



Colin helps to ease Mull lovers' blues in lockdown



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Black Lives Matter here

by Kathie Griffiths
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Large numbers of people are expected to line Oban's esplanade tomorrow, making a stand for Black Lives Matter (BLM).

The silent show of support along the sea front starts at 12.30pm on Friday June 19 and is being organised by Black Lives Matter Oban, a new community group with more than 265 Facebook members.

Lights at McCaig's Tower will also be switched off over the weekend in solidarity with the worldwide anti-racism movement sparked by the killing of George Floyd by police in Minneapolis last month.

Campaigners are asking people taking part in Friday's action to bring placards but adhere to COVID-19 restrictions – maintaining a safe social distance and wearing face masks. Washable chalk will be used to mark 2m spaces.

'We want to be clear it is not a protest. It's a show of solidarity for the cause,' said Georgina Stones, one of its organisers.

Argyll and Bute councillor Kieron Green, who says he has overheard racist remarks



in the town, said Oban's BLM campaign has his full support.

'We live in a very rural part of Scotland where there are not high levels of ethnic minorities and therefore some seeing people who are not white on the street will make casual racist remarks. Are they meaning to be offensive? Possibly not, but I can see how it could still make people feel marginalised

and not part of the community. There are other remarks made that go beyond casual. They all need to be addressed. Everyone should feel welcome here,' he said.

BLM Oban is contacting businesses and organisations to secure window space for posters backing the movement and anti-racism. Oban Youth Cafe on George Street is one of

the first premises to agree and has offered to display placards from Friday's silent action.

Caitlin Campbell Smith, one of BLM Oban founders, said: 'There will be those who think racism is not a problem in our little part of the world and it's more of a city thing, but it is happening in Oban and people do feel it.

Anyone wanting to get in

Equality For All: Tomas Cressley, aged four, and cuddly buddy Blue at Tobermory's BLM show of support.

touch with BLM Oban can email obanblm@gmail.com

BLM Oban is also hosting an online rally on Saturday from 7-8pm. The group has organised 'amazing list of speakers, local and national, to learn what we can do to help combat racism in Oban and beyond!'

Visit <https://bit.ly/37zflA7> for more information.

The go-ahead to switch off McCaig's lights tomorrow and Saturday night came after campaigners contacted Oban councillor Roddy McCuish. June 19, also known as Juneteenth, is celebrated in the US and many other countries to mark the end of slavery. On that day in 1865 slaves in Texas were told by Union soldiers they were free and that the Civil War had ended.

On Mull at the weekend, more than 60 placards and messages of BLM support were left on the Clock Tower in Tobermory's Main Street, some written in Gaelic.

BLM Mull organiser

Alexandra Stevens said the response from the island was 'overwhelming' and that campaigners would keep the movement 'moving forward' long after lockdown.

Ideas include displaying the Clock Tower banners as some kind of long term art installation or an exhibition on the island and there are plans to create an online anti-racism community resource or archive for people to educate themselves more.

Alexandra, who runs The Gallery Cafe in Tobermory and recently returned from volunteering at a refugee camp in Bosnia, said: 'For Mull it's been an overwhelming response already.

'People took the opportunity to make their voices heard. A lot of the messages were saying black lives matter more than white feelings.

'There was a strong show of solidarity and recognition Scotland and Mull are not innocent.

'BLM on Mull will keep growing. People want to keep it going long after lockdown,' said Alexandra.

For more on Black Lives Matter, turn to page 12.



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OT

Friends come up trumps for Oban's Dove Centre

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Friends of Oban Hospice have handed over £30,000 towards the upkeep of the town's Dove Centre.

The wonderful contribution from the past year's fundraising efforts will be a boost to paying running costs of the service that, although closed for drop-in sessions, is still supporting up to 60 people every week offering advice and companionship through telephone calls and WhatsApp groups.

The cheque was handed over by David Evans, vice-chairperson of the Friends group, and was gratefully received by Oban Hospice Ltd board members Sine MacVicar and John MacKenzie.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the Friends group had to postpone its annual general meeting but will fix a new date once lockdown is eased.



A donation of £30,000 from the Friends of Oban Hospice was handed over to help the Dove Centre.

Anne May, Friends chairperson, said the group did not want to delay donating the funds and paid tribute to the work of her colleagues and to the 'unstinting generosity' of people supporting the fundraising.

The money raised by the Friends will be used by Oban Hospice towards the running costs of its centre in Stevenson Street. It costs about £75,000 a

year to run, including salaries all funded by donations and legacies, it gets no money from the health or social service.

David Entwistle, chairperson of Oban Hospice, said: 'Once again, the Friends of Oban Hospice have raised a substantial amount to support the work of Oban Hospice Ltd.

'The community continue to make numerous donations and

attend fundraising activities. Every penny raised locally is spent locally. A big thank you to the Friends, for their great efforts and to the wonderful people of Oban, Lorn and the Isles for their amazing generosity.'

Last month Mr Entwistle appealed for people to help fill a funding shortfall due to COVID-19 inevitably putting a block on some fundraising activities for this year.

Plans are to re-open the Dove Centre as soon as it is safe but he has warned it is likely to be 'a gradual process' which means the WhatsApp groups will have to continue for a while and it might be just one or two people coming into the centre at a time wearing face coverings.

The centre's two workers, Peter Darling and Lucy Hunt, are keeping in contact with service users. To contact them, call Peter on 07483 116185 or Lucy on 07592 633251.

£250 grant will give children 'best start'

Parents of children aged four and five have been encouraged to apply for the Scottish Government's Best Start Grant.

Michael Russell, MSP for Argyll and Bute, said a one-off £250 payment is currently open to eligible families.

They have to have a child born between March 1, 2015, and February 29, 2016, who will be starting primary school later this year, he said.

The payment can be used for anything from a new pair of school shoes or arts and crafts materials for children, said Mr Russell.

He said the payment is part of the SNP government's Best Start Grant, a package of three payments for families in receipt of eligible benefits – including Universal Credit and Housing Benefit – to help at key stages in a child's life.

Mr Russell said: 'Covering the costs of a child starting school can be tough on family finances, especially in the current climate. The SNP government's school-age payment offers low income families, or those who receive support such as



Michael Russell MSP.

Universal Credit a £250 payment around the time children start at primary school.

'We're absolutely determined that every child, regardless of circumstances, gets the best start in life. So in these unprecedented and difficult times, I'd encourage families across Argyll and Bute to check what other financial support they may be eligible for too – such as school clothing grants or free school meals.'

Go to <https://www.mygov.scot/best-start-grant-best-start-foods/> or call 0800 182 2222 to find out more or apply.

POLICE FILES

Speeding Motorist

About 9.50am on Tuesday June 2, on the A85 at Taynuilt, a motorist was stopped for allegedly exceeding the speed limit. The driver, a man, 26, was charged and a report will be submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

Theft of Bike

About 1.20pm on Saturday June 6 outside a house on Sinclair Drive, Oban, a black mountain bike was stolen. Police are investigating and are appealing for any witness or anyone with any information to contact them on 101 or anonymously through Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Dangerous Driving

At about midday on Wednesday June 10, on the A85 near Taynuilt, a pink Fiat 500 motor car allegedly drove in a dangerous manner forcing a marked police vehicle to take evasive action by leaving the carriageway and colliding within trees. The driver of the Fiat, a 21-year-old woman was cautioned and charged and a report will be submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.



Vandalism

Between 2pm on Saturday June 6 and midday on Monday June 8 within a shower block at a campsite, Gallanach, Oban, a door was damaged. Police are investigating.

Damage to Vehicle

Between 10am and 10.20am on Friday June 12, at Lidl Car Park, Lynn Court, Oban, damage was caused to the doors of a blue Ford Galaxy motorcar. Police are investigating.

Abusive Behaviour

At about 2am on Saturday June 13 at Albany Street, Oban, a 30-year-old man allegedly behaved in an abusive manner. The man was arrested and later cautioned and charged and a report will be submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

Drugs

At about 1pm on Saturday June 13 at McKelvie Road, Oban, a man, 39, was stopped and searched by police and allegedly found in possession of a small amount of Cannabis. The man was charged and issued with a Recordable Police Warning.

Theft of Money

Between approximately 6pm on Monday June 8 and 8am on Tuesday June 9 at the footpath leading to Tobermory lighthouse, a donation box was damaged and money stolen. Police are investigating.

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

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Mull mapping app means no more island dead ends

by Ellis Butcher
ebutcher@obantimes.co.uk



The perennial problem of finding an address on Mull may just have been solved for good.

For years now, certain properties and places have proved elusive to the unfamiliar.

Despite the advent of the internet, mobile phones and satellite technology, phone receptions remain sporadic - leading to spotty internet connections - and many visitors have found that Sat Navs are far from reliable.

It has all proved a headache for many - especially care workers, the emergency services and taxi drivers - who all need to find addresses quickly.

Add in the fact that postcode areas on Mull can cover multiple properties spread over a wide area, with some names difficult to pronounce, and it has all meant that some



addresses on Mull have proved impossible to find.

Yet Tobermory neighbours, Alan Parker, a former music teacher, and Julien McKenzie, a current music and principal teacher, both of Tobermory High School, appear to have come up with a solution.

The idea is an app called 'Find Me Quick' which can work both on- and off-line across Android and IOS phones, and combines Google Cloud services and 'what3words' (w3w) mapping.

For the unfamiliar, tech experts w3w assigned each

Alan Parker (left) with Julien McKenzie and their three word address

three-metre square in the world with a unique and random three word address that never changes.

More precise than a post-code, people simply find the three words associated with a specific address and follow the directions to the door.

Mr Parker, who has a keen interest in how new technology can help remote areas, was only too aware of how difficult it was finding places on Mull as his former wife was a doctor on the island.

Mr Parker explained: 'I first saw the concept of mapping locations using what3words on BBC Click - immediately recognising how this could be advantageous for Mull.'

He arranged a visit to the

w3w headquarters in London to see how Mull could use the technology, with his idea being to create a 'sustainable and inexpensive mobile app solution' for the island.

That is where he turned to the expertise of neighbour Julien who had a long history in IT innovation for global brand companies from BP to Deutsche Bank.

Julien's app - backed by a supporting website - www.mullw3w.co.uk - impressed w3w staff who visited the island to test the concept and film a promotional video, which was sponsored by Jaguar Land Rover.

Never has the technology proved more vital than during the COVID-19 pandemic and the lockdown.

Both say the 'Find Me Quick' app has been used to deliver goods and get services to vulnerable people in remote

locations - serving as a lifeline. Mr Parker explained: 'The impact of the app become immediately apparent, for example, first responders on the Ross of Mull started using it to find and respond to incidents.'

Taxi drivers and social service people use it to find properties where postcodes are problematic at best.'

Julien, 47, was only too happy to help - recognising that Alan's idea of a friendly and simple location-finding device for key workers on Mull would have tremendous benefits.

'I designed the app from the ground up,' said Julien. 'I implemented Google Cloud technologies to store property and location data. I integrated the w3w mapping technology and application environment to produce a highly-accurate database of property locations on the island within three square metres.'

Teresa appeals for return of old St Columba's School bell

A school bell used to clap for carers has gone missing from its owner's doorstep, writes Kathie Griffiths.

Teresa Russell was puzzled then disappointed when she discovered the brass bell with its oak handle had disappeared from in front of her Nant Drive door.

Teresa had been using the heavy bell to ring out loud and clear when neighbours got together to applaud NHS and care workers.

Years ago she was involved in a serious road accident and says if it had not been for the NHS she would not have survived so Clap For Carers had special poignancy for her.

Now she hopes her appeal for the bell's return in The Oban Times will help get it back.

The old St Columba's Primary School bell was gifted to Teresa when she helped the head teacher move property to the new building, and it was going to be replaced with a push-button version.

'If someone has taken it as a prank or knows where it's gone I'd love to get it back. It's of sentimental value to me.'

'At first I wondered if I'd



Teresa would ring the old school bell during the Clap for Carers campaign on Thursday evenings.

taken it back inside but I've searched high and low and turned the house upside down looking for it and it's not here so it must've been taken,' she said.

Teresa has been shielding from coronavirus since February and is desperately missing her volunteer work as a meet and greeter at Lorn and

The Islands Hospital with the WRVS.

'I really miss my volunteering. I loved seeing everyone and anyone who came into the hospital. I'm not sure I'll ever be able to get back to it because I'm so high-risk to the virus. To get my bell back would mean a lot to me. It's sentimental,' she added.

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OT

Make a date with the calendar boy

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Photo-taking binman Colin Morrison hopes his fundraising calendars for 2021 will sell in a flash.

With another six months still to go before the New Year starts, the 48-year-old from Tobermory has his first batch of 500 next edition calendars back from the printers, ready and waiting to wing their way out to online fans worldwide.

And with many people left to only dream of visiting Mull this year because of COVID-19 blocking travel, the new calendars should be in big demand from people with postponed holiday plans.

Last year copies of his calendars were requested from as far away as America and New Zealand making more than £10,000 for good causes back on Mull.

After finding fame on Facebook, his island snapshots are still a sensation with more than 7,000 members now following his page at A binman's view of Mull and Iona.

This week on his bin round, he came across an unusual road block – a peacock on the way to Croggan



– but that colourful encounter came too late to be included in the 2021 offering.

'He wasn't going anywhere in a hurry. In fact, he was refusing to let me pass so I jumped out and took his picture,' said Colin, who had hoped to start selling his calendars earlier this year but lockdown got in the way.

The first two charities picked to benefit from this year's sales are Salen children's Gaelic choir and Mull Musical Minds and Mull Mod Club, with more causes to come if orders fly in.

'I hope to add some more charities but that will depend on sales as, due



to this COVID-19, it's uncertain how anything will go these days but fingers crossed it will all go well

and we'll be back to some sort of normality soon,' said Colin. The calendars, which will be sold

Photographs by Mull and Iona binman Colin Morrison, far left, have gone viral with thousands of followers on Facebook. Next year's calendar includes a sunset Calgary Beach and Highland cows in magnificent Pennyghael.

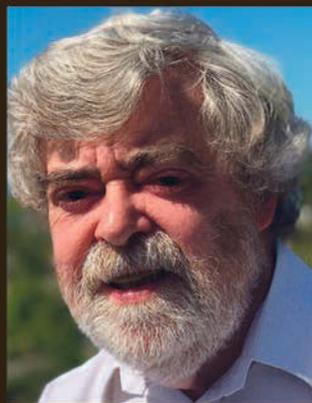
in local shops and are also available by Facebook messaging Colin, are £8 each with £2 from each one going to charity. Postage and packing will be extra.

Colin is also offering mounted prints but only has a limited supply for now.

Last year's beneficiaries from calendar sales were Mull Army Cadets, Bowman Court, Mull and Iona community hospital, Dervaig School's playground appeal, Tobermory Christmas Lights and Fireworks Display, Feis Mhuile, the children's Gaelic choir Coisir Og Mhuile, Tobermory School Pipe Band and Mull and Iona Pipe Band.

The line-up of landscapes in the 2021 calendar includes Highland cows at Pennyghael, Uisken beach, Iona and sunset over Tobermory Bay.

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Highland heroes of St Valery remembered by parliament

The sacrifice of thousands of Highland soldiers, who surrendered to overwhelming German forces in 1940 at St Valery on the Channel coast, has been remembered by members of the Scottish Parliament, writes Ellis Butcher.

Friday June 12 was the 80th anniversary of the 51st Highland Division's surrender at St-Valery -en-Caux, and the occasion was marked by pipers and musicians playing 'The Heroes of St Valery', a piping tune composed by a veteran of the battle.

Donald Cameron, MSP for the Highlands and Islands MSP, proposed a motion to the Scottish Parliament highlighting the commemoration.

He said St Valery was, in some respects, the 'forgotten Dunkirk'.

'Unlike at Dunkirk a few days earlier, it proved impossible at St Valery to evacuate the troops due to the weather and the proximity of German artillery.

'As a result, thousands of soldiers, who had spent weeks fighting gallantly, went on to spend years as prisoners of war.



Bombardier John Gillespie McArthur from Campbeltown was killed in action at St Valéry in 1940.

'Winston Churchill called it a 'most brutal disaster,' and the loss of so many of our young fighting men was felt keenly across the Highlands and Islands, with very few communities left untouched,' he said.

'Five years later, the reformed Highland Division re-entered St Valery as liberators – appropriately to the sound of the pipes.

'It's surely equally appropriate on Friday that we commemorate this anniversary with a tune composed by Donald MacLean, a piper with

the 51st Highland Division, who was himself captured at St Valery and spent years in captivity.'

Mr Cameron said the soldiers involved were forced to surrender to German forces at 10am on June 12 1940.

They included men of the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders, the Black Watch, the Gordon Highlanders, the Seaforth Highlanders, the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, RAMC, RASC, RA and other supporting and attached troops from other parts of the UK.

Charity comes up with best-laid plan for May

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



A carers respite charity has come to the rescue with an egg-stra special special delivery of hens to Colonsay.

When news reached Crossroads North Argyll on the mainland that a predator had killed a hen belonging to 80-year-old islander May MacKinnon, the charity decided to help.

Four hens needing new homes were sourced the next day after Crossroads manager Joan Best mentioned May's plight to friend Ali Martin, who works as an adult carer support worker with North Argyll Carers Centre.

Ali collected the hens and, in boxes donated by Pets at Home, MacLennans of Oban transported them safe and sound on the Colonsay ferry – and the happy hens even had a wee gift for May by producing two



eggs on the way. May, who lives independently but gets care from her nephew and support from Crossroads care attendant Shonagh Musgrave, is 'over the moon' with her new feathered friends, said Mrs Best.

May's nephew Gavin Clark said: 'This is such a lovely thing for Crossroads to do to support their clients in this difficult time. For May, it's made a huge difference. It was not something she was expecting and has really given her a new

May MacKinnon with one of her new hens thanks to Crossroads North Argyll.

lease of life. She's very excited to have the hens on the croft. She always loved having animals, from hens to geese and donkeys in her lifetime. But lately these had been reduced in numbers and unfortunately she was only left with the one hen. She has really missed not having hens around. Thank you, Crossroads. I don't think you will even know just how much this has really boosted May's confidence and belief that nice things can happen to anyone.'

Crossroads North Argyll, which helps 27 unpaid carers across Oban, Lorn and the Isles every week, got successful funding from Foundation Scotland and the Corra Foundation to provide alternative respite for unpaid heroes during lockdown.

Electronic devices such as

tablets, laptops, Alexa and magazine subscriptions, colouring-in books and pencils, binoculars, books and DVDs are just some of the items already bought with the funding to help give carers a little break as lockdown goes on and they continue to look after their loved ones.

It was at a staff meeting that the demise of May's much-loved hens was mentioned and a plan was hatched.

Mrs Best said: 'It was a real team effort to help May. Thanks to Ali Martin, Pets at Home and MacLennans for helping make this somewhat impossible task a reality.'

Although the Albany Street-based charity is not offering a face-to-face service during COVID-19, it still wants to hear from unpaid carers it can start preparing to help.

To get in touch call 01631 562277 or email joan@crossroadsna.org.uk



Aileen celebrates with Margaret and Bob.

Family celebrates as Aileen reaches 100

Aileen Wright has celebrated her 100th birthday shielding with family in Oban.

The centenarian, who was born and brought up in Cullen, Banffshire, and moved to Aberdeen in her early 20s, spent her special day with daughter Margaret Batty and son-in-law Bob at their home in Coe Gardens where she has been staying in lockdown.

As well as tucking into cake, the family went online to video chat with further-flung relatives, including Aileen's other daughter Elaine Raith, who lives in Singapore.

With lovely bouquets and presents from her children and grandchildren, a birthday message from the Queen was also a highlight of her special day.

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OT

Island residents should not miss out on ferries

Island residents relying on vital ferry services should not be 'disadvantaged' should tourism reopen on July 15, writes Ellis Butcher.

That has been the call of John Finnie, the Scottish Green Party MSP for the Highlands and Islands.

He has raised concerns that residents who need the existing timetable service should not miss out if there is a fresh demand for tickets alongside reduced passengers numbers to fulfill social distancing rules.

It follows a statement to the Scottish Parliament yesterday by Fergus Ewing MSP, the cabinet secretary for tourism. Mr Ewing announced a provisional restart date for Scotland's tourism industry - provided certain tests are met.

Mr Finnie welcomed the 'indicative date' but said it must be done 'cautiously' and that he had been given assurances that island residents would not be affected.

He said: 'The tourism industry has been particularly hard hit by the current crisis



John Finnie, MSP.

but it essential we move slowly to prevent a further spike in COVID-19 cases.

'The reopening of the tourism industry will of course put pressure on our ferries, presently operating an essential-lifeline-timetable service, so I am pleased that the cabinet secretary was able to acknowledge this point and will ensure that the residents of our islands will not be disadvantaged as we seek to reopen the islands for visitors.'

Youngsters take note of natural environment

by Fiona Scott
fscott@obantimes.co.uk



Children from Taynuilt and Kilchrenan primary schools have been getting creative in order to raise awareness of microplastic pollution in the world's oceans.

The children teamed up with artist-led design studio Crùbag and the Scottish Association for Marine Science to design and produce a sustainable notebook collection called Our Plastic Oceans.

Launched last Thursday June 11, the colourful creations are a collective effort of art, science education, and action that aims to bring awareness to the



Some of the pupils with one of the designs, which were all printed on organic cotton; and right, one of the finished notebooks.



imminent issue of microplastic pollution, and explore the children's vision of the oceans' future.

'We wanted to communicate a message about what people are doing to the environment in relation to plastic pollution in our oceans,' commented one of the primary six and seven children.

Jessica Giannotti, founder of the Dunbeg-based design company, invited Renuka Ramanujam, a material and textile designer with a keen interest in bio-based design, to join the project and co-run the creative workshops.

The pupils then illustrated and created a collage of their own stunning artworks using organic cotton, depicting microplastic fragments in our seas, the marine life that are faced with them and how we as humans continue to impact the eco-system.

'Renuka and I were already co-designing our new textile collection

inspired by microplastics in the ocean in collaboration with SAMS scientists Bhavani Narayanaswamy and Lola

Paradinas,' said Jessica.

'Teacher Jenny Love approached us to work with Taynuilt Primary School and I was really excited and moved by her passion and interest in helping her pupils gain a deeper understanding of science and a more personal connection with the natural environment.

Crùbag organised visits to the marine laboratories and ran a series of art and microplastic science workshops, allowing the children to go deeper into the subject and express their views and feelings through creation.

'The children's understanding of the current environmental issues and potential future scenarios was deeply moving and a wake up call for all of us,' added Jessica.

In order that the children could get really hands on in the science school, science coordinator Jenny Love applied to the Royal Society for a partnership grant, together with Bhavani of SAMS, to enable the school to purchase

high-quality equipment to help in the sampling of our shoreline.

She then approached Crùbag to see if they could help teach the children printing techniques and how to use art and fashion to inspire change.

'The response has been beyond our wildest dreams,' she said.

'The pupils were enthused and engaged and produced some beautiful and moving artwork with a powerful message.

The notebooks are currently for sale on the Crùbag website, www.crubag.co.uk, and from each notebook purchased, £5 is donated to Taynuilt Primary School.

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Sea lice avoidance system trial at Seil fish farm is a first for UK

A fish farm in Seil Sound is the first in the UK to try a new sea lice avoidance system.

Norwegian company Mowi's trial at Port na Cro farm is part of a world first project in the aquaculture industry.

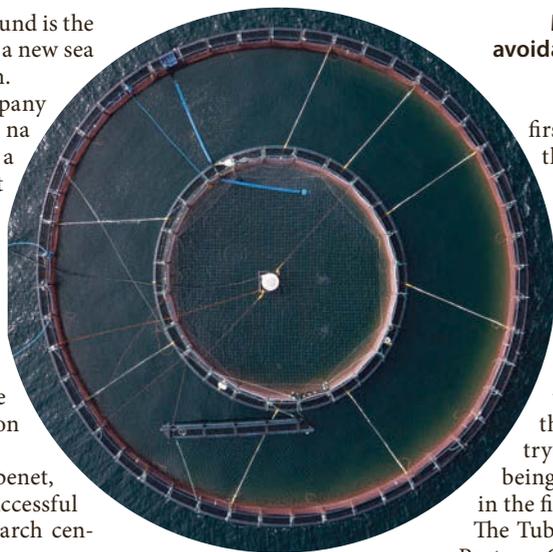
Developed by AKVA group, the technology system has been designed to proactively avoid a tiny fish parasite found commonly on many marine fish.

Known as the Tubenet, the project follows successful trials at Mowi's research centre in Norway.

The Tubenet keeps fish well below the traditional sea lice belt in the top five to 10m of the water.

A large cylindrical passage-way is fitted in the centre of a cage, from which tarpaulin hangs and protects salmon from lice infestations when they swim to the surface.

Fish feed is delivered through underwater feeding tubes, and



Mowi tests sea lice avoidance system in the Sound of Seil.

first farm to implement the Tubenet. At the moment, we use lots of different tools to tackle sea lice such as water pressure and using cleaner fish that naturally pick the sea lice off salmon. But this technique is the first that is proactive by trying to avoid sea lice being present in the water in the first place.'

The Tubenet was installed at Port na Cro in May and Mr Siney and his team will provide regular reports and data to the other teams in Norway.

The project will end when the salmon are marketed but expectations are high given research already conducted by the Norwegian Institute of Marine Research (IMR) found the system gave as much as 80 per cent reductions in sea lice infestation over time.

cleaner fish welfare is safeguarded says Mowi by using tailor-made hides specifically for Tubenets. In the case of Port na Cro, the tarpaulin hangs to a 14m depth and the feeders are placed at 13m. The inner cylinder is 60m in circumference.

Farm manager at Port na Cro Gareth Siney said: 'We are really excited to be the

Speaking to loved ones is best medicine

by Kathie Griffiths
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Video-conferencing technology used at Lorn and Islands Hospital for online consultations has now been repurposed to keep ward patients in touch with their families during COVID-19.

Visits to wards have been restricted since the crisis so hospital staff have had to innovate to make sure patients and families stay connected.

Using the Near Me video-conferencing system has meant patients are able to communicate with their dear ones via tablets, laptops and home computers.

NHS Highland has been using Near Me for two years

to get specialist health services to patients in remote and rural areas but now its use has been extended to bring families and friends together in these unprecedented times.

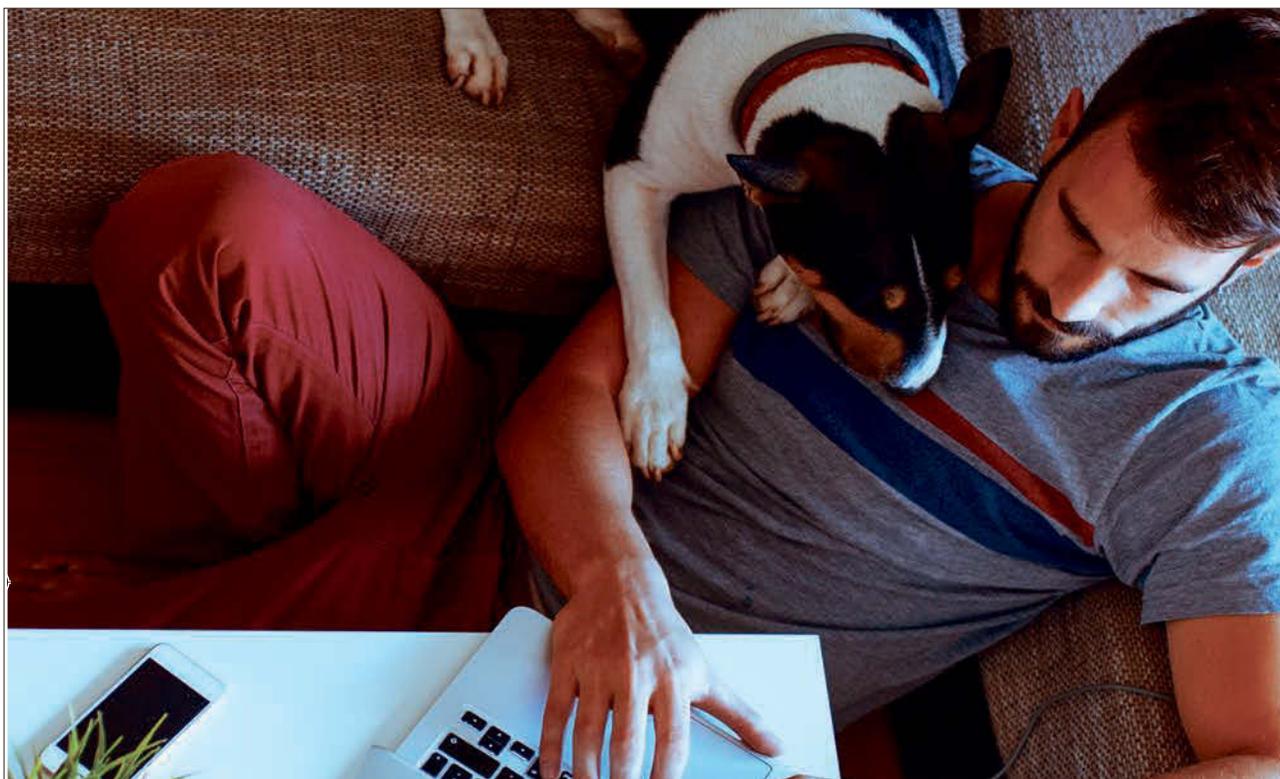
If patients are admitted with their own phones or tablets to stay in touch, that is an option but for those who do not have their own devices or who do not regularly use this kind of technology, Near Me is now filling the gap to ensure everyone can be in touch, says hospital consultant Dr Colin Millar. 'The visual element adds a lot to contact,' he added.

Patients have been using the technology to keep connected in lots of different ways, including joining in online church worship.

Staff nurse Isla Danson said: 'It really is the best medicine for them to speak to those they love, particularly during COVID. Because all ward staff, even on non-COVID wards must wear PPE, it can be a long day for patients. Even seeing a face can make a difference.'

'And we can set the tablets on their tables so the patient doesn't even need to do anything. We can try to be there for patients, but we're not their family or loved ones.'

Repurposing the technology is an example of creativity and problem-solving at the hospital in Oban to ensure patients get the care they should, says Britt Doughty-Godchaux, who interviewed hospital staff for The Oban Times.



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OT

Oban retailers bears brunt of pandemic

Debit card transactions in Oban have plunged 68 per cent compared to the same period last year, according to a new report.

Figures from the end of March onward show that the absence of tourists put the town at the top of the list in a fall in debit card purchases across Scotland, said a charity.

Lochgilthead was fourth, with Fort William 10th.

The data came from charity Social Investment Business and showed that in purchases across all sectors in Scotland, fell by 62 per cent in 42 areas. However, an increase in grocery sales saw overall sales in Scotland down by 37 per cent.

A spokeswoman for Social Investment Business said: 'The pandemic and lockdown have exacerbated existing vulnerabilities in local economies in Scotland. Seasonal economies reliant on tourism have been hard hit. Even large cities can face similar pressures where income is driven by incoming buyers.'

Homeless charity gets creative to lift spirits

by Fiona Scott
fscott@obantimes.co.uk



A homeless charity has been getting creative to help lift spirits during lockdown.

Blue Triangle Housing Association service users were finding the current situation more difficult than most with increased uncertainty about the future and isolation, in particular, a problem.

In an attempt to stay positive, staff and users came up with a range of activities to boost moral.

Project manager Lisa MacDonald told The Oban Times: 'It's a really difficult time for everyone at the moment.'

'We are like a family here and everyone wanted to do something positive to help lift spirits.'

One of the tasks was to bright-

en up a bleak looking wall at the back of the charity's Shore Street premises, resulting in a 'wall of wisdom' on which both staff and service users have written inspirational phrases that mean something to them.

The result is an artwork which can be enjoyed and added to by current and future residents.

Three of the four Oban Blue Triangle projects back onto each other and residents took it in turns, maintaining social distancing, to work on the wall and to plant and maintain a communal garden.

During Mental Health Awareness Month in May, staff also organised and provided a soup lunch delivery to all their service users, in line with the Kindness theme.

Blue Triangle was established in 1975 as the housing arm of the YWCA to manage its



From left: Blue Triangle project manager Lisa MacDonald, Stuart Wollacott and Laura Fitzpatrick.

hostels. The Glasgow-based association became its own legal identity in 1991 and over the last 30 years has run community cafes, provided lit-

eracy and numeracy support, provided access to training, employment, health and housing.

An Oban service user said: 'I

don't know where I would be today if it hadn't been for Blue Triangle.

'The support from staff and other residents has been great. It makes you feel like part of a large family and helps you to look forward to and prepare for a better future.'

Mainly government funded, the charity relies on donations and contributions from local businesses, organisations and individuals including Tesco, Aldi, Lidl, Wetherspoons, Oban Classic Car Club, Oban Saints and St Vincent de Paul.

'We would like to send a heartfelt thanks to everyone who has donated money and essential items to us during this difficult time.'

'It has made a huge difference to service users, helping them deal with any emergency that may arise which they don't have money for,' added Lisa.

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Poignant online farewell to Argyll

Thousands watch Bishop's final Oban Eucharist

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Worshippers from across Argyll and The Isles watched a poignant Eucharist service online on Sunday to wish their Bishop well before he takes up a new post next month.

After almost a decade as Bishop of Argyll and The Isles, the Right Reverend Kevin Pearson is due to start his new role as Episcopalian Bishop of Glasgow and Galloway on July 1.

On Sunday June 7 Bishop Kevin led his final Eucharist service from the 100-year-old St John's Cathedral in Oban. The service also involved other Diocesan Clergy and

lay people from Oban, Bute, Skye and Lewis having sent in recordings as part of Sunday's online worship.

Thousands of people have now viewed the service, a link for which can be found on the Episcopal website Scotland.anglican.org

The service began with a musical ringing of bells from the Diocese's other cathedral, The Cathedral of The Isles on the Isle of Cumbrae.

'I was a bit of a continuation act really! It was a technical wonder with so many people from Stornoway to Cumbrae having recorded parts of it,' said Bishop Kevin who will be the first bishop to move from one diocese to another in more than 80 years.



Right Reverend Kevin Pearson.

He said the time he and his wife Elspeth had spent in Argyll and The Isles had been 'terribly exciting in all sorts of

different ways' and 'the most memorable moments were many.'

He is the only Bishop in Scotland to have dedicated a memorial in commemoration of the First World War, he has also enjoyed the great, significant occasions of ordaining women from local communities. There was also the memorable day of dedicating a new chapel on the Kilchoan estate built by its Chilean owner.

'Memorable moments are many from across Argyll and The Isles which of course includes Iona, the cradle of Christianity in this country. It has been a great privilege to have been a part of its community. We will miss Argyll and The Isles terribly,

it's a wonderful place to live. We'll miss the friendly people, the nature, the sea - it's been enormous fun,' said the Bishop who will also miss travelling on boats and ferries.

'I've had great experiences on the ferry, getting the last boat out of Stornoway on choppy seas and getting breakfast quick because there's not been much of a queue!' he said.

But added: 'Seriously, it's been massively exciting from a faith point of view.

'People are more interested in faith and spirituality now than they were 20 or 30 years ago.'

Bishop Kevin said moving to Glasgow and Galloway was part of his journey and the current challenge brought by COVID-19 was included.

'We've closed our churches out of love not fear, we don't want to expose anyone to this virus,' he said. COVID-19 restrictions may be hampering the Bishop's move to Glasgow but when it happens the start of a new chapter will be another 'exciting one,' he said.

'Glasgow is the biggest city and unique in itself and Galloway is an enormous rural area.

'There's tension between the two, urban and rural. Obviously being in Argyll I'm used to rural life but I spent years in Edinburgh before I came here. So it's a marriage of the two, the job of a bishop is to make that tension positive.'

Before coming to Argyll and The Isles as its Bishop, he was Rector of St Michael and All Saints Church in Edinburgh, Canon of St Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh, Dean of the Diocese of Edinburgh and the Provincial Director of Ordinands where he was responsible for the discernment and selection process for candidates for ministry.

Bishop Kevin is also currently the convener of the Council of the Scottish Episcopal Institute overseeing the training of those entering authorised ministry and he also serves on the provincial Standing Committee of the Scottish Episcopal Church.

He takes over the See of Glasgow and Galloway that became vacant in 2018 following the retirement of the Rt Rev Dr Gregor Duncan. He was elected by the Episcopal Synod, a body comprising the Diocesan Bishops of the Scottish Episcopal Church.

Coronavirus

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

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



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

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



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All together >

How financial support

Thousands of companies have been taking advantage of an unprecedented package of UK Government support to protect jobs and support businesses during the coronavirus outbreak. The financial support is helping firms across the nation to adapt, innovate and protect jobs. Here are two examples of how companies have been helped, and what support is available.

CASE STUDY 1 Q-MASS

AN UNPRECEDENTED package of UK Government financial support has helped firms like Q-Mass in East Kilbride weather the coronavirus crisis.

Director Ronnie Robertson said lockdown hit his company's order book, but the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme has been vital to help them hang on to their valued staff.

Ronnie said: "Before this, we had quite a good order book, with three to four months of work planned, so we were pretty worried where it was going to take us."

At first, he was worried how he would keep Q-Mass' 47 staff on the payroll, but then the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme was announced.

It offers UK Government support to pay 80 per cent of staff's wages up to £2,500 a month, and the scheme has now been extended until the end of October.

Q-Mass manufactures bespoke parts for the oil, gas and defence industry so staff training is important.

Ronnie said: "Our staff are very highly skilled. We've gathered a bunch of people here and trained them up and taken on apprentices. We do a

SCOTLAND IN NUMBERS

628,000 jobs furloughed through the Coronavirus Jobs Retention Scheme up to May 31
146,000 claims amounting to £425 million through the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme up to May 31
Across the whole UK 70 per cent of those eligible for SEISS made a claim. The average value of a claim is £2,900

Source: Her Majesty's Treasury

lot of training, we've got good people, we train them a lot and we want to hang on to them."

He found applying for the furlough scheme quick and straightforward.

He said: "It was surprisingly easy and we were surprised that the money came through relatively quickly."

Now staff at the firm who've been furloughed are gradually returning to work, with strict safety measures in place.

Ronnie said: "We've put a day shift back on and we've still got a few office people working at home, with quite a few still on furlough.

"We're just ticking over. We're trying to cover our costs every month, trying to break even, to stay still. We're looking at it that if we can stay still we're doing very well."

And because of the size of the building, maintaining a two-metre distance hasn't been a problem for returning staff.

Ronnie said: "It's been really easy. We've got a big workshop with wide corridors and we've got a lot of the doors propped open internally so no-one has to touch doors or handles.

"We've got a few toilet areas with restrictions on them and a couple of one-way corridors, but the offices are open plan, so there's no real need for people to be near each other.

"The workshop's a big, wide open space and we have to keep cleaning things like photocopiers and touch screens, but it's been quite straightforward."

Now Ronnie's looking forward to a brighter future.

He said: "I feel like we're on the side of the valley and we're looking across to the other side and it looks absolutely fantastic. Getting through the next few months is crucial for us. We have a really good bunch of people and we want to hang on to them. The furlough scheme has helped us to do that."



'SURPRISINGLY EASY': Q-Mass director Ronnie Robertson praises the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme.



CASH HELP: The Shnuggle team.

'We were able to diversify

CASE STUDY 2 SHNUGGLE

Planning, forward thinking and invaluable help from the UK Government has enabled a Northern Ireland firm to diversify and remain solvent.

When Covid-19 struck, Newtownards baby product manufacturer Shnuggle's owners Sinead and Adam Murphy were prepared thanks to advice from their export colleagues in China.

Sinead said: "We reduced our out-goings, put on pause our marketing spend in the business. We just tried to protect the cash that we had."

"The first impact was our customers that we sell to in Asia. They all went into lockdown so our orders and sales to them stopped. But also a lot of our production happens out in Asia so our factories went into lockdown."

"Luckily we had bought a lot of stock beforehand. We were so relieved that we had, at least

shnuggle®

we could carry on trading with our UK and European customers."

With around half of the company's sales in the UK and Ireland and half in the export business, Shnuggle had to rely on their local retail-base.

Sinead continued: "Baby items were classed as essential goods which was a huge relief to us. This meant as long as we

is helping firms adapt



Money for business and staff

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.

■ Details of the support available to businesses across the UK can be found at gov.uk/coronavirus/business-support



while remaining solvent'

could socially distance within the warehouse we could continue trading and selling online.

"All of our business is supplying other retailers like John Lewis, Mamas and Papas, Amazon. But our online sales actually grew because everyone was at home and maybe an element of panic buying."

Shnuggle took advantage of the furlough and Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme (CBILS) schemes.

Sinead said: "We furloughed five out of our 16 team, and were able to access the Business Interruption loan through Ulster Bank.

"We were relieved to get the money in quickly, so we weren't worrying about paying wages or our biggest overhead was our suppliers in China who were calling in all of their debts.

"That was our biggest headache and stress, we owed significant amounts of money to them and we didn't have

the cash as we needed time to sell our products."

Shnuggle also received a £10,000 Small Business Grant.

Adam said: "Furloughing was brilliant, and the CBILS was the one that was the best for us because it meant that we could keep all our suppliers happy.

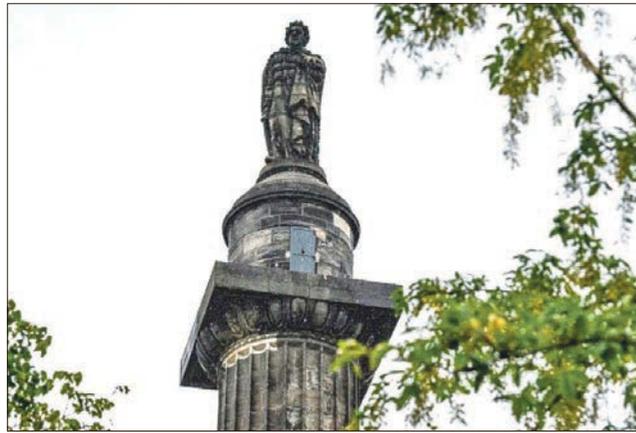
"So even though we had a temporary dip in our sales, and obviously the inventory was sitting there ready to sell, it just kept us solvent and the cash flow moving."

OT

Reckoning with our many historical links to slavery

Across Scotland, people have begun considering the ways that our history is intricately tied to that of slavery and racial oppression, writes Mika Schröder, a member of Oban BLM.

It's easy to regard the past as irrelevant to us today, to think of history as a faraway thing confined to textbooks, read and taught in schools, capable of giving a 'correct' recollection of history; celebrating the British Empire, treating the commonwealth as anything but a legacy of brutal colonialism, and having voluntary amnesia over British links to slavery. Yet history is not stuck in the past, it weighs heavily on our present, having fundamentally shaped the places where we live and our own lives and relations with one another. What's more, history can also teach us about power and how in the UK this is



Henry Dundas's statue stands in the centre of Edinburgh. Discussion has been ongoing since 2018 about a new plaque, but now they are discussing whether to remove the statue. Photograph: BBC

intricately linked to the legacy of racial and ethnic oppression and exploitation, whose after effects still continue.

The truth is that there are few places in Scotland we can go without being near the legacy of slavery. While Scotland is primarily known for its contribution to its abolition, the nation was also deeply complicit

in its trades and practices, which greatly benefited several powerful Scottish families and helped shape the Scottish industrial era.

For instance, during industrialisation, Scotland was engaged in three of the main trades associated with slavery (tobacco, cotton and sugar), all of which were carried out

through the exploitation and oppression of people taken by force from their homelands. In fact, Scotland was the biggest hub for the tobacco trade in all of Western Europe, with Oban one of its trading ports.

Beyond trading connections, a disproportionate amount of British-owned plantations (and hence slaves) in the Caribbean were owned by Scots. Economic and political influence stretched across the Atlantic. An example is Malcolm 12th of Poltalloch who made his wealth owning sugar plantations in the

Caribbean, and through his expansive lands in Argyll and Bute also further entrenched inequalities within land relations still existing today.

Several Scottish slave and plantation owners also held investments in infrastructure development and businesses back home, turning it into an economic question which apparently trumped moral concerns. The consequence of this was that prominent Scottish politicians pushed back against abolition, including Scottish Tory Henry Dundas whose influence is marked by a statue in St Andrew Square in Edinburgh. Shockingly, at the end of British slavery government reparations were made not to the enslaved peoples, but to slave owners for their "lost property" through a loan that the UK government didn't pay off until 2015, through the help of taxpayers' money.

Following abolition, several slave owners reinvested these funds across Scotland, for instance making the expansion of the railway lines possible, railway lines we still use today.

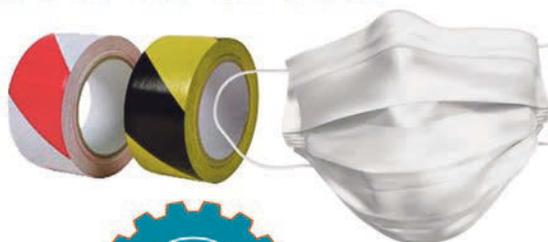
Oban, as a town that's been shaped by overseas trade and by its accessibility via sea and rail, has a history deeply entangled with that of slavery and racial oppression. We hope that by seeing this, we can gain a more nuanced and inclusive understanding of our own histories and present, and let it inform our dreams for the future world we want to see and work towards. It also helps illuminate the legacy of power that emerged from systems of racism, oppression, exploitation and capital, and may help us grapple with this legacy moving forward.

To join Oban BLM group on Facebook, visit www.facebook.com/groups/256627412257217

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Scottish stars tune up for virtual festival to help save music venues

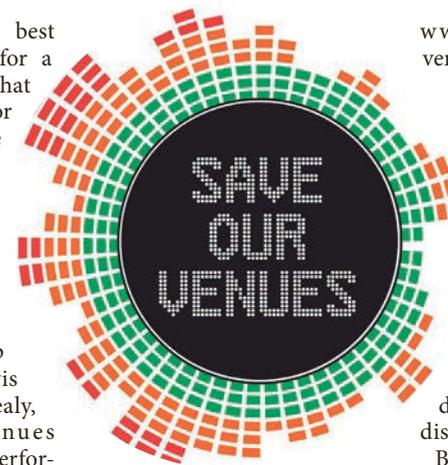
Some of Scotland's best musicians are uniting for a one-off virtual festival that will help raise money for music venues across the country that are under threat - including The View in Oban, writes Ellis Butcher.

Streaming online between 8-11pm on Friday and with a free-to-view warm-up on Thursday by Travis frontman Fran Healy, #SaveOurScottishVenues will feature recorded performances to drum up support for Scotland's grassroots music venues shut down by COVID-19.

The first artists to be announced include KT Tunstall, The Xcerts, Hunter & The Bear, Wet Wet Wet, Be Charlotte, Fatherson, Luke La Volpe, Hue & Cry, Honeyblood and Anchor Lane.

Festival host and BBC Radio Scotland DJ Vic Galloway will be showcasing the nightspots and the artists whose careers they helped develop.

Daniel MacIntyre, of The View in Oban, said the festival aimed to benefit those Scottish



venues already running Crowdfunding appeals, of which The View is one at www.crowdfunder.co.uk/savetheviewoban

Tickets for the festival, priced between £5 and £8, are on sale from www.universe.com/events/save-our-scottish-venues-tickets-edinburgh-307Q9X

The weekend will start at 8pm on Thursday with a free half-hour performance by Travis frontman and lyricist Fran Healy. Filmed on a hillside overlooking Los Angeles, the acoustic performance will be streamed on Facebook at

www.facebook.com/musicvenuestrust/

The #saveourvenues campaign was initiated by the Music Venue Trust in response to the economic threat to more than 500 grassroots music venues.

Even as the lockdown eases, it said the future of these venues remains 'bleak' with only three per cent able to open under the proposed two-metre distancing rules.

Beverley Whitrick, strategic director for the Music Venue Trust, said: 'There are more than 60 Scottish members of the Music Venues Alliance, each of which is essential to the music ecosystem as social, economic and cultural hubs within their communities.'

'The love that artists have for these spaces and the people who run them is

clear from everyone stepping forward to help raise money to support venues through the crisis. Please enjoy these events and donate what you can to help.'

For more information visit www.saveourvenues.co.uk

Towns urged to apply for COVID funding

A leading expert on town centres policy has urged towns across Scotland to apply for new funding made available by the Scottish Government to support the recovery of local high streets post-COVID.

Phil Prentice, the chief officer of Scotland's Towns Partnership and programme director of Scotland's Improvement Districts, issued the plea following an announcement of a £2 million fund by Communities Secretary, Aileen Campbell, last week.

The money is in addition to the £1 million BIDs Resilience Fund announced in March, and is intended to support localised response activities contributing to town centre and high street resilience and recovery.

A wide range of projects are eligible for funding. Full details about how to apply for funding can be found at www.scotlandstowns.org/towns_and_bids_resilience_and_recovery_fund_2020

Singing islanders rescue pilot whales

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Islanders in lockdown have used Gaelic song to help rescue 10 whales stranded in shallow water around the Western Isles.

The long-finned pilot whales, part of a pod of 17, were first spotted close to Lochboisdale, South Uist, on Thursday.

The sighting sparked a three-day rescue mission with islanders keeping to COVID-19 restrictions attempting to refloat animals from the group that were repeatedly getting stranded and injuring themselves.

Seven of the whales did not survive, but after getting help the rest of the pod were sung on their way out to deeper water between Uist and Skye.

Janet Marshall who is a volunteer marine mammal medic for British Divers Marine Life



The girls singing calmed the whales, and when they stopped, the whales started chittering at them to start again.



The whales were repeatedly swimming into shallow water and becoming stranded.

Rescue said: 'The girls singing on the boat was one of the things that calmed the whales, the effect was immediately noticeable. It is well-documented that whales prefer female voices.'

Key worker Janet who was given free accommodation at the Tractor Shed, North Uist, added: 'Before the singing started the whales were very edgy but then their breathing slowed, they stayed under the

water longer. It was incredibly moving. When the girls stopped singing, the whales started chittering at them to start again.'

BDMLR co-ordinated the rescue mission working with

Uist contacts initially through its hotline then had to get special permission to send a small team and equipment across from a neighbouring island to help.

The charity said on its website that it had been 'an extremely difficult situation' and thanked everyone involved in the rescue for their 'tremendous' efforts.

Other businesses who helped included Uist Sea Tours, Mowi fish farm company, the Skydancer cafe and Uist Storm-Pods who allowed another of the charity's medics to stay.

In an update yesterday, the charity said the whales looked to be in 'reasonable health' when last seen but it would stay on alert in case the whales turned up again.

BDMLR's rescue hotline is on 01825 765546.

MSP's concerns as Glenorchy campers defy restrictions

Highlands and Islands MSP Donald Cameron has raised concerns that 'off the beaten track' locations are being affected by an influx of visitors, writes Ellis Butcher.

Mr Cameron said that although attention had been on well-known visitor 'hot spots' such as Loch Lomond and Glencoe, there is 'growing concern' among local people that relatively quiet locations are also 'coming under pressure'.

He said in a statement today: 'For instance, Glenorchy, which is certainly in a secluded part of the country, has seen a number of campers staying overnight in defiance of the restrictions.'

'I have been contacted by constituents who are understandably concerned about this, not least because most of the facilities usually available to visitors are closed, which is having a knock-on effect in terms of litter and waste being left behind.'

'We need to keep getting the message across that so long as the travel restrictions are in place, people must not think that it is acceptable to make their way to locations that are



Donald Cameron MSP.

off the beaten track.

'It is unfair to local people and places even more pressure on those people with the job of keeping the country safe and tidy.'

'We all want to see the Highlands reopen to visitors, and kickstart our vitally important tourism sector, but only when it's safe and practicable to do so.'

In the wake of a string of littering incidents which followed relaxation of some of the lockdown rules, a Facebook group was set up called Country Watch Coronavirus - Act Responsibly.

There have been reports on

social media of the community orchard at Dalmally being used as a site for a barbecue with the burned-out remnants of the fire left behind with drinks bottles and cans.

At the start of June, First Minister Nicola Sturgeon warned that rules around how far people could travel could be made law.

She said: 'It's very clear people were driving more than five miles to beauty spots, in some cases we know that people were staying overnight in tents, caravans or motorhomes.'

The government has allowed people to travel up to five miles for recreation and recommended that when two households meet there should be no more than eight people in total in a group.

Last month, Michael Russell MSP for Argyll and Bute, said: 'The right thing for our constituents is to stay at home. And the right thing for those who might want to come and visit our area is to accept that they cannot do so at present and that they must observe - to the letter - the lock down regulations passed by the Scottish Parliament.'



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 or login into your My Home account online

WEST HIGHLAND HOUSING ASSOCIATION SUPPORTING OUR TENANTS AND COMMUNITY.

OT

Dogs fall foul of golfers

Dogs could be banned from walkies of the Isle of Seil golf course unless owners keep their pets' fouling under control, writes Kathie Griffiths.

Walkers and golfers at the popular course, which reopened on May 29, are being urged to stay vigilant and report any witnessed dog fouling to the police.

A warning from the club in Seil Island's regular newsletter The Seileachan said: 'All dogs on the golf course should be watched and on a lead. All dog faeces must be cleared up by the dog walker, placed in a bag and disposed of in a rubbish bin.'

'Argyll and Bute Council is aware of this public health risk from dog fouling. All walkers and golfers are asked to be vigilant and may report any witnessed dog fouling to the police. If this dog fouling persists, dogs will no longer be allowed to be walked on the golf course.'

While the course was shut in lockdown, walkers and greenkeepers noticed increased amounts of dog fouling,

prompting the club to remind people that it creates a serious public health problem.

Now the club is getting back into full swing as lockdown restrictions ease, walkers and golfers are also being reminded to stick to social distancing measures and be aware of the danger of being hit by a ball.

Elsewhere on the island, the community council has received £1,550 from Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN) to support the community through COVID-19. So far a small gift, card and artwork by local children have been delivered to members of the lunch club and the community council is arranging activity boxes for children as well as help in printing school materials.

Speeding is fast becoming a problem at Clachan Seil, despite a 30mph limit. Complaints have been made to Seil and Easdale Community Council, which is going to buy temporary signs in a bid to slow drivers down. Members want to hear more ideas from residents on this.



SAMS filmmaker Andy Crabb as he appears in the video.

SAMS staff are poetic about oceans

Scientists and staff from SAMS at Dunbeg explored their creative sides in recognition of World Oceans Day last week.

Sixteen members of the Scottish Association for Marine Science have featured in a short video to mark the annual event by each reading a line of a specially-penned poem called 'Why we love the ocean'.

And while the topic of marine sciences does not naturally lend itself to phrases which trip easily off the tongue, staff managed to flawlessly recite lines such as 'tiny microscopic algae' and 'abundant modest copepods'.

With the poem penned by communications officer Euan

Paterson, staff self-filmed their segments and it was then seamlessly put together by SAMS filmmaker Andy Crabb, who briefly stars in the video as a shark.

Euan said: 'We were keen to mark World Oceans Day, even from lockdown. Our staff and students are fortunate enough to live and work beside the ocean, so it was something we could organise while respecting the lockdown guidance.'

Within 24 hours, the video, running to one minute and 29 seconds, had attracted more than 5,500 views.

Euan added: 'We're delighted with the response we've had to the video from around the world. The ocean knows no

borders, it's everyone's concern, so it's great to be part of a global event that encourages people to assess their relationship with that environment.'

The video featured director Nicholas Owens and staff members Emily Venables, Anuschka Miller, Bhavani Narayanaswamy and Andy Crabb. Also taking part were Ben Wilson, Michele Stanley, Jordan Grigor, Leslie Mabon, Marie Porter and John Howe. Lines were also recited by Helen McNeill, Hannah Grist, Kim Last, Finlo Cottier and Liz Cottier.

Visit www.sams.ac.uk/news/sams-news-world-oceans-day-2020-film to watch the video.

Figures show fall in A&E visits

The fall off in A&E attendances at the hospital in Oban has been laid bare in new NHS figures.

The coronavirus led to a reduction in people seeking emergency treatment at the Lorn and Islands District General Hospital in Oban.

It came amid concerns about the virus, a reduction in traffic and government messaging about the risk of the NHS being overwhelmed.

The figures show that in the week ending March 29 – the week lockdown was announced – attendances in Oban fell to just 47.

Two months later by the end of May, weekly presentations had climbed back up to nearly 95.

Figures up to the week ending June 9 last year, show that A&E presentations in Oban were running at around 199.

Figures for the NHS Western Isles hospital at Stornoway on Lewis reflect a similar trend.

Its lowest attendance at A&E during the pandemic was 38 in the week ending Sunday April 5. By the week ending May 31, numbers had risen to 83.

By comparison last year, the NHS Western Isles saw 168 attendances during the week ending June 9, 2019.



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Life's on hold – your future doesn't have to be!

Learning after lockdown might feel a little bit different than it did before, but Argyll College UHI has been pioneering the use of digital and online technologies since 1999 to reach remote and rural communities, so we know how to make it work for you.

We draw on award-winning expertise to deliver courses using a blended approach to teaching. This combines video conferencing, which we've all become so used to with the weekly family Zoom call, with inventive online technologies, real time support from tutors and support staff, and some face-to-face teaching for learners across Argyll and Bute and beyond.

3rd year student Charis says, "during lockdown we carried on with our Video Conference classes as normal, and with



assignments available on the secure online portal, we didn't notice too much difference. I'm going to be continuing with the BA Business and Management in September and am looking forward to working from home once the kids are back in school."

When courses restart on 7th September, life on campus will undoubtedly be slightly different. Our priority is to provide a safe learning environment for all staff and students. Any return to face to face learning will be safely planned in line with the current and developing

Scottish Government public health measures, including social distancing.

Increasingly it will be normal for students and staff to connect with each other from home, travelling into our local college centres for practical activities, assessments and to access individual support.

This doesn't mean that activity will be any less, and in fact this 'new normal' will make it easier than ever for you to fit your studies around other commitments using our blended learning approach.

Signing up to study with Argyll College could be a great alternative to a gap year abroad. It's the perfect option if you are thinking about a career change or if you want to gain some essential study skills and experience before thinking about a move to the big city.

Our virtual online open day on Wednesday 24th June is the ideal way to find out more about how we do things; chat online or on the phone with friendly and knowledgeable staff about what your options are; or just browse our range of subject areas and listen to what our tutors have to say.

Because we combine different teaching technologies

our students can study from anywhere: a remote Scottish island, the heart of Glasgow or the Scottish Borders, and with a full range of higher and further education courses, we have options which are ideal for school leavers or adult returners. Don't let your IT skills, equipment or slow broadband stop you – speak to us about anything you think might stand in your way, we may be able to help.

Local Centre Manager Theresa Bain says, "Our buildings are closed, but applications are open. Staff are working at home now, and throughout the summer, so there's always someone you can contact and we want to hear from you."

2020 is the time to stay local. Don't put your future on hold – find it with us.

Find out more at www.argyll.uhi.ac.uk/openday



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BUSINESS NEWS

'Significant' economic setback for Argyll and Bute, claims report

Measures are in place to tackle the 'significant setback' to Argyll and Bute's economy caused by the COVID-19 outbreak, officials have insisted.

A new report has outlined Argyll and Bute Council's plans to overcome the financial obstacles since the UK was placed in lockdown in March.

The authority has continued to process and determine planning applications, has

'Given the economic shock from the necessity to respond to implications of the pandemic it will take time to fully understand the impacts.'

made all interim payments towards capital projects and has secured additional funding from business improvement districts, along with other actions.

But the document, by interim executive director Kirsty Flanagan, also says 'it will take time' to understand fully the economic impact of coronavirus in the area.

Ms Flanagan said: 'A key aspect of economic recovery will be continued collaboration with numerous stakeholders across all of the sectors including both the Scottish and UK governments.'

'Full account will also be taken of any emerging national economic recovery plan but it will be vital to ensure that the particular needs, issues and future opportunities faced by our region are taken fully into account.'

'Influencing the direction of this from an Argyll and Bute perspective will be best done through the production of our own economic recovery plan.'

'Given the economic shock resulting from the global necessity to respond to the public health implications of the pandemic it will take time to fully understand the short, medium and longer term economic impacts.'

£250,000 help for events and festivals across Argyll and Bute

by Ellis Butcher
ebutcher@obantimes.co.uk



A £250,000 council package to help local economies across Argyll and Bute with events and festivals has been promised.

A range of cultural events, which had been awarded council grants for events in 2020-21, cannot now go ahead because of COVID-19 restrictions and concerns.

But Argyll and Bute Council's business continuity committee has agreed three measures to help lessen the impact on the local economy and event organisers who had already incurred costs.

Every year, the council helps many events with grants from its Strategic Events and Festivals Fund and Supporting Communities Fund.

'A healthy economy helps communities and businesses. The pandemic threatens our people and our economy.'

It has agreed to amend the rules so that grants awarded for events to take place in 2020-21 can be used to deliver the events in 2021-22.

Furthermore, the council said it would provide up to 75 per cent of the costs of their original grant award if the event can no longer take place.

A council report said: 'On discussion with event organisers, it is clear that expenditure has been incurred in the early part of this year in preparation for summer events, and organisers have voiced their concerns about the sustainability of events going forward.'

'The COVID-19 pandemic has created an exceptional set of circumstances for the organisations that could never have been predicted and therefore it is acknowledged some organisations will have legitimately incurred expend-



Last year's Argyllshire Gathering parade sets off from Station Square.

iture in relation to their now cancelled event.' The council has also decided to make an additional £90,000 available for local events. The application process will open towards the end of 2020.

Councillor Gary Mulvaney, policy lead for strategic finance, said: 'A healthy economy helps communities to thrive and businesses to succeed. The coronavirus pandemic threatens the health both of our people and of our economy.'

'Grants from the Strategic Events and Festivals Fund and the Supporting Communities Fund were conditional on events being held by March 2020.'

'However, we took the view that it is important to adopt a flexible approach at this extremely difficult time.'

'Investing this funding in events for next year is all about supporting our economy to combat the effects of COVID-19 and rebuild.'

Among the events hit by the coronavirus included the cancellation of Fife Regatta, Mull of Kintyre Music Festival, the Jura Music Festival, the Cowal Highland Gathering and Bute Noir.

Organisers of the Argyllshire Gathering (Oban Highland Games) have already announced it will not go ahead in its previous form and the council said the event remained 'presently undecided'.

Tiree Wave Classic organisers are looking to reschedule their event.

Mull Rally and Helensburgh Winter Festival are still planning to go ahead on their original dates as planned, the council report said.



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The hives at Duror nature reserve run by Highland Titles.



Lockdown and sunshine sees bees buzzing

The coronavirus lockdown and warm spring weather have proved a huge bonus to bees, according to sustainable Scottish honey business.

A combination of settled weather, less traffic and reduced pollution have created perfect conditions for hives to thrive, said Webster Honey. It has now thanked Highland Titles, which tends some of Webster's hives on the nature reserve it runs at Duror, between Oban and Fort William.

Highland Titles was the first organisation to take possession of several hives from the Kinross-based Webster Honey, which started life five years ago with just two and now has nearly 100.

Meik Molitor, its beekeeper, said: 'The hives here have done amazingly well. Bees really have been the winners during lockdown and if we get a good summer, as looks likely, we will be looking at bumper crops of honey which we sell through our website. This also makes money for the business to reinvest into hives, marketing and training.'

He added: 'In the case of the hives at Highland Titles, the fact they are the strongest ones I've seen for a long time is also due, in no small part, to the care and attention shown to them by the estate's Stewart Borland. We would particularly like to thank him, and his estate staff, for their continuing support.'

Mr Borland, estate manager for Highland Titles, said it had been a pleasure to provide a safe haven for the hives.

He said: 'We were delighted to be the first location chosen by the company, and to have had such a key role in developing the educational programmes.'

'Many schoolchildren from the area have come to see the hives over the past five years, learning a great deal about beekeeping, and huge importance of bees to the eco system. This is something we support massively as a nature reserve.'

Highland Titles arrived in Duror around 13 years ago and has seen the return of red squirrels, otters, hedgehogs and even an osprey, among others, it said.

Webster Honey now has nearly 100 hives across Scotland on fruit farms, country estates, national forests and at several schools and nurseries.

Daniel Webster, managing director of Webster Honey, said: 'So successful was our relationship with Highland Titles that it led the way for us to approach other suitable places, and then ask if they would like to get involved. It also kickstarted our educational programme for schools and nurseries which raises important finance for us to re-invest into the business.'

It rolled out an expansion programme of its hives to target new locations committed to wildlife and the environment.

Mr Webster said: 'Bees are important pollinators of crops so we found farms were also interested.'

Although its school and nursery educational plans are on hold due to COVID-19, it plans to resume them next term if possible.

For further details on Webster Honey, visit www.websterhoney.com.

Business leaders call for new air travel plan

The Scottish Chambers of Commerce has joined forces with more than 20 UK organisations calling for the UK Government to set out as a plan for air travel.

The letter, backed by organisations including the Tourism Alliance, UK Hospitality and Universities UK, wants to see an 'integrated cross-government plan' for air travel.

Businesses across the country rely on the UK being connected to the global economy and international travel had 'slowed to a trickle' since March, it said.

The letter, headed by Dr Liz Cameron, chief executive of the Scottish Chambers of Commerce, said more than 1.5 million jobs in the UK are supported by air transport and more than 40 per cent of its trade with non-EU countries travels by plane.

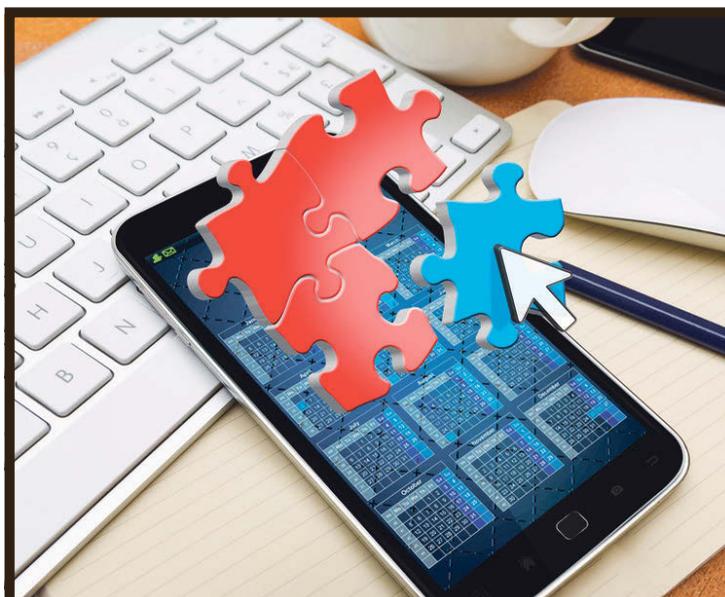
The letter read: 'There are whole sectors of the UK economy – from small to medium enterprises to large employers – that simply won't recover and thrive without international connections.'

'Our manufacturers rely on air connections to export goods; our world-class universities get around £6.9 billion a year from international students; our tourism industry accounts for more than seven per cent of the UK economy; and much of our hospitality sector relies on international visitors. They need urgent clarity on when they will be able to get flying again.'

It calls for 'travel corridors' to be established between the UK and low-risk countries.

This would enable exemptions from the blanket quarantine requirements for UK arrivals.

It added: 'The indefinite and indiscriminate advice not to travel overseas prevents businesses and individuals from being able to plan with confidence.'



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

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

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

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

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LETTERS

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

Oban stands up for BLM

Large numbers are expected to line up along Oban's esplanade tomorrow as people make a stand for Black Lives Matter.

As well as this silent show of support, lights at McCaig's Tower will be switched off over the weekend in solidarity with the worldwide anti-racism movement sparked by the killing of George Floyd by police in Minneapolis last month.

We should all want to live in a world where everyone is shown respect and made to feel wanted and included. We are not there yet, but this is a good place to start.

Gaelic singers' whale songs

The story this week about islanders from South Uist singing to a pod of Pilot whales in a bid to calm them as they tried to refloat the stranded mammals, will have brought a tear to many an eye.

Over a three-day rescue, women sang Gaelic songs to the group as they were encouraged to swim into deeper water and when the singers stopped the whales started 'chittering' to them wanting them to sing again.

It is so moving and must have been emotional for the people involved.

Well done to everyone for saving so many of these incredible creatures.

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 will not be printed. Please email: editor@obantimes.co.uk or write to: Letters page, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB.



The views expressed on our letters page are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of The Oban Times.

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It's time for Oban to reopen for business

I note many local councillors' MPs and MSPs behaving like unfortunate turkeys wishing for Christmas but instead of Christmas its wishing for extended lockdown.

Would the local councillors and politicians, who are still being paid, still be advocating closure if they weren't being paid – I don't think so.

So we are not all in this together after all. Many family businesses have had no income whatsoever and have now closed forever. Businesses who were just keeping themselves afloat getting by year by year but serving the town and area well.

Put simply, the longer we remain closed the more businesses will not reopen. This lockdown (prison term) is due to exaggerated doomsday death projections from the Imperial College and a scientist predicting that, by October, more than 500,000 people in Great Britain and 2 million people in the US would die as a result of COVID-19. His figures were wrong.

At the same time we have seen little change or reduction in the length of lockdown but a desire to lengthen the closure by our still being paid politicians answerable to Whitehall, and still being paid councillors answerable to Kilmory but both elected to act as the people elected them to do.

The town has lost income which even during war time Oban never experienced, as the hotels were full, and the property prices never dropped. It is time to reopen fast, Covid or no Covid, or there will be nothing left to reopen.

Angus Files
Oban

School exams should be moved to June

Scotland's school examination schedule is bizarre. Pupils are assessed in May, and then commence their next level of study in June, only to have the summer holiday and possible staff changes interrupt it almost immediately.

The only rationale for this ungainly system seems to be the time required to publish results before the return to school in August. However, with IT now speeding the process at every stage, it is surely possible to meet the deadline. In any case, pupils already start courses before they know their results at the previous level.

With this June's teaching hindered by lockdown, now is the time to prioritise teaching and learning over administrative convenience and

Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL

editor@obantimes.co.uk

Bho chionn ghoirid tha mi air a bhith a' cuimhneachadh mar a bhiodh m' athair ag ràdh rium bho àm gu àm nam òige, gun robh an t-àm an "sgìath" fuil a bh' orm a bhearradh! Mar a dh'èirich dha miltean eile tha mise cuideachd fìor fheumach air cliop a-nise! Chan eil cuimhne agam cuin a bha m' fhalt cho fada, agus tha mi a' faireachadh car mar caora dà-rùsg! Ged a tha mi air a bhith a' feuchainn ri mo bhean a bhrosnachadh gus a dhol an sàs leis an t-siosar chan eil i deònach, agus a rèir choltais chan eil agam ach a bhith foighidneach, agus ma dh'fheumas 's dòcha figheachan a chur na mo logaidh!

Dh'ionnsaich mòran mharaichean, gu h-àraidh saoilidh mi an fheadhainn a bha sa chabhlaich mharsanta, sgìlean borbaireachd fhad 's a bha iad aig muir agus bha m' athair cho ealanta leis a' "mhachine" is gun robh a' mhòr-chuid de fhir a' bhaile a' tighinn thuige nuair a bha feum aca air am falt a ghearradh. Bhiodh feadhainn eile a' gearradh falt cuideachd ach cha robh iad cho sgileil a rèir choltais. Nuair a bha mi mu naodh neo deich bliadhna a dh'aois is m' athair air falbh mìosan an t-samhraidh air "bàtaichean-luath" Chluaidh, tha cuimhneam a bhith an taigh mo sheanar is nàbaidh, aig an robh cliù geur-chainnt, air chèilidh.

Thuir mo sheanair gun robh e feumach air cliop ach nach robh e cinnteach co thuige a rachadh e is m' athair air falbh, agus dh'iarr e beachd an neach-tadhail air duine àraid eile sa bhaile mar bhorbair. "Uill" ars an cèiliche "thug

am fear sin am falt dhìomsa turas is cha leigeadh an nàire leam mo bhonaid a thoirt dhìom fiù 's san leabaidh fad chola-deug!"

'S math cuimhneachadh air an seòrsa eirm-seachd a bha cho bitheanta an uairsin, agus thèid na bacaidhean a th' oirnn seachad a dh'aithghearr tha sinn an dòchas. Gun teagamh tha fadachd air daoine airson iomadach goireas agus seirbheis nach gabh faotainn an-dràsta, eadar cothrom air fiaclair, gruagaire, neo bùth àraid, agus tha na miltean ag ionndrainn a bhith ag amharc an cuid spòrs seachdaine agus theagamh pinnt leanna neo drama na dhèidh. Ach tha an suidheachadh a th' againn an-dràsta na dheagh chuimhneachan dhuinn air cho neor-thaingeil 's a tha sinn anns a' bhithheantas air sochairean de gach seòrsa a tha sinn a' cur gu feum nar beatha làitheil. Mar a dh'èirich dha uimhir de bhuannachdan, eadar càirdean agus goireasan, cha chuirear luach da-rìribh orra chun am bheil iad air an àicheadh dhuinn! Nach bu mhath gun cuimhnicheamaid air sin nuair a bhios an aonarachd seachad, agus gun gabh sinn a h-uile cothrom air ùine an cuideachd chàirdean agus charaidean a tha cudromach dhuinn.

Lockdown restrictions highlight how much in life we take for granted, whether it be the company of family and friends or the convenience of services. Will we appreciate these more when things return to "normal"?

Allan Campbell
ailean@obantimes.co.uk

move examinations to June from next year.

Richard Lucas,
Leader of The Scottish Family Party,
Glasgow

Social distancing is not easy for everyone

With social distancing now part of everyday life it is important to highlight that not everyone can maintain the required distance as easily as others.

People who are blind and partially sighted can struggle to know when they are getting closer to someone, or if someone is approaching them. And guide dogs, of course, aren't trained to help

in this regard. There have been occasions when individuals have been aggressively berated for coming in too close proximity to others, when the reality is they simply were not aware of it.

In such uncertain times, tensions over distancing can rise. But we would ask that if you feel someone seems to be ignoring the restrictions, consider for a moment whether that person, rather than being careless, might not be able to fully see you.

Thousands of people in Scotland are living with a degree of sight loss. Please be aware that some people do need just a little extra thought.

James Adams, Director, Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB) Scotland

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DISTRICT NEWS



Matthew MacCorquodale, from Oban, celebrated his fourth Birthday on Friday, June 12. He celebrated his day with his mum, dad, and his two cats, Misty and Olly. Matthew had a lot of social distancing visitors to his garden throughout the day, which was finished off with a chippy tea and a visit to the Pokey Hat for ice cream.



Raina Potter, from Oban, turned eight years old on Sunday, June 14. Raina had a garden party in the sunshine with her family who made the day extra special for her and she had a brilliant time.

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

Cadets sail through active modules despite living during turbulent times



Dry-docked for the foreseeable, Oban Sea Cadets have overcome their frustration at being unable to participate in normal sea cadet activity by making waves online.

Early in the lockdown phase (some 12 weeks now), staff at the Oban unit frantically implemented online measures that enabled members to continue their sea cadet experience.

Wariness of this new method of interaction was soon eradicated and the initiative has proven to be quite successful. Weekly Zoom online parade sessions are popular, with the cadets stating that it is the only way they got to see and chat to their friends face to face.

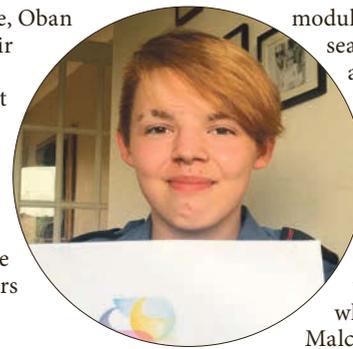
There is also an online Google classroom for tutorial sessions where cadets can return completed assignments to be awarded their respective

modules. These include topics such as seamanship, corps knowledge, first aid and much more.

As a result of this participation, some of the cadets have completed their sections and are eligible for promotion.

On Thursday June 4, the unit held their first online promotion ceremony at their weekly Zoom session during which Commanding Officer PO Malcolm MacNeil presented the award certificates to each cadet via email. The cadets were delighted as were the staff as they were well deserved.

Congratulations go to Kate Home (top left), Christopher Denheijer, promoted to Able Cadet; William Sykes (top centre), promoted to Ordinary Cadet; Kiaran McIntyre, Cameron McEwan (above left) and Rhys Neil (below left), promoted to Cadet 1st Class.



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Freya Stark: Into the valley of the assassins

On a beautiful sunny morning in May 1930, Freya Stark was trekking through the mountains of Persia, on her way to the Valleys of the Assassins, writes Jo Woolf, Writer in Residence at the Royal Scottish Geographical Society.

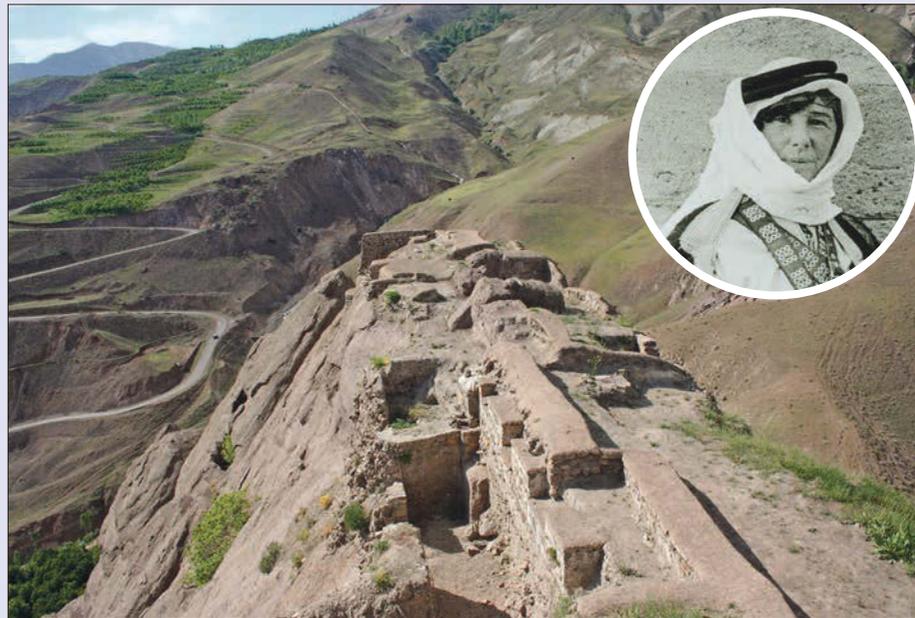
The name itself was enough to suggest a degree of concern: although the assassins themselves were largely consigned to history, there was conflict between local tribes and people were still occasionally murdered on the high mountain passes. The country was far from safe, but Freya was anything but fearful. It wasn't so much that she faced danger, but wheedled her way around it with a persuasive charm that generally proved to be unstoppable.

Aged 37, Freya spoke Arabic and Persian fluently, and had an intimate knowledge of the Middle Eastern peoples and their history. Her curiosity about little-known regions often propelled her into uncharted territory: ignoring the dire warnings of friends and diplomats, she would set off on epic treks in search of lost treasure or archaeological remains. She preferred to travel at her own pace, with no companions except local guides. Quite simply, exploring brought her joy. She wrote: 'I know in my heart of hearts that it is a most excellent reason to do things merely because one likes the doing of them...'

It was the writing of the Italian explorer Marco Polo that first alerted Freya to the Valleys of the Assassins. The story went back a long way. In the 11th century, a young Persian man named Hasan-i Sabbah rebelled against the Turks and wandered around the Elburz mountains as an outcast. He gathered support in remote villages and became the powerful ruler of a new sect, building a string of castles on the high mountaintops that lined a secret valley.

According to the storytellers, Hasan had a unique way of inspiring fanaticism in his warriors. He invited them into a lush garden where delicious fruits and fragrant plants were growing, and beautiful girls in rich dresses were waiting to entertain them. He offered them hashish, and when its euphoric effects wore off they could be bidden to carry out any number of premeditated murders. The cold-blooded reputation of the Assassins – from 'hashishin', meaning 'users of hashish' – struck terror into the hearts of rulers across the Middle East and Europe. But after about 200 years, invading Mongol armies wiped out Hasan's strongholds and they were largely forgotten by history.

Freya's quest to rediscover them took several weeks. She started out from the town of Qazvin with three local guides and a couple of mules; they wended their way past glades of mulberry



trees and fields where oxen were ploughing, and climbed slowly up into the foothills of the Elburz mountains, picking their way along precipitous paths and crossing streams that had dried to a trickle in the summer sun. Beneath their feet was a Persian flower-carpet of cornflowers, poppies, lilies, delphiniums and forget-me-nots.

This was a sparsely populated region, but the tracks were by no means deserted. Coming up from the Caspian Sea, traders were driving long trains of mules laden with sacks of rice. The men's beards were dyed red with henna and they wore traditional white frieze coats. They looked wonderingly at Freya, but responded warmly to her greeting and welcomed her to their country. In the evenings, eating pilau by the welcoming fire of a hill tribe, Freya gathered information about local landmarks so that she could plan her route. Smoking their long pipes, the villagers told her about the harshness of life in winter, when bears and wolves roamed the hills and food was so precious that families slept on their sacks of grain.

Several days later, Freya stood on a high ridge and gazed across at one of the Assassins' fabled fortresses. It had a commanding presence, being perched atop a promontory known as the Rock of Alamut, which loomed several thousand feet above the valley floor. Few people had ever climbed up to it. Next morning, accompanied by a handful of excited local people, Freya scrambled to the top.

The castle was so ruinous as to be mostly unrecognisable in terms of layout and structure,

but it still held echoes of power. Standing amid its crumbling walls, Freya imagined herself back in the time of Hasan-i Sabbah, strolling there in the cool of the evening and watching the sunset cast amethyst shadows across his valley. The once impregnable fortress must have seen armies massing at its feet, but now it was being reclaimed by nature: grapevines and wild roses sprawled across the rocks, and tulips made vivid splashes of red and yellow.

Wrapping themselves up against the wind, Freya and her companions lit their samovar or water-urn to make tea and sat to eat a picnic lunch. Some of the men sang songs on the way back down, melancholy ballads that must have evolved over hundreds of years, telling of daily life in a tradition that stretched back in an unbroken strand to the time of the Assassins and beyond.

Freya's report helped cartographers to draw the first detailed maps of the Alamut region. She shared her experiences with audiences of the Royal Scottish Geographical Society, and was presented with the Mungo Park Medal in 1935. She was naturally hesitant about accepting praise: during her long life she travelled on impulse, just for the pleasure of it. 'I have no reason to go,' she wrote, 'except that I have never been, and knowledge is better than ignorance. What better reason could there be for travelling?'

For more information about RSGS, visit www.rsgs.org

*Quotes: 'The Valleys of the Assassins' (1934) and 'A Winter in Arabia' (1940)

The great

Morvern Lines

IAIN THORNER

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Our ancestors certainly knew how to throw a good party – none more so than John Stewart, third Earl of Atholl, who arranged a huge deer drive in 1530 in celebration of a visit to Perthshire by King James V, his mother Margaret Tudor and Pope Clement V11's Italian ambassador.

Not only did the earl, who was only 23 at the time, employ an army of men to surround and push hundreds of deer towards the waiting sovereign and his court lying in wait behind butts and rocks, but he built a 'palace' to accommodate them.

No miserly 'bring your own bottle' nonsense in those days!

The drive, or tinchel – a word taken from Gaelic meaning a circuit – took place in the corries around Glen Tilt, 12 miles above Blair Atholl. There, on a flat piece of ground on the east bank of An Lochainn, a tributary of the River Tilt, the earl erected a structure which today we might call a 'flatpack' but rather more sumptuous than B&Q's best. Of the tinchel, we know very little other than the outcome at the end of three days was 600 stags and hinds, roe deer of both sexes, wolves, foxes and wildcats.

It probably followed the usual pattern starting days or even weeks before. It would have moved slowly at first so as not to panic the deer and make them break back through the line. The actual battue, however, would have been a noisy affair with a good deal of shouting and playing of bagpipes on the final push.

What the chronicler Robert Lindsay of Pitscottie failed to record about the blood-bath, he made up for in his description of the quantity and quality of the domestic arrangements. His account is unique on a number of counts and worth quoting in full.

'...the earl of Athole hearing of the King's coming made great provision for him in all things pertaining to a prince; that he was well served and eased with all things necessary to his estate, as he had been in his own palace of Edinburgh. For I heard say this noble earl gart [caused] make a curious palace to the King, to his mother, and to the ambassador, where they were so honourably eased and lodged, as they had been in England, France, Italy, or Spain, concerning the time, and equivalent for their hunting and pastime; which was builded in the

Zesty salmon pasta



Syn FREE 25 minutes Serves 4

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

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At Atholl stag parties – part one



A scene, little changed since 1530, above the site of the palace built by the Earl of Atholl, for King James V (photograph: David Fergusson) and, inset, a portrait of King James V about the time of the great deer hunt in Glen Tilt (photograph: The National Trust)

midst of a fair meadow, a fair palace of green timber, wind [wound or bound] with green birks [birch trees] that were green both under and above, which was fashioned in four quarters, and in every quarter and nutre thereof a great round, as it had been a block-house which was lofted and geisted [pertaining to a beam] the space of three-house heights [three stories high]; the floors laid with green scharets [turfs] and spreaths [rushes], medwarts [meadow-sweet] and flowers, that no man knew whereon he zeid [sat] but as he had been in a garden.

Further, there were two great rounds in ilk [each] side of the gate, and a great portcullies of tree[s] falling down with the manner of a barrace

[barrier, an outwork] with a drawbridge, and a great stank[ditch or moat] of sixteen feet deep, and thirty feet of breadth; and also the palace within was hung with fine tapestry, and arrasses [hanging screens] of silk, and lighted with fine glass windows in all airths [points of the compass]: that this palace was so pleasantly decord [decorated] with all necessaries pertaining to a prince, as it had been in his own palace-royal at home. Further, this earl gart make such provision for the king, and his mother, and the ambassador, that they had all manner of meats, drinks and delicates, that were to be gotten at that time in all Scotland, either in burgh or land; that is to say, all kind of drink, as ale, beer, wine,

both white and claret, malvasy [Malvazia, a group of wine grape varieties grown historically in the Mediterranean region, Balearic Islands, Canary Islands and the island of Madeira], muskadel [muscatel] hippocras [a drink made from wine mixed with sugar and spices, usually including cinnamon, and possibly heated], and aquavitea [whisky].

Further there was of meats, wheat bread, main bread and gingerbread; with fleshes, beef, mutton, lamb, veal, venison, goose, grice [young wild-boar], capon [a castrated cockerel], coney [rabbit], cran [crane], swan, partridge, plover, duck, drake, brisset cock [turkey] and pawnies [peacock], blackcock, muirfowl [grouse] and

capercaillies. And also the stanks [ditches or moats] that were round about the palace were full of all delicate fish, as salmonds [salmon], trouts, perchies [perch], pikes, eels, and all other kinds of delicate fish that could be gotten in fresh water, and all ready for the banquet; syne were there proper stewards, cunning baxters [bakers] excellent cooks and pottingers [cooks who prepared herbs] with confections and drugs for their desert. And the halls and chambers were prepared with costly bedding, vessels, and napry [tablecloths and napkins], according for a king; so that he wanted none of his orders more than he had been at home in his own palace. The king [who was 18 at the time] remained in this wilderness at the hunting the space of three days and three nights and his company, as I have shown. I heard men say it cost the Earl of Athole every day in expenses a thousand pounds.'

This, of course, was Scots pounds which were worth a lot less than those south of the border. Using the latest Bank of England inflation calculator and the relevant exchange rate, this equates to over a total of half a million pounds. It is a staggering sum but remember where the event took place, the building costs, transporting materials, hire of labour and ponies and probably feeding at least 300 to 400 people, horses and hounds.

Lindsay of Pitscottie recorded; 'The ambassador of the pope seeing this great banquet and triumph which which was made in a wilderness where there was no town nearer by twenty miles [Scottish, not English miles], thought it a great marvel that such a thing could be in Scotland considering how bleak and barren it was thought by other countries, and that there should be such honesty and policy in it, and especially in the Highlands where there was but wood and wilderness.'

There was, however, one sum the earl was spared, and that was the demolition of the palace as it was deliberately destroyed by fire immediately after the royal party left for Dunkeld, causing the ambassador to say to King James: 'I marvel, sir, that you should thole your fair place to be hurnt that your grace hath been so well lodged in.'

The king answered: 'It is the use of our Highlandmen, though they be never so well lodged, to burn their lodgings when they depart.'

In return for his lavish hospitality and for promoting royal rule in Perthshire, King James granted the Earl of Atholl in 1536 a free barony of the lands of nearby Glenloch. Both died six years later.

To be continued.

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Highland Book Prize is now open

The Highland Book Prize is now open for submissions.

The prize aims to bring recognition to, and develop a readership for, books created in or about the Highlands of Scotland. It is open to works of fiction, non-fiction poetry and short stories with a strong connection to the Highlands.

The winner of the Highland Book Prize will be announced at an event at the Ullapool Book Festival, in May 2021. The winning entry will receive a cash prize of £1,000 and a place on a writing retreat at Moniack Mhor (if the current pandemic allows).

Books must have been, or due to be, published in the UK between January 1, 2020, and December 31, 2020. There is a list of criteria books must adhere to. Full eligibility criteria and the entry form are available at www.highlandbookprize.org.uk/ apply. Submissions will close at 5pm on August 19, 2020.

Marie's in the moment for her fourth album

by Fiona Scott
fscott@obantimes.co.uk



Award-winning fiddler, tutor and composer Marie Fielding will release her impassioned fourth album on June 26.

With the majority of its 10 tracks played in full for the first time during the recording process, *The Spectrum Project*, celebrates being 'in the moment' and captures the raw energy and emotion synonymous with the music making process, while allowing Marie's intuitive and versatile playing to take its rightful place centre stage.

The Spectrum Project is a complete story from start to finish, with Marie revisiting the opening track from an altered perspective at the album's close, allowing the journey to feel circular with a spectrum of moods and



emotions expressed by Marie throughout.

The organic approach to making this album has allowed Marie to fully articulate her

creative authenticity, bringing her distinct storytelling fiddling to the fore.

'I recorded this album in an attempt to be as true to myself and my sound as possible, thereby discovering more about my ability, limitations and stamina as a soloist,' she said.

'Throughout the process, I focused on mood and response, rather than rehearsing, planning and aiming for perfection.'

Various compositions in the collection are inspired by places Marie has explored musically and captured artistically through her paintings and photography, such as *Aran Islands* and *Connemara Reel*. While others are dedicated

to people that have touched her life. Marie also revisits Brattfors i Brunt, from her debut album, *Executive Club*, sharing the melody with Tom Orr on piano for a fresh approach.

A lecturer in fiddle and performance at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, Marie can be heard playing fiddle, five-string fiddle and hardanger fiddle on the album, and is responsible for composing the majority of the tunes, as well as mixing and producing the record.

Having been immersed in traditional music from an early age, Marie has collaborated with many celebrated musicians over the years and guested on countless albums, radio and TV programmes.

She is joined on *The Spectrum Project* by Tom Orr on harmonium and piano. The

fresh energy of Luc D McNally can be heard on guitar, while the recognisable style of Donogh Hennessy on guitar can be heard on *Gracie's Lullaby*. *The Spectrum Project* was recorded over two days at Castlesound Studios by Stuart Hamilton.

The organic, flowing feel of this album is also expressed through its artwork. A painting by Marie using acrylics and textures brings the journey of this body of work to life visually.

The Spectrum Project will be released on June 26 and will be available to download, stream and on CD.

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Robert in lockdown!

ROBERT ROBERTSON

robert.d.robertson@hotmail.co.uk



Whenever the time comes for me to return to my flat in Glasgow, I could be forgiven for glancing wistfully over my shoulder and humming Lochaber No More.

With all the gardening I have been doing over the last 11 weeks, however, including the story of the broken lawn mower, perhaps that should really be Lochaber No Mower. I'll see myself out!

On a far more serious matter, however, a big thank you to all the readers who wrote last week to point out the faults with my dad's golf swing in the photograph attached to the article.

He has played the game for the best part of 60 years and was horrified to discover I included that photo. He could clearly see that he was, I quote, 'coming in too steep'.

All I know is that (between the two of us), we have furnished the river, the puggy line, the witch's trails, and half of Leanachan forest with a couple of dozen Callaway Twos and a few Titleist Ones thrown in for good measure!

Talking of the river, I went for my second dip of the year in the River Lochy on Sunday. I was joined by my old school pal, Andrew MacGillivray, who also works in the music industry (as a sound engineer) and, like me, has seen all his gigs dry up due to the virus.

He has done sound for Tide Lines a number of times over the past year or so and we've had some hilarious experiences on the road to reminisce about on the banks of the Lochy with a couple of beers.

One such memory was a bizarre experience in the beautiful Cathedral city of Ely, Cambridgeshire. We were playing a festival down there and Andy was mixing the gig on a desk behind an audience of about a thousand in a marquee. It seemed like a good



Robert enjoys a swim in significantly warmer waters than he experienced earlier in lockdown.

show to us so, on leaving the stage, we asked him how it had been for him.

He replied that it looked good but he could hardly hear us thanks to a group of dogs who had sat all round him as we started our first number and began barking! You couldn't write it.

Anyway, back to our day at the river – and we were contemplating going in for a swim.

'We won't be in for long,' I said confidently.

I was in a fortnight ago and it was still snow melt straight from the Ben. Andy pointed

downstream where there were a few kids splashing about happily in the shallow water.

'It can't be that cold!' he said. And in we went.

'We weren't prepared for the current (which almost swept us down to Carrs Corner), but I can confirm that it had heated up significantly over the previous weeks of decent weather. Anyone wanting to go for a swim – now is the time!

If you happen to be swimming anywhere up near the golf club, give me a shout if you find any Callaway Twos or Titleist Ones!

M'ALBA

MY ALBA

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 Fowles – Ceol Aig baile
- 22:30 Ameireaga air Film (rpt)
- 23:20 ÙR/NEW: Binneas na Trads
- 23:30 Seoid a' Chidsin – The Kitchen Coves (rpt)

DIHAOINE 19 An t-Ògmhios

FRIDAY 19 June

- 17:00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
- 18:35 Machair (rpt)
- 19:00 An Là – News
- 19:26 Fraochy Bay (rpt)
- 19:30 Prosbaig (rpt)
- 20:00 Orain Oir (rpt)
- 20:30 Fuine (rpt)
- 21:00 ÙR/NEW: Spors – Aberdeen FC
- 21:30 ÙR/NEW: Spors – Ross County FC
- 22:00 ÙR/NEW: An Bronntanas
- 22:50 Binneas na Trads (rpt)
- 23:00 ALT (rpt)

DISATHAIRNE 20 An t-Ògmhios

SATURDAY 20 June

- 16:00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
- 17:45 An Là – News
- 18:00 International Friendly – Scotland v Jamaica (rpt)
- 20:25 Fraochy Bay (rpt)
- 20:30 Leugh Mi (rpt)
- 21:00 ALT (rpt)

- 22:00 Ameireaga air Film/America in Colour (rpt)
- 22:45 Pory – Druthag Bheag Eile (rpt)
- 23:00 Spors – Aberdeen FC (rpt)
- 23:30 Spors – Ross County FC (rpt)
- 00:00 Belladrum – Cridhe Tartan (Highlights) (rpt)
- 20:00 An Là – News
- 20:30 ÙR/NEW: Dealbhan Fraoich
- 21:00 Gothenburg '83 (rpt)
- 22:00 Heisgeir/The Monachs - Trusadh (rpt)
- 23:00 Alleluia! (rpt)
- 23:30 Slighe Anndra (rpt)

DIDÒMHNAICH 21 An t-Ògmhios

SUNDAY 21 June

- 16:00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
- 18:15 An Là – News
- 18:30 Prosbaig (rpt)
- 19:00 Slighe Anndra (rpt)
- 19:25 Alleluia! (rpt)
- 20:00 Aig Taigh-Fuine/The Bakery (rpt)
- 20:30 Dealbhan Fraoich (rpt)
- 21:00 Bannan (rpt)
- 21:30 Bannan (rpt)
- 22:00 Prois Tartan/Tartan Pride (rpt)
- 23:00 An Bronntanas (rpt)
- 23:55 Eadar Chluich (rpt)

DILUAIN 22 An t-Ògmhios

MONDAY 22 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 Heisgeir/The Monachs - Trusadh (rpt)
- 22:00 Bannan (rpt)
- 22:30 Opry le Daniel (rpt)
- 23:25 Fraochy Bay (rpt)
- 23:30 Julie Fowles – Ceol Aig Baile (rpt)

DIMÀIRT 23 An t-Ògmhios

TUESDAY 23 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 Ceathrar air a' Chuiltheann (Four on the Cuillin) (rpt)
- 21:00 ÙR/NEW: Mathair
- 21:40 ÙR/NEW: Port – Druthag Bheag Eile
- 21:55 Eadar Chluich (rpt)
- 22:00 ÙR/NEW: Julie Fowles – 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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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.

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Monday	Stephen	Marcus
Tuesday	Stephen	Karen
Wednesday	Stephen	Campbell
Thursday	Andy and Sarah	Stephen
Friday	Stephen	Margo

Universal love interest becomes hot topic

Regular listeners to the Oban Times Something for the Weekend podcast, online at www.obantimes.co.uk every Friday, will have heard Fiona, Kathie and Ellis discussing pizza, and the toppings thereof, on a regular basis.

In honour of this hot topic, we have decided to give you a recipe this week for making your own, what you cover it with we will leave up to you.

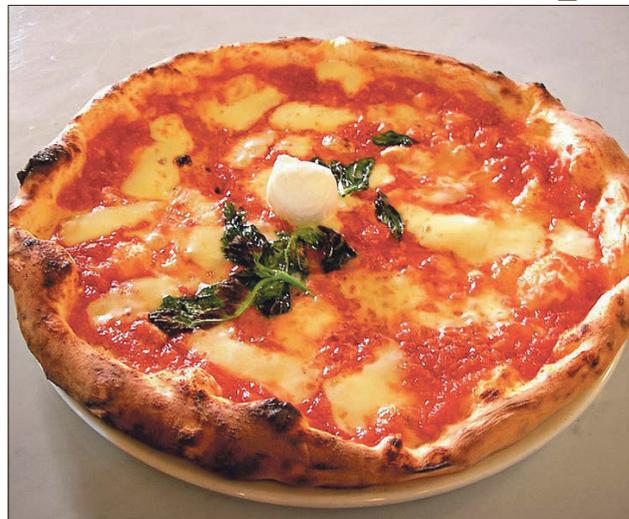
Universally loved, pizza is thought of as classically Italian although many countries around the world have their own version.

It has, of course, veered away from its simple peasant roots, with the addition of all sorts of toppings.

Just try not to go overboard, as having too many toppings makes it hard to get the base crispy and you'll end up with a soggy pizza.

You can be super-organised and make your bases from scratch using our healthy dough recipe, or take a shortcut and use a bought base. Look for a wholemeal base or use a wholemeal flatbread such as Lebanese or pitta bread for a quick meal.

If you are making your own, get the children involved, they'll love it!



This tasty pizza base recipe will get you started as you make your own pizzas for a weekend treat.

Ingredients (makes four small or two large pizzas)

- 14g dried yeast (or 2 x 7 g sachets)
- 280ml tepid water
- 1 tablespoon extra virgin olive oil
- 1 cup (150g) wholemeal pizza flour (strong, high-protein flour)
- 1 cup (120g) besan (chickpea flour)
- 100g semolina, plus extra for dusting
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1 carton of tomato passata

Method

Combine the yeast, water and oil in a jug and set aside to activate for 10 minutes. You should see bubbles appear on the surface, which means the yeast is alive and activated. Using an electric mixer fitted with a dough hook, combine the flours, semolina and salt. Slowly add the activated yeast and water. Mix for 5-10 minutes, or until the dough comes together into a sticky ball.

Alternatively, mix the ingredients by hand and knead on a large board.

Sprinkle a little extra semolina over the dough, cover with a damp tea towel and set aside to prove in a warm place for at least 30 minutes or until almost doubled in size.

Preheat the oven to 220°C. Lightly dust a pizza stone or pizza tray with a little semolina.

Knock down the dough and cut it into four balls (or two balls if making larger pizzas).

Briefly knead each ball, then roll out to a thickness of about 2 mm and spread passata thinly and evenly over the top.

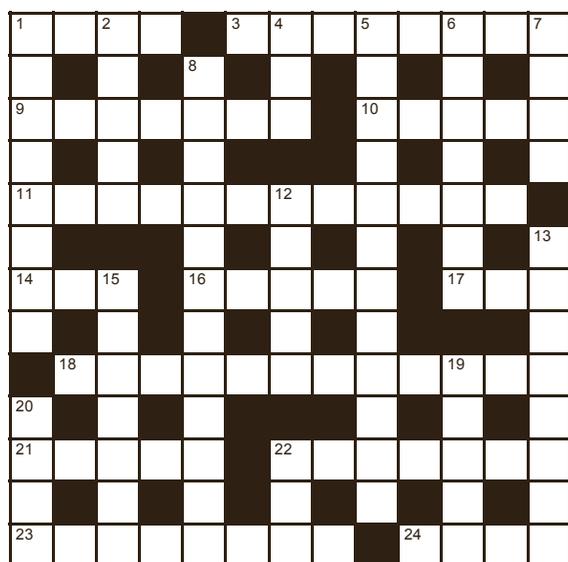
Place a base on the pizza stone or tray and top with your choice of toppings.

Bake the pizza for 10-15 minutes or until golden and cooked.

TIP

Pizza dough can be refrigerated for up to five days. In fact, seasoned pizza chefs often say the dough is much better if prepared a day in advance. You can also roll out the dough, place it between two sheets of baking paper, then wrap it in foil and freeze it.

Crossword



Across

- 1 Well-off (4)
- 3 Diminutive (8)
- 9 State (7)
- 10 Tiny (5)
- 11 Accordingly (12)
- 14 Do wrong (3)
- 16 Coffee that won't keep you a
- 17 Word said with a salute (3)
- 18 Eccentricity (12)
- 21 Before tax (5)
- 22 Italian dumplings (7)
- 23 Meant (8)
- 24 Do without women (4)

Down

- 1 Heard back again (8)
- 2 Prank (5)
- 4 Used to be (3)
- 5 Antigen present on the surface of red blood cells (6,6)
- 6 Wraps up (7)
- 7 Full house for example (4)
- 8 Relation once removed (6,6)
- 12 Needing to scratch (5)
- 13 Freshwater fish (8)
- 15 A British soldier (7)
- 19 Broad-ended scarf (5)
- 20 Wrinkly fruit (4)
- 22 Command to turn to the right (3)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION



A taste of the high life from adventurer Rob

by Fiona Scott
fscott@obantimes.co.uk

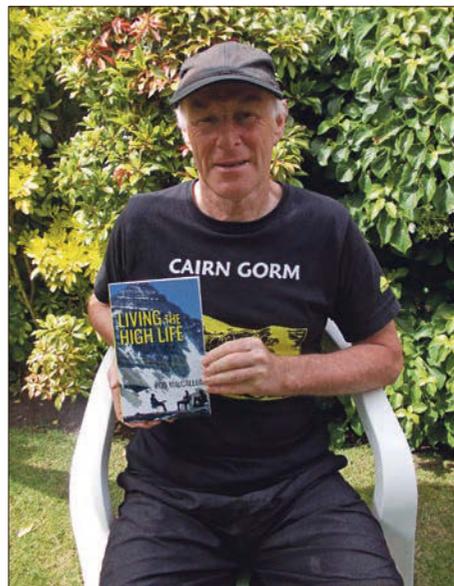


An Oban mountaineer has published a collection of stories connected to many aspects of the sport which he has been personally involved in over the last 40 years.

Living the High Life is a personal account of Rob MacCallum's mountaineering exploits in Scotland and further afield and captures his enthusiasm, passion, commitment and sense of adventure. By using remote bothies, high camps, snow caves and open bivouacs he is very much at home among the mountains.

Personal accounts include a moonlight climb in winter, ghostly bothy experiences, mountaineering trips and ascents in the Canadian Rockies, Bolivian Andes and the Swiss Alps.

'The book has been written



Rob MacCallum with his new book, detailing his mountaineering adventures.

mountaineering can sometimes be a risky business, demonstrating an uncanny capacity to warn of potentially threatening events. It's all there: a collection of epic accounts, from being caught in an avalanche, a cliff self-rescue and crevasse fall, to cornice collapse and hypothermia. Luck and fate are never far from the action.

There is also a section on the amusing and unusual events encountered while in the mountains.

Also a keen kayaker and mountainbiker, Rob's motto is 'live the dream', and his advice to young mountaineers and adventurers is, 'the only limitations to adventure are those which you impose upon yourself'.

Living the dream can be found at Amazon Books. Rob intends to give all book royalties to local charities.

on the central theme of inspiring others to take up this rewarding adventure sport,' he told us.

'My reward is to have experi-

enced the events illustrated in the book and to have subsequently written about what happened.'

Rob also illustrates how

Double Crossword

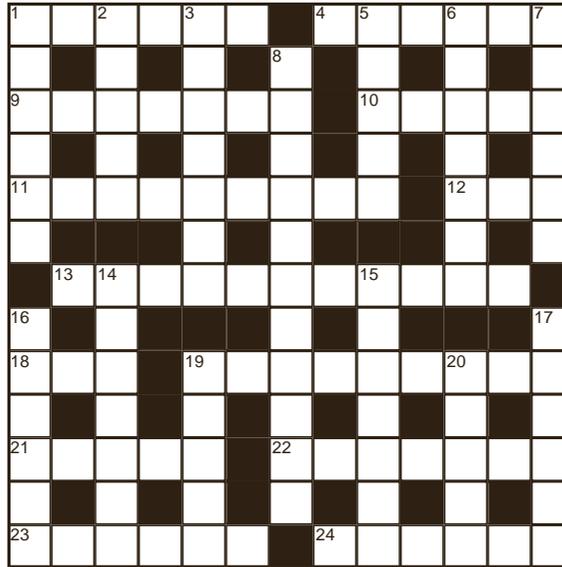
The puzzles are different but both use the same grid

Cryptic Across

- Child's vehicle got a larger one inside! (2-4)
- Dull work on a query that's missing its lines (6)
- Thirty-one days in which to be in credit after nothing (7)
- About-turn for a submarine (1-4)
- Noble cabbie? (3,2,4)
- A Caledonian to the end! (3)
- It requires at least sixteen feet of heavy rain (4,3,4)
- Was the owner deceived? (3)
- Rough sound of good sandpiper on the cape (9)
- Drain off at the lowest point (5)
- Loot takes a long time to transport (7)
- Edward also first made an impatient sound (6)
- Way to a Somerset town (6)

Cryptic Down

- Dismal disheartened guy about to appear indistinctly (6)
- Come between copper and another metal (3,2)
- Enthusiasts about to come first with unexpected refusals (7)
- Courage needed to play a guitar? (5)
- Repeating words said about the price? (7)
- Former nurse to stretch out (6)
- Nothing to fear from the battleship (11)
- Said further that two, say, were joined on (5,2)
- Failure of flat due to be put right (7)
- Removing a tenth from the island (6)
- Going up with a bouquet (6)
- Stuff with Cheddar (5)
- Remove some of what Vera sees (5)



Quick Across

- Easy (6)
- Calmed down (6)
- Gather livestock (5,2)
- Tired (5)
- Recipient of an allowance (9)
- Male child (3)
- Creativity (11)
- Pointed instrument (3)
- Violate sanctity (9)
- Provide food (5)
- Strange (7)
- Cushioned (6)
- Iced (6)

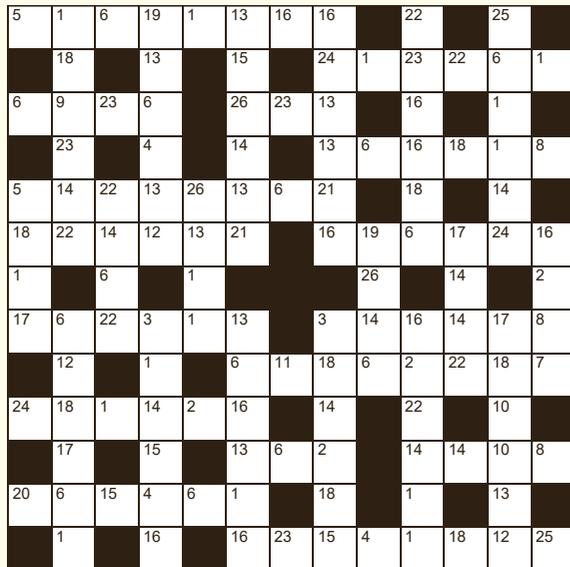
Quick Down

- Abrasion (6)
- Grieve (5)
- Accommodation (7)
- Shady place (5)
- Passage through (7)
- Losing moisture (6)
- Simple, obvious (4-3-4)
- Recounted (7)
- Varnish (7)
- Impulsive (6)
- Arthurian magician (6)
- Ridge (anag.) (5)
- Humming (5)

All puzzles on this page are supplied by Sirius Media Services. To try our new puzzle, Zygolex, go to www.zygolex.com - available in book form or as an app.



CROSS CODE



ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

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

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

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

Quiz Challenge

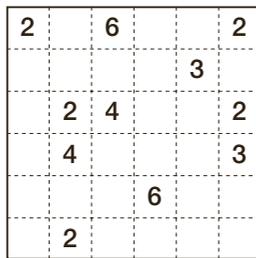
- What Z is an Italian producer of home appliances bought by Electrolux 1984?
- The 1985 hit single I Want To Know What Love Is was by which rock band?
- Which UK Liberal Prime Minister was sometimes called 'Old Squiffy'?
- Which former FA Premier League manager has a masters degree in economics from Strasbourg University?
- The National Trust symbol bears the leaves of which tree?



Nick Knowles - see Question 9

- Which Spanish architect died in June 1926 after being struck by a tramcar?
- In February 1587, who lost her head at Fotheringhay Castle?
- Which actor married Natalie Wood in December 1957, and again in July 1972?
- Nick Knowles referred to participants as 'the usual suspects' on which BBC TV game show?
- By area, what is the smallest state in the USA?

BOX CLEVER



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

COMMON LINK

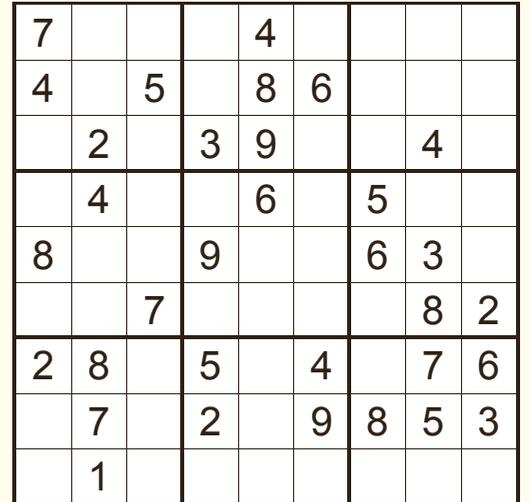
The answers to the following five questions contain a word or words which have a common theme. Can you find the link?

- Petruchio and Katherina are the central characters in which William Shakespeare comedy?
- Which Canadian-American actor played the role of Marty McFly in the Back to the Future film series?
- What device is used to keep the mouth of a trawl net open?
- Which infamous 19th century murderers sold the corpses of their victims for medical research?
- Which film starring Robert De Niro examines the impact of the Vietnam War in small-town America?

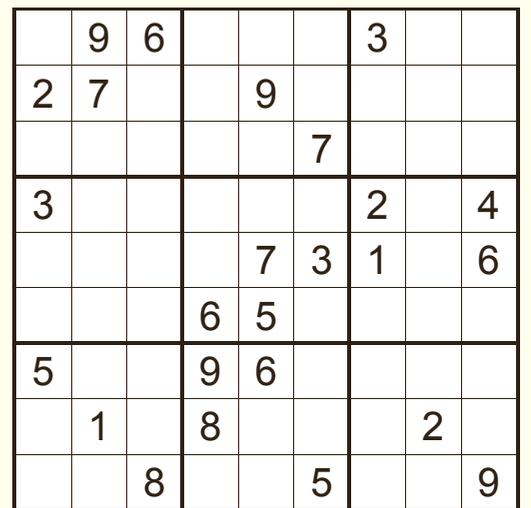
SUDOKU

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

Easy

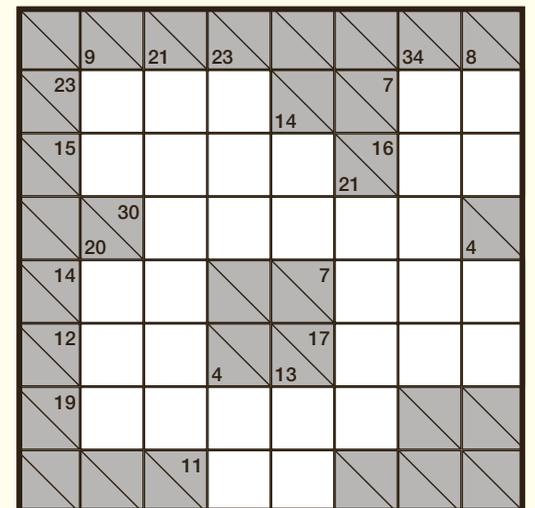


Hard



KAKURO

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



SOLUTIONS

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD:
 Across - 1 Simple; 4 Abated; 9 Round up; 10 Weary; 11 Pensioner; 12 Son; 13 October; 10 U-boat; 11 Man of rank; 12 Jan; 13 Cats and dogs; 18 Had; 19 Originality; 18 Awl; 19 Descender; 21 Griminess; 21 Naut; 23 Haulage; 23 Frozen. Down - 1 Street; 2 Down; 3 Tooted; 24 Street; 25 Puck; 6 Quoting; Cut in; 3 Rebuffs; 5 Plunk; 6 Quoting; 7 Extend; 8 Dreadnought; 14 Added to; 15 Default; 16 Thanet; 17 Ascent; 19 Gorge; 20 Erase.

COMMON LINK:
 British mammals; The Deer Hunter; Burke and Hare; An over-board; Michael J. Fox; the Shrew; 1 The Taming of the Shrew; 2 The Shrew; 3 The Shrew; 4 The Shrew; 5 The Shrew; 6 The Shrew; 7 The Shrew; 8 The Shrew; 9 The Shrew; 10 The Shrew; 11 The Shrew; 12 The Shrew; 13 The Shrew; 14 The Shrew; 15 The Shrew; 16 The Shrew; 17 The Shrew; 18 The Shrew; 19 The Shrew; 20 The Shrew; 21 The Shrew; 22 The Shrew; 23 The Shrew; 24 The Shrew; 25 The Shrew.

EASY SUDOKU:
 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1
 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 9
 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 9 8
 6 5 4 3 2 1 9 8 7
 5 4 3 2 1 9 8 7 6
 4 3 2 1 9 8 7 6 5
 3 2 1 9 8 7 6 5 4
 2 1 9 8 7 6 5 4 3

BOX CLEVER:
 2 6 2
 2 4 2
 4 3
 2 6
 2 6 2

CROSS CODE:
 1 Z 2 B 3 K 4 F 5 A 6 R 7 M 8 S 9 O 10 C 11 L 12 T 13 N 14 E 15 G 16 H 17 I 18 J 19 D 20 W 21 U 22 R 23 P 24 G 25 V

QUIZ CHALLENGE:
 1 Zanussi; 2 Foreigner; 3 Herbert Asquith; 4 Arsenale; 5 Oak; 6 Antoni Gaudí; 7 Mary, Queen of Scots; 8 Robert Wagner; 9 Perfection; 10 Rhode Island; 11 Z; 12 T; 13 N; 14 C; 15 S; 16 M; 17 I; 18 W; 19 J; 20 D; 21 R; 22 U; 23 P; 24 G; 25 H.

OPEN FOR BUSINESS

Please feel free to get in touch with us if you would like to feature your business, or know a business that should be included. Email nmurphy@obantimes.co.uk 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!

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!

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

CITY ELECTRICAL FACTORS

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

SCREWFIX

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

HIGHLAND FASTENERS

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

HOWDEN'S JOINERY

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

HOMEBASE OBAN

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

POPPIES GARDEN CENTRE

We are not open to the public however we are operating a order and collect service for the garden centre. We have been posting some of our stock on FB but it's difficult to show

everything that's available.

Orders can be placed by phone: 01631565718.
Email : sales@poppiesgardencentre.com
Or if preferred by messenger. Card details and a suitable pick up time can be arranged over the phone.

KINLOCHLAICH GARDEN CENTRE

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

CRAIGARD DECOR

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

GARAGES

RODDY'S GARAGE

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

KWIK FIT

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

FLIT

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

KERRIE'S TYRES

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

MCCONECHY'S

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

MUNRO'S GARAGE

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

MORRISON MOTORS

Long term vehicle rentals
Tel: 07825 581171

FIN'S PLACE

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

TRAILWEST

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

LEGAL SERVICES

DM MACKINNON - SOLICITORS & NOTARIES

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



IN ASSOCIATION WITH

Oban Business Improvement District

www.bid4oban.co.uk



ANDERSON BANKS SOLICITORS & ESTATE AGENTS

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

STEVENSON KENNEDY SOLICITORS

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

MACPHEE & PARTNERS

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

E THORNTON AND CO, SOLICITORS AND ESTATE AGENTS

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

INSURANCE

JELF CLARKE THOMSON

Open for Business As Usual.
Office is currently closed, but Jelf Clark Thomson staff are working from home from 9am-5pm, Mon-Fri. If you email us, we will respond. If you call us, the phone will be answered (or the call returned if a message is left). Whether it's the renewal of an existing policy, enquiries about new insurance arrangements, queries on cover or guidance on loss prevention and risk mitigation, we are here to help. Please don't hesitate to get in touch. Office telephone number: 01631 567675 (please note calls to this number are being re-routed and thus will not always be answered immediately - please DO leave a message);
Graeme Bass mobile: 07872 131073

BANKS

ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND

Open for essential business:
Mon-Fri
10am - 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
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OTHER INFORMATION

WEST COAST MOTORS

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

ROYAL MAIL

Royal Mail have restricted sorting office hours to 9am-11am. Closed Wed and Sun.

HOME-START LORN

Are you finding it difficult with your children at home all day, need some adult conversation - our volunteers are here to help
Tel: 07718 768305

HOPE KITCHEN

Hope Kitchen is now delivering/providing food assistance to people who are experiencing financial difficulty at this time. Please don't hesitate to get in touch either via messenger or on 01631 565730 if you find yourself short of essentials.
Those who can afford to pay for food but are self-isolating and unable to get supplies, Argyll and Bute Council has a dedicated phone line 01546 605524 to help you.

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

OPEN FOR BUSINESS



IN ASSOCIATION WITH

Oban Business Improvement District

www.bid4oban.co.uk


'Baby steps' pledge for reopening of tourism

by Ellis Butcher
ebutcher@obantimes.co.uk



Tourism leaders representing Oban and Lorn have spoken of 'overwhelming relief' at the announcement to prepare for reopening on July 15.

Fergus Ewing MSP, cabinet member for tourism and the rural economy, said the date was 'provisional' and certain tests needed to be met first.

But the news that tourism can start again – more than 16 weeks after lockdown was announced – has been widely welcomed by the industry.

Neil Mackay, chairman of the Oban and Lorn Tourism Alliance (OLTA), said: 'All tourism businesses have been calling for a firm date to work towards. Everyone understands that we will only be able to open with the necessary enhanced cleaning protocols and social distancing measures in place.'

Mr Mackay added: 'Businesses will have to put new procedures in place, bring staff back from furlough, re-establish supply chains and open booking calendars. All these things take time as they have to be done properly for visitors and locals to have confidence that opening the tourism industry will not increase the risk to health and wellbeing.'



Andy Spence, of BID4Oban with Linda Battison and Neil MacKay of the Oban and Lorn Tourism Alliance at a cheque presentation in 2019.

'There will be no sudden rush to promote our area, but we know our scenery, tranquillity and remoteness will appeal to those who have been locked down'

Linda Battison, OLTA marketing director, added: 'Our members have been hit hard by the lockdown and while this is a huge step forward, OLTA will be taking baby steps with our marketing messages

as we wait for further details of who can travel, how far and what restrictions might apply.

'There will be no sudden rush to promote our area, but we know that our scenery, tranquillity and

relative remoteness will appeal to those who have been locked down and struggling with limited access to fresh air and outdoor space.

'We've great walks, cycles trails and beaches and our coastal waters are second to none for kayaking, sailing and swimming.

'It will be a pleasure to share these natural assets with others from further afield, but it can only be with all the necessary safety precautions in place and a con-

tinued fall in the R (reproduction) number across Scotland.'

Andy Spence is the chief executive of BID4Oban, a business group representing 527 local firms which includes around 150 of which are 'heavily reliant' on tourism. These include B&Bs, hotels, bars, restaurants and self-catering providers.

Mr Spence said: 'The date is provisional and dependent on the R-number but we are delighted that we are now starting to see the first steps to getting tourism businesses kick-started, albeit at a cautious pace.'

Mr Spence said businesses faced a range of measures to implement before visitors can come back. He said tourism expected a 'slow' return.

The BID group expects to take delivery on Monday June 15 of a range of new banners, stickers, floor graphics and tape to enable businesses to advise their customers of social distancing requirements.

They are aimed at helping customers maintain social distancing, improving hand hygiene and respecting the new rules.

Cash funding windfall for Argyll and Bute tourism groups

Tourism groups in Argyll and Bute have been awarded a share from a £500,000 support package from VisitScotland.

Local beneficiaries include Argyll and the Isles Tourism Cooperative, Argyll Food Producers and Visit Bute.

Others to receive grants include the Colonsay Tourism Marketing Group, the Heart of Argyll Tourism

Alliance, Marketing Mull and Iona and the

Oban and Lorn Tourism Alliance. Hendrik Wester, secretary of Visit Bute, said: 'We applied for additional support as soon as it was announced by VisitScotland and are thrilled we have been awarded the funding.

'Our island is very much dependent on the tourist business and the

COVID-19 lockdown has a devastating effect. With the additional grant we are able to boost our marketing efforts as soon as that can be viable to support our business members to make most of the remaining season and continue to enhance branding the Isle of Bute as a favourite holiday destination.'

Launched by the national tourism organisation last month, a total

of 81 organisations in Scotland applied for cash from the Tourism Destination and Sector Support Fund. Applicants represent in excess of 10,000 tourism businesses and have been awarded grants to support their survival.

VisitScotland said the one-off fund was created in response to the 'devastating' impact of the pandemic on Scottish tourism.

A total of 98 applications were received requesting a total of £1.6 million. Those who failed to meet the eligibility criteria received a letter explaining why and were sign-posted to other sources of funding and support, said VisitScotland.

The fund, which closed on May 22, was originally set at £400,000 but was increased to £500,000 owing to the volume of requests.

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Around the markets

United Auctions Stirling, June 10: sold 637 store cattle, 255 breeding cattle, 142 cast cows and bulls. (Pictured above is a cow and calf from the Carslae dispersal)

Bullocks (342) – averaged 222.71p to 292.90p per kg for a 268kg CHX from Dunlossit (Islay), and to £1500 for a 788kg LimX from Lettar of Ballied.

Dairy Bullocks (25) – averaged 178.53p to 189.30p per kg for a 412kg MOX from Meikle Camoquhill, and to £980 for a 564kg HFX from High Branchal.

Heifers (246) – averaged 219.26p to 267.70p per kg for a 254kg LimX from Dunlossit (Islay), and to £1260 for a 564kg LimX from Deerpark.

Young Bulls (24) – averaged 199.47p to 245.00p per kg for a SimX from Overton, and to £995 for a Lim from Airthrey Kerse.

Beef Cows and Bulls (132) – averaged 140.47p to 176.90p per kg for a BRBX from Greenburn, and to £1450 for a BAX from Chapel.

Dairy Cows (10) – averaged 120.81p to 168.20p per kg for a MOX from Meikle Camoquhill, and to £1130 for a MOX from Meikle Camoquhill.

Bullocks: Up to 250kgs- Mains of Struie £700, 280.00p; 251-300kgs- Dunlossit (Islay) £825, 292.90p; 301-350kgs- Tallant (Islay) £930, Carrabus (Islay) £268.60; 351-400kgs- Woodneuk £930, Dunlossit (Islay) 250.00p; 401-450kgs- Craigens (Islay) Dunlossit (Islay) 233.60p; 451-500kgs- Craigens (Islay) £1100, Balmyre 228.80; 501-551kgs- Deerpark £1150, 218.60p; 552-601kgs- Deerpark £1260, 226.50p; 602-651kgs- Molemout £1340, Craigend 213.60p; 652-701kgs- Molemout £1350, 205.50p; 702+kgs- Lettar of Ballied £1500, 190.40p.

Heifers: Up to 250kgs- Mains of Struie £535, 232.60p; 251-300kgs- Carrabus (Islay) £745, Dunlossit (Islay) 267.70p; 301-350kgs- 2 Ballinaby (Islay) £770, 248.40p; 351-400kgs- Lossit (Islay) £950, 244.80p; 401-450kgs- Kinnaird £1170, 261.70p; 451-500kgs- Kinnaird £1110, 222.40p; 501-551kgs- Lettar of Ballied £1210, West Brackly 228.0; 552-601kgs- Deerpark £1260, 223.40p.

Young Bulls: 301-350kgs- Lettar of Ballied £800, Overton 245.00p; 351-400kgs- Airthrey Kerse £915, 234.60p; 401-450kgs- Glenkiln Farms £965, 222.40p; 451-500kgs- Airthrey Kerse £995, 220.10p.

OTM Cows:
£ per head- Chapel (BA) £1450, Wardpark (Lim) £1410, Airhouse (AA) £1290, Chapel (Sim) £1270, Snawdon (BRB) £1270, Traprain (SH) £1170, Bonnyton (BS) £1150, Nether Dalkeith (Cont) £1130, Meikle Camoquhill (MO) £1130, Wardpark (CH) £1070. PPK- Greenburn (Lim) 176.90p, Pitcairn (BRB) 171.60p, Meikle Camoquhill (MO) 168.20p, Wardpark (Sim) 162.90p, Traprain (AA) 161.90p, Meikle Camoquhill



Cow and calf from Carslae dispersal

(HF) 161.10p, Nether Dalkeith (Cont) 147.50p, Traprain (BS) 144.20p, Gateside (SH) 142.10p.

OTM Bulls:
£ per head- West Park (Lim) £1470, Ransfield (BAZX) £1470, Scart (Sim) £1430, Windshiels (CH) £1370.

PPK- Gateside (Lui) 171.30p, Snawdon (Lim) 161.90p, Ransfield (BAZX) 152.20p, Scart (Sim) 133.40p.

Breeding Cattle (255)
Heifers with Bull calves at foot
West Thomaston (LimX) £2750, Little Kilchattan (BP) £2450, West Park (ContX) £2250, Wester Mye (AA) £2200, Porterstown (SimX) £2350.

Heifers with Heifer calves at foot
West Thomaston (LimX) £2700, Little Kilchattan (BP) £2350, Little Kilchattan (ContX) £2250, Porterstown (SimX) £2300 & £2250.

Bulling Heifers
Airhouse (AA) £1240 & £1220, Heylipol (Tiree) (Lim) £1200.

Bulls
South Mid Frew (Lim) £2500
Reduction sale from Crosslees
Cows and Bull Calves £2350, £2250, £2200.
Cows and Heifer Calves £2300, £2250, £2200 x2, £2100, £2000.

Dispersal sale

from Carslae
Cows and Bull Calves £2600, £2400, £2200, £2000 x4.

Cows and Heifer Calves £2600, £2500, £2450, £2400, £2300, £2250, £2200, £2050, £2000 x3.
Stock Bull £5800.

SHEEP CLIPPING

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Graeme McCulloch
0777 1605758

email
graeme.mcculloch2411@gmail.com

COVID-19 guidance issued for farmers

Guidance for farmers and crofters to help them work safely and take all necessary measures to prevent the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) has been published.

While food-related farming and supply chain businesses have kept working throughout the crisis, other outdoor farming activity is now restarting and construction and manufacturing agricultural businesses are preparing to restart as part of the phased approach to easing lockdown.

The Scottish Government guidance provides a summary of sector-specific information and rules that are relevant for farming, crofting and related agricultural businesses, including information on:

- how to support safe working on farms and crofts
- COVID-19 hygiene measures
- farm and croft inspections
- keeping employees safe



Fergus Ewing MSP

operating farm shops

Rural Economy Secretary Fergus Ewing said: 'Throughout the pandemic, farmers and crofters across the country have worked safely to produce food, supported by a wide range of agricultural businesses.'

'Over the coming weeks and months, it is vital that

everyone in the agricultural industry continues to take all necessary measures to prevent the spread of the virus and keep people safe.

'This guidance sets out what is expected of everyone in the weeks ahead as we cautiously and carefully ease out of lockdown.'

'The coronavirus crisis has changed the way many of us work and will have a lasting impact on businesses going forward, so it is important that we work together to support farmers, crofters, and their families and employees.'

'This guidance brings together all the latest rules and information and will be updated regularly.'

'Please take the time to ensure you have implemented all the measures relevant to your business. If you know of someone who is not aware of this guidance, please make them aware of it.'

Dairy sector to focus on supply chains and contracts as it resets, restarts and recovers

As Scotland slowly eases its lockdown restrictions, Scotland's dairy farmers are looking to build stronger supply chains and discuss milk contracts as they reset, recover and restart from the impacts of Covid-19.

The Union has recognised that resetting and restarting as we emerge from the crisis will provide significant opportunities for Scottish farmers, crofters and growers. All NFU Scotland's commodity committees and working groups – combinable crops, livestock, milk, pigs, poultry and specialist crops – have identified key steps and actions needed.

For those producing milk, the priorities are the following:

- Engage on all discussions relevant to government support options for dairy farmers.
- Work with processors to ensure any adverse impacts on producers are minimised and

returns to farm businesses are maximised.

■ Engage with processors to assess if their business requirements have changed during the recovery stage to ensure that producers can adapt.

■ Deliver the forthcoming milk contract consultation and engage with the membership.

■ Deliver the Scottish Dairy Growth Board Dairy Future Report, including increasing export markets for Scottish dairy produce and inward investment for increased dairy processing capacity.

Milk committee chairman, Gary Mitchell, who milks cows near Stranraer, Wigtownshire said: 'What an extraordinary spring. When the Milk committee met in March, we were joined by Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy Fergus Ewing and had a very useful discussion on milk contracts, future investment in dairy

processing in Scotland and all the environmental challenges ahead for dairy farmers.'

'A few days later, there was a dramatic change, we hit lockdown and a real challenge came to the sector.'

'It took a few weeks to get a grip on the whole dairy market situation during the initial response phase to Covid-19. Now, we are in reset and restart and heading for recovery, and we need to focus on how we can improve our supply chain.'

'I am pleased to say that the UK Government and devolved nations will be launching a consultation on contracts in next few weeks. I would encourage all farmers to take part. It is all about the future. It is not just about a farmer's milk contract, but about the whole chain from farmer to processor to retailer and other outlets and making that chain better.'

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FINANCE AND DELIVERY ARRANGED

PUBLIC NOTICES

**WATER ENVIRONMENT AND WATER SERVICES (SCOTLAND) ACT 2003
WATER ENVIRONMENT (CONTROLLED ACTIVITIES) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2011
APPLICATION FOR VARIATION OF AUTHORISATION
LISMORE WEST MARINE PEN FISH FARM, LOCH LINNHE, ARGYLL**

An application has been made to the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) by Scottish Sea Farms Limited to vary water use licence number CAR/L/1000890 authorising the carrying on of a controlled activity at, near or in connection with Lismore West Marine Pen Fish Farm, as follows:

Description of change to controlled activity	Waters affected	National grid reference
Change to the discharge of trade effluent arising from the increased production of salmon at an existing cage fish farm.	Loch Linnhe	NM 8217 4072

SEPA considers that the above change(s) to a controlled activity may have a significant adverse impact on the water environment and on the interests of other users of the water environment. The application may be viewed on SEPA's website at: <http://www.sepa.org.uk/regulations/consultations/advertised-applications-under-car/>. If you are unable to access the website you can email SEPA at registry@sepa.org.uk to request a copy of the application. Please note that due to the current Covid-19 restrictions it is not possible to view the application at a SEPA office. Any person affected or likely to be affected by, or having an interest in, the application may make representations to SEPA in writing within 28 days beginning with the date of this advertisement, by email to registry@sepa.org.uk quoting reference number CAR/L/1000890. Written representations received by SEPA within 28 days of this advertisement will be taken into consideration in determining the application. Any such representations will be placed in a public register unless the person making them requests that they should not be. Where such a request is made SEPA will include a statement in the register indicating that representations have been made which have been the subject of such a request.

Before determining the application, SEPA will:

- assess the risk to the water environment posed by the carrying on of the activity or activities;
- assess the indirect effects of that impact on any other aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected;
- consider any likely adverse social and economic effects of that impact and of any indirect environmental effects that have been identified;
- consider the likely environmental, social and economic benefits of the activity;
- assess the impact of the controlled activity or activities on the interests of other users of the water environment;
- assess what steps may be taken to ensure efficient and sustainable water use; and
- apply and have regard to relevant legislation.

SEPA will then either grant or refuse to grant the application.

Argyll and Bute Council

PLANNING

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

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

Ref. No.	Proposal	Site Address
20/00900/PP	Demolition of existing boathouse, erection of dwellinghouse, detached garage/boathouse and replacement jetty and installation of private drainage system (part retrospective)	Amulree Kilchrenan Taynuilt Argyll And Bute PA35 1HF
20/00875/AMSC	Approval of matters specified in conditions 1-7 relative to planning permission in principle 17/01041/PPP (Site for the erection of a dwellinghouse)	Land North Of An Taigh Sgoile Heylipol Isle Of Tiree Argyll And Bute
20/00895/PP	Erection of hut for use as recreational accommodation and separate composting toilet	Land South West Of Lower Kinachreachan Dalmally Argyll And Bute
20/00672/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse, installation of septic tank and formation of vehicular access	Land East Of Rowan Villa (Plot 1) Kinloch Benderloch Oban Argyll And Bute
20/00958/PPP	Renewal of planning permission reference 17/01193/PPP (Site for the erection of dwellinghouse)	Land South East Of Barranrioch (Plot 2) Glencriutten Oban Argyll And Bute
20/00673/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse, installation of septic tank and formation of vehicular access	Land East Of Rowan Villa (Plot 2) Kinloch Benderloch Oban Argyll And Bute
20/00924/PP	Amendment to planning permission 19/00862/PP (Use of land for the siting of self catering unit) change of external material from timber cladding to render finish and formation of decking (retrospective)	Mo Dhachaidh The Oa Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA42 7AZ
20/00918/PP	Partial conversion of existing farm building to Farm shop and cafe, including erection of sunroom extension, upgrading access, installation of sewage treatment plant and demolition of existing kennels (amended design to planning permission 18/00610/PP)	Land West Of Balaclava Croft Port Ellen Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA42 7DB

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
Comhairle Earra - Ghàidheal agus Bhòid



Acha-bheinn Woodland Creation, Argyll

Proposal for the Establishment of a Mixed Forest

An application has been made to the Perth and Argyll Conservancy of Scottish Forestry under the Forestry (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 for tree planting and associated works at Acha-bheinn, Argyll.

A copy of the Environmental Report will be available for public consultation for a period of 28 days at <https://www.scottishwoodlands.co.uk/public-consultations/>. Due to current circumstances relating to Covid-19 hard copies for viewing are not available from Perth and Argyll Conservancy however the Environmental Report can be viewed on the Scottish Forestry Website.

Within the total woodland creation of 138.95 hectares, 58.28 hectares is proposed for commercial conifers, plus 20.71ha of native broadleaves and 59.69ha hectares of open ground.

Any comments on the scheme should be submitted in writing to Scottish Forestry, Perth and Argyll Conservancy, Upper Battleby, Redgorton, Perth PH1 3EN or preferably by email to panda.cons@forestry.gov.scot within the 28 day consultation period which opens on the 19th of June 2020 and closes on the 16th of July 2020.

Scottish Ministers may decide either to grant consent subject to the mandatory conditions required by Regulation 4 of the EIA Regulations or subject to such further conditions as they see fit, or refuse consent.

PROPOSED ASSIGNATION OF A CROFT

Neil MacFarlane is applying to assign the tenancy of the croft at 50 & 51 Aird Bernisdale, Snizort to Ross MacFarlane of 45 Park Bernisdale, Skeabost Bridge. Written comments from those with a relevant interest (which may be made public) to: Crofting Commission, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW, info@crofting.gov.scot by 16/06/20.

DECROFTING DIRECTION(S) ISSUED

PS Sinclair Dalrannoch, Ardchattan & Muckairn 103068
0.021ha - Existing development
Condition - With Fencing
G MacCormick Lag-Na-Giogan, Kifinichen & Kilvickeon 104061
0.126 ha - Site for a dwelling house
Condition - With fencing/ use conditions
Full details at www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk

www.highland.gov.uk



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

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

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

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description
20/01889/FUL	Land 1200M East of Tigh Na Broc Inverie, Knoydart	Installation of replacement penstock and access track
20/02093/PIP	Land 70M NW Of Braeburn Upper Inverroy, Roy Bridge	Erection of house
20/02067/PIP	Land 125M SW Of Lochshiel View Acharacle	Erection of house
20/02029/FUL	Grounds of Caman View West Tirindrish, Spean Bridge	Erection of letting unit
20/02124/FUL	The Corran, Onich	Conversion of existing first floor restaurant to four letting/staff bedrooms. Alterations to two existing external fire escapes.

Time period for comments is 14 days

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

**S65, TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED)
THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL (LAND TO WEST OF INNISFREE, GLENFINNAN) (REVOCATION ORDER) 2020**

TAKE NOTICE that The Highland Council as Planning Authority for the area of Highland ("The Council") have made an Order under Section 65 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended) to revoke Planning Permission 18/01679/FUL for the Erection of house (renewal of planning permission 15/01085/FUL) at Land to West of Innisfree, Glenfinnan.

The Council has been notified in writing by the owner and occupier of the land that they do not object to the Order. The Council is of the opinion that no other person will be affected by the Order.

If you wish to have an opportunity of appearing before, and being heard by, a person appointed by the Scottish Ministers you should give notice in writing to that effect to the Scottish Government, Development Department, Planning Division, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh EH6 6QQ, not later than the 16th day of July Two Thousand and Twenty.

If no such notice has been given by that date, the Council shall confirm the Order upon the expiry of fourteen days from the 16th day of July Two Thousand and Twenty and, upon the date of confirmation, the Order shall take effect.

Dated: 8th June 2020
Head of Corporate Governance
The Highland Council, Council Headquarters
Glenurquhart Road
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PUBLIC NOTICES



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:

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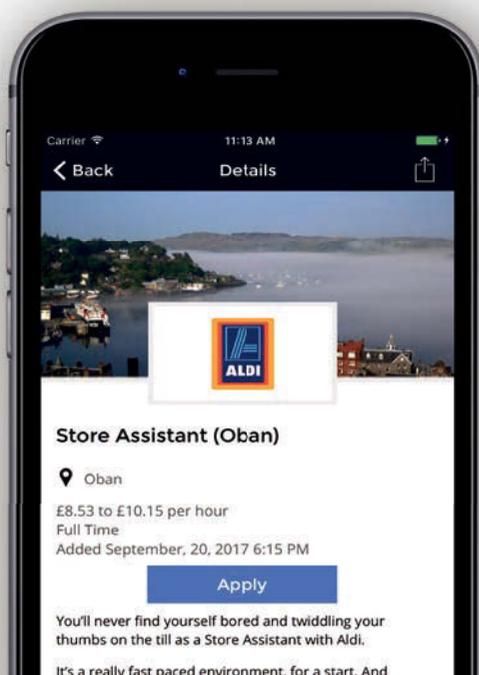
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PERSONAL NOTICE

Thank you

Catherine Potter would like to thank everyone who so kindly sent her flowers, gifts, cards and good wishes as she celebrated her 100th birthday. You all helped to make her day very special and she looks forward to seeing you all soon.

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BIRTH

BROOKS - In Seattle, on June 7, 2020, to Louise (née Huntington) and Nick, a son and daughter, Alfie Peter and Skye Iris.

DEATHS

CAMPBELL - Mary Kate, née MacKinnon, formerly of Eriskay, passed away peacefully at Taigh a' Chridhe Uile Naomh, South Uist on Tuesday, June 16, 2020, aged 89 years. Beloved wife of the late Duncan, much loved mother of Neilina, Mary, John, Raebelle, Pene, Iagan, Andrew, Calum and the late Neil. Devoted granny and great-granny. Loved and missed forever more.

COLTART - Peacefully, at Raigmore Hospital on Saturday, June 6, 2020, Christine Coltart, aged 67 years, beloved partner of George, devoted mum of Robbie and Donna, Barry and Heidi and Callum and Karen, cherished granny and nanny of Jamie, Rebecca, Meghan and Robbie. Funeral

ceremony was held in private, on Tuesday, June 16, 2020 at Inverness Crematorium. A celebration of Christine's life will be held at a later date. Enquiries to Greenlees & Son, Kilmallie Road, Caol. Tel: 01397 719600

HOWARD - Peacefully at Eadar Glinn Care Home, Oban on June 6, 2020, in her 95th year, Bernadette (Birdie), beloved wife of the late Bernard Howard, dearly loved mother of Phil and Jacqui. Sorely missed.

KENNEDY - Peacefully, at home on Thursday, June 11, 2020, Grace Kennedy, aged 81 years, a loving mum of Derek, Colin and Peter, much loved mother-in-law of Kate, Leslie and Karen, devoted gran and nana of Anna, Sorcha, Isla, Samuel, Craig and Alice. Grace was laid to rest beside her beloved husband Alexander (Sandy) at Kilmallie Cemetery. Special thanks to Fr. David for his visitations, uplifting and reassuring words. Enquiries to Greenlees & Son, Kilmallie Road, Caol PH33 7AR.

MACDONALD - Peacefully at home, on June 14, 2020, surrounded by her family, after a long battle with illness, fought with such dignity and courage, Margaret, in her 72nd year, much loved mum of John and Fay, a dear sister, loving mother-in-law of Niall, devoted and precious granny to Kirstyn, Jamie, Erin and Amy. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, all friends and neighbours are invited to pay their last respects as the hearse leaves her home address in Dunbeg around 12.20 p.m. on Thursday (today), June 18, 2020 and makes its way to Oban, through Argyll Square into Station Road, then onto Pennyfuir Cemetery, for a private family graveside service.

MACDONALD - John (Jock), peacefully at home in Duror following a short illness (formerly of 8 Lorn Drive, Glencoe) on Sunday, June 14, 2020, aged 94. Beloved husband of the late Alice (MacKenzie), loved dad of Ella and Angus, father-in-law of Sandy and Elaine, much

loved grandpa to John, Ewen and May. Loved great-grandpa of Shannon, Sinead, Cameron, Campbell, Mia, Harry and Josh. Interment at Duror Cemetery on Thursday, June 18 at 1pm under current Covid-19 restrictions.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CRAWFORD - The family of Amy Crawford would like to thank everyone for all messages of support and sympathy. To all who paid their respects on her final journey to Achnabreac. Special thanks to Pastor Ryan Taylor for his comforting graveside service. The firm of Donald McDonald for their efficient and professional conduct shown. Morna for beautiful floral tributes. Thank you to all NHS staff and care teams involved in recent times. A very special thanks to all Ardfenaig staff for their excellent care and compassion shown to Amy in her final weeks.

GILLIES - The family of the late Cathie Gillies would like to thank all friends, colleagues and neighbours for their kind

expressions of sympathy following their recent sad loss. Thanks also to Rev. Ian Miller for conducting the funeral service and to Duncan Gunn for funeral arrangements. We would also like to thank staff at North Argyll House, Oban Social Work department, Lorn Medical Centre, Torosay Court along with friends and carers who helped look after Mum over the last few years.

McALLISTER - Kenneth, James and the family of the late Donald McAllister would like to thank all relations, friends and neighbours for their many kind expressions of sympathy and support following their sad loss. Our grateful thanks to the doctors, district nurses and staff of the Lochgilphead Medical Centre. Also the staff and carers at Caledonia Court. Sincere thanks to all the staff at Ardfenaig Care Home for their kindness and exceptional care which was greatly appreciated. A special thanks to the Rev Hilda Smith for a comforting service and to Donald MacDonald Funeral Directors for all the arrangements.

NICOLSON - Margaret, Janet and family wish to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for the many kind expressions of sympathy, flowers, cards and phone calls following the loss of our dad Donald (Nicky). Also thank you to Dugald Cameron for his kind works at the graveside and to Hamish Hoey & Son for their caring and efficient services. Finally thank you for the kind donations to North Argyll Diabetic Group.

SERVANT - The family of the late Jessie would like to thank most sincerely all family, friends and neighbours for the kind messages of sympathy, cards, and flowers and for the support shown on the day of the funeral. Special thanks to Altje of Macmillan nurses and Susan, community nursing for all care and attention. Rev Tom Telfer for his comforting service, Ian McInnes of D&A Munn Funeral Directors for their caring and excellent funeral arrangements at such difficult times and to Eilidh for the beautiful flowers.

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MEMORIALS

CAMERON – Precious memories of our dear mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, Bella, passed away June 19, 2019.

We can't have old days back,
When we were all together,
But secret tears and loving thoughts,

Will be with us forever.

- Brandon, Ann, Cameron, Terri, Arthur, Harry, Arran and Angharad.

Precious and loving memories of a great mum, granny and great-granny.

- John, Linda, Iain, Marion and family.

Treasured memories of a lovely mother, mother-in-law and nana.

One year has passed since that sad day,

You closed your eyes and drifted away,

Left us quietly without a fuss,
And broke the hearts of all of us.

- Calum, Sandra, Blair and Cara.

Memories of our beloved mother, mother-in-law, nana

and great-nana.

You were always true and patient,

Through the years you struggled on,

And those hands that rest forever,

Made the home that now is gone.

- Rachel, Gordon and family.

CAMPBELL – Precious memories of our dear parents, grandparents and in-laws, Angus D, who died April 27, 1981, Marion L, on June 19, 2007, and our sisters and aunts, Lexy Donaldson, on July 27, 1989 and Jessie MacKellar, on November 20, 2019.

Loved and greatly missed.

- The families, Bunessan, Mull and away.

MACCOLL - In loving memory of Kathie, devoted mum and mum-in-law, who died June 20, 2013.

Those we love don't go away.

They walk beside us every day,
Unseen, unheard, but always near,

Still loved, still missed and very dear.

- Elspeth and Billy.

MACINNES – In loving memory of my dear husband Jackie, who died June 16, 2016.

Treasured memories.

- Marina.

POWER - Loving memories of Heckie, died June 6, 1988. Remembering you on Father's Day

Forget me not you used to say.

- With love from Marian, Diane and Eileen.

Also remembering your parents Mary and Dan, late of Lundavara Road, Fort William and his brothers John and James. Rest peacefully.

REECE – Cherished memories of Alec, devoted husband, dad and pappy, who died June 20, 2002 and Catherine, who died on September 1, 2009.

Greatly missed but our love and memories ever strong and clear.

- Sandy, Kathleen and families.

SUTHERLAND – Ray.

No longer in our lives to share,
But in our hearts, you're always there.

In remembrance.

- His family x

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Atlantis family unite in face of virus pandemic

by Fiona Scott
fscott@obantimes.co.uk



As life has been for most of us, the past 12 weeks have been a completely new experience for Atlantis Leisure's hard-working team.

These have been unprecedented times, with historic firsts happening on an almost daily basis, but in the midst of so much change, the active outfit have been encouraged by what remains unchanged and have been struck by what has actually

'There's a return to a new kind of normal. It'll be different and things will change.'

been enhanced by coronavirus and lockdown.

For the Atlantis family, the overwhelming demonstration of Oban's community spirit has been of particular note.

'There's been a whole new vocabulary brought into our daily conversation. Words like 'unprecedented', 'furlough' and 'quarantine' have gone from rare to commonplace,' said Atlantis general manager Nick Wesley.

'Despite that, however, we've seen our extended staff team coming together in a bumper WhatsApp group, sharing notes of encouragement to help each other through a situation that can seem pretty alien.'

Most of the aforementioned



Atlantis staff member Iwan Roberts opens up the centre's tennis courts.

team remain on furlough but throughout the lockdown they've been willingly volunteering their time and collective resources in all sorts of freshly imagined creative ways to help the community.

Nick added: 'Oban is community embodied, and at Atlantis we're privileged to see that every day. But lockdown has given us the opportunity to see it even clearer and learn to listen to its reassuring message: there's something on the other side of all this.'

One of the benefits of lockdown has been the way it's given us all a bit more time to get out and enjoy our exercise

and Atlantis operations manager Iwan Roberts and his wife Lindsay are really excited about how the community might maintain this active lifestyle.

'They've set up a community project called Wee Walk Oban, which brings the community together through encouragement and resources for walking routes and sights around our town,' explained Nick.

Day to day life at Atlantis may have become much quieter but the centre still requires as much care and attention as ever and the team have been busy making sure all the systems that keep everything working safely are maintained and operating

as they should. Nick added: 'Government restrictions mean our return from lockdown will require us to rethink how we operate. As a start to this, we're working hard to complete the necessary adaptations and changes needed to ensure everyone's safety once we're able to reopen. Initial changes will be seen around our reception area along with differences in the gym and sports hall.'

Small signs of familiarity are already making a very welcome return: tennis is back. It was a big day when the courts were allowed to reopen.

'There are very strict guidelines from the government

regarding how tennis should operate and we're following them closely,' added Nick.

'It's great to have activity buzzing around the centre again! There's a return to a new kind of normal. It'll be different and some things will have to change for the long-term but there's something which doesn't change that is taking us all there together - our community spirit. Maybe because of just that places like Oban will come out of this even stronger than before.'

Go to atlantisleisure.co.uk for information on pre-booking the tennis courts and the guidance that players need to follow.



Lewis Cameron.
Photograph: Derek Black

Lewis is Player of the Year

Oban Saints' midfielder Lewis Cameron was voted the Central Scottish Football League's first division Player of the Year at the league's AGM held by video conference which was attended by club secretary David Buchanan.

Lewis will be presented with his award at the Central AFL annual Player of the Year Sports Dinner on a date still to be finalised.

Strangely enough the Division 1B runaway league champions Saints, who had a tremendous season, winning 14 out of 14 league games never won a Team of the Month award.

The Central AFL are determined to finish season 2019/20 when it is safe to do so with the 2020/21 season following on immediately afterwards.

For season 2020/21 the AGM agreed to revert to a two division system with 14 teams in the Premier Division and 16 in the Championship.



TIDES Thursday June 18, 2020

Thur	03.47	3.4	09.48	1.4
	16.00	3.3	22.16	1.4
Fri	04.28	3.5	10.36	1.2
	16.38	3.5	22.55	1.3
Sat	05.08	3.6	11.13	1.1
	17.15	4.0	23.35	1.2
Sun	05.46	3.7	11.50	1.0
	17.51	3.7	** **	**
Mon	00.15	1.1	06.22	3.7
	12.28	0.9	18.27	3.8
Tues	00.56	1.1	06.58	3.7
	13.07	0.8	19.04	3.8
Wed	01.38	1.1	07.36	3.6
	13.47	0.8	19.44	3.7

Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday June 18, 2020 are listed below with differences for major ports listed underneath. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

OBAN WEATHER

THURSDAY
Sunny intervals and light winds
Temperatures 13°C to 21°C.

FRIDAY
Light rain and a gentle breeze 12°C to 17°C.

WEEKEND OUTLOOK
Saturday
Light rain / moderate breeze 12°C to 17°C.

Sunday
Light rain / moderate breeze 11°C to 15°C.

Tidal Constants:

(Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrishaig	-5.35	Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Portree	+0.55
Campbeltown	-5.30	Lochboisdale	+0.30	Tobermory	+0.16
Crinan	-0.47	Mallaig	+0.25	Dover	+5.30

FRIDAY FORECAST

HIGH 17 LOW 12
8 MPH

LOCHABER TIMES

& OBAN TIMES

No 8516

Thursday 18 June, 2020

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95p



Kids get creative in response to lockdown



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MAKE THE SWITCH

Tourism the 'only game in town' for Lochaber's future

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

While concerns mount as to how the provisional re-opening of tourism businesses next month will impact on Lochaber communities still fearful of the coronavirus pandemic, there has been a warning tourist spending remains the only major economic game in town for the area's long-term future.

The warning, from the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB Scotland), comes in the wake of reports that towns such as Oban (68 per cent) and Fort William (43 per cent) are among those suffering the worst fall in debit card spending across Scotland since the end of March, compared to the same period last year.

David Richardson, FSB development manager for Highlands and Islands, told the Lochaber Times tourism's vital importance to the local economy explained why recent FSB Scotland research found substantially more businesses have had to close during

lockdown in the Highlands and Islands than elsewhere in Scotland and why 25 per cent of all businesses in this region fear they will never re-open.

'Most of these businesses are as important to locals as they are to visitors and the possible departure from Lochaber of owners whose businesses have failed, and their families,

'Most of the businesses are as important to locals as visitors.'

would leave a massive hole in an area already experiencing negative demographic change,' said Mr Richardson.

And he cautioned: 'If we want a vibrant Lochaber economy and a balanced population, plus all the benefits that go with them, businesses, communities, public agencies, Highland Council and others must all work together to support and nurture the only economic game in town for the area as a whole – tourism.

If we don't, the cost will be high.' And this week, Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch MSP Kate Forbes urged tourism businesses and organisations to engage with their respective communities ahead of tourism businesses restarting.

Subject to the R rate (the average number of people who become infected by a person with COVID-19) remaining at a satisfactory level, the Scottish Government has said the industry can start to re-open on July 15. Ms Forbes commented: 'I would like to see tourism businesses and organisations engaging with communities who might have questions about what it means for them and vice versa.

'I know people have questions about how the rural economy slowly starts to ease out of lockdown and tourism has always been the lifeblood of the Highlands and Islands.'

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Heroes of St Valery honoured



Piping brothers Finlay, left, and Sandy Cameron play the pipe tune specially composed to mark the 80th anniversary of the courageous last stand fought by soldiers of the 51st Highland Division in the Battle of St Valery in 1940. The event, at the Commando Memorial at Spean Bridge, was organised by West Highland Museum in Fort William to coincide with ceremonies across the country at 10am last Friday. For the full story, turn to page seven. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

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LT

100 Room 13 art boxes prompt creative response

by Kirsteen Bell
editor@obantimes.co.uk

A catalogue of creative responses during lockdown from children in Lochaber has been made possible thanks to the efforts of one group of young people from Room 13.

One hundred Room 13 art boxes have been distributed throughout Lochaber, going to houses in Caol, Fort William and the surrounding areas, including Mallaig, Arisaig and Spean Bridge.

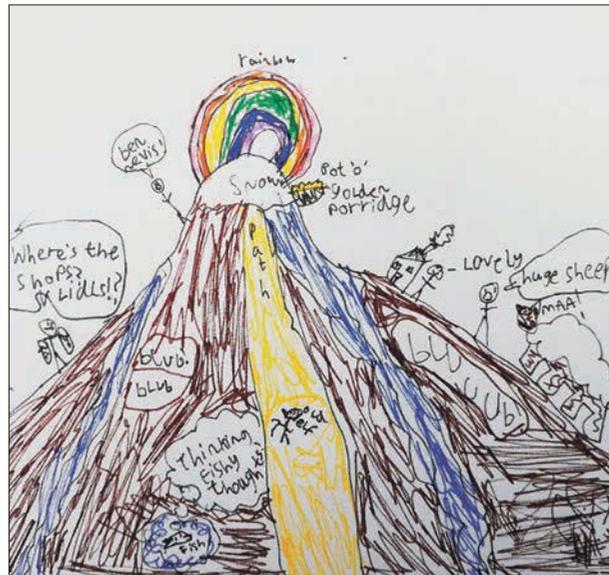
Richard Bracken, artist-in-residence, and Ali Berardelli, artist and Room 13 board member, began working with a small group closely involved with Room 13.

Weekly Zoom meetings and the Padlet app have been used to share visual material and

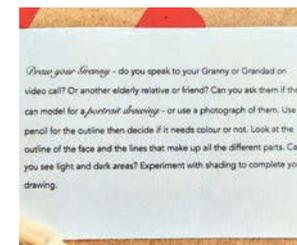


ideas. One of the aims of the group was to find a way to use their creative skill to benefit their peers and the art boxes

came from there. The children suggested the materials and designed the lettering for the outside of the boxes, which



The Room 13 art box initiative inspired works such as a portrait of Quinn's granny, far left, and a prompt card with ideas, below.



were made possible thanks to funding from the Scottish Government's Wellbeing Fund, allocated by the STV Appeal. The funds were made available to third sector groups to help tackle issues arising from coronavirus.

Mr Bracken said: 'We wanted to contribute positively to young people's mental health, as well as helping to keep them occupied with creative activities that weren't digital, getting them to use their hands and their eyes.'

The free materials included a paint palette, clay, felt tips and pencils, cartridge paper, watercolour paper and a brush, and four ideas cards. One of the prompts is to Draw Your Granny, giving children hints and prompts on how to approach a portrait using video calling. Also included was a blank, stamped postcard for

participants to send someone a piece of art.

The only digital element to the boxes is when children share and upload the artwork they have created with the art box materials, using a provided link and QR code.

'What a brilliant resource, my boys have loved being creative'

The group hopes to collect as many of these images as possible to be able to share them with the wider community.

This might take the shape of an exhibition at Room 13, a published pamphlet, or a projected display from the windows of the Room 13 Studio in Caol. What is important for the group is creating a

catalogue of artwork created by young people at this time, that the wider community can engage with in the future.

The response to the boxes was instant, with the first 50 quickly being allocated, prompting another 50 to be created and sent out.

Parents have been responding to Room 13: 'What a brilliant resource, my boys have loved being creative'; 'Box is brilliant such a lovely idea. My girls have had so much fun with it. We have never used clay before and it's definitely something we will use again.'; 'These boxes are wonderful thank you so much. They are so excited and got to work straight away'; 'Lovely to try out watercolours for the first time.'

Mr Bracken went on to say: 'We've had quite a number of responses already and we hope it will continue.'

Road safety works restart at Glenfinnan

Construction work on new road safety measures at a Lochaber tourist hotspot has restarted this week following the easing of lockdown restrictions by the Scottish Government.

As well as new signs on the A830 at Glenfinnan to lower the speed limit from 60mph to 40mph through the village, it is hoped a new pedestrian crossing will be installed before the end of the year.

Tens of thousands of tourists flock to Glenfinnan each year via the A830 to see the iconic viaduct, which featured in the Harry Potter films, as well as the monument which honours

fallen Jacobite clansmen. Because the Glenfinnan monument, cared for by the National Trust for Scotland, does not have its own car park, visitors must walk along and cross the A830 to gain access. Local children must also wait at the side of the road for their school bus pick-up.

Ms Forbes joined forces with Glenfinnan Community Council to successfully campaign for the speed limit to be reduced from 60mph to 40mph on safety grounds.

She told us: 'Originally Transport Scotland had hoped to have new speed limit signs

in place by the end of March, but this wasn't possible because of the lockdown restrictions.

'It's great to see work restarting and I hope this will significantly improve road safety at one of the most popular tourist attractions on the West Coast.

'Having spoken to Transport Scotland this week, I understand that the new pedestrian crossing should be in place before the end of the year.

'Both of these measures will help make visitor access to Glenfinnan easier, safer and more welcoming and are a fantastic example of community initiative.'

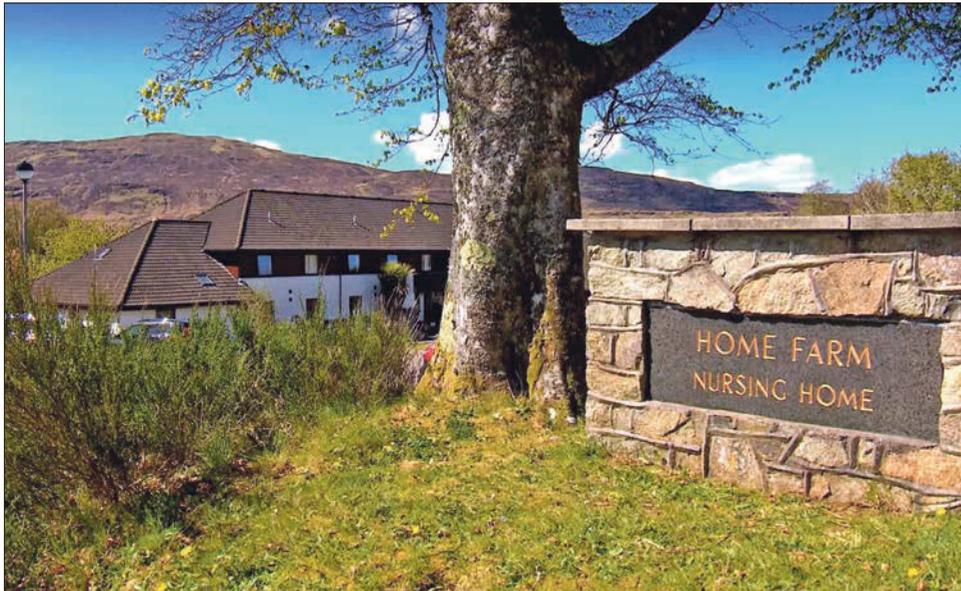
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The care home has been given one more week to completely satisfy Sheriff Eilidh Macdonald that its operators have done enough to keep their licence.

Skye care home given short-term stay of execution

The company running a Skye care home where 10 residents have died from COVID-19 have one more week to completely satisfy a sheriff that they can keep their operating licence.

For the past three weeks, NHS Highland have effectively been running the Home Farm Care Home in Portree where there have been multiple deaths and dozens of staff and residents infected by the deadly virus.

Sheriff Eilidh Macdonald had agreed during a hearing conducted via various video links with a motion by Roddy Dunlop QC for the Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland (SCSWS) that a joint collaboration between the operators, HC One and NHS Highland should be allowed to continue to address the concerns that had arisen.

But last Wednesday, June 10, Mr Dunlop said there had been progress but his client was not completely satisfied that the motion for interim suspension of the licence should be withdrawn.

He said: 'There has been ongoing monitoring and I am happy to recount that improvements at the home but it would be wrong for me to suggest that the concerns have been completely allayed.

'It is the sense of the in-

spectors that to an extent the improvements have been the result of and contingent on the intervention of NHS Highland and this cannot last forever. They will require to depart soon. And the concern on the part of the Inspectorate that a robust system of management is in place for the departure of NHS Highland in order that there will be no recurrence.

'I am not in a position to drop the motion' – Roddy Dunlop QC

'I am not in a position to drop the motion.' Mr Dunlop added.

But representative for HC One, Peter Gray disputed Mr Dunlop's view that the improvements were completely down to NHS Highland.

He said: 'I wish to make it clear that I reject entirely that the suggestion that the improvements that have been made are solely due to the efforts of NHS Highland rather than those I represent.'

Mr Gray said he would provide documentary evidence at the next calling which demonstrates that the improvements made were due to the collaborative efforts of his client and NHS Highlands.

He also undertook to provide

the fullest information to the court in relation to the future management of the home and what processes will be in place as and when NHS Highland leave.

Sheriff Macdonald agreed to set another virtual hearing for June 24, saying that she accepted: 'I appreciate it is extremely complex. We want to ensure that parties will be in a position very soon to indicate how this action is to be progressed further.'

An application had been made by Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland (SCSWS) to end HC-One's involvement at the home where 30 residents and 29 staff have tested positive for the virus.

This followed a recent inspection by the Care Inspectorate which raised 'serious and significant concerns' about the running of the home by HC-One. It lodged an application to suspend its licence. NHS Highland moved in to take control until the court had decided on the legal application.

It then emerged after the first hearing in May that Police Scotland were investigating three deaths at the home.

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Online appointment is a first for Lochaber presbytery

Last week, for the first time in its history, Lochaber presbytery appointed its new moderator in an online service.

Reverend Richard Baxter of Fort William: Duncansburgh MacIntosh and Kilmonivaig took over the role from Rev Sandy Stoddart of Duror linked with Glencoe: St Munda's.

The Presbytery serves the Church of Scotland congregations in the area from Mallaig and the Small Isles in the west to Duror and Glencoe in the south and north as far as Fort Augustus.

People from all parts of the Presbytery shared in the Zoom call at which the installation took place.

Asked about his new role, Rev Richard Baxter said: 'It is a privilege to be asked to serve the Presbytery in this way.

'Like everyone else, church



Fort William minister, Reverend Richard Baxter was appointed the new presbytery moderator in an online service.

congregations are facing a time of rapid change and disruption.

While we can't currently meet

in the traditional way, we are using all sorts of new formats to hold services and resource people for worship.

'In the days ahead the church will face major changes with reducing numbers of buildings and ministers but with many new opportunities opening up.

'Some congregations will face real financial challenges when most regular income sources are unavailable, and there will be big issues in finding appropriate ways to reopen our buildings as the COVID-19 pandemic recedes.

'An understandable reluctance to meet in large

groups, especially among our older members, may last for a long time, making it more important than ever that we are imaginative and creative in finding ways to stay in touch and support people as effectively as possible.'

Rev Baxter said that he had been hugely encouraged by the many people who are finding new ways to engage with the Christian message.

He added: 'While there may be significant disruption and some really tough decisions ahead, we're convinced that God is at work many aspects of our community and our congregations.

'There has never been a better moment for sharing ideas and resources, and rethinking what it means to be a Christian church. I'm looking forward to making virtual visits to as many congregations as possible in the year ahead.'

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LT

Interest grows in Rum's link with imperial Japan

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Hidden among the overgrown rhododendrons and tangled shrubbery at Kinloch Castle on Rum lie the secret remains of a long lost link to the days of imperial Japan.

The story of how textiles millionaire and Victorian playboy Sir George Bullough stocked the castle with a jaw-dropping collection of exotic artefacts from around the world is already well known.

Bullough had inherited the island of Rum on his father's death in 1891 and proceeded to build the grand Kinloch Castle.

It was in his 221ft Clyde-built yacht Rhouma that Bullough had sailed around the world, in particular to Japan where he had forged a friendship



with Emperor Meiji. Evidence of this friendship can still be seen in the castle in the shape of gifts from the Japanese, such as the massive bronze Monkey Eating Eagle, incense burners and another sculpture of an ivory eagle.

But there was once an even greater reminder of Bullough's

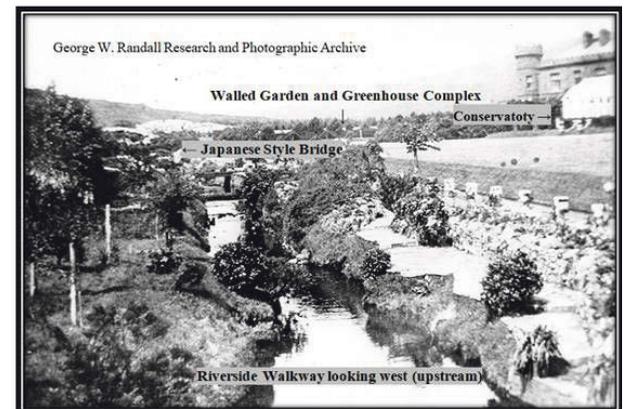
days touring Japan to be found in the grounds, where he created his own interpretation of a traditional Japanese Walkway Garden.

Rum and its castle are still both administered by Scottish Natural Heritage and it was in 1996 that Kinloch Castle Friends Association was set up



The replacement Japanese-style bridge that was erected by the Kinloch Castle Friends Association, far left; the huge bronze eagle from Japan in Kinloch Castle; and, below, an archive photograph of the Japanese garden at Kinloch Castle in its heyday.

Photographs: George W Randall Research and Photographic Archive.



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as a membership organisation by Professor Ewan Macdonald OBE and George Randall.

Following the failure of its asset transfer proposal last year, the group has been in talks with Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) to discuss the future for the castle and still wants to purchase it.

Mr Randall is still an enthusiastic researcher concerning the castle and his Art Treasures of Kinloch Castle Blogspot, with more than 100 articles, can be found on the KCFA website.

Recently Mr Randall contacted Japanese gardens expert Katie Croft to establish more facts about the castle's garden.

Mr Randall told the Lochaber Times: 'As to the Japanese garden, Ms Croft believes a series of rock grottoes, walkways, an arched (Japanese style) bridge across the mountain stream to the south of Kinloch Castle could be based on Japanese gardens Mr Bullough - he was not Sir George at the time - experienced and photographed in 1895, during his three-year-long world tour from 1893-1896.'

'Sadly, today the whole area is much overgrown. Pathways have collapsed into the burn because Rum ponies were

allowed to graze and required water. I have supplied Ms Croft with archive pictures from circa 1910 and clearance work undertaken in the late 1990s, sadly now reclaimed by Mother Nature.'

'Gardens of this age are incredibly rare.'

Mr Randall is concerned that Kinloch Castle's significance as a time capsule of late Victorian/Edwardian Scotland - albeit a rapidly deteriorating one - is still not sufficiently recognised.

'Most newspaper reports tend to be scurrilous, concentrating on titillating stories,

unproven and certainly irrelevant, and totally missing the educational value of a bygone age, which is of enormous value to the visitor and most of all to the survival of the island community.'

Asked for her views, Ms Croft told us: 'I was really interested to find out that a Japanese garden was built at Kinloch Castle around 1903.'

'In Europe, Japanese-style gardens of this age are incredibly rare and this could be one of the earliest examples in Scotland and the UK. It would be fantastic for the garden to be reinstated as part of the restoration of Kinloch Castle.'

KCFA secretary Catherine Duckworth added: 'Kinloch Castle never fails to come up with surprises and pleasures, one of which has been to find the Japanese garden is of such interest. Sadly, little is left visible. The late George Logan, using the profile of the original bridge, spearheaded the building and replacement of the bridge in wood by the Kinloch Castle Friends Association.'

'KCFA will be maintaining the bridge and it will form part of our interpretation of the history of the buildings and gardens if we are able to purchase the building.'



Otsu, Japan, at the time of George Bullough's visit in 1895.

Nevis Range resort forced to consider redundancies

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Fort William's popular snowsports and mountain biking resort Nevis Range has confirmed the impact of the coronavirus pandemic means job cuts may be inevitable.

The announcement came as the resort outlined its plans for reopening if the Scottish Government's provisional reopening date of July 15 for tourism businesses goes ahead. Thermal screening, intensive cleaning and face coverings will feature when Nevis Range reopens.

Staff at the resort have worked to put the new safety measures in place, which will also include social distancing.

Customers will be asked to wear face coverings when the Mountain Gondola is open again for foot passengers and

Safety measures in place ahead of re-opening

cyclists during Phase Three of the easing of government restrictions.

Nevis Range chief executive Chris O'Brien said the resort was looking to confirm a reopening date as soon as possible after the provisional July 15 restart date.

'I would stress the date is provisional and could change if there are any flare ups with the virus. Whilst the date is good news, unfortunately all of the challenges we face remain the same,' Mr O'Brien told the Lochaber Times this week.

'This phase of reopening will mean we can open. Social distancing at 2m will be in place, indoor eating is possible but 2m must be observed and

gondola travel will be in singles or for groups that travelled together.'

However, with Nevis Range attracting around 75 per cent of its business between May and September, analysis of data suggests the overwhelming majority of its usual market is unavailable due to the nature of the restrictions.

Mr O'Brien added: 'Over the next few weeks, we will start to advertise Nevis Range with all the new measures the business will be taking to ensure compliance with the guidelines.'

'When we do open, due to the financial crisis we find ourselves in, we will be operating Wednesday to Sunday, making exceptions around bank holi-



Nevis Range is getting ready for re-opening.

days and plan to carry on with a five-day operation throughout the rest of the summer.

'Sadly there will be some redundancies at Nevis Range as we try to return to a sound financial footing.'

Mr O'Brien could not say how many jobs might be affected, but explained the review currently being conducted

was designed to ensure every possible avenue was explored to avoid redundancies.

'We are devastated we are forced to consider making anyone redundant but the catastrophic loss of revenue has left us with no alternative,' he continued. 'We will offer any staff who are made redundant as much support as we can.'

Despite the challenges and tough decisions the company is faced with, Mr O'Brien said there is a mood of cautious optimism. 'Whilst many of our projects have been cancelled, we are continuing with our new accessible Blue Bike Track and hope to have it open in May 2021.'

With staff furloughed, scheduled maintenance did not take place this spring. The company has now planned two volunteer days to get the mountain ready to re-open. Anyone interested in getting involved should contact the Nevis Range team.

'I am incredibly grateful to our incredible community for all the support they have pledged to our volunteer days,' added Mr O'Brien. 'With their help, we will rise above the difficulties COVID-19 has presented and return to trading as quickly as possible.'

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Energy saving project powers off on a high

A two-year project to deliver positive energy-related results to two Isle of Lewis communities has come to a close.

The Community LED by Energy Champions initiative, run by Urras Oighreachd Chàrlabhaigh (UOC) and Urras Oighreachd Ghabhsainn (UOG), was launched in April 2018 included home visits, training days, informative events and workshops to benefit individuals. Some received official qualifications and training as a direct result of their involvement.

Additionally, 319 homes across the two estates gained advice on how to make their homes more energy efficient.

Funded by the Climate Challenge Fund (CCF), staff were employed to deliver the project, led by a part-time project administrator.

Significant energy achievements have been made as a

result, with lasting legacies. Home visits carried out by project staff focused on helping households to cut energy bills and make homes more efficient. Individuals who participated in carbon literacy training can now provide advice to colleagues and family, enabling them to better refer others to key associated services.

The project also enabled 36 volunteers, many of them young people, to gain film-making and editing experience through creating a bilingual documentary called 'An-Dràsta' (Now!) which highlights the effects of and responses to climate change in the Outer Hebrides.

In February 2020, the film won a prestigious FilmG award in the Dùthchais as Fheàrr category, which explores the connection between the Gaelic language and the environment.



Carlway Project Officer Ally Maciver, Galson Project Officer Louise Senior, and Project Administrator Abigail Leach.

This aspect of the project has created strong vocational outputs for the young people

involved. Civic engagement amongst them has also increased as a result.

Kathleen Macdonald of Community Energy Scotland said: 'The Community LED project has showcased the drive and desire for community groups to take the real and serious issues being faced by individuals within their communities and try and positively impact on them.'

Rachel Elliott of Scottish Water added: 'By working directly with the community, Carlway Estate Trust was able to give personalised advice, ensuring residents got the advice and water saving devices they will get the most benefit from.'

It is hoped the project will continue to have a lasting impact on people's behaviour towards their energy use to the benefit of future generations.

Broadford Post Office on the move – 120m

The Post Office is planning to relocate its Broadford Post Office, 120m along Ford Road to a new address at Buth Na H-Abhainn.

The current lease is due to expire this autumn and the Postmaster has decided to move this branch to his other retail premises nearby, which is a craft and gift shop and cafe.

The Post Office told us: 'Our Postmaster firmly believes that the move will help secure continued access to Post Office services locally, as well as supporting the viability of his business. The new branch would move 120m from the existing location, which is also in Ford Road.'

The Post Office is now inviting customers and interested parties to give their comments on the move. It is looking for feedback about accessibility, local community issues and anything that it can do to make life easier for our customers.

The consultation will close on July 28. Customers can share their views online at postofficeviews.co.uk with the branch code 138828.

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Ewen's Room steps up online

Since cancelling all face-to-face sessions on March 16, Strontian-based charity Ewen's Room has been providing emotional support to those affected by the lockdown on top of other ongoing challenges of 'normal' life.

Ewen's Room is now offering several forms of help and support:

■ EwenMe is a new 'telephone friend' calling service launched by Ewen's Room to combat the effects of social distancing and isolation under lockdown. EwenMe will do its best to match anyone who requests, or is referred to the service, with one of their friendly volunteers who has similar interests. A Gaelic speaking volunteer will be happy to chat in that language. Anyone interested in making use of this service should call 01967 750845 or fill in a form at www.ewensroom.com/ewenme.

■ Ewen's Room Helpline - Freephone 0800 689 3317. Monday to Friday: 5pm to 10pm. Saturday and Sunday: noon to 10pm.

The charity has been successful in attracting more Comic Relief funding and several new volunteers have been recruited and trained over the last few months.

■ Ewen's Zoom - Virtual Open Doors get-togethers.

While the weekly drop-ins are on hold, it is hosting online meetings by Zoom video conferencing for established groups in Acharacle

and Strontian. Anyone wishing to get involved should call 01967 401130 or email info@ewensroom.com.

■ Young Persons' Counselling Service - Ardnamurchan and Mallaig high schools. Since March 2019, a qualified counsellor has helped 20 young people over 90 weekly individual consultations. When schools closed, Ewen's Room set up resources in collaboration with the schools so the service could continue online. This is being extended to pupils of other high schools in Lochaber.

■ Online Workshops - Volunteer co-ordinator Hugh Asher presented 'An Introduction to Mental Health First Aid' over two sessions on June 9 and 16. To register interest in future sessions go to www.facebook.com/EwensRoom or email hugh@ewensroom.com.

These responses to help counter the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic have been made possible through grants and donations from Lund Trust - a charitable fund of Lisbet Rausing and Peter Baldwin, Sunart Community Council, the Highland Council and the family and friends of Callan McClymont. Further information on all the initiatives can be found on www.ewensroom.com.

The Ewen's Room team is also grateful for the other grants and generous donations given by organisations and individuals over recent years.

Remembering the Highland heroes of battle 80 years on

by Fiona Scott
fscott@obantimes.co.uk



St Valery marked across Lochaber and Hebrides

Communities in Lochaber and the Hebrides marked the 80th anniversary of the battle at St Valéry with socially distanced commemorative events last Friday.

Friday June 12 1940 saw the sacrifice of thousands of Highland soldiers, who surrendered to overwhelming German forces at St-Valéry-en-Caux, on the Channel coast.

Pipers and musicians from all over Scotland paid tribute to the 51st Highland Division by playing 'The Heroes of St Valery', a piping tune composed by a veteran of the battle, simultaneously at 10am.

An event at the Commando Memorial at Spean Bridge was led by the West Highland Museum Team and featured

piping brothers Finlay and Sandy Cameron, while members of the school pipe and brass band played at the Clock Tower outside the Nicolson Institute on Lewis.

The appropriate social distancing was adhered to at all events, with the musicians 5m apart, rather than 2m, as guidelines for players of such instruments dictate.

Norman A Macdonald, convener of Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, said: 'Many Lewismen, including former pupils of The Nicolson Institute, served in the regiments in this division and saw action at St Valery which made the commemoration especially appropriate.'

'I thank the school's instrumental tutors for their organisation of this commemoration and the school's talented musicians for giving up their time to take part.'

Donald Cameron, MSP for the Highlands and Islands, last week proposed a motion to the Scottish Parliament highlighting the commemoration.

He said St Valery was, in some respects, the 'forgotten Dunkirk', adding: 'Unlike at Dunkirk a few days earlier, it proved impossible at St Valery to evacuate the troops due to the weather and the proximity of German artillery.'

'As a result, thousands of soldiers, who had spent weeks



The West Highland Museum Team, left to right, Ian-Peter MacDonald, Venessa Martin, Chris Robinson, David MacFarlane and Colleen Barker with brothers Finlay, left, and Sandy Cameron at the Commando Memorial.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

fighting gallantly, went on to spend years as prisoners of war.

'Winston Churchill called it a 'most brutal disaster' and the loss of so many of our young fighting men was felt keenly across the Highlands and Islands, with few communities left untouched.'

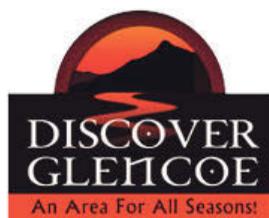
'Five years later, the reformed

Highland Division re-entered St Valery as liberators - appropriately to the sound of the pipes.'

Composer of Heroes of St Valery, Donald MacLean, was a piper with the 51st Highland Division and subsequently spent years in captivity.

Soldiers who were forced to surrender to German forces

at 10am on June 12 1940 included men of the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders, the Black Watch, the Gordon Highlanders, the Seaforth Highlanders, the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, RAMC, RASC, RA and other supporting and attached troops from other parts of the UK.



Discover Glencoe... with Dad

It's Father's Day this weekend and we're lucky to have two outdoor options locally to help you celebrate with Dad.

Depending on his interests you could buy him a game of golf at Dragon's Tooth Golf Course or let him choose something for the garden at Kinlochlaich Garden Centre.

While travel is still limited and there are fewer folk about this is a great opportunity for locals to enjoy these attractions, explore their local area in ways they maybe haven't before while supporting local businesses.

The safety of staff, communities, and visitors is our top priority. These businesses have hand sanitiser available at points of contact, one-way systems, safety information signs, increased cleaning protocols and other protection, such as PPE.

Vouchers can also make a good gift. There are many options here. It could be for something new, or something he can't wait to enjoy again. An experience



for later this year, such as paddle boarding, Glencoe Photography tuition, or a ride up the Glencoe Chairlift. Maybe a voucher to enjoy a dinner in the future at one of the many restaurants, hotels and cafés in the area.

You could make an online purchase and give his choice of local gin or gift from Pixel

Spirits, Clachaig Inn whisky and gifts, or a voucher from Holroyd Gallery if Dad's the arty type.

If you live locally, you could just get outside and spend time with him on foot, cycle or wheel and enjoy one of the varied scenic pathways here. Please remember your increased hand hygiene, social



distances, 'go' before you go and take any litter home.

At the time of writing we are still in Phase 1. Looking forward; when Phase 2 is announced, there will be other options for you to get out and enjoy your local area with Dad, your family, or your friends. We look forward to welcoming you when we can.



discoverglencoe.scot/covid-19/

LT

The champion of Canna: Mag

Tributes have been paid to retired Canna House archivist Magda Sagarzazu who died aged 70.

Mrs Sagarzazu passed away on June 2 in San Sebastian with her husband and family by her side but there are plans to celebrate her life and work with a memorial back in Scotland when lockdown restrictions ease.

The former archivist, who was just 12 when she was first charmed by the Isle of Canna on a family holiday, became a personal friend of well known folklorist John Lorne Campbell and his Pittsburgh born wife Margaret Fay Shaw as well as keeper of their enormous literary collection featuring many thousands of individual items including personal diaries, photographs, transcribed music, original letters and manuscripts as well as a sound archive of Gaelic song and stories.

Canna House and its contents was gifted to the National Trust of Scotland



Magda on the pier on Canna.

(NTS) in 1981. Clea Warner, NTS General Manager for the Highlands and Islands said: 'We are deeply saddened to hear of Magda's death. The Trust is hugely grateful for her unique contribution to Canna, to conserving its

important collections and to our conservation charity. Our thoughts are with her family and friends at this time.'

Mrs Sagarzazu wrote this about her first visit to Canna in 1962 as a child from the Basque country: 'My idea of an

island as a child was a piece of land with palm trees! But I arrived to a beautiful real island. Canna House, the garden, the cats, the Steinway grand piano, books in every room on all topics - it had a great charm for me immediately.'

That first visit lasted almost six months and was to become an annual trip for the family who stayed in Tigh Ard House, up above Canna House.

The young Magda and her sister spent summers exploring every nook and cranny of the island's beaches and moors, fishing for lobsters and swimming on the Traigh Bhàin on the neighbouring island of Sanday. She described her time on Canna as an 'education itself'.

The library and the sound recordings of Canna House became part of her daily life when living on Canna and came to have such meaning for her that after training in administration and commerce in Spain, she decided to retrain as a teacher so the long summer holidays could be spent on Canna, helping John Lorne Campbell with his literary work and cataloguing of the extensive collections.

When he died in 1996 in Italy, it was Magda and her sister who accompanied

Margaret Fay Shaw back to Canna to help with the legalities of John's estate and sort out his considerable paper archives. When Margaret decided to stay on Canna, Magda took the decision to give up her teaching job and move to the island full time to continue John's work and be companion to Margaret, writes NTS's Canna House archivist Fiona Mackenzie.

Her work grew into that of archivist and she was appointed that role by the NTS, to whom John had gifted the island in 1981. She lived on in Canna House with Margaret, who died in 2004, and she then took up residence in the little white, iconically Hebridean cottage, Doirlinn, with the green gate looking out onto Canna Bay.

'Over the years, that house became the focus of many soirees where the Gaelic, Basque, Spanish, Italian and English tongues could be heard in equal measure accompanying songs, darts matches, dancing

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Magda Sagarazazu remembered

and of course, 'pintxos', that gastronomic Basque delight.

'Spanish/Gaelic classes were the norm of a winter evening and Magda welcomed in any stray or stranded visitor to the island, offering hospitality, a glass of Cava and a warm smile to all. Her welcoming nature and sense of fun became her signature 'default' and there is not a man on earth who did not crumble when confronted by her twinkly eye and her 'preciosa' grin,' said Mrs Mackenzie.

She added: 'Magda's professional contribution not only to the heritage contained within Canna House, but also to Scotland and on into the wider world is immeasurable and she fiercely promoted and advocated the work of the Campbells across the world, increasing awareness in every letter, lecture, broadcast and newspaper article.

'After John and Margaret died, Magda continued on with the archiving and cataloguing of the Campbells



Magda with her husband Joaquin. Spanish/Gaelic classes were the norm of a winter evening and Magda welcomed in stranded visitor to the island, offering hospitality, a glass of Cava and a warm smile to all.

extensive paper archive of correspondence, manuscripts and research writings. She answered the daily research enquiries which came from right across the world, from some of the most hallowed halls of learning including Harvard, Oxford and Dublin and established close relationships with many of the most

learned and revered Chairs of Academia.

'Her name became synonymous with Canna House. The work carried out by Magda is very likely the greatest contribution to worldwide recognition of Scottish cultural significance to be found anywhere.' Her friend and executor of John Lorne Campbell,

Professor Hugh Cheape, said about Mrs Sagarazazu: 'Magda won the hearts of all of us who work or have worked in the area of our cultural heritage. She was keenly aware of the international significance and of the life and work of the Campbells of Canna and she worked tirelessly and with great passion to

preserve and propagate this. 'Magda knew the archives from end to end and worked under often difficult circumstances of isolation to refine them and bring them into a state fitted for the scholarship of the 21st century. We are lost for adequate words of thanks for her life and work in Canna.'

Mrs Mackenzie said: 'Friends for years, in 2015, Magda took me under her wing as her little 'preciosa', her 'little bird' and guided me through the enormous, privileged task of becoming the first point of call for information on John and Margaret Campbell.

'Magda had wanted to retire some years before she actually did but felt she needed to find someone who might understand and love the Collections, as they deserved to be loved. Many is the time, sitting in the sitting room window of Canna House, that she would entrance me with her memories of 'Marguerite's' pithy

stories and John's sense of fun, the pranks he played and the travels she had with them across the globe. Her story of why there is a hole in the gate to Doirinn now - to allow her little Cairn terrier Patxu, to have lovelorn conversations with the little seal who visited the shore every day, would become the pivotal focus for her adult working life.

'The NTS were indeed fortunate to have in Magda, an employee who so selflessly devoted her life to the Isle of Canna and who has preserved for us and for future generations.'

Her work was recognised by the NTS in 2015 when she was presented with the George Waterston Memorial Award for an employee of exceptional integrity and commitment and she was recognised the following year by the Saltire Society as one of Scotland's Outstanding Women of the Year, alongside First Minister Nicola Sturgeon and author J.K. Rowling.



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LT

Stars tune up for virtual music fest

Some of Scotland's best musicians are uniting for a one-off virtual festival that will help raise money for music venues across the country that are under threat, writes Ellis Butcher.

Streaming online between 8-11pm on Friday and with a free-to-view warm-up on Thursday by Travis frontman Fran Healy, #SaveOurScottishVenues will feature recorded performances to drum up support for Scotland's grassroots music venues shut down by COVID-19.

The first artists to be announced include KT Tunstall, The Xcerts, Hunter & The Bear, Wet Wet Wet, Be Charlotte, Fatherson, Luke La Volpe, Hue & Cry, Honeyblood and Anchor Lane. Festival host and BBC Radio Scotland DJ Vic Galloway will be showcasing the nightspots and the artists whose careers they helped develop.

For more information visit www.saveourvenues.co.uk

Lewis firm pays tribute to founder and friend

Harris Tweed representatives have been paying tribute to the company's co-founder, principal investor and friend Ian Taylor who died on Monday June 8, aged 64, after a long battle with cancer, writes Fiona Scott.

A statement issued by the Hebridean-based textile firm last week described Ian as a remarkable individual – extraordinarily successful in his professional career as a trader and generous with his time and wealth in support of myriad causes.

'It was the great good fortune of Harris Tweed and our islands' economy that he was prepared to invest in the industry at its lowest ebb in 2007,' it read.

Ian's involvement went far beyond that original investment which made the creation of Harris Tweed Hebrides and the reopening of Shawbost mill possible. He brought with



Ian Taylor, centre, pictured with Harris Tweed co-founders Ian Mackenzie and Brian Wilson.

him enthusiasm and business acumen and visited Lewis whenever possible and always offered unfailingly good advice.

Brian Wilson, chairman of Harris Tweed Hebrides, said: 'Ian was a friend for more than 20 years and the cruel illness to which he finally succumbed has robbed us of a man at the peak of his powers who had so much more to offer on many fronts. Ian's father was from Ayrshire and, from when I first got to know him, he said if there was ever anything useful he could do in Scotland, to let him know. When the crisis arose in 2007 for Harris Tweed and I was asked to help, I knew instinctively Ian would respond positively which, of course, he did.'

'Everyone involved in Harris Tweed Hebrides and the wider community owes him a huge debt of gratitude and we will respect his memory for everything he has con-

tributed and made possible.' Ian Angus Mackenzie, chief executive of Harris Tweed Hebrides, added: 'Without Ian's backing this company, and possibly the Harris Tweed industry, would not exist.'

'He provided the funding to buy the mill and the working capital to get the company started – in his own words 'not to make money but because it is the right thing to do'.

'It was a brave thing to do when one remembers the position the industry was in at that time. Ian was delighted by the success of the company and took a keen interest in all our activities. His enthusiasm and drive were an inspiration to us all and we will miss him greatly.'

'Ian was an extraordinary individual, hugely successful in his professional life but down to earth and friendly to everyone. He was probably the most impressive person I have ever dealt with.'

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Wild Words

KIRSTEEN BELL

fort@obantimes.co.uk

The moth in a mink coat

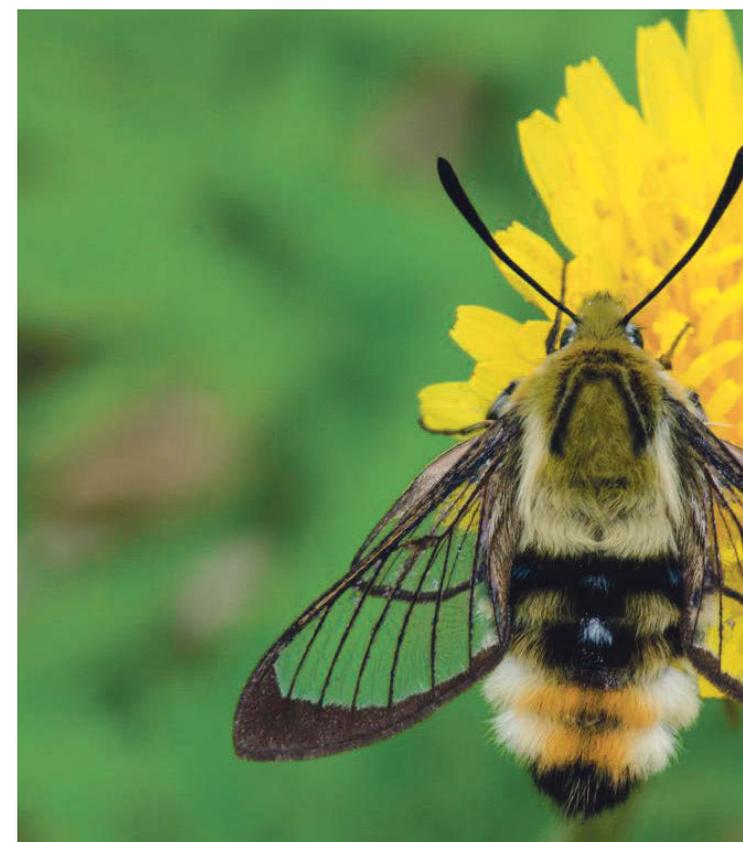
For the record, if you had asked me 10 years ago what the difference was between a carrion crow and a raven I would not have been able to tell you.

Five years ago the only bird I could identify with any confidence was a robin. Two years ago tormentil, celandine, coltsfoot were – to me – all a variation on buttercups and dandelions. I am not an expert on wildlife.

What I am though is interested; what I do is look. When I walk through the fields and wood by the house, I spend most of my time watching the ground around my feet.

Over the years I have become more familiar with what I might see there, recognising leaf shapes that tell me what the next show of wildflowers might be, or knowing when to expect the spittle bugs or the grasshoppers. This wee guy (pictured) was a surprise. No clue what he was, and I knew I had not seen him before.

I put a request for ID out on



Twitter, and in true Twitter fashion it was initially identified as 'a bee in a mink coat' and a 'fluffy bum cutie pie'.

Then specialist Brigit Strawbridge Howard, author of *Dancing with Bees*, spotted it and a flurry of tweets began.



Emma MacDonald conquers the Moidart Hills.



John MacDonald during a previous challenge in the Moidart hills.

Couple step it up to help children

by Fiona Scott
fscott@obantimes.co.uk



An Acharacle couple are attempting to walk 41 miles round Loch Shiel from their home in Mingarry within 24 hours.

John and Emma MacDonald set out on their Loch Shiel challenge at 3am yesterday (Wednesday June 17) morning and were hoping to be back before night fall last night.

The have-a-go duo, who completed a mountain trek challenge in the Moidart hills earlier in lockdown, reckon the untried route should take 20 hours, allowing for stops.

Talking to the Lochaber Times before they set off, Emma said: 'We decided to push ourselves further this time.'

'As far as we know this walk has not been done before and

'Lockdown is hard for everyone but for children trapped in a neglectful or abusive environment it must be unbearable. No child should suffer at home.'

will be our toughest physical challenge to date.'

By completing the challenge, Emma and John, who have two children, Megan, aged five and Finlay, two, hope to raise much-needed funds for the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC).

'Since the start of national lockdown, the NSPCC has seen a huge surge in calls from chil-

dren with suicidal thoughts as a result of abuse in the home,' explained Emma.

'Lockdown is hard for everyone but for children trapped in a neglectful or abusive environment it must be unbearable. No child should suffer at home.'

'Having two children ourselves, we cannot imagine any child having to suffer under any circumstances and with NSPCC being the leading UK charity in the prevention of cruelty to children, we felt this was the right charity to raise money for.'

'This will be no easy walk but is incomparable to a child suffering daily. We know money is tight for everyone just now but would very much appreciate any donation no matter how small.'

Son of Moidart Ceilidh King Fergie MacDonald, John owns Deer Hunting

Scotland based in Mingarry, Acharacle. The couple also own and run Mingarry Park Luxury Accommodation and Restaurant.

'We have a keen interest in physical well-being and having spent the last few months in lockdown, we have both made the time, in between homeschooled Megan, to focus on our fitness,' said Emma.

'With regards to previous challenges, we have struggled in the past to find the time raising two small children and running two businesses but lockdown has given us the perfect opportunity to build ourselves up to undertake this challenge. We can't wait.'

To make a donation go to Emma and John's Just Giving page Loch Shiel Challenge 2020 for NSPCC

See next week's Lochaber Times to find out how they got on.



The Narrow-Bordered Bee Hawk-moth is thriving in Scotland according to the numbers being recorded over the past few years.

Photograph: Tim Melling/Butterfly Conservation

So, a moth in a mink coat, in fact.

Butterfly Conservation Scotland say that 'the Narrow-bordered Bee Hawk-moth is a day-flying moth that closely resembles a bumblebee.'

'It is on the wing from mid-May to early July and can be found on moorlands, grasslands and open woodlands where its caterpillar's sole food plant, devil's-bit scabious, grows in abundant patches.'

The general Twitter excitement stemmed from this moth's relative rarity in England. Mike Taylor from the Highland Biological Recording Group confirmed that it is now only found in a few parts of the south and south west.

But north of the border this posh moth has a stronger

foothold, and Mike has noticed an increase in the number of records being submitted to HBRG and the National Moth Recording Scheme over the past few years.

He said: 'Much of the range reduction further south is thought to be due to habitat change with urbanisation and intensification of farmland being likely factors, and whilst not proven may also be why the species is not suffering the same problem in Scotland.'

Devil's-bit scabious (whose name I also only learned in recent years) covered the ground between a storage yard and the house towards the end of last summer.

It is a patch of ground that, from a crofting point of view, probably looks fairly neglected - however one species' neglect is another species' boon.

While I may have noticed the flowers, somewhere in amongst the round purple flower heads was a fat green caterpillar, unrecorded, unnoticed, but growing a mink coat all the same.



Lots of entomologists getting very excited over what they confirmed was a Narrow-Bordered Bee Hawk-moth.



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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LT

The Croftless crofter

There is no getting away from it, our unspoilt landscape, our wildlife – all we love about Lochaber has a close relationship with those pesky midges

by Nic Goddard
fort@obantimes.co.uk

When we first made our home in the Highlands at first people did was shake their heads and said to us, 'well, you haven't done a winter yet...'. The second was 'wait til the midges arrive'.

We have subsequently survived many winters and many midge seasons. But in the same way as I often wistfully think of the midges as 'not being that bad' when we are in the depths of winter with wild winds and barely six hours of daylight, now that the midges are back once more I am

hankering after colder temperatures and breezy conditions.

Here in the West Highlands the words 'they're back...' said with a dark tone can only mean camper vans or midges and in the coronavirus-related absence of camper vans this year it is only the midges which have returned.

As an optimist by nature I spend a lot of time trying to find silver linings and making the best of things. During our time on Rum I put a huge amount of effort into finding ways to 'celebrate the midge'.

These included setting up a mini family festival we called



We live in a stunning landscape, and unfortunately, in summer, that is home to midges.

'Midgefest' with midge-related crafts, games and music.

Our community ranger taught us all midge facts and we all looked at the tiny carnivorous sundew plants with a new found respect when we learned how they ate midges.

In our little croft gate shop we sold a whole range of midge-inspired items. I made cuddly crochet midges, my

daughter created candles scented with citronella.

When we discovered an enormous pile of midges on top of our hot water boiler, lured in by the smell of the gas and then killed by the heat we collected them up and I set them in resin to make keyrings and pendants to sell to the islands visitors as souvenirs of their epic battles against the

Rum midge when walking or camping on the island.

Since returning to the mainland the midges have troubled us a little less – now we are in a house with a constant electricity supply (unlike our previous off-grid life) we are able to have fans to keep areas midge free, but the return of the midge still coincides with times when I want to be outside, tending my little garden or enjoying the beautiful area we live in by walking through shady woodlands, watching the wildlife with the return of the migrating birds like swallows and seeing the bats dance at sunset, enjoying all the wild

flowers or discovering my own private beach.

It is right there though, as I describe what I love about this corner of the world in the landscape, the flora and fauna, the unspoilt beauty and the lack of people that I have to concede that the Highland Midge and the place I love have a very close relationship with each other.

It is the very landscape I describe, host to ancient woodlands and wild flowers which creates the perfect environment for the midge.

It is the midge which repels the hordes of people and keeps those beaches quiet and the midge which feeds the birds and the bats I so enjoy watching.

The only real way the midges will leave is if climate change or the impact of humans on the landscape drive them away. So I'll plug in that fan, dab on some repellent and accept that this summer's silver lining of the midge return is the world outside my window, even if I need that window to keep them away from me.



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A Cry For The Wild

HOLLY GILLIBRAND

fort@obantimes.co.uk



We all know about the shocking murder of George Floyd by an America police officer and the Black Lives Matter protests that have since erupted across the world, and I feel morally obligated to speak out alongside them. So here are my thoughts about how racism and environmentalism come together...

I'm what you would call an environmentalist, and as such am often, along with other environmentalists, tucked away in a box titled 'the environment', or 'nature', or whatever you want to call the biosphere we live in and rely on. In this box we are expected to deal only with things directly relating to the living world.

But environmentalism is so much more than this. Where feminists cover equality to women, and anti-racism activists demand an end to racism, and animal rights activists deal with the treatment of



Native nations gather to stand up for indigenous rights. Photograph: Amanda J. Mason / Greenpeace

animals, environmentalism is about all of these issues, and more, because without social justice, we can't protect the natural world and act on crises such as climate and ecological breakdown.

This statistic from National Geographic

reflects this crucial link between environmentalism and racism: while indigenous peoples make up less than five per cent of the total human population, they protect 80 per cent of the world's biodiversity. And yet even today, indigenous people face

discrimination, violence and being forced off their ancestral lands, so that the land can be plundered and exploited by governments and private companies.

Environmental racism is why, as one example, activists in the UK will not tolerate the UK

Government's pitiful target of reaching net zero emissions by 2050, or Scotland's equally pathetic one of 2045.

Climate breakdown and the collapse of our life support systems will affect people in the Global South first, even though they have done basically nothing to contribute to this crisis, which means that unless we ramp up our ambitions and our targets and ramp down our carbon emissions to zero in the next 10 or so years, we are wilfully disregarding the lives of millions of people.

I am still learning to talk about these things; racism, colonialism and the brutality of our capitalist culture, and I'm continually worried that I'll say something wrong.

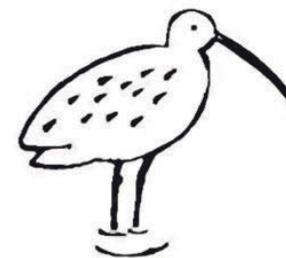
But if people don't

talk about these things, they will carry on. It's not enough to be not racist. You have to be actively anti-racist. Just like it's not enough to be concerned about nature; you have to do everything in your power to protect it. Below are a couple of things to start you off.

■ Ways you can help:
<https://blacklivesmatters.carrd.co>

Interesting article: I'm a Black Climate Expert. Racism Derails Our Efforts to Save the Planet, by Ayana Elizabeth Johnson, The

Washington Post



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LT

LETTERS

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

We need tourists to return

David Richardson, development manager for the Federation of Small Businesses in the Highlands and Islands, issued a stark warning this week – tourist spending remains the only major economic game in town for the area's long-term future.

There is, understandably, a lot of concern around the easing of restrictions and tourism businesses re-opening in the area, leading to an influx of visitors.

However, very few of us have the luxury of not needing to work for our living and we must trust that as our government has taken every precaution to keep us safe so far, we have to take another step back to 'normality'.

If we don't start allowing businesses to re-open with care, many will never re-open, and without many of those businesses, ordinary working people will have to look elsewhere for their income. They will take their children with them. Young adults will move away because there will be little in the way of a future for them.

If they go, so will the viability of a new hospital, school numbers will fall and a variety of key services will go because not enough people are paying council tax.

You get the picture.

We need to work together and talk to each other. We don't want to lose the positives that have come from lockdown and we don't want to lose all tourism can give us.

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 will not be printed. Please email: editor@obantimes.co.uk or write to: Letters page, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB.

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It's time for Oban to reopen for business

I note many local councillors' MPs and MSPs behaving like unfortunate turkeys wishing for Christmas but instead of Christmas its wishing for extended lockdown.

Would the local councillors and politicians, who are still being paid, still be advocating closure if they weren't being paid – I don't think so.

So we are not all in this together after all. Many family businesses have had no income whatsoever and have now closed forever. Businesses who were just keeping themselves afloat getting by year by year but serving the town and area well.

Put simply, the longer we remain closed the more businesses will not reopen. This lockdown (prison term) is due to exaggerated doomsday death projections from the Imperial College and a scientist predicting that, by October, more than 500,000 people in Great Britain and 2 million people in the US would die as a result of COVID-19. His figures were wrong.

At the same time we have seen little change or reduction in the length of lockdown but a desire to lengthen the closure by our still being paid politicians answerable to Whitehall, and still being paid councillors answerable to Kilmory but both elected to act as the people elected them to do.

The town has lost income which even during war time Oban never experienced, as the hotels were full, and the property prices never dropped. It is time to reopen fast, Covid or no Covid, or there will be nothing left to reopen.

Angus Files
Oban

School exams should be moved to June

Scotland's school examination schedule is bizarre. Pupils are assessed in May, and then commence their next level of study in June, only to have the summer holiday and possible staff changes interrupt it almost immediately.

The only rationale for this ungainly system seems to be the time required to publish results before the return to school in August. However, with IT now speeding the process at every stage, it is surely possible to meet the deadline. In any case, pupils already start courses before they know their results at the previous level.

With this June's teaching hindered by lockdown, now is the time to prioritise teaching and learning over administrative convenience and

Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL

editor@obantimes.co.uk

Bho chionn ghoirid tha mi air a bhith a' cuimhneachadh mar a bhiodh m' athair ag ràdh rium bho àm gu àm nam òige, gun robh an t-àm an "sgìath" fuilte a bh' orm a bhearradh! Mar a dh'èirich dha miltean eile tha mise cuideachd fìor fheumach air cliop a-nise! Chan eil cuimhne agam cuin a bha m' fhalt cho fada, agus tha mi a' faireachadh car mar caora dà-rùsg! Ged a tha mi air a bhith a' feuchainn ri mo bhean a bhrosnachadh gus a dhol an sàs leis an t-siosar chan eil i deònach, agus a rèir choltais chan eil agam ach a bhith foighidneach, agus ma dh'fheumas 's dòcha figheachan a chur na mo logaidh!

Dh'ionnsaich mòran mharaichean, gu h-àraidh saoilidh mi an fheadhainn a bha sa chabhlaich mharsanta, sgilean borbaireachd fhad 's a bha iad aig muir agus bha m' athair cho ealanta leis a' "mhachine" is gun robh a' mhòr-chuid de fhir a' bhaile a' tighinn thuige nuair a bha feum aca air am falt a ghearradh. Bhiodh feadhainn eile a' gearradh falt cuideachd ach cha robh iad cho sgileil a rèir choltais. Nuair a bha mi mu naodh neo deich bliadhna a dh'aois is m' athair air falbh mìosan an t-samhraidh air "bàtaichean-luath" Chluaidh, tha cuimhneam a bhith an taigh mo sheanar is nàbaidh, aig an robh cliù geur-chainnt, air chèilidh.

Thuir mo sheanair gun robh e feumach air cliop ach nach robh e cinnteach co thuige a rachadh e is m' athair air falbh, agus dh'iarr e beachd an neach-tadhail air duine àraid eile sa bhaile mar bhorbair. "Uill" ars an cèiliche "thug

am fear sin am falt dhiomsa turas is cha leigeadh an nàire leam mo bhonaid a thoirt dhìom fiù 's san leabaidh fad chola-deug!"

'S math cuimhneachadh air an seòrsa eirm-seachd a bha cho bitheanta an uairsin, agus thèid na bacaidhean a th' oirnn seachd a dh'aithghearr tha sinn an dòchas. Gun teagamh tha fadachd air daoine airson iomadach goireas agus seirbheis nach gabh faotainn an-dràsta, eadar cothrom air faclair, gruagaire, neo bùth àraid, agus tha na miltean ag ionndrainn a bhith ag amharc an cuid spòrs seachdaine agus theagamh pinnt leanna neo drama na dhèidh. Ach tha an suidheachadh a th' againn an-dràsta na dheagh chuimhneachan dhuinn air cho neo-ar-thaingeil 's a tha sinn anns a' bhitheantas air sochairean de gach seòrsa a tha sinn a' cur gu feum nar beatha làitheil. Mar a dh'èirich dha uimhir de bhuanachdan, eadar càirdean agus goireasan, cha chuirear luach da-rìribh orra chun am bheil iad air an àicheadh dhuinn! Nach bu mhath gun cuimhnicheamaid air sin nuair a bhios an aonarachd seachad, agus gun gabh sinn a h-uile cothrom air ùine an cuideachd chàirdean agus charaidean a tha cudromach dhuinn.

Lockdown restrictions highlight how much in life we take for granted, whether it be the company of family and friends or the convenience of services. Will we appreciate these more when things return to "normal"?

Allan Campbell
ailean@obantimes.co.uk

move examinations to June from next year.

Richard Lucas,
Leader of The Scottish Family Party,
Glasgow

Social distancing is not easy for everyone

With social distancing now part of everyday life it is important to highlight that not everyone can maintain the required distance as easily as others.

People who are blind and partially sighted can struggle to know when they are getting closer to someone, or if someone is approaching them. And guide dogs, of course, aren't trained to help

in this regard. There have been occasions when individuals have been aggressively berated for coming in too close proximity to others, when the reality is they simply were not aware of it.

In such uncertain times, tensions over distancing can rise. But we would ask that if you feel someone seems to be ignoring the restrictions, consider for a moment whether that person, rather than being careless, might not be able to fully see you.

Thousands of people in Scotland are living with a degree of sight loss. Please be aware that some people do need just a little extra thought.

James Adams, Director, Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB) Scotland

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or call 01397 703003

Construction projects resume on Skye

Following Scottish Government Guidance on returning to construction sites in Scotland, works are getting under way on two separate projects managed by the Outdoor Access Trust for Scotland (OATS) on the Isle of Skye, writes Fiona Scott.

The Highland Council's pathworks project at Old Man of Storr, managed in association with OATS, is due to restart on Monday June 22 while work on the construction of toilet facilities at the Fairy Pools car park, near Glenbrittle, a project independently run and managed by OATS in partnership with the Minginish Community Hall Association (MCHA), has already resumed.

Principal contractor for the renovation of 600m of the existing path to the Old Man of Storr, McGowan Ltd from Aviemore, had previously made good progress before lockdown, with the majority of path material bagged and ready for helicopter lift onto the hillside.

Once the material has been lifted into the affected areas then works can commence to make the path fit for visitors and reduce the erosion and vegetation loss that has slowly



Construction work at the Old Man of Storr had made good progress before lockdown.

been progressing over the years. The works at Old Man of Storr are being project managed by The Highland Council's Property Team, working alongside OATS.

McGowan Ltd have submitted their proposals for safe working, encompassing social distancing, following guidance relating to Covid-19.

The Storr path renovation project is funded by both the Rural, Tourism and Infrastructure Fund (RTIF) and Scottish Government Rural Payments and Inspections Directorate (SGRPID).

The Fairy Pools car park development is an independent project being run by OATS in collaboration

with the car park's landowner, MCHA.

Principal contractor for the toilet block at The Fairy Pools car park, James McQueen, from Crossal, Isle of Skye, also working safely to Covid-19 guidelines, are currently in the process of installing an off-grid sewage system and processing tank with sufficient capacity for 200,000 annual visitors. OATS expect that the toilets will be fully operational, alongside the recently completed 140 spaces car park [closed at present], by mid-August 2020.

Funds were raised for the Fairy Pools project from a range of sources. The car park, phase one, was funded by LEADER, Highland Council, Highlands and Islands Enterprise; together with funds raised by OATS and MCHA. RTIF and OATS have funded the toilet block, phase two of the project.

YOURSTORY

share with us: fort@obantimes.co.uk
telephone 01397 703003



Freja Cavaye, from Inverlochty, celebrated her seventh birthday on June 6 when she had a party with her brother and sisters, played party games and watched a movie. She had a great birthday party even though her friends could not be there.

Happy lockdown birthday!

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

Create your own Tattie Bogal in support of dementia

Alzheimer Scotland are inviting individuals in Lochaber and the islands to create a small or life-sized scarecrow and display it in their garden to help and support people who are living with dementia.

Tattie Bogal 2020 was launched last week and anyone interested in taking part can register on the alzscot website to receive instructions and a support guide on how to create their very own scarecrow.

Lesley Hellon, from the Isle of Skye who created the original project, is working alongside the national charity

and will share her top secrets on how to create your very own scarecrow – or tattie bogle.

Once you register you will receive an email with confirmation of your very own unique number. You can then send completed scarecrow pictures via social media or email.

The competition will run until the end of August when winners of 10 categories will be announced.

The cost to enter is £5. All proceeds will go to help and support people who are living with dementia, and their families, in Scotland.



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OPEN FOR BUSINESS

We are publishing this information **in association with** Lochaber Chamber of Commerce. Featuring the businesses in Lochaber that are open and able to offer vital products and services to our community during the current Covid-19 pandemic. Many of these businesses are working under extreme pressure to bring quality products and services to the people of Lochaber and beyond. Please remember to exercise caution when shopping and only shop for essential supplies. Along with our wonderful NHS staff and carers, our local food, fuel, news platforms and home supply businesses are our community champions!

We realise that many more businesses would love to be open, serving locals and visitors alike – our deepest empathy goes out to these businesses and we look forward to seeing their doors wide open when this is all over. Please feel free to get in touch with us if you would like to feature your business, or know a business that should be included. Email nmurphy@obantimes.co.uk or get in touch via our Facebook page on messenger. Let's spread the word as much as we can!

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MARKS & SPENCER FOODHALL

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Please note all our cafes are now closed.
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LIDL

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Visit: www.foodlochaber.org for more info.

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Information correct at time of going to press. Check 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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Call for mentors to come help local entrepreneurs



Business mentoring is an important support tool for developing current leaders, business leaders of future, aspiring entrepreneurs and those who seek that little extra development to realise their potential.

As a Chamber of Commerce we are often asked and reminded how vital business mentoring is to support the business community and to ensure continued sector growth across a range of industries based here in Lochaber.

Mentoring is a fantastic way to share experiences and benefit from the knowledge and skills gained from listening to leaders from other organisations and sectors, sharing challenges and understanding the path of success.

We have a wealth of successful business leaders in Lochaber and it's this experience we know would be of great benefit to your business, as well as the wider community.

The Chamber has access to a number of business leaders, speakers and accomplished business minds who are keen to share their methods and toolkits for success. Could you be a business mentor?



Hannah Barnes and her friend Lumi, share memories of a Ring of Steal adventure. Photograph: Brodie Hood Photography

Could you benefit from having a business mentor? Two questions but both equally as powerful.

We would love to welcome new experienced local business

managers, owners, leaders who are willing to join our network of mentors to help others in the business community.

If you've taken a few knocks,

learned things that you think would be useful to pass on, want to see business in Lochaber grow and succeed and would be able to spare a bit of time to help

then we want to hear from you. Conversely, we want to hear from you if connecting with a local business mentor would benefit you. We understand the importance of mentorship, so knowing that this would be something that you or a colleague may benefit from will help us continue shaping future support to the Lochaber business community regardless of your tenure.

Mentoring might not be something that you have ever considered, but a huge number of businesses across all industries gain enormous benefit from the impartial input of this connection; from increased understanding, improved communication, reinforced confidence and gaining that renewed motivation to try something that may improve your business.

The Chamber has previously written in this column that we have to learn to adapt, fail fast and learn quickly, changing the way that we operate and support Lochaber. This will continue, maybe you could be there with us and help the next stage of development?

Lochaber Chamber of Commerce is here to support you, connecting you with the help you need and wider business community. Connect with us today and contact us by emailing membership@lochaberchamber.co.uk

Lochaber's towns urged to apply for COVID recovery funding

A leading expert on town centres policy has urged towns across Scotland to apply for new funding made available by the Scottish Government to support the recovery of local high streets post-COVID.

Phil Prentice, the Chief Officer of Scotland's Towns Partnership and Programme Director of Scotland's Improvement Districts, issued the plea following an announcement of a £2 million fund by Communities

Secretary, Aileen Campbell, last week.

The £2 million Towns and Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) Resilience and Recovery Fund is in addition to the £1 million BIDs Resilience Fund announced in March, and is intended to support localised response activities contributing to town centre and high street resilience and recovery.

Under the funding available now, both council and constituted

groups such as development trusts, Chambers of Commerce and housing associations can be funded to resource agreed projects. Constituted groups must agree their proposals with their local authority prior to applying.

A wide range of projects are eligible, such as physical distancing and personal protective infrastructure, 'open for business' guides and maps, and e-commerce platforms to support local traders. Full details

about how to apply for funding can be found on the Scotland's Towns Partnership website.

In addition, Scotland's Towns Partnership is working with the Scottish Government and other partners to launch a national campaign to urge Scots to support their local high streets and businesses by thinking local first. The campaign is expected to launch in the coming weeks.

Phil Prentice said: 'Now is the

time to turn our attention to the national recovery and any recovery is going to begin in our local towns. My plea to towns is to get together, get creative, and get in touch with us with your proposals. We're here to help – this fund recognises that some parts of the country will need a small investment to get their recovery projects up and running.'

Visit www.scotlandstowns.org/towns_and_bids_resilience_and_recovery_fund_2020

Boxers come out fighting in battle against the virus

by Fiona Scott
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With the relaxation of COVID-19 restrictions, Lochaber Phoenix Boxing Club has resumed limited training around its gym.

The club had barely moved into its new base at Corpach when lockdown measures stopped all sporting activities, the coaches actually deciding to close a few days before the new rules came into force to ensure maximum safety for everyone taking part.

However, the large membership of both junior (ages nine

'I am very pleased to say there has been no loss of enthusiasm.'



to 16) and seniors were keen to continue training as best they could. This was done through Zoom sessions, allowing participants to share a screen with each other and the coach, enabling them to work together without being in physical proximity.

Many also kept practising on their own, sharing a video on the club's Facebook page, where they received encouragement and feedback from fellow boxers and the coaches.

While all this has been working very well, the new, less stringent rules mean that a coach can now meet with a

boxer in person and supervise training from the required social distance.

Coach Vince Lopez explained: 'At the moment, we are following guidelines to the letter, probably even more stringently to ensure that everyone in the club is kept safe from any potential infection.'

'We allow only one boxer with one coach per hour-long session, so we are limited to a maximum of three per night. There is no physical contact during or between sessions

which are arranged with a delay at the end to allow time for any additional cleaning and disinfecting that may be needed.

'It is a small step towards the club getting back to its full potential and we are all absolutely delighted to be able to restart training in person. It is important that our boxers, especially those who were due to take part in various championship events this year, keep up their skill and stamina.'

The club, in conjunction with guidelines from the sport's

governing body, Boxing Scotland, has now been able to begin one-to-one training in the area immediately outside the gym building.

Strict hygiene procedures are also in place, with temperature readings from a non-contact thermometer on arrival by a gloved and masked club representative, backed up by written safety instructions and wall-mounted automatic sanitiser dispensers.

Everyone taking part also uses their own personal equipment such as gloves and

hand-wraps, and takes them home so no one else comes into contact with them at any time. 'I am very pleased to say that there has been no loss of enthusiasm for the club or the sport during the whole period the gym has been shut,' added coach Lopez.

'Every member, of whatever age, very quickly accepted that the real battle was against this virus and not opponents in the ring, so adopted our lockdown measures without complaint.'

While only very limited numbers are being allowed to

train in person at the moment, the club continues with its online activities and is ready, immediately and safely, to step up operations at the gym as and when restrictions allow.

Go to the Lochaber Phoenix Facebook page for more information or to contact the club.

Cameron Whyte has a temperature check, left, before honing his fitness and skills with socially-distanced coach Vince Lopez. Photographs: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos



TIDES Thursday June 18, 2020

Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday June 18, 2020 are listed below with differences for major ports listed underneath. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Thur	03.47	3.4	09.48	1.4
	16.00	3.3	22.16	1.4
Fri	04.28	3.5	10.36	1.2
	16.38	3.5	22.55	1.3
Sat	05.08	3.6	11.13	1.1
	17.15	4.0	23.35	1.2
Sun	05.46	3.7	11.50	1.0
	17.51	3.7	** **	**
Mon	00.15	1.1	06.22	3.7
	12.28	0.9	18.27	3.8
Tues	00.56	1.1	06.58	3.7
	13.07	0.8	19.04	3.8
Wed	01.38	1.1	07.36	3.6
	13.47	0.8	19.44	3.7

FORT WILLIAM WEATHER

THURSDAY
Sunny intervals and a gentle breeze
Temperatures 13°C to 22°C.

FRIDAY
Light rain and a gentle breeze 12°C to 19°C.

WEEKEND OUTLOOK
Saturday
Light rain / moderate breeze 13°C to 19°C.
Sunday
Light rain / moderate breeze 11°C to 15°C.

Tidal Constants:

(Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardishaig	-5.35	Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Portree	+0.55
Campbeltown	-5.30	Lochboisdale	+0.30	Tobermory	+0.16
Crinan	-0.47	Mallaig	+0.25	Dover	+5.30

FRIDAY FORECAST

HIGH 19 LOW 12 8 MPH