhioras dol a dh'fhalbh cho luath 's a thàinig i. Aig an aon àm tuigear carson a tha daoine a' faighneachd cionnas is ann aig an ire seo a tha leithid de smachd ga chur air luchd-siubhail an dèidh dha milleanan tighinn is falbh gun bhacadh sam bith fad mhiosan.

Tha an aon rud fìor a thaobh an Riaghaltas a bhith a-nise ag iarraidh gun cleachd luchd-obrach agus luchd-tadhail ionadan-slàinte de gach seòrsa brat-gnùise, an dèidh uimhir de dh'ùine far nach robh sin ga iarraidh.

Ach a' faicinn bàs Sheòrais Floyd agus modh-giùlain brùideil chuid de dh'oifigearan phoileas Ameireagaidh an aghaidh dhaoine dubha, am

aware of his extreme unionist views. His attack on Nicola Sturgeon was simply flying the flag for Westminster. People of all political persuasions believe Nicola Sturgeon and the Scottish Government's response to COVID-19 has been head and shoulders above the UK Government in dealing with this pandemic. As for his unionist supporting friends in Westminster, their behaviour speaks for itself.

Bill Clark, Banavie.

## Hong Kong to Killundine

As part of the UK's obligation under the 1985

bheil da-riribh dearbhadh againn gum faigh foighidinn furtachd?

'S i fianais mhilltean slòigh ann an iomadh dùthaich gum bheil gràin-cinnidh fhathast ann an saoghal "saor" beartach thaobh an iar an t-saoghail, na dùthchannan sin a tha gam meas fhèin mar shàr eisimpleirean saorsa agus deamocrasaidh.

Ma tha a' mhòr-chuid againn gu bhith onarach feumaidh sinn aideachadh gum bheil sinn air eisimpleirean de ghràin-cinnidh fhathast tric gu leòr, ach chan ionann sin is am pian 's an t-eagal a dh'fhuiling iadsan a bha thall 's a chunnaic, agus a tha iad a' fulang gach latha fhathast ann an Ameireagaidh agus san dùthaich seo cuideachd. Tha an fhìrinn tric searbh, agus feumar aideachadh nach do bhuannaich leithid Lincoln agus Wilberforce, sònraichte 's gun robh na rinn iad, ach na ciad cheumnan beaga san t-srì gus co-ionannachd chòraichean agus aithne dha daoine de gach dath craicinn.

Bliadhnaichean air ais choinnich mi air ceann-cinnidh tùsanach Apache ann an Ameireagaidh agus thuir e gun deach e na "laoch" air tìr air Tràigh Omaha san Dàrna Cogadh, agus nuair a thill e dhachaigh beò chaidh a chur air ais gu tèarmann thùsanach. Chuala mi bho chionn ghoirid neach-obrach seirbheis slàinte ag ràdh gur e an cunnart a bhith nad "laoch" gum bheil dùil ri laoch bàsachadh!

An online dictionary says that an example of 'democracy at work' is in the United States, where people have political freedom and equality. Will George Floyd's family agree?

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

Sino-British agreement to allow citizens of Hong Kong holding British National (Overseas) passports to come to this country, perhaps the Westminster government should consider acquiring Killundine estate in Morvern under a compulsory purchase order as part of a resettlement package. Imagine what 20 hard-working, conscientious, Chinese families could achieve on the foothills of Tom Mor. Why they'd be self-sufficient in no time and less of a burden than the proposed local community buyout.

Iain Thornber, Knock House, Morvern.

the-bathroom-showroom.co.uk

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# DISTRICT NEWS

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## Happy lockdown birthday



Lily Jane Robertson, from Fort William, celebrated her 11th birthday on Monday June 2. Lily's granny Catriona came round and the family had a nice day in the garden.



Leah Dickson, from Glencoe village, celebrated her 5th birthday in lockdown on May 28. Leah celebrated in the garden with her mum and dad, big sisters Sophie and Isla and her wee brothers Ruairidh and eight week old Seonaidh who was born in lockdown. The Dicksons put the swimming pool out and had a picnic in the garden, while Leah spent most of the day playing with her new mud kitchen.



Hugo Douglas, from Mallaig, turned four on Monday June 8, and celebrated his birthday with his mum, dad and brother Harrison at home in his garden. He misses his family and friends lots but will celebrate again once lockdown is over.

Do you have a child celebrating their birthday during the lockdown?

Since they cannot enjoy a birthday celebration with their friends and family, we would love to give them a shout out in the paper.

Send us a photograph 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 a bit about what you did to make the day at home special.

Send your photographs to [fort@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:fort@obantimes.co.uk)



Right: Charly Findlay, from Lochyside, was two on Friday June 6. She had a wee party in the house with her brother and two sisters, playing games and dancing and of course a little party food. A good day had by everyone.

### ARISAIG

#### Arisaig in focus for June photo competition

Arisaig Eco Project has organised a photography competition with the theme 'Arisaig and our environment' with a focus on everyday photographs taken during April, May and June for a 2020 exhibition.

Photographs should be everyday observations and encounters at home and/or outside and might include nature, people, wildlife, work, walking, cycling or anything that has made an impression on you.

There will be prizes for winners and

runners-up in each category and age group - adult, child up to 11 years, and child 12 - 17 years on June 30 2020. There are three categories - People, Landscape and Other and each individual can submit one photograph for each category. The deadline for the competition is June 30. Email entries to [eco@arisaigcommunitytrust.org.uk](mailto:eco@arisaigcommunitytrust.org.uk). See poster for rules.

### LOCHABER

#### Fundraiser to deliver blooming great tea

Since lockdown and social distancing began, the Lochaber Marie Curie

Fundraising team have had to find new ideas to raise money at a time when the charity needs more help and support than ever.

They have set themselves the challenge to keep fundraising going in 2020 with a new event each month and they kicked off in May with the Etape Caledonia Challenge, a virtual challenge to cycle 85 miles in the month.

Four of the team, Joan Mackintosh, Ceri Ewing, Isla Campbell and Imogen Dalley, have been out on their bikes throughout May, raising nearly £800.

On June 20 the team is planning a 'Blooming Great Tea Party at Home' when they will be delivering after-

noon teas around Fort William and Spean Bridge for people to enjoy in their homes.

Demand for the teas could be high so please order in advance by calling Imogen on 07867 548366 or look out for the advertising on Facebook.

### FORT WILLIAM

#### Life in Fort William's fast food lane

Drive through diners queued up for their fast food fix in Fort William last week when McDonald's re-opened for takeaway trade.

Scots have been waiting for weeks to

get their hands on burgers and chicken nuggets while the fast food chain trialled branches south of the border.

The fast-food chain closed its doors on March 23 UK-wide but on Monday June 2, 19 restaurants in Scotland re-opened drive through lanes. Cars snaked their way along Camanachd Crescent as drivers waited patiently to get their hands on a tasty treat.

Check out the Fort William McDonald's Facebook page for more information.

## GET INVOLVED

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

### Zesty salmon pasta



#### Ingredients

- 500g dried fusilli pasta
- Low-calorie cooking spray
- 4 skinless and boneless salmon fillets, cut into bite-size chunks
- 2 peppers (any colours), deseeded and chopped

#### Method:

Cook the pasta according to the pack instructions, then drain and return to the pan, reserving 100ml of the pasta cooking water.

Meanwhile, spray a wide non-stick frying pan with low-calorie cooking spray and place over a medium-high heat. Add the salmon chunks and cook for 1-2 minutes, stirring occasionally. Transfer to a plate.

Add the peppers, garlic and green beans to the frying pan and cook for 6-8 minutes or until tender and lightly charred, stirring often. Add to the salmon cubes and mix gently.

Toss the salmon mixture through the pasta and stir in the fromage frais, lemon zest, chopped watercress and as much of the pasta water as you need to make a good sauce.

Season lightly and divide between plates or shallow bowls. Scatter over the watercress sprigs and serve with lemon wedges to squeeze over.

This fuff-free fish supper is packed with good things and tastes every bit as fantastic as it looks!

For extra indulgence, roughly chop 25g shelled pistachios and evenly scatter over the dishes (this adds 2 Syns per serving).

- 1 garlic clove, crushed
- 300g green beans, trimmed and halved
- 100g fat-free natural fromage frais
- 1 large unwaxed lemon, zested and cut into wedges
- Small bag of watercress, a few sprigs reserved, the rest chopped

Syn FREE 25 minutes Serves 4

### PLEASE NOTE: ALL CLASSES ARE CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

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



touching hearts, changing lives

Detailed recipes available at:

[slimmingworld.co.uk](http://slimmingworld.co.uk)   

# OPEN FOR BUSINESS

We are publishing this information **in association with** Lochaber Chamber of Commerce. Featuring the businesses in Lochaber that are open and able to offer vital products and services to our community during the current Covid-19 pandemic. Many of these businesses are working under extreme pressure to bring quality products and services to the people of Lochaber and beyond. Please remember to exercise caution when shopping and only shop for essential supplies. Along with our wonderful NHS staff and carers, our local food, fuel, news platforms and home supply businesses are our community champions!

We realise that many more businesses would love to be open, serving locals and visitors alike – our deepest empathy goes out to these businesses and we look forward to seeing their doors wide open when this is all over. Please feel free to get in touch with us if you would like to feature your business, or know a business that should be included. Email

nmurphy@obantimes.co.uk 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

Inverloch  
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

# WILL SALMON FIND ME A CAREER?

BOOK YOUR PLACE TODAY  
Wednesday 17 June at 230pm  
visit [dywwesthighland.org](http://dywwesthighland.org)

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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.  
Place orders from 2pm on 01397 698183.  
Delivery service or open to one-person collection  
Check FB page for full menu

## LOCHSIDE BRASSERIE AT THE WHISPERING PINE LODGE

Now Open  
Drive-in takeaway and delivery  
11am-2.30pm and 5pm-9pm  
Tel: 01397 713966 or 07903 082501  
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

Glenuig  
Order online: [www.smokedproduce.com](http://www.smokedproduce.com)  
Tel: 01687 470266

### NEVIS BAKERY

Fort William shop closed to the public but products

available from Road to the Isles filling station, Spar Claggan, Grange Stores, Co-op stores in Caol, Corpach and Mallaig  
Tel: 01397 772087

## BUILDING, PLUMBING, DIY SUPPLIES

### LBS

the shop floor is closed to non-staff. emailed orders/ enquiries preferred.  
alternatively by phone  
[sales@lochaberdry.co.uk](mailto:sales@lochaberdry.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.hislttd.co.uk](http://www.hislttd.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

Open Mon-Fri 10am-5pm, Sat 10am-2pm  
Tel: 01687 462 215

### MORAR MOTORS

Car hire, breakdown and recovery  
Car Hire 01687 462118  
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, disinfect-

ant, 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@granithousefortwilliam.co.uk](mailto:gillian@granithousefortwilliam.co.uk)  
Visit [www.granithousefortwilliam.co.uk](http://www.granithousefortwilliam.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

### 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)

## SPORT AND LEISURE

### 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)

### OFF BEAT BIKES

Bike Hire & Shop  
Open Mon, Wed, Fri 12pm-4pm  
or by appointment only

### DRAGON'S TOOTH GOLF COURSE

Open fully, normal hours.  
For more info on safe golfing with us at this time visit [glencoeactivities.com](http://glencoeactivities.com)  
Tel 01855 413202

### CRANKITUPGEAR

Glencoe  
Bike repairs and sales available by arrangement/ pre-booking only  
Tel: 01855 811694

*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



# People make places but locals make destinations

Lochaber and the tourism sector need sustained investment to help the region prosper when we build and look to recover from COVID-19.

As custodian of the Outdoor Capital of the UK brand, Lochaber Chamber of Commerce is the destination organisation for the area and we believe that, in the coming months, encouraging the development of sustainable tourism is going to be a high priority.

As we edge towards the recovery phase of the COVID-19 crisis, we need to invest in the tourism sector to ensure that Lochaber emerges as a value destination and remains a first choice for visitors.

However, without clear standards and guidance, it is extremely challenging for our award-winning and ever-popular tourism businesses to plan, invest or attract. The sector eagerly awaits Scottish Government's guidance that will be released later this month and, during this challenging period, it is also essential to note that effective destination marketing will play a vital role in shaping the success of the tourism sector.

Lochaber Chamber of Commerce CEO Frazer Coupland commented: 'I wish to take this opportunity to assure everyone in our tourism sector that we are currently engaged with all Highland destination organisations and VisitScotland to



Serenity on Rannoch Moor provided by Guisachan House.

ensure that when the time is right, we are ready for market.'

The destination organisation role, along with a wider remit of supporting businesses, is especially significant due to the fact that the tourism sector is likely to be the last to recover.

While also arguably having been hit the hardest, tourism is essential to the Lochaber economy as a whole and we need to be open, be ready and plan for its long-term success – in whatever form that will take, it's TBC for now.

The destination needs to be a place for enjoyment, growth, sustainabili-

ty, increasing job opportunities and assist in developing the local economy. As we start to recover it will become a priority to work together to attract fresh investment, develop high-quality jobs, recruit new talent, and boost innovation in our already successful businesses.

The Chamber's destination role in Lochaber can be appreciated better if we consider the elements that create a successful 'destination mix'. The destination mix includes the physical resources: our natural capital (we need to work with our landowners and custodians of our environment), events, local attrac-

tions, transport, other facilities and infrastructure. Along with our natural environment, our much-envied events calendar and our exceptional attractions all play important roles in attracting people to Lochaber.

Transport, high-quality, diverse accommodation choices, value adding attractions and exceptional hospitality that will provide reasons for visiting, staying longer and returning. The Chamber's role is not just to promote the area, it's also to work with our partners to provide the destination mix that visitors want.

What about people? Lochaber

Chamber of Commerce is passionate about people, relationships and networking. We will never underestimate the value of people and community, and the role of people is crucial to effective destination management.

We hope that by adopting an inclusive model of good governance and therefore treating residents of the local communities as industry stakeholders, having an understanding and appreciating the many benefits that tourism brings, we will put people at the heart of the destination. Our visitors are, after all, temporary locals. We will develop this strategy to encourage our communities to participate responsibly and contribute positively towards the sustainable development of tourism when the time is right.

To aid discussions and to help the Outdoor Capital of the UK remain a top destination, Lochaber Chamber of Commerce last week published a survey in parallel with other Highland destinations. This survey has been extended until Friday June 19 and we urge you to complete this today and share your views by visiting <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/LochaberSurvey>.

## VIEW FROM THE CHAMBER

Support comes in many forms – emotional, physical, material, financial, in information form, a familiar voice, a schedule, a helping hand to name just a few.

Many organisations, including ourselves, have needed the support of the Chamber network, local business and communities to continue offering services that make a difference, ensuring we innovate our approach in response to the changing landscape we all face.

The Chamber is planning and



making adjustments at a constant rate to enable us to offer the support Lochaber businesses need and providing access to information, lobbying and direct lines of communications with key decision-makers.

As we continue to work our recovery plans through and hold discussions with stakeholders, it is all too clear that we must keep leading on making sure Lochaber has the ear of government, and of local and

national leaders, so we are not forgotten.

Ensuring we remain relevant, up-to-date, informative and providing a stable platform for positive change remains a challenge for any business network but it is one we

want to achieve and continue to push.

We have embraced this wave of change and we continue to navigate through the current climate with longevity in mind. This journey has been tough and unbearable for so many but we are also so proud of Lochaber, local communities and businesses coming together to support one another when it was needed the most.

Thinking about your business, colleagues, local community, what

support is needed? What support do you need right now?

Lochaber Chamber of Commerce is the hub of business in Lochaber and serves to support, promote and connect you and your business with the networks you need. Please contact us today by emailing [membership@lochaberchamber.co.uk](mailto:membership@lochaberchamber.co.uk) to arrange a time for us to talk to you or head online to [www.lochaberchamber.co.uk](http://www.lochaberchamber.co.uk) for more information about who we are and what we offer.

## Back of the net! Fort film wins top television award



Kirsty Murray, P6, left, and Eilidh Murray, P4, get to grips with a tug of war.

### Pupils embrace first virtual sports day

Portree Primary School came up with an innovative way to make sure pupils didn't miss out on their annual sports day.

The pupils took part in their first 'virtual sports day' on Friday May 29, with each child given a discipline to take part in at home.

The event was the culmination of the school's Health and Well-being Week during which pupils had been given an activity grid to prepare them for their virtual sports day.

Activities were designed to encourage pupils to work as a family at home and focus on being happy and healthy.

Skye's Hugh Campbell, one of Scotland's top long-distance runners, sent the children a special message of support ahead of their sports day, highlighting the importance of good nutrition, sunshine and outdoor activity.

Portree Primary School head teacher Sara Matheson said: 'The idea was put together by physical education staff at the school to focus on health and well-being and reduce

screen time. The effort and response from pupils and parents was extraordinary. Pupils made awards, created events, advertised their sports day and most importantly embraced the ethos of having family fun outdoors.

'We are incredibly proud of our pupils who are rising to every challenge set.'

Education committee chairman Councillor John Finlayson added: 'It has been great to follow the virtual learning journey promoted by schools across Highland, including Portree Primary School, over recent weeks. I am impressed by the inspirational ways staff have been liaising with and supporting learners and parents.'

'The Portree Primary Sports Day is a fantastic example of the school, pupils, parents and community members working together to create something unique and memorable for learners even at this difficult time.'

'Congratulations to everyone involved. It is clear pupils enjoyed their different 2020 sports day.'

by Fiona Scott  
fscott@obantimes.co.uk

A documentary following Fort William Football Club's struggles last year has won the Best Sports Programme category at the Royal Television Society Scotland (RTSS) awards.

Aired on BBC Scotland last November, *The Fort* was filmed by IMG Productions during the new management's first season in charge of the club.

An RTSS spokesperson said: 'The Fort captured an untold Scottish story with great insight, extraordinary access and beautifully shot scenery. The film brought out the strong characters involved in the club and their place in the town.'

'The behind the scenes access allowed the film to capture the sense of jeopardy the team was going through. It delivered character, colour, mud, sweat and tears to our screens.'

The awards were announced last Wednesday night (June 3) on the RTS Scotland YouTube channel with actor, comedian and writer Karen Dunbar hosting the online event.

Dubbed Scotland's worst football team, the Claggan Park outfit had achieved cult status across social media after finishing at the bottom of the Highland League table for 14 out of the previous 20 years.

The programme documents the club during the 2019/20 season after it was handed a lifeline. A group of locals, with



Fort William Football Club committee 2019/20, from left: Colin Wood, Russell MacMorran, Peter Murphy, William Edwards and Mikey MacKinnon. Photograph Iain Ferguson, alba.photos.

no previous experience of running a football club, stepped in to take over management, looking to return the team to winning ways.

In addition, the film explored the day-to-day lives of the cast, including an honest and frank narrative from the larger than life Mikey MacKinnon who, at the time of filming, was battling a gambling addiction and juggling his time between his children and work shifts.

'The club had been a total laughing stock so when Alex (Gale) from IMG approached us I thought, well we have nothing to lose and everything to gain,' said Mikey. 'I am so glad we did it. Everyone involved had a massive passion for our club and that, along with the great sense of community pride, came across so well in the finished product.'

The night after the documentary was aired, Fort William FC won its first game in 800

matches. Manager Peter Murphy believes the hour-long documentary was the inspiration his team needed to help them get that elusive win.

'I am over the moon the programme has won the award,' he said. 'Many thanks to Alex and his team for bringing our story to the world.'

Such was the success of the documentary, the Lochaber Times believes a film would be the next natural step.

We asked Mikey and Peter who they would like to play them if this were to happen. James Corden and Brad Pitt were the replies. We'll leave our readers to work out who would play who.



## AM Transport

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Campbeltown, PA28 6NU

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