



## Show of solidarity for Oban BLM campaign



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# Crowdfunders smash James' COVID appeal

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



Crowdfunders have smashed a £15,000 target to help save lives at Oban hospital.

COVID-19 survivor James Scott said he was overwhelmed by the community and other wellwishers' generosity in helping raise funds for a special infection control room at Lorn and The Islands Hospital.

Now the 63-year-old granddad, who launched the online appeal as a thank you to hospital staff and escaped death twice during his own battle against the virus, is looking forward to handing over the cheque.

'It means a lot to me that so many people have responded. A lot of them are people I know but there are some who I've never met. There's also been much kindness from local businesses, said Mr Scott.

In just weeks, there have been donations from 187 supporters and the page will stay up for another week yet.

'I think a lot of donations have been made because of my mum who gave so much to the community as a volunteer, helping others out of the goodness of her heart and expecting nothing back. Whether it's been £2 or hundreds of pounds, it is all appreciated. I'm hoping once the room is up and running at the hospital, it'll be named

**'A lot of donations have been made because of my mum.'**

after her,' added Mr Scott who is recovering well.

He spent 38 days in hospital in Oban and in critical care at Glasgow's Queen Elizabeth University before he got finally got home. His much-loved mum Jessie passed away while he was in an induced coma, unaware she had contracted the disease.

Next week Mr Scott hopes to take delivery of a bench with a plaque for his mum to

go at the 18th tee-off point at Glencruitten Golf Club where Jessie was a member for many years - and he still is.

Playing golf is part of his recovery, and thanks to a cordless electronic caddy trolley he got for Father's Day he is managing to enjoy the game.

As well as individuals donations to the Justgiving page at [www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/jessie-james-scott](http://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/jessie-james-scott), contributions have come from Mr Scott's bosses at Glensanda, from Zeus engineering and MacQueen Bros Charitable Trust. Funds raised will help buy a special machine that pulls air into a controlled room then filters it before moving the air back out infection-free, keeping others safe.

Although these special rooms are a standard fixture in bigger hospitals with a dedicated infectious disease unit, it is not common to find them in hospitals the size of Oban.

More money is likely to be needed to go into the complex project to make it a success.

## Yarnbombers cosy up Rockfield



Anonymous knitters have been busy making colourful squares to bring lockdown cheer to Oban's Rockfield Centre. The plan is to use the shelter, which has been given a fresh lick of paint, for community activities later this summer while still sticking to COVID-19 guidelines.

The centre's heritage officer Elisabeth Stevenson, pictured above, said the generosity and creativity from the knitters and crocheters, who have dropped off their squares in a box left in the shelter, has been impressive. One knitter stitched all their squares into one banner spelling out Rockfield's name in the former school's colours. Tesco has also donated tables from its staff canteen to go in the shelter.

Turn to page two to read more about the centre getting ready to welcome back builders so the main building can be finished, ready for opening - fingers-crossed - this winter.

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OT

# Work on Rockfield is ready to restart soon

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Oban's Rockfield Centre is getting ready to welcome back the builders.

The massive refurbishment project transforming the former school into a full-on community centre was moving at a good pace until COVID-19 hit and shut it down.

Workers only had about three months worth of jobs left to do before they were forced to stop by the virus and drop tools, but The Rockfield Centre's project facilitator Eleanor MacKinnon has described lockdown as just 'a hiccup' and joiners and fitters will be starting again soon - hopefully in the next few weeks.

For The Rockfield Centre (TRC), the latest announcement of less tight restrictions on the construction sector has



come as welcome news. Ways of getting work back on track and keeping those workers safe from infection on site are being carefully thought out.

'Lockdown has been a hiccup. We only had about 12 weeks to go when everything had to shut down. We'd been hoping for a soft-launch of

the new centre in autumn but it'll probably be some time in the winter now. That's what we are hoping for. It won't be fully finished by then but we'll have the big spaces ready,' said Mrs MacKinnon.

Until then, more outside space has been freed up by giving the shelter area in the

**Work is about to restart on the Rockfield Centre and Oban Communities Trust are hopeful the centre can open with a soft launch in the winter.**

car park a bright makeover so it can hopefully host some social-distancing activities this summer for families.

'We are redoing the shelter area. The plan is we are going to use it for some social-distancing activities for people and families this summer if we can. We're going to cordon it and part of the car park off to make it a safe space,' added Mrs MacKinnon.

Picnic benches outside the temporary huts have also been socially distanced so people can meet up.

Community fundraising at TRC continues with more grants being sought out.

To help keep the town's residents entertained and virtually connected during lockdown, the centre has been running lots of virtual events from meetings to clubs, classes, an arts competition, Oban's alternative to Eurovision night and even a stand up comedy show.

TRC has also been teaming up with other organisations such as Hope and the Carers Centre to support people during tough times of the COVID-19 crisis, including becoming a PPE hub and running a book bank.

Mrs MacKinnon added: 'Just because building work had to stop, it's not stopped us from being busy. Oban has really stepped up to this COVID challenge and pulled out all the stops to support each other and we're proud to be part of it.'

## Estate agent appeals for nominations

Argyll Estate Agents has announced plans to giveaway a total of £1,000 to local charities.

People are encouraged to visit its Facebook page to submit nominations for up to £250. The company said it wanted to say a 'big thank you' to a registered charity in operation in Oban and the surrounding area.

'There are so many worthy causes to choose from we decided to run a nomination campaign to help us decide,' the company said.

To nominate, people have to like or follow its page at [www.facebook.com/argyllestategentsoban/](http://www.facebook.com/argyllestategentsoban/)

They must then leave a comment recommending a chosen registered charity.

It said: 'The registered charity with the most nominations at 5pm on June 30 will receive our donation.'

'Don't worry if you miss out this time we will run another Oban campaign for August.'

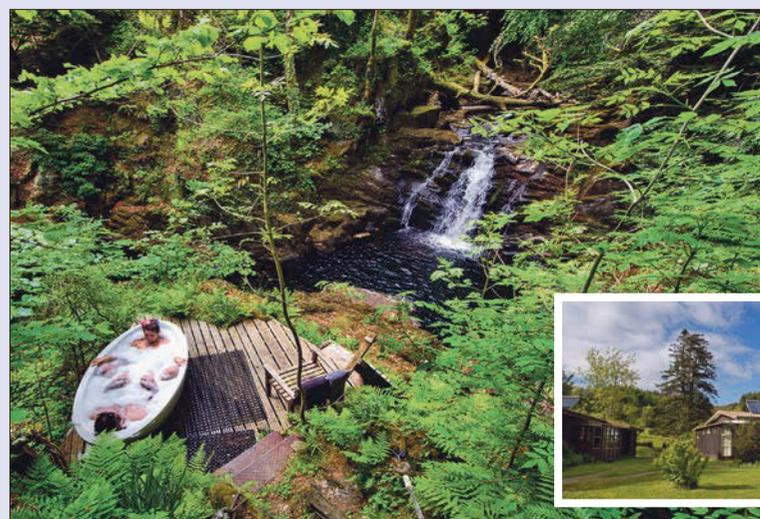
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The ecoYoga retreat boasts woodland baths and wild river swimming among other relaxing treats.



## Highland retreat for sale, with resident wildcat

A luxury retreat situated at the south end of Loch Awe is up for sale at a cool £1,350,000, writes Fiona Scott.

Founded and built by Nick and Rachel Loening in 2006, the ecoYoga Centre is set in five acres on the banks of the loch near the village of Ford and comes with its own renewable energy supply.

Built on the site of a former baronial mansion, the Loening's spent five years refurbishing the property from a former outdoors centre. The couple are now moving to Edinburgh and have put their labour of love on the market.

'After 15 years we wish to simplify our lives, find new directions; still in the Yoga world but also working with meditation and mindfulness,' said Nick.

'The 14 years that we have owned ecoYoga have been extremely enjoyable and we have loved living in such a beautiful place.'

The establishment also boasts the three-bedroom Inverliever Lodge, a second building with 10 bedrooms, a 'Geo Dome' with hot tub for eight and cold plunge pool, and an underground sauna.

Various other buildings include a yurt with insulation

'made from hi-tech NASA fabrics' that sleeps three.

The centre is temporarily closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic with Nick, Rachel, their family and staff all electing to self isolate there.

'We have been living here as one happy family, enjoying the peaceful nature and doing lots of gardening,' added Nick.

Whoever buys the property will also inherit resident feline Lily, an 11-year-old hybrid Scottish wildcat who loves to get her claws into visiting mice.

Human visitors are warned to pet her at their own risk.

# From Oban with love

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



About 200 people lined the seafront at Oban sending out a message of love and equality to all.

Georgie Stones and friends James MacIntyre and Issy Thomson who organised the silent show of solidarity along the esplanade were amazed but not surprised by the big turnout.

The three pals feeling 'fed-up and unhappy with the world' spread word of Friday's event online with Black Lives Matter Oban and other groups hoping people would accept the invite to join them in a show of support for people who have to fight for equal rights.

Georgie, 21 from Benderloch, said: 'It's warmed our hearts to see so many people turn out. People really do care. Today was proof that Oban wanted to show just how much diversity and equal rights matters.'

'Me and my friends were feeling fed-up and unhappy about what's happening in our world, with black people



having to ask not to be killed and decided we needed to take some kind of action, the silent show of solidarity was a way of getting started.

'We are all human, we all deserve to be treated the same. We've been able to stand here to openly show how we feel

and that we disagree with how people are treated wrongly in the world, but there are so many people who do not have that right and are oppressed. They have to fight for the rights that we are privileged to have, so the very least we can do is to stand here and show



Clockwise from top far left, friends James MacIntyre and Georgie Stones organised the silent show of solidarity with pal Issy Thomson; mother and daughter Rachel and Milly Rogers from Ardfern; Black, Scottish and Proud; and Little Oran MacKay came from Dunbeg with mum Briana Brewer and baby sister Aoife MacKay.

them our support.'

One of the youngest there was three-and-a-half month old Aoife MacKay with brother Oran and mum Briana Brewer from Dunbeg. Others had travelled from Kerrera and Mull to be there - some came from Appin, Taynuilt,

Kilchrenan and other villages around Oban, as well as the town itself. Rachel Rogers and daughter Milly, 20, travelled from Ardfern to join in.

'We have been talking about it at home and felt we should be here,' said Mrs Rogers. Milly

added: 'For a small community on the west coast of Scotland, it's still important that we show our solidarity and make a stand for equal rights.'

Matthew Houston, 17, from Taynuilt was joined by his sisters Katie and Sophie Houston.

'We want to see more education about racism and rights. We're here because we believe it should be on school curriculums,' he said.

Argyll and Bute councillor Kieron Green also took his place on the socially-distanced line that stretched all the way from Station Square past the Columba Hotel.

'I'm absolutely delighted by the number of people who have turned out and the way that people have conducted themselves. The vast majority of people have been wearing face coverings and have kept a distance. It's a real credit to people to show they care so much and to do it safely.'

**MOREPHOTOS**  
www.obantimes.co.uk

## Pogo Paul smashes fundraising total



Paul Gillespie's pogo stick skills have smashed his fundraising goal for Oban's Multiple Sclerosis Centre where his auntie Nik MacKechnie is manager.

The eight-year-old, who is a Park Primary pupil, hoped to make £200 by pogoing and walking 50kms in aid of the centre in Gencruitten Road but has managed to bring in more than £800.

The money has been handed over to the centre and will go towards keeping up its good work. Paul's aunty Nik said: 'We'll be organising a special thank you to Paul at the end of lockdown when it's safe. He's done a fabulous job.'

The centre is reopening gradually, now able to allow one person a day to use its oxygen therapy chamber. It is also helping people during the COVID-19 crisis by loaning out mobile oxygen machines, delivered to their doors, to help them stay well.

Anyone wanting to make a donation to the centre can drop off a donation but would need to ring ahead first on 01631 566602.

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OT

## Oban FM returns to new normal

Oban FM is getting back to the new normal, writes Kathie Griffiths.

The radio station is extending its programme schedule after First Minister Nicola Sturgeon announced the country was moving to phase two of the recovery routemap.

During lockdown many of its presenters were shielding from coronavirus, but the popular station managed to remain on air broadcasting four hours a day.

'We have been watching the COVID-19 announcements closely and felt it was time to move,' said Oban FM convenor Campbell Cameron.

Up until now the community-owned radio station has been keeping listeners up to date morning and night with breakfast and drivetime two-hour shows. Those will now extend to three hours each and similar length lunchtime and evening shows are being added to the running schedule.

'It's great to see our stalwarts back in place. We are continuing to social distance, of course, and we have a recorded hour between each show which gives those still isolating the chance to take



Oban FM convenor Campbell Cameron.

part remotely. It also keeps everyone safe with less chance of meeting in groups,' added Mr Cameron.

'It's been a difficult time for everyone but the positives have been working with the Oban Times and BID4OBAN to keep everyone connected and informed,' he said.

The What's In This Week's Oban Times? podcast airs on the Wednesday Drivetime and the Argyll Talking Newspapers review broadcasts at 7pm on Friday and Monday.

Oban FM has plans to make its new home, with a meeting room and two digital studios, happen at the revamped Rockfield Centre but needs in

the region of £50,000 to make it a reality.

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

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

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

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



Archaeologists will be doing some more work to unearth the past at Kilbride Kirk this month.

# Work on historic Kilbride carries on in lockdown

by Kathie Griffiths  
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Archaeologists will be digging up more of the past at Historic Kilbride later this month,

A wife and husband team from Argyll Archaeology based in Campbeltown will be able to safely work together without the worry of social distancing while the site is closed to the public during the coronavirus crisis.

The plan is to film their work and edit the highlights so the excluded public can go online to see what they find.

The couple will be digging two exploratory trenches either side of the entrance in a west gable wall that needs restoring and hope to be able to determine the original floor level of the prayer house and to see if there are any more graves.

Other work scheduled soon is minor repair work on the burial aisle and a photographic survey, involving Historic Environment Scotland, of the inside and outside elevations of the west gable wall.

COVID-19 has put pay to tourists for now and about 50 trips being organised by a travel company this year but at least the site's overheads are not as demanding as other tourist attractions in Argyll, says chairman of Friends of

Historic Kilbride Seymour Adams, pictured right.

'Our only overheads really are keeping the grass down. Lockdown at least means we can hunker down and can get on with some of the restoration work sticking to safe guidelines,' he said.

Talks are also ongoing about how the site can eventually reopen to the public with a one way in and one-way out route possibly on the cards, added Mr Seymour.

A planned open day to see a copy of the original Kilbride Church bell being cast so the replica can go on public view has been postponed until next year.

Last year the entire Kilbride site, including a prayer house and gravestones, was recognised by Historic Environment Scotland as a scheduled monument, highlighting the area's historical and ecclesiastical importance.

Funds are always needed to keep up conservation and preservation work on the Kilbride site, which includes a memorial aisle where MacDougall chiefs and notable family members have been buried since Jacobean times.

The site, once hidden behind trees and thick tangles of

bracken and bramble bushes, was uncovered by Myra and Liam Griffin, who bought the land in 2002. Realising the site had 'a past too rich to have no future', the Griffins

were instrumental in forming the Friends of Kilbride in 2015 and transferred the land title to the group three years later on a 99-year lease so it could attract funding.

The whole conservation project, covering three phases of works, could cost around £300,000 and take years to complete.

The Friends group received a grant of £7,000 from Carraig Gheal Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund but need more funding to keep up the work.

The Friends' annual general meeting last week had to be held on Zoom, with the advantage of bringing in a wider attendance, including representatives from Clan MacDougall in Canada and the USA, a trustee currently grounded in Australia and a distant clan member in North Sweden.

'It's one of those areas where I think the new normal will be different, but also substantially better,' said Mr Adams.

To find out more go to [friendsofkilbride.scot](http://friendsofkilbride.scot)



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## POLICE FILES

About 5.30pm on June 16, in Longsdale Road, Oban, a 28-year-old man was stopped and searched by police and found in possession of a small amount of cannabis. The man was charged and issued with a Recordable Police Warning.

About 6.30pm on June 16, at Soroba Road, Oban, a woman, 25, allegedly behaved in an abusive manner. She was cautioned, charged and a report will be sent to the Procurator Fiscal.

About 5pm on June 16, on the A83 near Cairndow, a 42-year-old man allegedly drove a motor vehicle in a careless manner. The man was cautioned and charged and a report will be submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

About 3pm on June 17, at the Corran Esplanade, Oban, a man, 19, drove in a careless manner. He was cautioned, charged and issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice.

About 3.30pm on June 18, at Quarry Road, Oban, a woman, 41, allegedly behaved in an abusive manner. The woman was subsequently cautioned and charged and a report will be sent to the Procurator Fiscal.

# Break-out budgie wings it with a Houdini habit

by Kathie Griffiths  
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A lost budgie that made a break for it three times during lockdown and survived a dramatic crow chase across Oban has been reunited at last with its owners on Tiree.

The epic tale of how family pet Leaf repeatedly gave home-alone dad Stewart MacLennan the slip is fast winging its way to legend status.

'You couldn't make it up if you tried!' said Stewart who was left in charge of Leaf and other budgie Sunshine when wife Julie and daughters Annie, nine, and Orla, seven, went to stay on Tiree.

Leaf waited until Stewart went out for a bike ride to make his first escape.

The unsuspecting dad-of-two had left the feathered friends outside their Soroba Road home for some air in the



birdcage after removing its base to clean it.

'When I got back, Leaf had disappeared. I couldn't work it out. Sunshine was still on his perch and the cage door was shut. There were no gaps big enough to squeeze through, it had me stumped,' said Stewart

who searched high and low for clues.

Red-faced he rang Julie to break the news, but the couple decided not to tell the girls the sad news straight away in case Leaf came back.

The next day a neighbour got in touch to say someone by the

Annie and Orla MacLennan reunited with pet budgies Leaf and Sunshine, safe on Tiree.

hospital had found a budgie fitting Leaf's description.

Stewart collected Leaf and the plan was to put both budgies on the next ferry to Tiree for safer-keeping. The cage was loaded into his van but had tipped up so when the doors of the van were opened Leaf managed to get out again.

'The back of the van was full of stuff. I was scrambling about trying to grab him but he flew off. I'm not an animal-lover at all but I did my best to catch him and get him back into the cage, putting a cover over this time. There was no way I was going to let him escape again - but he did.'

'I'd had to go off somewhere and got a call from work saying he'd got out again and was

flying about the shed. I tried to catch him but he flew away over the tops of other units in the yard and up into some trees before being chased by two big crows. I thought that was definitely the last of him and he'd be dead for sure.

'I rang Julie to tell the girls he'd gone for good and it would just be Sunshine heading to Tiree but as that budgie safely arrived on the island I got a message from another neighbour saying someone had spotted a green leaf-coloured budgie flying about town.

'To cut the story short, he got handed into the vets. He's now on Tiree, back with Sunshine and back with the girls. I don't think they'll leave him with me ever again.'

'We've worked it out now that he must've been using his beak to lift the cage latch and escape. We might have to rename him Houdini!'

## Invading sheep drive street barmy

Residents in Oban say they are being driven 'barmy' by visiting sheep fouling pavements, waking up shift workers and creating an accident risk, writes Ellis Butcher.

The wayward flock are also munching their way across gardens - damaging ornaments and devouring lovingly-tended flowers and expensive plants.

The early morning visitors to the McKelvie Road area have been known to number as many as 20, say residents, who take pride in their homes and simply want the flock fenced in properly.

They have raised concerns about responsibility if a pet dog on the estate worried one of the sheep, or if sheep caused a traffic accident.

Police have reportedly told residents they have limited powers and 'can't arrest sheep'. Residents claim the buck keeps being passed and has been for more than a decade.

Donald MacFarlane, of McKelvie Road, said the sheep were wriggling through gaps in fencing between farmland and the ongoing housing development. A cow had even appeared in the street recently.

Mr MacFarlane said that in the 12 years he had lived there, the problem had never been sorted out, yet the sheep never



Residents are worried sheep will cause a car accident.

escaped during lambing.

'Twelve years we have been fobbed off with either no answer at all, little answer or poor excuses.

'It might sound petty, but if you put nice garden ornaments out the front of the house they all end up smashed to pieces. If you have flowers, they eat them until the flowers are dead. The kids get sheep droppings on their feet and walk it into the house or the car - it gets everywhere.'

'We spend money, time and effort and then find it's all wrecked.'

Linda Price, aged 63, and support worker Alan Turner, aged 59, said they had invested a lot of time with roses, rhododendrons, pansies, and

ornaments. They had also bought extra fencing to keep the sheep out.

Linda said: 'It's our first home together, we really do take pride in it and the garden is very therapeutic. But you really are watching where you walk.'

WHAH chief executive Lesley MacInnes pledged that the issue would be looked into and the association would try to find a solution.

She said she fully understood the problems caused and would raise it with local councillors, adding representations had been made and it was hoped that a discussion could be held to resolve the problems.

For more on this story, visit [www.obantimes.co.uk](http://www.obantimes.co.uk)



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OT

## Around Oban

KAY MCDONALD  
editor@obantimes.co.uk

We're now another step along the lockdown path with more and more shops announcing that they'll be reopening on Monday June 29.

I'm seeing lots of premises getting fresh coats of paint and refurbished and it looks as if we may have one or two new shops opening in the not so distant future to add to the wonderful array that we already have.

I can't tell you how delighted I am that I'll be able to shop for presents and household items that I've not wanted to buy online – I much prefer to see what I'm getting and have a choice.

Internet shopping has been a lifesaver lately and I have been grateful for it, but nothing beats shopping locally where you have a selection you can see, feel, smell or even taste in front of you.

Those small businesses

which have been so good to us and useful in the past now need all the help and support we can give them.

Three months of business has gone and as a community we have to do what we can to support the Oban business community and help them get back on their feet.

Our community has really pulled together in these extraordinary times and now isn't the time to stop, it's time for us to remember the businesses who have offered raffle prizes, supported local events and been there when we've needed them.

Now they need us to return the favour and use them or we may be in danger of losing the vibrant main street we have, for both us locals and the visitors when they're able to return.

The photograph in my last column was of the window above the door in Jackson Bros Butchers.

This week's photograph is slightly further afield.

# Rosy outlook for kirk as St Conan's window restored

by Kathie Griffiths

kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Work on St Conan Kirk's restored rose window is due to reach completion this week.

Craftsman Will MacKenzie from Taynuilt has been at the historic church at Lochawe fitting a new frame for the south-west facing window. The 60 stained glass sections, 27 of them depicting cherubs, were also back on site ready and waiting to go in.

Last summer it took three craftsmen two days to carefully take out the impressive window after damp had seeped in over the years and the frame holding it had become insecure.



Top, Will and Taeko MacKenzie piece together the new rose window frame at St Conan's Kirk; above left, the new frame has been made from European Oak; above right, the new rose window frame is pieced together ready for the stained glass panels; and right, Sections of the new rose window frame waiting to go in.



With help from wife Taeko, Will used European Oak to work from a full-size template and make a modern-day copy of the wheel-like window with a diameter of eight foot, made up of 12 segments where every millimetre measurement mattered.

The plan had been to install the window earlier this year, but the schedule was scuppered by coronavirus, which meant St Conan's had to be closed to visitors.

However, some work still managed to go ahead by sticking to COVID-19 restrictions.

Last week Will and Taeko had to climb up scaffolding carrying each of the segments to

piece it together ready for the stained glass that has undergone a makeover brightening up the cherubs, cleaning the glass and making repairs.

The window's glass was all hand-painted in the Victorian style by Helen Campbell, sister of the kirk's architect and founder Walter Douglas-Campbell.

St Conan's has plans for the old window frame, which will go on show re-assembled as part of an exhibition once the crypt area reopens to the public.

As part of that project, children are going to be invited to come up with their own designs to fill one of the win-

dow frame's quadrants, other sections will include write-ups from the craftspeople about their restoration work and the challenges they faced during it.

Fundraising is ongoing to help pay for a big programme of restoration work at the church.

To make a donation go to [stconanskirk.org.uk](http://stconanskirk.org.uk) or send a cheque payable to Friends of St Conan's to The Secretary, Beechwood, Lochaber, Argyll, PA33 1AH.

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# Cafe culture plan for Oban?

by Ellis Butcher  
ebutcher@obantimes.co.uk



A popular cafe in Oban is hoping to bring a taste of continental culture to the town as local businesses come back from the lockdown.

Donna and Archie MacCulloch, who own Roxy's Coffee and Tea House, have proposed creating a 'smart chic' outdoor seating area on Airds Crescent, complete with bicycle parking.

The Argyll Square cafe has an access point onto the one-way street and it would require the use of two to three council-owned car parking spaces to accommodate up to 20 customers for takeaways.

The seated area would be secure and facing the pavement for safety.

The idea has been raised with councillors and the cafe has proposed making a contribution to the council to cover lost parking revenue.

Professional plans have been drawn-up, although no formal



Donna and Archie MacCulloch, left, and the proposed outdoor seating area.

decision has been made and the idea would need approval from the council.

Closed since March 19, the popular cafe has been in the town for 13 years. It employs seven staff.

Prior to the pandemic, it was able to accommodate 64 people indoors but with

two-metre social distancing rules, that inside space could be slashed to just 20 – putting a question mark over its long-term viability.

Donna MacCulloch said that in light of the pandemic, a 'new approach' to help businesses adjust was required, and that the move would help

demonstrate that the cafe is still open as the town attempts to come back from three months of lockdown.

Initial response to the idea had been 'positive,' she said, although it remained in the hands of councillors.

The idea has already won the backing of Andy Spence, of

BID4Oban, who said he was 'fully supportive' of businesses wanting to explore new ideas.

Mr Spence said: 'We would also say that in these difficult times for businesses, there may be situations where we need to free-up some on-street car parking spaces to allow businesses to do that safely, if it's permissible.'

'No one likes taking car parking spaces away from the town but we also want to have businesses in the town and we need to be as flexible as possible.'

He said Argyll and Bute Council was considering 'lots of possibilities' for Oban going forward. It has established an

officer-led group looking at the easing of lockdown and the reopening of businesses, of which Mr Spence feeds in the views of local businesses.

Mr Spence added: 'We are trying to find simple solutions. We want to be able to issue the correct instructions to businesses for reopening and we want to do it once and once only, and get it right.'

First Minister Nicola Sturgeon said: 'We will continue to support preparations for reopening, for example, by encouraging local authorities to facilitate the use of open outdoors spaces that pubs and restaurants can use for additional space.'



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OT

# Bonawe school buy-out bid moves ever closer

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Ardchattan community is moving another step closer to buying Bonawe School.

Sian Griffiths who is secretary of The Ardchattan Centre has now submitted an application for a second-helping of money from the Scottish Land Fund and the outcome should be known by October.

The project team behind The Ardchattan Centre has been working with Argyll and Bute Council and other partners to get the ambition of turning the former school building into a bustling community hub.

As part of a 'radical rethink' on how the project will work post COVID-19, project workers are looking for more input from the community to help draw up a new plan and a Zoom meeting will be organised soon to help explore ideas.



Initial plans had included using the centre for workshops, evening classes, a bakery and cafe, as well as a meeting space for the whole community and for events - the idea of providing holiday accommodation had also been part of the package.

Mrs Griffiths told us: 'Tourism won't be the same

for quite a while because of COVID, it was going to be a big earner to help us cover self-financing costs for the centre - if we get the school. Providing holiday accommodation had been one of the money-making ideas. We will have to have a rethink of some of the plans.'

The project had already

Sian Griffiths, secretary of The Ardchattan Centre.

received £6,360 as first-stage funding from the Scottish Land Fund hailing it as another milestone in its quest to transform the school premises into a centre-for-all.

The second chunk of funding, if successful, will cover the cost of the community buy-out. The school has been valued.

The SLF bid that has just gone in, is for the second-stage of funding to move it nearer its goal of buying the school from the council.

The first allocation of SLF money was used to fund feasibility work from surveyors, valuers, structural engineers and an architect, making sure the building would be an asset for the community for years to come and not a burden.

The project was also previously awarded £10,000 funding from the Scottish Government's Launch Me fund to help progress its five-year business plan if an asset transfer from Argyll and Bute Council for community ownership went ahead.

Council members have already agreed a recommendation from officers that education at Bonawe School would be permanently discontinued from October 31 last year and it was finally approved by Scottish Ministers earlier this year.

Profits eventually made from the centre, once established, would be put to purpose, running more community services. An electric bus, with a charging point at the centre, was requested by 66 per cent of people who responded to an earlier wish-list survey.

## Cathedral set to reopen for private prayer

Prayers are answered at St John's Cathedral in Oban as it prepares to reopen, writes Kathie Griffiths.

After weeks of lockdown and online prayer time only, the cathedral in George Street is making plans to finally open its doors again but only for private prayer.

The Very Reverend Canon Margi Campbell, Provost and Rector of St John's Episcopal Cathedral, says it means the cathedral is moving from 'virtual to reality.'

'Over the past months it has been so hard to see the doors of St John's Episcopal Cathedral closed, but we have seen clearly, that the love of God and the active prayers of the people are not confined by walls or stone.'

'However, as the lockdown slowly eases, we are relieved and delighted to be able to prepare to reopen our doors and welcome people back into St John's to pray, or to find a moment of stillness surrounded by the prayers of generations soaked into the walls,' she said.

Government guidelines now allow access but the Cathedral is still applying for the Bishop's permission by outlining all the steps and measures it plans to put in place to make sure, as best it possibly can, to keep everyone who enters safe.

'Initially we will be opening twice a week, with stewards there to welcome and assist. The space between 72 hours allows the natural degradation of any virus,' said the Very Rev Campbell.

The plan is to start the weekly opening from early July on Wednesdays from 10am to noon and then Sundays from 10am to 11am. Dates will be confirmed when every is cleaned and in place. People seeking a space just to be still and silent are also welcome. The Cathedral will keep offering its Virtual Moment of Peace via a YouTube link for people who cannot come in at the set times and new music is being recorded ready for the next one.

'This is the first step in returning the Cathedral to be a place where worship can be offered, but until we can all gather together again, our weekly Eucharist will also be available through our website.'

'We will keep praying for all who have been and are still struggling in any way, for all shielding or missing loved ones and friends; and give thanks for all who have been our rocks of stability and care in our daily lives,' added the Very Rev Campbell.

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## Sisters win 'all on their Tod'

When COVID-19 silenced this year's Mods, young musicians at Oban High School decided to compose an event of their own, writes Kathie Griffiths.

The school's String Group came up with The Mod on your Tod and decided it should go ahead on June 16, the day they should have been performing at Iona Abbey.

There were three categories - music, art and creative writing, all based on traditional Scottish tunes, said String Group tutor Hazel Clark.

Ten students took part, all in S2 to S4, and a poll was cast for the top three in each category, tallying the votes to decide the overall winner.

'They worked hard and produced some highly creative work, serious and light-hearted. We had a fiddler up a tree, a one-man video compilation on fiddles and guitar, a Fingal's Cave comic, a short story about The Dark Island and plenty more,' said Hazel.

The outright winners were sisters Ruby, 15, and 12-year-



old Tara Heritage Crabb, pictured, from North Connell who played Calum's Road on fiddle and clarsach, combined with a painting to depict the story of Calum MacLeod of Raasay,

all put together in a video.

'Prizes were our very own Mod on your Tod trophy and chocolates which we were delighted to be able to get from the Oban Chocolate Factory.'

'It was fun to do but we hope we won't be doing it again next year and can get back to the Mods and performances we love best,' said Hazel.

### Results:

Music: 1st Edie Elliott, 2nd Ruby and Tara Heritage Crabb, 3rd Dylan Howe

Art: 1st Ruby and Tara Heritage Crabb, 2nd Billie Spicer-Lambert, 3rd Katie MacLellan

Creative writing: 1st Fiona Cruickshank, 2nd Katie MacLellan, 3rd Eva Bonetti

Overall winners: 1st Ruby and Tara Heritage Crabb, 2nd Fiona Cruickshank, 3rd Katie MacLellan

# From Tiree with love...

by Fiona Scott  
fscott@obantimes.co.uk



An observational documentary series following the lives of the islanders on Tiree will be broadcast on BBC ALBA from Tuesday July 7 at 8.30pm.

Na Tiristich – From Tiree with Love – was filmed over a six-month period, from June to December, last year by independent Glasgow-based TV production company Corcadal Productions, headed up by Christine Morrison.

Christine set up Corcadal 12 years ago and has been working in television production for the past 27 years. Working with a small team the company have managed to capture what it's like to live and work on the island.

'We all really enjoyed spending time on Tiree and getting to know our contributors on our many visits to the island,' said Christine.

The series itself was filmed by a small crew of two – Christine as producer, director and sound recordist, working with three different freelance cameramen who, she said were 'all excellent' – Alasdair Maclean



from Inverness, Paul Riley (Killearn) and Phil Gurney (Linlithgow).

Programme one features Rhoda Meek, who moved to Tiree several years ago. Rhoda's Dad comes from Tiree and Rhoda has renovated the house her dad grew up in on the island. With no crofting experi-

ence prior to moving to the island, Rhoda now has Hebridean sheep and is training a collie dog, Gunna. There is also an insight into Fèis Thiriodh, the annual music tuition festival for children, and a meeting with William Maclean who runs a watersports business on the island.

The crew also meet father and son Alastair and Iain MacInnes who are keen and active crofters.

Programme two sees the islanders prepare for the busiest weekend of the year – the 10th Tiree Music Festival – with festival director Stewart MacIannan and others from

**Tiree Wave Classic is organised by William Maclean and is an annual feature of the island's calendar.**

team TMF. Rhoda, Alastair and Iain are busy preparing for another big community event, the Tiree Cattle Show, and the traditional dipping lug sail boats take part in the annual regatta at Gott Bay.

Programme three has more from the Tiree Music Festival. Gordon Connell, who has been teaching accordion on the island for 50 years, features along with Stewart MacIannan and Skerryvore's Daniel Gillespie. The team also meet young Tiree musicians and entrepreneurs Ian Smith and Alain Campbell (from Trail West) who have set up Tyree Gin. Rhoda, Alastair and Iain take their lambs to the sale and there's a visit the watersports club for children.

The Tiree Wave Classic features in episode four. William Maclean organises the event and he and his family love it. A visit to the island of Lunga with Frazer and Donnie Macinnes from Tiree Sea Tours also plays a part in the final instalment.

Na Tiristich is the fourth island-based observational documentary series Corcadal have made for BBC ALBA. Previous series were made in Harris, Uist and Skye.

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# Innovation helping turn

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. As more and more companies continue to get back to work, we look at how the financial support is helping firms across the nation to adapt, innovate and protect jobs. Here is an example of how one company has been helped, and what support is available.

WHEN THE Covid-19 pandemic arrived the chief executive officer of East Lothian firm Sunamp, knew the company could respond. Andrew Bissell (right) said: "A week into lockdown I woke up in the middle of the night and just thought 'we have to do something that makes the business relevant in this crisis.'"

Mr Bissell turned to Sunamp's innovative technology, developed in partnership with the University of Edinburgh.

The company has led the way in the manufacture of heat batteries that store heat energy rather than electricity like conventional batteries.

The applications of the technology span several industries, but the company's focus has so far been on offering a product that replaces the hot water tank in heating systems with something smaller and more efficient.

Recognising the potential of the technology in the context of Covid-19, Sunamp was one of more than 8,600 companies to apply for grant funding from Innovate UK, the UK Government's innovation agency.

In April, Innovate UK launched the Fast Start initiative, with £40m of



time, but as we head into winter, if you have to wash your hands outside a railway station or supermarket or vaccination centre, it will be much more pleasant to have warm water."

The idea has gained traction with Sunamp's clients, with inquiries coming in rapidly even though the finished product is still in development.

Mr Bissell said: "Covid-19 is a global problem so there's widespread interest."

"Sunamp has partnerships and licensing arrangements with businesses all around the world through which it sells its heat batteries, so the ambition for the mobile units is international."

For Mr Bissell, the appeal of the project is that in addition to its obvious commercial potential, there's a real societal benefit.

"There is no minimising the negatives of Covid-19," he said.

"But there are many people stepping and doing amazing things."

Working with everything from gas boilers to solar and heat pumps, Sunamp says its Heat Batteries deliver hot water with efficiency and proven savings of up to 75 per cent on utility bills in residential, commercial or industrial settings.

funding available to companies responding to the pandemic with some form of innovation.

In the end, Sunamp was one of 800 companies to secure a grant.

The £50,000 award is being used to develop mobile handwash units that can be installed in locations where people lack access to hygiene facilities that can help prevent the spread of Covid-19.

Mr Bissell said: "You don't need hot water to wash your hands, but it is much more comfortable."

"Right now, we're dealing with the virus in the summer



**FINDING A SOLUTION:** Staff working at the Sunamp site in East Lothian (and right).

# ride on uncertain times

SOURCE: HER MAJESTY'S TREASURY

**628,200**

jobs in Scotland have been furloughed through the Coronavirus Jobs Retention Scheme up to May 31.

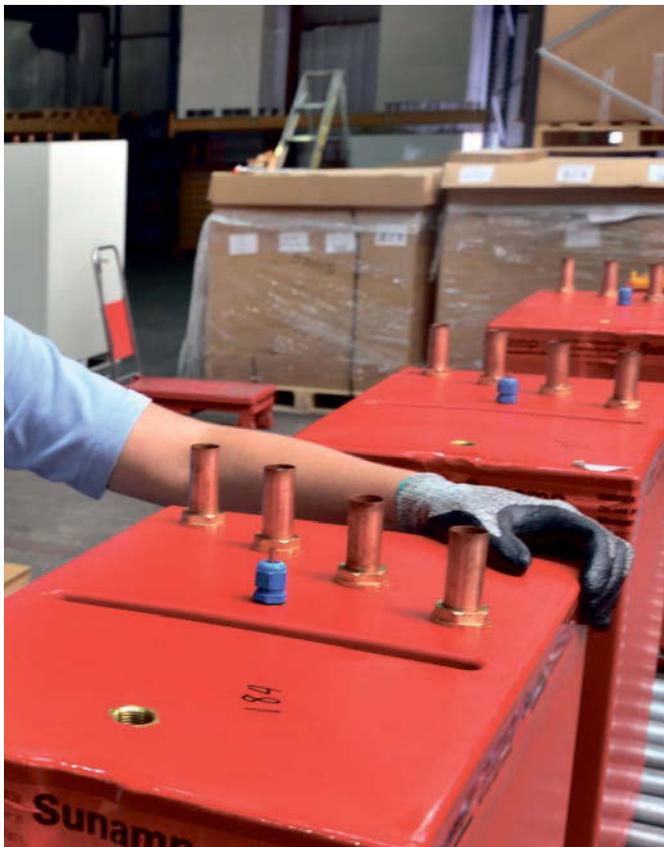
**146,000**

claims amounting to £425 million through the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme up to May 31.

**70% (UK wide)**

of those eligible for SEISS made a claim. The average value of a claim is around £2,900.

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



## Support on offer to aid your business

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.

■ 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.

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

■ 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.



Keep our distance,  
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and play our part.

OT



David Liddell, CEO of Scottish Drugs Forum.

## New training scheme offers addiction worker opportunities

A new training and jobs project for people with experience of drug or alcohol problems is looking for recruits in the Highlands and Islands, writes kathie griffiths.

The pilot scheme has been modelled on an award-winning Addiction Worker Training Project running successfully in other parts of Scotland since 2004.

Those taking part will be supported over nine months to get a recognised qualification in Health and Social Care, while gaining work experience from placements in services near them.

The Recovery Worker Training Project (RWTP) is being run by the Scottish Drugs Forum (SDF) in partnership with Highlands and Islands Alcohol

and Drug Partnership (ADP). David Liddell, CEO of Scottish Drugs Forum, said: 'Over the years, our experience elsewhere in Scotland has been that above 80 per cent of those graduating from the paid employment programme go on to work in either addiction services or the wider social care services. The programme therefore not only benefits individuals, but also local services seeking to recruit motivated and skilled workers.'

As well as helping services and developing their own skills and confidence, the trainees also get a weekly wage.

The deadline for RWTP in the Highlands and Islands is noon on Tuesday July 21. Interested? Visit [www.sdf.org.uk/jobs](http://www.sdf.org.uk/jobs) to learn how to apply.

# £250,000 'lifeline' loan for island's biggest employer

by Ellis Butcher

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



An educational charity on the Isle of Coll has received a £250,000 'lifeline' loan.

Project Trust at Ballyhaugh, received the sum under the Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme (CBILS), which is partially underwritten by the UK Government.

The charity specialises in international volunteering and is the single biggest employer on Coll with 25 employees.

It relies on young people raising money ahead of vital volunteering abroad and expects to lose over £700,000 of fundraising income.

It supports up to 300 young people each year experience life in Asia, Africa, the Americas and Oceania.

Working with partners, young people become valued members of a local community for up to 12 months.

They help in activities from teaching to social care and outdoor education projects - having to spend the year before their trip fundraising for the charity.

When the pandemic hit, Project Trust had more than 200 young people across several



Ingrid Emerson MBE, of Project Trust on Coll.

continents who all needed to be repatriated.

The Project Trust team said it worked tirelessly to get its volunteers home, describing it as its 'single biggest challenge' of its 53-year history.

It was also forced to stop its recruitment programme in schools.

The loan provided by Clydesdale Bank, owned by Virgin Money UK, will help with cash flow and allow the organisation to continue to pay for ongoing running costs as it implements a recovery plan.

Project Trust is also looking at other sources of funds. This includes launching an urgent appeal on its website through Virgin Money.

In, it plans to explore financial

aid available from emergency funds and grant-giving bodies, and securing funding from Charitable Trusts.

Ingrid Emerson MBE, chief executive of Project Trust, said: 'The charitable sector has been severely affected by COVID-19.

'While there has been a considerable amount of generosity by the public, the cancellation of programmes and fundraising will be catastrophic for many without support from outside organisations.

'The loan from Clydesdale Bank is a lifeline, allowing us to continue our operations, albeit on a reduced scale, providing us with additional time to rebuild the charity even if in a different size and shape.

'As the single biggest employ-

er on the Isle of Coll, we have a responsibility to do all we can to re-imagine our projects post-pandemic to make sure we can return to supporting the community and sending young people overseas again.

'The CBILS loan will help to bridge that gap and enable Project Trust to survive the biggest challenge it has ever encountered.'

'It is vital that Project Trust survives this pandemic because young people, whose whole lives will be affected by this crisis, need us now more than ever to gain the skills they need to succeed.'

Kenny Reilly, relationship manager at Clydesdale Bank, said: 'Being able to keep not only businesses, but charitable organisations afloat both during and after the COVID-19 crisis is important.

'The UK is fortunate to have a rich tapestry of organisations in the charity sector. Whether based in big cities or on small islands, Clydesdale Bank is passionate about making sure we can provide support to those that need it, when they need it.

'We want to make sure that those in the charity sector, like Project Trust, can remain operational now and in the weeks and months ahead.'



  
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Please do not leave your home except to get tested to keep others safe. If symptoms worsen or last for more than seven days, call **111**.

If the test is positive, NHS Scotland will confidentially ask who you've had close contact with recently. This is so we can let those people know they may be at risk, request they do not leave home for 14 days, and offer them a test if appropriate.

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For more information go to [NHSinform.scot/test-and-protect](https://nhsinform.scot/test-and-protect)



OT

# The champion of Canna: Magda

Tributes have been paid to retired Canna House archivist Magda Sagarazazu who died aged 70.

Mrs Sagarazazu 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 (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.'



Magda on the pier on Canna.

Mrs Sagarazazu 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 TighArd 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 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 a 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 archiving the extensive archive.

'After John and Margaret died, Magda continued on with the archiving and cataloguing of the Campbells 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

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# Magda Sagarazazu



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.

Magda with NTS's Canna House archivist Fiona Mackenzie.



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 Doirlinn 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.

## Preparations under way to restart ferry terminal repairs on Tiree

Preparations to resume repair work at Tiree Ferry Terminal have started, writes Ellis Butcher.

Caledonian Maritime Assets Limited (CMAL), which owns the ferry terminal, is repairing the old pierhead. Work was postponed when the coronavirus lockdown came into force.

CMAL's contractor, George Leslie Ltd, said it would have a small team on site for two weeks to prepare for the project to restart.

CMAL is following the guidance in the six-step restart plan agreed by the Scottish Government and the construction industry. The first two steps of the construction plan involve arranging COVID-19 related measures.

Site preparation works involve implementing physical distancing, marking of two metre distancing and installation of additional hand washing and sanitiser provisions.

The preparations will allow the sites and work areas to be ready, said CMAL.

Contractors George Leslie Ltd said it has put in place 'robust plans' to ensure the safety of the community and its staff.

It said a small number of personnel will stay in self-catering accommodation and their interactions with the local community will be minimal by avoiding other public places, arranging grocery deliveries to site and engaging with Calmac terminal staff through email and telephone only. They will

also follow guidance in the event that anyone becomes unwell during the works, the company said.

The move to the next step of the plan – a 'soft start' with limited personnel on site – is still subject to Scottish Government confirmation.

CMAL said it would provide an update in due course.

Nasir Uddin, senior civil engineer at CMAL, said: 'The health and safety of island communities, our employees and suppliers are a priority.'

'We welcome the opportunity to get our harbour maintenance and upgrade programme under way again, and we await further guidance as to when we can progress beyond site preparation.'

## Lewis-based business 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, pictured above, 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



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 mem-

ory for everything he has contributed 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.'

### A WORLD IN DISTRESS - SIGNS OF THE PROMISED RETURN OF JESUS CHRIST TO BRING AN END TO HUMAN RULE

Jesus was asked by his disciples, "What shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?" Matt. 24 v 3

He said, "Nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes in diverse places. All these things are the beginning of sorrows." Matt. 24 v 7 - 8

He also said that there would be "distress of nations with perplexity" i.e. distress with no way out. Luke 21 v 25-26

Jesus is to "judge the world in righteousness." Acts 17v31

He is the Great King who will reign at Jerusalem over all nations. Matt. 5 v 35, Psalm 2 v 6 - 8 and Isaiah 2 v 1 - 4

After the coming time of great trouble (Daniel 12 v 1), the Kingdom of Jesus will bring peace and blessing upon the earth, the peace on earth promised when he was born. Psalm 72 and Luke 2 v 14.

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The Local Secretary, The Household of Faith,  
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# BUSINESS NEWS

## Scottish pubs unviable with two-metre rule, says survey

Scotland's pubs could be decimated if social distancing guidelines are not re-examined in time for the provisional reopening on July 15.

A survey, which covered more than 300 pubs across Scotland, found it would not be financially viable for almost nine out of 10 landlords if the two-metre distancing guidelines were still in place, said the Scottish Beer and Pub Association (SPBA). That could potentially lead to the direct loss of more than 23,600 jobs within the trade, it warned.

Scotland's independent restaurant and pub businesses have urged the Scottish Government to have a one-metre rule for social distancing, which it says is in line with World Health Organisation (WHO) guidance.

Emma McClarkin, chief executive of the Scottish Beer & Pub Association, said: 'The results make for stark reading. Not only will 87 per cent of those surveyed be unable to open, those that can trade at the two-metre mark will potentially have to let 52 per cent of staff go. This would lead to more than 23,600 jobs losses in our sector alone.'

'Keeping a two-metre rule in place simply does not make financial sense and the fall out will see the loss of thousands of jobs affecting both the Scottish economy and local communities in the process.'

'We have seen within the survey that whilst implementing a controlled environment to protect both customers and staff and dropping social distancing measures to one metre, we will see 82 per cent of licensed businesses being able to open their doors to the public and provide a much needed boost to the industry.'

The Scottish Government has said previously it was 'essential' that reopening of the sector was on a 'phased and gradual' approach to protect public health.

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

# Moira creates a soothing solution to lockdown training

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



A North Connel mum has invented a new body balm to sooth sporty types back to full fitness as lockdown eases.

Entrepreneur Moira Newiss has launched her own eco-friendly skincare brand and called it SKIRR, an old Scottish word meaning glide. Appropriately enough, her first product is an anti-chafing balm.

Moira's sport body balm, that started out in the spare bedroom she has turned into a mini-lab, is for runners, cyclists, outdoor swimmers and surfers to stop annoying rubbing.

It is both good for their skin and good for the planet, she says because it is made from natural and organic ingredients and has minimal pack-

## The balm was tested by volunteers who took part in January's gruelling Tyndrum24 Ultra.

aging made from recycled cardboard produced in the UK.

Moira completed her cosmetic formulation training through an accredited online Organic Cosmetic Formulation School and is just finishing a three-year diploma in Nutritional Therapy. Her final exam is next week.

Daily exercise whether it has been people pounding the roads or getting on bikes has helped lots of people keep tabs on their mental health during tight COVID-19 restrictions and Moira believes many will keep up new-found fitness habits putting her skin care bigger demand.

To get online orders out to customers, Moira uses her bike to cut down her carbon footprint and get them to the post office, on a route down the side of Loch Etive then across Connel Bridge.



Moira has been using her bike to take her spots body balm, below, to the post office for sending out to online customers.

The balm was tested out by volunteers who took part in January's gruelling Tyndrum24 Ultra where individual winners clocked more than 100 miles in just 24 hours.

'It was a true test of grit and determination in the Scottish Highlands with six hours of darkness and in mid-winter. Feedback on how the balm topped blisters and chafing was amazing,' said Moira.

A film of the Tyndrum24 Ultra can be watched at [youtu.be/9hrQfIKqOok](https://youtu.be/9hrQfIKqOok).

Lucky for Moira, the Scottish-based social enterprise that makes the balm for SKIRR made plenty of it before lockdown as it is now busy making hand sanitiser for the government.

The brand had identified partnerships to sell at 2020 eco-friendly sporting events such as the Lochness360 but due to coronavirus, it and other events have been cancelled so SKIRR's marketing focus has moved online.

Support from local athletes who are customers and are sharing it on social media feeds means a lot to Moira who is also using Instagram to share her own sporting adventures as well as win new clients.

New products in the pipeline are an anti-friction cream and an anti-fungal foot balm.

Interested in finding out more go to [skirrskin.co.uk](https://skirrskin.co.uk) or SKIRR's Instagram/Facebook handle @skirr\_skin

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**ANGUS MACDONALD**

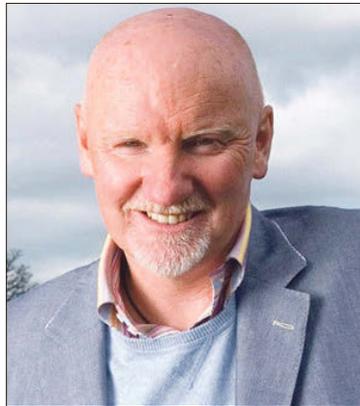
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## Essential to have business experience in governments to save our economy

So, every announcement from both the Prime Minister and First Minister these days mentions the economy, as well it should. The UK economy is heading for its biggest annual slump in three centuries. The impact of the loss of jobs, delayed care for other medical complications, and declining mental health are beginning to far exceed the impact of the virus.

The Westminster Government is no great shakes, but like all readers of this newspaper, I'd like the Scottish economy to be comparable with the best in the world and to do that we need to have the most appropriate people to advise us.

Thousands of jobs are being shed each week, and as furloughing ebbs this will accelerate. Andrew Wilson,



**Sir Tom Hunter**

a former SNP MSP and Ms Sturgeon's head of Growth Commission, has predicted that Scotland's economic recovery from the virus will be the worst in the developed world and said, 'Poverty will kill many more than COVID.' We have desperate times ahead. Scotland's growth has been anaemic since the oil price peaked in 2014, and despite committee after com-

mittee little has actually happened. We need a thriving business community: it is successful companies offering lots of well-paid jobs and all concerned paying taxes that fund the public sector. Without this money coming in teachers, health workers etc. will not be affordable.

Nicola Sturgeon is a lawyer by profession. The world of business is alien to her. Her ministers have minimal business experience: the ministers with an economy or business brief include her deputy, John Swinney, 23 years a politician, Kate Forbes, the finance minister, studied history before becoming an accountant in a bank briefly, and Fiona Hyslop, a lifelong politician who has an arts degree.

There is a minister for business, anyone know who? He studied history and politics and has only ever worked in politics. I spoke at an entrepreneurial event at The University of the Highlands and Islands and asked the hundred-strong audience, and no one there had the answer either. It's Jamie Hepburn, of course.

A basic tenet of success in business is to surround yourself with experts in the field who know about the importance of growth, have handled crises throughout economic collapses; people who have real credibility. So quite rightly, the Scottish Government has established an 'advisory group on economic recovery,' which reported last Monday recommending a focus on education, the environment, employment and equality.

So who was appointed to join this crucial body? The colossus of Scottish business: Sirs Ian Wood, Tom Hunter, Brian Souter or Martin Gilbert? Perhaps the head of Baillie Gifford or Aggreko?

No, it's chaired by Benny Higgins, a highly regarded banker, and included are the outgoing general secretary of the Scottish TUC, the principal of Glasgow University and the economist John Kay. Apart from the chairman, the other members of the committee are four academics, two lifelong public-sector employees, and a trade unionist.

As the Sunday Times noted, key points made at their recent meeting included 'opportunities for carbon capture and sequestration' and what Scotland can offer 'Future international trading and investment partners to help in the green recovery towards a wellbeing economy.' Will that really reassure the business owners in Oban who have seen a 68 per cent drop in debit card use compared to the same period last year as tourists stay away?

With the economy having contracted by 25 per cent since the outbreak of COVID-19, and massive unemployment coming, we are in a desperate state. Do we really have the right team guiding us towards safer economic times?

Successful business people have suffered the gut-wrenching, cold sweat-inducing fear of failing to meet payroll as well as mustered the courage to take on a new factory or adopt a brave business expansion plan. We need the titans of business to get together and plot our way out of this financial mess.

# Oban man's work recognised with Merchant Navy training award



**Craig McKenzie**

An Oban man studying to be an officer in the Merchant Navy has been recognised with an award by Clyde Marine Training.

Craig McKenzie, aged 30, has been named Deck Cadet of the Year for the City of Glasgow College 2020.

Mr McKenzie started studying with Clyde Marine Training in September 2017, and spent time in college and onboard ships.

He said he was happy to have won the award and it came as surprise. He receives a certificate and £50.

It was working at the CalMac office in Oban, where he decided on a career at sea.

He said: 'I really enjoyed being at sea as it

allowed me to put all of the theory learned in college to practical use.

'Although it was tough being away from family for extended periods of time, I also had the opportunity to see places I never thought I would.

'I have been lucky enough to travel to all continents except for South America during my cadetship.

'I've also made friendships with a number of people from all around the world that I would never have met without working at sea.'

Mr McKenzie grew up and went to school in Oban but has not been home since November and was away at sea when lockdown began.

He said: 'I'm looking forward to seeing everyone once restrictions have eased.'

Katy Womersley, general manager of Clyde Marine Training, said: 'On behalf of everyone at Clyde Marine Training, we are delighted to recognise Craig as our Deck Cadet of the Year for City of Glasgow College 2020.

'Craig is a thoroughly deserving winner, whose dedication to all aspects of college and sea-going life is an excellent example for other fellow cadets to follow.

'If he continues to apply himself in the manner he has done thus far, then we are confident Craig will have a successful and fulfilling Merchant Navy career.'

**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.**

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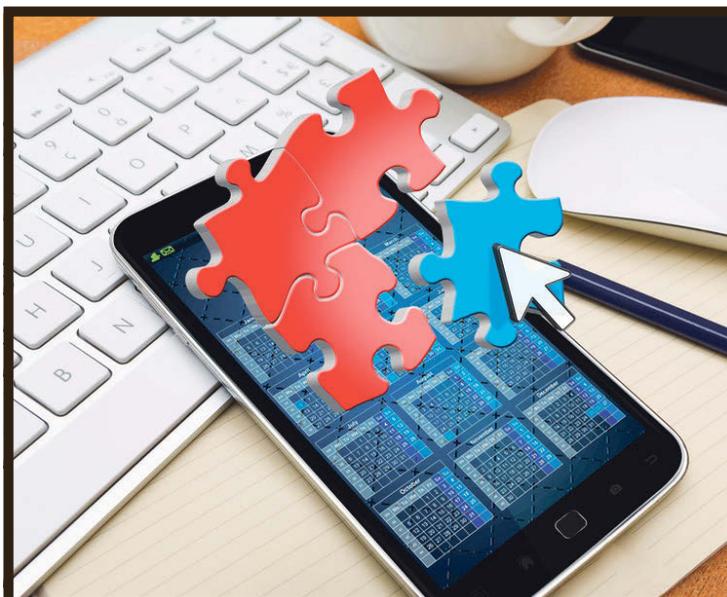


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OT

## LETTERS

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

## Well done, James...

Thanks to a fantastic community, friends and family, COVID survivor James Scott has seen his crowdfunding efforts smash the £15,000 total he wanted to raise for a special infection control room at Lorn and The Islands Hospital in Oban.

And in thanking everyone who contributed he said: 'It means a lot to me that so many people have responded. A lot of them are people I know but there are some who I've never met. There's also been much kindness from local businesses.'

James's story touched so many people's hearts, particularly as he lost his beloved mum, Jessie, to the virus at a time when he was desperately ill himself.

Everyone at The Oban Times sends you a massive congratulations, James. Well done for organising the fundraiser, and to everyone who has contributed, what a great effort.

## ...and pogo champ, Paul!

And another big congratulations to eight-year-old Paul Gillespie who pogoed and walked 50km to raise £800, so far, so Oban's Multiple Sclerosis Centre, where his auntie Nik MacKechnie is manager, could carry on its good work.

What a little star!

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



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## Emergency fund for Oban?

Given the recent very damning front page of a national Sunday newspaper claiming Oban is the most severely economically hit town in Scotland, followed by figures just released that reports Oban Lorn and the Isles have 935 people claiming unemployment benefit an increase of 140, in my opinion this is just the tip of the iceberg and more will follow.

Argyll and Bute as a whole has an alarming total 3,300 claimants, a figure that has almost doubled since February 2020. Is this not the time to all of us to call on central government to set up an emergency fund for Oban as the worst hit town, and Argyll and Bute as a whole, as a matter of urgency. This will help with a recovery before we are too far down the road to economic wipe out.

Councillor R McCuish,  
Ward Oban South and the Isles

## Tear down Highland statue

The discussion whether to remove certain statues and/or change certain street names that celebrate those people who were involved in the slave trade is taking place throughout the UK. It has taken the loss of life and reassessing historical fact to get to this stage.

Money and power for the wealthy came from those who bought and sold black human beings to work on their plantations. In return they ploughed some of their profits into bricks and mortar in their home cities. All this at the expense of indigenous people they slaughtered.

Yet we glorify the British Empire and those who brought it about by raising statues and street names to people who have shamed Scotland and indeed humanity.

The indigenous population of the highlands were not immune to suffering at the hands of such people looking to acquire even more wealth. Here in the Highlands we have a massive statue of the Duke of Sutherland on the top of Beinn a' Bhraigaidh.

In early 1996 the local council planning committee refused an application to dismantle the Duke of Sutherland's statue on Beinn a' Bhraigaidh. If the people who were cleared from the Sutherland estate had been black and that application was being considered today it would have been approved and that statue would rightly be removed.

The first Duke of Sutherland held more titles than Alex Ferguson has won football silverware. He was the second Marquis of Stafford, an MP and one of the richest men in England. His family originated from Yorkshire and married into

## Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL

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

Tha mi a' sgrìobhadh seo is dealbhan agus aithris ball-coise air an telebhisean. Chan e neach-leantainn sgioba ball-coise àraid th' annamsa, ach 's fhuair thoil leam deagh gheama, agus tha mi a' tuigsinn an togail a tha milleanan de dhaoine air fhaotainn às an spòrs a bhith ga chluich a-rithist fiù 's às aonais luchd-amhairc aig na pàircean cluiche. Bha bruidhinn air mar a rachadh deilbh is brataichean luchd-taice a chur mu thimcheall phàircean, agus fiù 's clàraidhean den t-seòrsa fuaim a tha àbhaisteach bho luchd-amhairc an spòrs. Ach le mothachadh air na tha sgiobaidhean a' call ri linn dìth luchd-amhairc theagamh nach eil e na iongnadh gum bheil na sanasan aig cuid de phàircean air fàs mòran nas motha, agus 's dòcha nas buadhmoire. Bidh dòchas gum bheil na chì daoine de spòrs air telebhisean na thogail (a rèir 's ciamar a thèid dhan sgioba aca!) agus na fhaochadh, an dèidh ùine cho fada às aonais cur-seachad agus cuspair còmhraidh air am bheil iad cho measail. Ceum cudromach air an t-slighe air ais bho aonarachd agus bacaidhean a' Chovid19, ach mar a tha Buidheann Slàinte an t-Saoghail a' rabhadh na coròna-bhioras a' sìor sgapadh feadh an t-saoghail agus leanaidh an dùbhlán a bhios oirnn uile a thaobh dìon ciallach na aghaidh.

Ro thoiseach nan geamaichean thug cluicheadairean ball-coise aithne agus urram dha na chailleadh ri linn Covid19, agus nochd iad cuideachd buidheachas dha saothair agus dealas luchd-obrach na slàinte. Bha teachdaire-

achd làidir eile follaiseach bhuapa cuideachd, le faclan air an cuid lèintean, agus lùbadh glùine. Dhùisg murt Sheòrais Floyd guth dhaoine dubha feadh an t-saoghail, agus gu sònraichte an ìre 's gum bheil co-ionannachd cor agus chothroman air àicheadh dhaibh anns na dùthchannan adhartach. Mar a thog mi roimhe an seo tha gràin-cinnidh na sgiùrs feadh an t-saoghail fhathast agus cha b' iongnadh guthan dhaoine dubha, agus luchd-taice ceartais, a bhith gan togail mar a tha. Bho chualas e air an 19 Samhain 1863 tha an 271 facal a labhair Abraham Lincoln anns an dà mhionaid a thug an "Òraid Gettysburg" aige air a bhith air am meas mar bhriathran cho cudromach, agus le amas cho bunaitich, 's a chaidh a chur an cèill riamh. Nan robh Ameireagaidh, agus dùthchannan eile, air an t-amas a chuir Lincoln romhpa a choileanadh, theagamh nach robh Seòras Floyd air bàsachadh mar a rinn e agus nach biodh cluicheadairean ball-coise is mìltean eile ag iomairt mar a tha. Tha an samhla 8.46 na phàirt de na tha ga thaisbeanadh, an ùine a chum oifigear poileas a ghlùn air amhaich Sheòrais Floyd, chun an deach a thachdadh. Còrr air ceithir uimhir na h-ùine bhruidhinn Lincoln, agus 's dòcha gun tig na mionaidean is na diogan sin gu bhith a cheart cho cudromach ann an eachdraidh Ameireagaidh agus an t-saoghail.

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

a wealthy Stafford family of French descent. In due course, the second Marquis married the Ban Mhorair Chataibh, the great lady of Sutherland.

It is interesting to note that after Culloden the Duke of Cumberland and the Duke of Newcastle gave serious consideration to clearing the inhabitants of the Highland glens to the colonies, but this was thought to be unmanageable and the easier option of burning their homes, destroying their crops and driving away or killing their cattle was taken. The genocide of the Highlanders was government policy.

The first Duke of Sutherland was not the first or last Highland laird to clear his people but he was certainly the most successful.

When he died, his wife decided to erect two statues in England and one on top of Beinn a' Bhraigaidh to honour the achievements of this

man who had made a desert of the land he had acquired through marriage and by betraying the people whose families had lived on that land for centuries. That is why it should come down.

At the time of the clearances, while many people in Golspie wished to help, they too were at the mercy of the Duke, unlike the church men who chose to betray their flocks - again for profit. The statue is an affront to the memory of not only the Sutherland Highlanders who were cleared but to all Highlanders who suffered the same fate. Winifred Ewing MEP attended a debate in Golspie in 1995 at which the majority of local people did not want the statue removed. Winnie is on record stating that in her view it was like having a statue of Hitler outside Auschwitz.

Bill Clark, Banavie

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# DISTRICT NEWS

## Home Start Lorn receives help from Rotary

The Rotary Club of Oban has presented a cheque for £500 to Home-Start Lorn, writes Ellis Butcher.

Scheme manager Aileen Binner, of the Lochside Street project, gave her thanks to Rotary president Douglas Small for the vital donation.

Mr Small said the volunteer group carried out 'wonderful work' in Oban and as far afield as Dalmally, Appin, Kilninver and Mull.

He said: 'Home-Start provide much appreciated help to young families in our community. The volunteers

work with families who have children under the age of five. They provide support, and where considered necessary, respite care.

'In these difficult times of lockdown, Home-Start volunteers are on hand to give advice and assistance by phone or video calls. They help with shopping, collecting prescriptions and providing craft and activity packs to families who are confined to their homes.'

Mrs Binner said the support it provided had adapted during the coronavirus.

She said: 'Our volunteers

are not able to visit families in their home, so have been making regular phone calls or using various types of technology to make video calls to families and in particular to maintain the contact with the young children.

'It has been a steep learning curve for all of us, but our volunteers have been amazing. Some of our volunteers have also been shopping and collecting prescriptions for our families.'

Home-Start Lorn is considering extending digital support to Tiree, Coll and Colonsay.



Left, Kate and Rebecca hand over their cheque for £1,022 to hospital staff; and below, Rebecca and daughter Eliza with her mum Kate after the shave; and the two women before the shave.



Aileen Binner receives the cheque from Rotary president Douglas Small.

## Close shave for Mull mother and daughter

A mother and daughter from Mull have endured the most drastic of lockdown haircuts in order to raise funds for their local hospital.

Rebecca Woolcock and her mum Kate raised £1,022 by having their hair shaved off. The now pruned pair wanted to give something back to Craignure Community Hospital which had cared for Rebecca throughout her pregnancy with daughter Eliza Mcfadden, who is now nine and a half months old.

'They were absolutely amazing while I was expecting Eliza so when I heard that they were trying to raise money for a bladder scanner I thought it would be the perfect opportunity to do something for both the hospital and the community.'



Eliza's dad Michael performed the honours with the clippers while her fiancé James McFadden was out at work.

'They both took a couple of days to get used to it but now they really like it,' she added.

'When the locks fell to the floor we be both felt a bit shocked but also felt proud that we had done it.'

Eliza and Kate presented their cheque to staff at the hospital last week.

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# The great Atholl stag partic

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Atholl estate is one of the oldest and finest deer forests in Scotland.

From early records and local placenames we know there were deer in Atholl from time immemorial.

William Scrope, in his famous book, 'The Art of Deer Stalking', gives a vivid account of the forest as it was in 1839: 'The celebrated forest of Atholl comprehends a vast tract of moor and mountain, extending, by hillman's computation, from the NE point joining Aberdeenshire, to the SW point joining Gaig (Gaick) Forest, about 40 miles in length. The extreme breadth from the top of Skarsach (An Sgarsoch 3,300 feet) N side of Tarff to Craig Urrard...cannot be less than 18 miles. It measures 135,451 acres' [slightly less than 212 sq miles]. Little wonder it was the favourite haunt of royalty whenever they were in the locality. Malcolm III, King of Scotland from 1058 to 1093, nicknamed 'Canmore', frequently hunted there and many places in the forest are named after him, such as the King's Cairn and the King's Seat.

Fame of the 1530 hunt, an account of which featured in last week's column, probably induced King James V's daughter, Mary Queen of Scots, to watch a similar one in the wilds of Glen Tilt 34 years later. Luckily for us she brought an educated young scribe with her who had a good eye for detail.

His name was William Barclay. He was born in Aberdeenshire in 1541 and spent the early part of his life, and a fortune, at Mary's court anticipating her patronage. Nine years later he went to France where he took a legal degree and became first professor of civil law at the University of Angers. There he enjoyed the good life. When he lectured he dressed in a rich gown with a massive gold chain round his neck and was followed by his son and two valets – a far cry from the day he sat with Her Majesty watching the Tinchel from a heather covered, tick-infested, knoll in Glen Loch at the southern end of Loch Loch which became known in Gaelic as, Tom nan Ban Righ – the Queen's Hillock.

Barclay later wrote: 'The Earl of Athole, a prince of the royal blood, had, with much trouble and vast expense, a hunting match for the entertainment of our most illustrious



and most gracious Queen. I was then a young man, and was present on this occasion. Two thousand Highlanders, or wild Scotch, as you call them here, were employed to drive to the hunting ground all the deer from the woods and hills of Athole, Badenoch, Mar, Moray and the counties about. As these Highlanders use a light dress, and are very swift of foot, they went up and down so nimbly that in less than two months they brought together 2,000 red deer, besides roes, goats and fallow deer. The Queen, the great men, and others, were in a glen when all the deer were brought before them. Believe me, the whole body of them moved forward in something like battle order.

'This sight still strikes me, and ever will, for they had a leader whom they followed close wherever he moved. This leader was a very fine stag, with a very high head. The sight delighted the Queen very much; but she soon had occasion to fear, upon the Earl's (who had been accustomed to such sights) addressing her thus: 'Do you observe that stag who is foremost of the herd? There is danger from that stag; for if either fear or rage should force him from the ridge of that hill, let everyone look to himself, for none of us will be out of the way of harm; for the rest will follow this one, and having thrown us under foot, they will open a passage to this hill behind us.'

What happened a moment after confirmed this opinion, for the Queen ordered one of the best dogs to be let loose upon a wolf; this the dog pursues, the leading stag was frightened, and he flies by the same way he had come there, the rest rush after him, and break out where the thickest body of Highlanders was.

'They had nothing for it but to throw themselves flay upon the ground and allow the deer to pass over them. It was told the Queen that several Highlanders had been wounded, and that two or three of them had been killed outright, and the whole body had got off had not the Highlanders, by their superior skill in hunting, fallen upon a stratagem to cut off the

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# es – part two



Above, deer passing marksmen at the end of a drive, from an engraving by William Scrope and Sir Edwin Landseer; and main image, Highland ponies carrying stags home today from Glen Loch, Atholl, in the same way as they did in the days of the Tinchels. Photograph: David Ferguson.

rear from the main body. It was one of those that had been separated that the Queen's dog and those of the nobility made slaughter. There were killed that day 360 deer, with five wolves and some roes'.

The last recorded hunt on Atholl was on the September 29, 1800, when more than 200 tenants formed a line four miles long and surrounded about 1,200 deer, but they broke back through the line and only six were killed.

Much the same happened on Glenquoich in West Inverness-shire in 1904 in a drive organised by Lord Burton for King Edward VII. All was going well until one of the King's equerries, unaccustomed to seeing so many antlered 'monsters' at close range, became excited and started moving around. The stags saw him and broke through the line of beaters much to the annoyance of Lord Burton, the King and everyone else.

What was the purpose of these Tinchels? The early ones were undoubtedly show-stoppers on a grand scale intended to impress and to reboot an era of Celtic mist, heroes and Fingalian valour and had little to do with providing food

or reducing the deer population. Later, in the lead-up to the Jacobite risings which were aimed at returning James II of England and VII of Scotland to the throne, leading Jacobites would meet to plot and to plan under the guise of a deer hunt. When the Earl of Mar reached Deeside on his way to raise his standard in Braemar on September 6, 1715, he improvised a hunt attended by many Scottish nobles, clan chiefs and their 'tails', known to favour the Jacobite cause, looking more like an army than hunters. The Grants of Glen Moriston were present. One of them, Alexander, kept an account, the only one of this particular hunt to be found:

'...He proceeded with them to the forest, where the hunting match was to be held. The deer and game had been driven into the centre close to Birse Castle. He watched the progress of the narrowing circle from the top of a hill.

'He saw that many hundred deer were shut up in it, and every now and then some would attempt to break through, and were either brought down by the rifle or by a bold stroke with the broadsword from the tartan army that hemmed them in.'

## DOWN MEMORY LANE

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



Anne Cameron, who lives in Inverness, sent us this photograph. She said: 'While sorting old photos recently I came across this one taken in 1974 at the kitchen door of the Argyll Hotel. I wonder if some of your readers might recognise these ladies. From left to right, Mary Anne, Peggy, Chrissie, Maggie and Annie. I worked there in my summer holidays. Of you can tell us any more information about the photograph, or if you have any old photographs you would like to share with our readers, you can email us at editor@obantimes.co.uk



Could our readers help identify the youngsters and adults in this photograph. They look like they have just won a trophy, and the sponsor appears to be Johnstons & Paton Ltd. If you have any names, dates or other details, we would love to hear them. Email us at editor@obantimes.co.uk

## Spaghetti Bolognese



1 Syn per serving 55 minutes Serves 4

### Ingredients

500g lean beef mince (5% fat or less)  
1 large onion, finely chopped  
2 garlic cloves, finely chopped  
400g can chopped tomatoes

400g jar sweet peppers (such as Peppadew), drained and roughly chopped  
3 x 300g packs butternut squash noodles (or see tip)  
Chopped fresh parsley, to serve  
4 level tbsp freshly grated Parmesan, to serve

### Method:

Put the beef in a deep non-stick frying pan over a medium heat and stir-fry for 3-4 minutes or until browned, breaking up any lumps with spoon. Drain off any fat and add the onion, garlic and 2 tbsp water. Cover and cook for 10 minutes or until the onion is soft, stirring occasionally. Add the chopped tomatoes and peppers to the pan, reduce the heat to low and simmer uncovered for 30 minutes. When the sauce is nearly ready, put the squash noodles and 100ml boiling water in a non-stick saucepan over a medium-high heat and cook for 5 minutes or until piping hot and tender. Drain, divide between bowls and top with the sauce. Scatter over the parsley and serve with the Parmesan to sprinkle over (1 level tbsp per serving).

\*Butternut squash noodles are available in some large supermarkets. If you can't get them, peel, deseed and spiralise a large squash or 4 courgettes – or use prepared courgetti instead. You can freeze the bolognese without the noodles.

You can still enjoy a big bowl of spaghetti bolognese on an SP day – just swap the spaghetti for squash noodles or courgetti!

**PLEASE NOTE:**  
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# LEISURE & ENTERTAINMENT

YOUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S ON IN ARGYLL AND LOCHABER

## Argyll author's sharp wit makes for dark comedy

Life's not easy when your father's an idiot, writes Fiona Scott.

And after 600 years this can become quite wearing. The day Young Alfred's father signed the contract with the smiling stranger, was the day his existence changed forever. Endowed with a particularly shoddy form of immortality, he is condemned to pursue a never-ending quest to gather the souls of the recently deceased.

Alfred Jones and Son, Bros: Travelling Undertakers and Soul Traders is the debut novel from Tarbert writer Bob Sharp.

Having lived most of his life on the west coast of Scotland, Bob currently resides in Spain, but it was a dark and stormy night as he was driving home along the coastline of a rain-lashed Scottish sea-loch which inspired his first foray into fiction.

He saw a sign, quite literally.



A crude hand painted sign that pointed into a foreboding forest, it simply said Jones Bros. And from this seed, the tale of Alfred Jones and Son Bros, was born.

In his time Bob has been, in his own words, a dreadful fisherman, a lazy fish factory worker, a rubbish boat builder, a reluctant barman and an even more reluctant bar manager, an unenthusiastic local government

administrator, a drunken student and for the last 20 years or so had run a small IT company in Argyllshire.

For the moment he is loving his Spanish lifestyle while he concentrates on his writing.

You can find his blog and latest news about ongoing projects at - [www.bobsharp.co.uk](http://www.bobsharp.co.uk) and follow him on Facebook at Bob Sharp Author.

Alfred Jones and Son, Bros is available for download and in paperback on Amazon.

## Resipole studio launches exhibitions in lockdown

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

On Thursday June, 4, Resipole Studios Fine Art Gallery in Acharacle launched two new exhibitions: solo shows by Scottish artists Joyce Gunn Cairns MBE and Kirstie Cohen.

Not to be deterred by lockdown and currently unable to welcome visitors into the gallery to view work hanging on the walls, the team at Resipole Studios has been busy moving exhibitions online.

The current shows are on display until mid-July, by which time it is hoped the gallery may be able to open its doors to the public once again.

Edinburgh-based artist Joyce Gunn Cairns MBE's paintings are personal yet playful, taking inspiration from her love of literature.



Kirstie Cohen's Ardnamurchan Lighthouse, on show at Resipole Studios.

of the innate character of her subjects.

Kirstie Cohen has been described as 'a rare voice in Scottish painting'. Created during Winter 2019/Spring 2020 in the artist's studio in rural Inverness-shire, the work on display in this solo show is a progression and investigation into the landscape that surrounds her.

Whilst there are site specific references in the subject matter, her distinctively bold and dramatic style veers away from faithful depiction.

Instead, the work serves as an emotional response and reaction to the rugged and ever-changing environment of the northerly regions of Scotland.

Her work speaks to the human condition. With a subtle, muted palette and a sensitive, searching aesthetic, these apparently gentle works are at the same time direct and prob-

ing, revealing very much more than their surface appearance.

Similarly, with her paintings and drawings of animals, Joyce Gunn-Cairns gets beneath the surface to reveal something

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# Robert in lockdown!

**ROBERT ROBERTSON**

robert.d.robertson@hotmail.co.uk



It was always inevitable that eventually I would need to return to Glasgow and the time came this week in the form of some BBC Alba filming work for Tide Lines – socially distanced, of course, and within the strict BBC guidelines.

More about that later but, first of all, let's deal with the most pressing question: what is going to happen to my budding career (if you'll pardon the pun) as a gardener. Well, it will have to be put on hold for the moment but, as departing prime ministers always say, I like to think I've left the place in a better state than I found it.

Over the course of the last few months, myself and my assistant (my slightly more experienced father) have had to contend with a broken mower, a horse stampede, and a fair few mole hills; but I feel we have met with triumph and disaster and treated these two imposters just the same.

You will remember that, at the beginning of lockdown, I ordered not one but two golf nets by accident! Well, ironically, they turned up. On the day I left for Glasgow. So



my Dad now has two golf nets he didn't even want in the first place. To be fair, the way both our golf has been going, two nets side by side might come in handy.

But what of Glasgow? It seems a much happier city than the one I left 12 weeks ago as it came to terms with the impending lockdown.

Mansfield Square in Partick was busy with people sitting out in the sun the other day and, crucially, everyone was behaving themselves where social distancing is concerned.

I plonked myself down on a camp chair I had brought

from Fort William for this specific purpose and was feeling very superior while surveying everyone else lying on the grass from the comfort of my chair (complete with cup holder for the beverage of your choice). That was until a seagull dive bombed me and did its business all down the back of my new camping chair. I mentioned I have moved back down to record for a BBC Alba programme on Tide Lines. This has required us to write new stripped back arrangements for all our songs – to which end I have changed the spare room in my flat into something of a make-shift studio. I dread to think how my neighbours will feel about this. I heard one of them singing last night, so I figure they can hear me.

After three months of lockdown, being stuck in their flats listening to about 20 takes of An t-Eilean Mu Thuath and attempts at a David Bowie cover might just be the pièce-de-résistance. I don't imagine any of them will be rushing to catch the BBC Alba programme when it is aired later this summer anyway!

# Watch party premiere for Islands in Life

Makers of an island life in lockdown film are hosting a watch party this Friday June 26.

The film, which takes a personal peek at life during COVID-19 on Mull, Iona, Ulva and Gometra, is being screened on What We Do in the Winter's YouTube Channel at 8pm.

Directed and edited by Alasdair and Georgia Satchel from the What We Do in the Winter podcast, footage for Islands In Film was submitted by 75 islanders using a total of 255 shots to document their lives under lockdown during one week in May.

Alasdair put a call out on social media inviting islanders to

capture snapshots of their lives to help create a unique archive of this challenging moment in time. The 47-minute long film is also being sent to the National Library of Scotland's Moving Image Archive.

'Islands in Film offers a moment of connection, to let the viewer know that we're not alone and that so many other people are experiencing the same things as them, just in their own ways.

'It offers an escape from the confinement of lockdown by sharing the spaces of the islands through the authentic voices of the people living there,' said Alasdair.

Featuring music by Hannah Fisher and Sorren Maclean, Islands In Film is a Struthach Films and Screen Argyll co-production for What We Do in the Winter in collaboration with Mull Museum, Tobermory.

At the end of the film viewers will be invited to make a financial donation to Mull & Iona Food Bank. Alasdair said: 'If you enjoy the film we invite you to make a donation, say the price of some popcorn or a film ticket to Mull Food Bank.'

To view go to: [www.youtube.com/channel/UC9R7elfgBnZHyuwhwG-Szbw](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9R7elfgBnZHyuwhwG-Szbw)

## MY ALBA

<p><b>DIARDAOIN 25 An t-Ògmhios</b> <b>THURSDAY 25 June</b></p> <p>17:00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming</p> <p>19:00 An Lot/ The Croft (rpt)</p> <p>19:30 Speaking Our Language (rpt)</p> <p>19:55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)</p> <p>20:00 An Là – News</p> <p>20:30 Ceathrar air a' Chuiltheann (Four on the Cuillin) (rpt)</p> <p>21:00 ÙR/NEW: Mathair</p> <p>21:40 ÙR/NEW: Port – Druthag Bheag Eile</p> <p>21:55 Eadar Chluich (rpt)</p> <p>22:00 ÙR/NEW: Julie Fowlis – Ceol Aig baile</p> <p>22:30 Ameireaga air Film (rpt)</p> <p>23:20 ÙR/NEW: Binneas na Trads</p> <p>23:30 Seoid a' Chidsin – The Kitchen Coves (rpt)</p> <p><b>DIHAOINE 26 An t-Ògmhios</b> <b>FRIDAY 26 June</b></p> <p>17:00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming</p> <p>18:40 Mathair (rpt)</p> <p>19:00 An Là – News</p> <p>19:25 Binneas-Na Trads-Tide Lines (rpt)</p> <p>19:30 Prosaig (rpt)</p> <p>20:00 Ceol Aig A' Chaisdeal/Fiddle Music (rpt)</p> <p>20:25 Fraochy Bay (rpt)</p> <p>20:30 Fuine (rpt)</p> <p>21:00 ÙR/NEW: Spors – Partick Thistle FC</p> <p>21:30 ÙR/NEW: Spors – St Mirren FC</p> <p>22:00 Fin ar Bed (rpt)</p> <p>23:00 ALT (rpt)</p> <p><b>DISATHAIRNE 27 An t-Ògmhios</b> <b>SATURDAY 27 June</b></p> <p>16:00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming</p> <p>17:45 An Là – News</p> <p>18:00 International Friendly – Northern Ireland v Scotland (rpt)</p> <p>20:10 Port – Druthag Bheag Eile (rpt)</p> <p>20:25 Fraochy Bay (rpt)</p> <p>20:30 Leugh Mi (rpt)</p> <p>21:00 ALT (rpt)</p>	<p>22:00 Ameireaga air Film/America in Colour (rpt)</p> <p>22:45 Ceol bho Perthshire Amber (rpt)</p> <p>22:45 Pory – Druthag Bheag Eile (rpt)</p> <p>23:00 Spors – Partick Thistle FC (rpt)</p> <p>23:30 Spors – St Mirren FC (rpt)</p> <p>00:00 Belladrum - Cridhe Tartan (Highlights) (rpt)</p> <p><b>DIDÒMHNAICH 28 An t-Ògmhios</b> <b>SUNDAY 28 June</b></p> <p>16:00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming</p> <p>18:15 An Là – News</p> <p>18:30 Port – Druthag Bheag Eile (rpt)</p> <p>18:45 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)</p> <p>18:50 Ar N-Aran Laitheil (rpt)</p> <p>19:30 Slighe Anndra (rpt)</p> <p>19:55 Ceathrar air a' Chuiltheann (rpt)</p> <p>20:25 Dealbhan Fraoich (rpt)</p> <p>20:55 Bannan (rpt)</p> <p>21:25 Bannan (rpt)</p> <p>22:00 Gothenburg '83 (rpt)</p> <p>23:00 Fin ar Bed (rpt)</p> <p><b>DILUAIN 29 An t-Ògmhios</b> <b>MONDAY 29 June</b></p> <p>17:00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming</p> <p>19:00 Sugh an Eorna/History of Whisky (rpt)</p> <p>19:25 Speaking Our Language (rpt)</p> <p>19:50 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)</p> <p>19:55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)</p> <p>20:00 An Là – News</p> <p>20:30 Fuine (rpt)</p> <p>21:00 Talaidhean/Gaelic Lullabies - Trusadh (rpt)</p> <p>22:00 Bannan (rpt)</p> <p>22:30 Opryle Daniel (rpt)</p> <p>23:25 Fraochy Bay (rpt)</p> <p>23:30 Julie Fowlis – Ceol Aig Baile (rpt)</p> <p><b>DIMÀIRT 30 An t-Ògmhios</b> <b>TUESDAY 30 June</b></p> <p>17:00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming</p> <p>19:00 An Lot/The Croft (rpt)</p>	<p>19:30 Speaking Our Language (rpt)</p> <p>19:55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)</p> <p>20:00 An Là – News</p> <p>20:30 ÙR/NEW: Dealbhan Fraoich</p> <p>21:00 ÙR/NEW: Eorpa</p> <p>21:30 Bruadar a' Bhaiss (rpt)</p> <p>22:00 Talaidhean/Gaelic Lullabies - Trusadh (rpt)</p> <p>23:25 Dhan Uisge (rpt)</p> <p>23:35 Slighe Anndra (rpt)</p> <p><b>DICIADAIN 1 An t-Iuchar</b> <b>WEDNESDAY 1 July</b></p> <p>17:00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming</p> <p>19:00 Sugh an Eorna (rpt)</p> <p>19:30 Speaking Our Language (rpt)</p> <p>19:55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)</p> <p>20:00 An Là – News</p> <p>20:30 ÙR/NEW: Leugh Mi</p> <p>21:00 ÙR/NEW: Opryle Daniel</p> <p>21:55 Bannan (rpt)</p> <p>22:30 Port – Dun nan Gall/Donegal (rpt)</p> <p>23:00 Mathair (rpt)</p> <p>23:40 Port – Druthag Bheag Eile (rpt)</p> <p>23:55 Eadar Chluich (rpt)</p> <p><b>DIARDAOIN 2 An t-Iuchar</b> <b>THURSDAY 2 July</b></p> <p>17:00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming</p> <p>19:00 An Lot/ The Croft (rpt)</p> <p>19:30 Speaking Our Language (rpt)</p> <p>19:55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)</p> <p>20:00 An Là – News</p> <p>20:30 Ceathrar air a' Chuiltheann (Four on the Cuillin) (rpt)</p> <p>21:00 ÙR/NEW: Mathair</p> <p>21:40 ÙR/NEW: Port – Druthag Bheag Eile</p> <p>21:55 Eadar Chluich (rpt)</p> <p>22:00 ÙR/NEW: Julie Fowlis – Ceol Aig baile</p> <p>22:30 ÙR/NEW: Freiceadan Ura Na Banrigh/The Queen's New Guard</p> <p>23:20 Dhan Uisge (rpt)</p> <p>23:30 Seoid a' Chidsin – The Kitchen Coves (rpt)</p>
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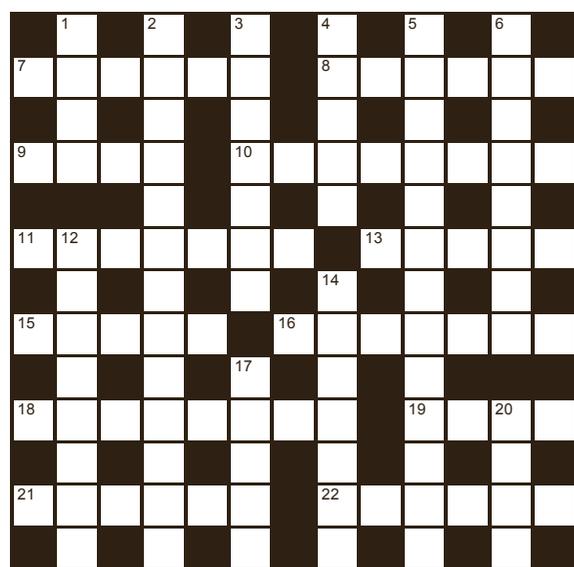
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## Crossword



### Across

- 7 Potion (6)
- 8 Where held against one's will (6)
- 9 Place to buy fresh produce (4)
- 10 Basket for odds and ends (8)
- 11 Oval (7)
- 13 Japanese cartoon art (5)
- 15 Mark (5)
- 16 Bubble up (7)
- 18 Inflexible (8)
- 19 Substance (4)
- 21 Prayer (6)
- 22 Doctor living away from the hospital (6)

### Down

- 1 Sticky paste (4)
- 2 A tendency to display (13)
- 3 On target (7)
- 4 Sudden outpouring (5)
- 5 Above one's station (4-3-6)
- 6 Peer (8)
- 12 Well-read (8)
- 14 Lowest lake in the world (4,3)
- 17 Move furtively (5)
- 20 Painful (4)

## LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION



# Classic summer pudding that will make you smile

From family picnics to barbecues in the back garden, summer is the season of delicious meals eaten outdoors.

Follow this easy step-by-step recipe and make the most of sweet, juicy berries.

After chilling overnight, the summer pudding will keep in the fridge for up to three days. It also freezes well. Ensure that the pudding bowl is freezer-proof before starting, then wrap the whole bowl in a double layer of clingfilm before freezing. Defrost overnight in the fridge before serving. In order to enjoy best flavour and quality, frozen items are best used within three months of freezing date.

### Ingredients

■ Sunflower or vegetable oil, for greasing.

■ 750g mixed summer berries (raspberries, blackberries, blueberries, redcurrants, blackcurrants, pitted cherries)

■ 125g golden caster sugar

■ ½ orange, zested and juiced

■ 150g raspberries

■ 150g strawberries, hulled and sliced

■ 8 slices white bread

■ Fresh berries, to serve (optional)

■ Whipped cream or crème fraîche, to serve (optional)

### Method

Lightly grease a 1 litre pud-



The perfect pudding for summer.

ding bowl with sunflower or vegetable oil, then line with two layers of clingfilm, leaving plenty overhanging the sides of the bowl.

Put 750g mixed summer berries (such as raspberries, blackberries, blueberries, redcurrants, blackcurrants or pitted cherries) in a large pan. Add 125g golden caster sugar and the zest and juice of half an orange. Cook over a low heat for five mins until the sugar has dissolved and the berries have released their juices, then set aside to cool. Stir as little as possible to keep the berries intact.

Once cool, stir through an additional 150g raspberries and 150g hulled and sliced

strawberries to give the filling some freshness and texture. Strain through a sieve to separate the fruit from the juices, reserving the fruit for later and pouring the juice into a large shallow dish.

Cut the crusts off eight slices of white bread. Cut a circle from one slice to fit the bottom of the pudding bowl then cut the other seven slices in half on the diagonal. Set four triangles aside for the top. Dip one side of the bread circle in the juice then put in the bottom of the pudding bowl, juice-side down. Repeat with the bread triangles, pressing them juice-side outwards, around the sides of the bowl, overlapping them to ensure

there are no gaps. If there are any gaps, just push a small piece of bread into the hole to cover.

Spoon the reserved fruit into the bread-lined bowl, filling to the top. Trim any bits of bread sticking up at the edges.

Use the reserved bread triangles to cover the top, then drizzle or spoon the last berry juices over the top of the bread to cover.

Fold over the overhanging clingfilm to cover the top, then put a small plate (just smaller than the top of the bowl) on top of the pudding and transfer to the fridge. Place something heavy on top to weigh it down (such as a 1kg bag of sugar, a heavy book or a bowl filled with water). Chill overnight so that the bread can soak up all the juices from the fruit.

When ready to serve, lift off the weight and unwrap the clingfilm on top. Place a large serving plate over the top of the bowl then carefully turn over to invert the pudding onto the plate. Use the clingfilm to help lift the bowl off the pudding, then serve in slices with some extra fresh berries and a dollop of whipped cream or crème fraîche.

## Tale of romance and espionage ends in Mallaig

by Fiona Scott

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

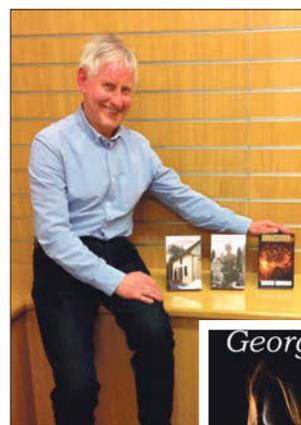


An Edinburgh-born author, with roots in Ardrishaig, has just published his latest novel which comes to a dramatic conclusion in Mallaig.

A story of romance and espionage during the Second World War, *Georgina*, is the latest in The Time Jigsaw series written by David Munro who's grandparents were originally from the Argyllshire coastal village.

David's grandfather, Robert Munro, son of Archie, worked in the family boat repair business in Ardrishaig. The family stayed in a house opposite Loch Fyne, which had a nameplate on the door - Korongo.

The house was built by Donald Munro who accompanied David Livingstone to Africa and then returned and



David Munro's novel is available to download from Amazon.



experience of different cultures, David, who now lives in Ardoch, has developed a penchant for producing creative literature in which tales of adventure and mystery arise.

*Georgina* begins in 1930s Hollywood and takes its reader on a journey through America and the Greek islands before arriving in the Highlands.

Under suspicion for her husband's murder a year earlier and eager to escape a relationship with her philandering, gambling, partner, Georgina leaves America for the sanctuary of far-away Crete and, with a new identity, she finds work as a music teacher.

When invaded by the Germans, Crete is thrown into turmoil. Their soldiers begin a brutal occupation of the island and hardship

ensues. By chance, Georgina meets a German officer and an unlikely romance blossoms.

Because of her association with Erich Hoeness, she is suspected of being a spy. Erich is a loyal soldier, but also has a conscience. He starts to siphon German food supplies to ease some islander's starvation. However, given German atrocities on Crete, will this compassion save him and Georgina from savage retribution?

When the war is over Erich is sent to Scotland for denazification and Georgina follows only to find he has been sent back to Germany.

The final chapters of the book see the heroine set up a new life as a school teacher in Mallaig. But will her past catch up with her and will she and Erich finally be reunited?

*Georgina* is available on download from Amazon.

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



Isla Muir, above, from Oban, celebrated her 10th birthday, on Tuesday, June 16. Isla had a great day playing in the sun and eating birthday cake!



Robbie Ogden celebrated his third birthday last week with his mum, grandma, his amazing god parents (on Zoom), his dog Timmy and a Peppa Pig Cake. Robbie has really missed his friends at Little Learners nursery and Atlantis Leisure as he only moved to Oban last year and lockdown is hard for wee ones to understand.



Mirrim Rae, right, celebrated her eighth birthday in lockdown on the weekend of June 13/14. Mirrim had a pool/disco party where she was joined by her mum, dad and brother Lewis.



Bealltainn is doing well and loves spending her days out in the sun, lying among the vegetation in her enclosure.

## Mull otter update

Regular Oban Times readers may recall our recent story on Bealltainn, the otter cub who sought help (well, food, actually) from a friendly human on the Ross of Mull in May.

Her mother was nowhere to be found, so Mull Otter Group's Sue and

Darren Morley transported her to the International Otter Survival Fund (IOSF) sanctuary on the Isle of Skye.

Ben Yoxon of IOSF updated us this week.

'Bealltainn is doing really well, she is growing and loves spending her days out in the sun, when it's out, lying among the vegetation in her enclosure.

When she first came she was fairly unbothered by people but since then has become a lot more reserved and shy.

'She loves her food, particularly the octopus provided by local fishermen, and continues to grow.'

Bealltainn's gradual wariness of humans is being hailed as a great start to her eventual return to the wild.

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



## Coronavirus

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

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



To enable us to keep in touch, please follow BID4Oban on **Love Oban Facebook page** and website [www.bid4oban.co.uk](http://www.bid4oban.co.uk) for regular updates.

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



**Oban Business Improvement District**

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



# 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 & BARCADDINE - 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, alpines, and bedding plants

### CRAIGARD DECOR

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

## GARAGES

### RODDY'S GARAGE

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

### KWIK FIT

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

### FLIT

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

### KERRIE'S TYRES

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

### MCCONECHY'S

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

### MUNRO'S GARAGE

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

### MORRISON MOTORS

Long term vehicle rentals  
Tel: 07825 581171

### FIN'S PLACE

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

### TRAILWEST

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

## LEGAL SERVICES

### DM MACKINNON - SOLICITORS & NOTARIES

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



IN ASSOCIATION WITH

# Oban Business Improvement District

[www.bid4oban.co.uk](http://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](http://www.andersonbanks.co.uk)  
Anderson Banks Facebook page.  
Oban Office: 01631 563158 Email: [info@andersonbanks.co.uk](mailto:info@andersonbanks.co.uk)  
Benbecula office: 01870 602061  
Email: [uist@andersonbanks.co.uk](mailto:uist@andersonbanks.co.uk)

## STEVENSON KENNEDY SOLICITORS

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

## MACPHEE & PARTNERS

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

## E THORNTON AND CO, SOLICITORS AND ESTATE AGENTS

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

## INSURANCE

### JELF CLARKE THOMSON

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

## BANKS

### ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND

Open for essential business:  
Mon-Fri  
10am - 3pm  
Tel: 0345 724 2424

### BANK OF SCOTLAND

Open for essential business:  
Mon-Fri, 10am-2pm  
Tel: 0345 602 0000

### CLYDESDALE BANK

Open for essential business  
Mon-Fri  
10am-2pm  
Tel: 0345 602 0000

### TSB

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

## TAXIS - ESSENTIAL JOURNEYS ONLY

### ARGYLL TAXIS

Tel: 01631 565293

### LORN TAXIS

Tel: 01631 564744

### OBAN TAXIS

Tel: 01631 564148/566676/564666

### ETIVE TAXIS

Tel: 01631 566880

## FUEL/SERVICE STATIONS

### BIRCHWOOD GARAGE

Mon-Sat 7am-6pm

### OBAN FILLING STATION

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

### HALFWAY HOUSE

Mon-Sun 7am-7pm

### WEST HIGHLAND GAS

Delivering to your door  
Gates closed but open Tues-Fri, 8am-4.30pm.  
Please call with your order  
Tel: 01631 564050

## CHEMISTS & HEALTHCARE

Try to avoid contacting your pharmacy by telephone, unless it is essential.  
Most in town are operating crowd control measures to help manage social distancing:  
• Only order medication 1 week in advance of needing it;  
• Let your GP Practice know which pharmacy you'd like to collect this from;  
• And please be understanding of small delays at this time.

### BOOTS THE CHEMIST, GEORGE STREET

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

### BOOTS THE CHEMIST, BESIDE DOCTORS

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

### GORDON'S CHEMIST

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

### JOHN WALLACE OPTICIANS

OBAN PRACTICE  
Telephone consultations only  
Tel: 01631 563170

### SPECSAVERS

Reduced staff and hours, for emergency and essential eye care services.  
We are here behind closed doors for phone and video consultations and onward emergency referral to hospital eye service when needed.

## CONVENIENCE STORES/NEWSAGENTS

### ALBANY STORES

Mon-Sun 7am-6pm

### SOROBA SHOP

Mon-Sun 10am-8pm

### McCOLLS Oban

Mon-Sun 7am-8pm

### DUNOLLIE SHOP

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

### DUNBEG STORES

Mon-Sun 8am till 8pm

### CONNEL SHOP

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

### THE PINK SHOP, BENDERLOCH

7.30am to 10.00pm daily.

### BALVICAR STORES

Mon - Thurs 8.30am - 6.00pm

Fri 8.30am - 7.00pm

Sat 9am - 7.00pm

Sun 9.30am - 2pm

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

## VETS AND PET SUPPLIES

### PETS AT HOME

Mon-Sat 9am- 6pm  
Sun 10am -5pm  
Crowd control system in place to help manage social distancing in stores

### CREATURE COMFORTS

9am until 2pm every day except Sunday  
Creature Comforts is your local pet shop for Oban & surrounding area. We stock feeds & accessories for all kinds of pets & wild birds.  
Mail order deliveries available.

### KINTALINE FARM

Mon-Sun 10am - 5pm by arrangement

### OBAN VETERINARY SURGEONS

All enquiries by telephone 01631 562876 or via [www.obanvets.co.uk](http://www.obanvets.co.uk)

## SHOPS AND ONLINE SHOPPING

### OBAN MUSIC SHOP

Oban Music is still trading through its web site:-  
[www.musicscotland.com](http://www.musicscotland.com)  
Tel: 01631 566304

### ORSAY

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

### SCOTTISH ISLAND JEWELLERY

Website : [www.scottishislandjewellery.co.uk](http://www.scottishislandjewellery.co.uk)  
And phone mail orders/enquires on 07760297957  
Shop: 01631 570005 and  
Mobile : 07760297957  
[scottishislandjewellery@gmail.com](mailto:scottishislandjewellery@gmail.com)  
<http://scottishislandjewellery.co.uk/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/ScottishIslandJewellery1>

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

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

### ALBA ART

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

## TRAVEL & LEISURE

### ERIC SMITH TRAVEL

We are still open for new and existing bookings although agency closed at present.  
By email [eric@gowestravel.co.uk](mailto:eric@gowestravel.co.uk),  
[dianne@gowestravel.co.uk](mailto:dianne@gowestravel.co.uk)  
FB message ERIC SMITH TRAVEL

## IT AND COMPUTER SERVICES

### MATRIX COMPUTERS

Computer Support  
Providing telephone and remote support to home and business customers. Limited office/shop visits, strictly by appointment only. Please call to arrange first.  
Tel: 01631 571571  
Email: [info@matrixcomputers.co.uk](mailto:info@matrixcomputers.co.uk)

### OBAN COMPUTER SERVICES

Limited service for essential assistance  
Tel: 01631 566561

## TV AERIAL SERVICES

### MACLEOD TELEVISION LTD

TV Aerial Services  
All our BSKYB customers need to book through BSKYB on 03442 41 41 41.  
For enquiries:  
Office - 01631 54310  
Email - [office@mcleodtv.co.uk](mailto:office@mcleodtv.co.uk)

## QUANTITY SURVEYORS

### MORHAM & BROTCHE

We are open while working from home - 9am till 5.15pm Monday to Friday  
Telephone: 01631 563 721  
Email: [admin@morhambro.co.uk](mailto:admin@morhambro.co.uk)

## OTHER INFORMATION

### WEST COAST MOTORS

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

### ROYAL MAIL

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

### HOME-START LORN

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

### HOPE KITCHEN

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

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

# OPEN FOR BUSINESS



IN ASSOCIATION WITH

Oban Business Improvement District

www.bid4oban.co.uk



## Sign of the times as Oban retail prepares to reopen

by Ellis Butcher  
ebutcher@obantimes.co.uk



Businesses across Oban are gearing up to reopen by getting their hands on a range of new social distancing and hygiene signage.

BID4 Oban has taken delivery of around 2,000 different posters and prompts, and is securing batches of hand sanitiser and distancing tape.

Local demand for signs has grown in recent weeks – mostly across the retail sector and some takeaways – ahead of the July 15 ‘retrading’ signal from the Scottish Government.

However, certain measures will have to be met before the green light is given, with businesses getting prepared and all eyes on announcements from the Scottish Parliament.

Andy Spence, chief executive of the 500-strong business group, said: ‘I feel we are on the verge of turning a corner. There’s an air of anticipation that people really want to get back to a safe normality.’

‘We were starting to get requests from businesses to find out what signage they needed and some firms were offering to make signage.’

BID4Oban ordered the signs



**Main photograph:** Neil Matheson with Andy Spence with some of the sign neil picked up in anticipation of reopening his business; and below, Andy Spence with some of the signs BID4Oban has had printed by local business, Digital Kangaroo.

payers – it’s free for any town centre businesses that wants to use it.’

Ten colourful banners promoting Oban – and the importance of maintaining social distancing – will also go up across the town.

The banners were jointly funded by BID4Oban and Oban Community Council.

Neil Matheson, a partner with long-standing Oban business Matheson’s Furnishings on Soroba Road, has collected some new signs.

He said he and wife Shiona were raring to open the doors again on a business which has been part of life in the town for 35 years.

Mr Matheson said: ‘We are desperately looking to reopen and have been waiting and waiting. We are crazy keen, we just can’t wait. It’s been 12 weeks of lockdown and we are desperate to get going again.’

‘Our customers are very keen and we are starting to get phone calls now.’

‘I’ve come here today to get the signage so we can get it all set out and organised.’

The business employs 12 staff and sells carpets, furniture and curtains for homes and commercial businesses.

from Digital Kangaroo, a printing and web design company on Combie Street, Oban.

Mr Spence explained: ‘We decided to purchase it all locally and get it made locally so that we could pass on the cost savings by buying it in bulk.’

‘It was important for us to use a local supplier. We are not charging for any signage for levy



## Shops have been given the green light to reopen again from Monday

The announcement that retail premises ‘of all sizes’ could reopen from June 29 if they had outdoor entrances and exits, was made by First Minister Nicola Sturgeon, writes Ellis Butcher.

It means indoor shopping centres must remain closed. It is part of Scotland’s move to phase two in its journey out of lockdown.

Retail premises must have physical distancing and hygiene measurements in place.

Businesses have been told to contact staff to agree staggered

work times, agree flexible working where possible for those with child care issues, and ensure staff have a safe way of getting to work, said Mrs Sturgeon.

‘When shops do reopen I ask everyone to exercise patience, stick to the messages that are in place for our safety,’ she said.

Outdoor hospitality, such as beer gardens, will not reopen at this stage, she said.

Further advice has been commissioned because Mrs Sturgeon said there was emerging evidence

that pubs, restaurants and gyms can be ‘hot spots for transmission’ of COVID-19.

She said: ‘I appreciate this will be hard for the hospitality industry and I want to give an assurance to businesses in that sector that we will continue to support preparations for reopening.’

‘I expect to have this further scientific advice in two weeks and hope to set out then, on or around July 2, whether outdoor hospitality can reopen during phase two, which I hope will

be the case, or whether further mitigations are required ahead of phase three.’

This week, the construction sector was also given the go-ahead to move to the next phase of its restart plan and dentists were allowed to reopen for urgent care.

In addition, outdoor markets and outdoor playgrounds were allowed to reopen from Monday, June 22.

Outdoor businesses such as zoos and garden attractions can reopen but people should not

travel more than five miles to visit them, she said, with tickets bought in advance.

Restrictions on moving house will also be lifted on June 29. Some indoor workplaces which have opted to remain closed such as factories, labs and warehouses can start to reopen subject to strict physical distancing and safety measures.

Non-essential offices and call-centres should remain closed, she said, with home working being the norm.

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# New range of educational NFU posters

NFU Scotland's Next Generation has developed a range of colourful, educational posters free for all farmers and crofters to download and fill out.

The range of 13 posters inform the public about farming, food, the environment and encourage responsible access.

The eye-catching information sheets let the public know about farming activities taking place in the countryside, linking them to food production and the environment and encouraging responsible access.

Entitled 'What's Happening in This Field', the posters are appropriate for fields supporting the following: crops (general), barley, oats, wheat, grassland, beef, sheep, poultry, pigs, dairy, biodiversity and nesting birds.

They ask the public to 'Please enjoy #responsible access' and thank people for keeping their dogs on a lead.

The timing of the posters being released is ideal. With the second phase in lifting lockdown restrictions commencing, and larger groups



Next Generation Chairman Pete Moss.

permitted to meet outdoors, a new wave of people taking access in the countryside is expected.

NFU Scotland's Next Generation Chairman, Peter Moss from Orkney said: 'With a notable increase in those choosing to access rural areas,

it is clear that we all have a role to play in helping to inform the public about the farming activities we are undertaking.

'The Next Generation group has produced a range of colourful and informative posters to help farmers and crofters engage with the public and tell their own personalised story to those taking access.

'By telling our own farming story, where we manage the environment whilst producing food, we can help ensure that those accessing these areas do so responsibly and safely.

'Now is the time to take advantage of the increase in those accessing the countryside and to thank them for their continued support for Scottish produce.

'Let's take the opportunity to tell the public where their food and drink comes from, how we protect and encourage biodiversity and wildlife, and what they can do to responsibly visit these areas.'

The range of 13 different posters are available at: <https://www.nfus.org.uk/policy/educational-posters.aspx>

## Around the markets

**Caledonian Marts Ltd** (Tuesday 16th June 2020) sold 588 Spring Lambs, Prime Hoggets, Ewes & Tups at their weekly sale.

All classes of lambs followed the National trend with 272 SQQ lambs averaging 214ppkg.

All classes of lambs created an overall average of 208.6ppkg (-22.4p otw) for 305 sold.

Top price of the day went to J McKerrrow, Riverview House, Boness for a cracking 50kg Texel lamb at £117.

Top price per kg went to J Smith, Bankhead, Milnathort for an outstanding 40kg Beltex lamb at 253ppkg.

Leading Prices:-  
Lambs per Head:  
Beltex £116 Bankhead; Continental £115 Drumardoch; Beltex X £114 Auchtenny; Texel £112 (Twice) Easter Cash; Texel X £110 Bankhead Farmers; Suffolk X £108 & £107 Meikle Seggie; Cross £108 Broom

Lambs per kilo:  
Texel 246p (3 Times) Easter Coates; Continental 245p Drumardoch; Suffolk X 243p and 240p Meikle Seggie; Texel X 242p Bankhead Farming; Beltex 242p Bankhead; Continental 238p Ayton; Beltex X 238p Auchtenny; Jacobs 184p Lurg; Mules 178p Midtown.

Also forward were 78 Prime Hoggets selling to a top of £87 from J & D McNicol, Whitecross, Dunblane for a pen of 54kg Texel Hoggets and to 170p/kg from W & M Brown, Mount Lothian, Penicuik for a pen of 44kg Blackface Hoggets.

Leading Prices:  
Hoggets per head:  
Suffolk £86 Balchrystie; Texel £86 Balchrystie; Cross £80 Mountlothian; Continental £80 Balcachie; Texel X £80 Bankhead Farming.

Hoggets per kilo:  
Beltex X 167p & 165p Whitecross; Texel 164p and 160p Whitecross; Texel X 154p Balchrystie; X 151p West Saline; Blackface 149p Lurg.

Also forward were 238 Cast Ewes & Rams.

All classes of ewes were dearer on the week. Many more could have been sold to sellers advantage.

The highlight of the day was a Tremendous run of Texel Ewes from M Jack, Carriston, Star of Markinch who sold 20 ewes to average £147.25.

Heavy Ewes averaged £119.54 selling to £161 for 3 Thumping Texels from M Jack, Carriston.

Export Ewes averaged £65.37 selling to £82 for Cheviots from I & G Farmer, Balbedie, Kinglassie.

Other Leading Prices: Texel - £158, £150 & £140 Carriston; £134 Bankhead Farms  
Beltex - £119 Ayton  
Continental - £112 Bankhead Farms; £109 Whitecross; £108 Shankhead & Whitecross; £107 Ayton; £106 Balbedie.  
Suffolk X - £99 Ayton; £95 Easter Cash; £90 Bankhead Farms.  
Cheviot - £75 Arnprior

Mule - £72 Heights & Drumardoch; £71 Heights & Balchrystie; £70 Arnprior; £68 Balchrystie & Drumardoch Blackface - £63 West Lundie; £60 & £59 Drummond Estate; £58 Auchtenny & Ancaster.

**Dingwall and Highland Marts Ltd** (June, 16th) sold 14 prime cattle. Prime bullocks (7) averaged 216.3p and sold to 227.0p per kg and £1,309.80 gross. Prime heifers (7) averaged 216.5p and sold to 226.0p per kg and £1,471.50 gross.

Prime bullocks (7) averaged 216.3p and sold to 227.0p per kg for a 510kg Limousin cross from Raffin, Tore selling to Messrs Fraser Brothers Butchers, Dingwall, and £1,309.80 gross for a 590kg Limousin Cross also from Raffin, also selling to Messrs Fraser Brothers Butchers.

Prime heifers (7) averaged 216.5p and sold to 226.0p per kg for a 560kg Limousin Cross from Bridgend Farm, Dingwall, and £1,471.50 gross for a 675kg Charolais cross from Easter Sheep Park, Balblair.

Other leading prices per kg:  
Bullocks: Raffin, (LimX), 222.0p; Bridgend, (LuiX), 215.0p; Bridgend, (HerfX), 213.0p.

Heifers: Easter Sheep Park, (LimX), 222.0p; Easter Sheep Park, (CharX), 218.0p; Easter Sheep Park, (BBX), 214.0p.

Other leading prices per head:  
Bullocks: Bridgend, (LimX), £1,248.00; Bridgend, (BShoX), £1,239.00; Bridgend, (LuiX), £1,236.25; Raffin, (LimX), £1,226.55.

Heifers: Bridgend, (LimX), £1,441.00; Easter Sheep Park, (BBX), £1,412.40.

New season lambs (37) averaged 208.4p and sold to 238.7p per kg and £111 gross.

Old season lambs (51) averaged 127.3p and sold to 155.8p per kg and £70 gross.

SQQ 36.5kg to 45.5kg (53) averaged 172.3p (-64.2p) per kg.

Feeding sheep (143) sold to £130 gross.

New season lambs (37) averaged 208.4p and sold to 238.7p per kg and £111 gross for a pair of 46.5kg Texel crosses from Meikle Ussie, Dingwall, selling to Messrs Fraser Brother Butchers.

Old season lambs (51) averaged 127.3p and sold to 155.8p per kg for a pen of 43kg Cheviots from 5C Balnabeen, Conon Bridge, and £70 gross for a pen of 45.5kg Texel crosses from Ardnamurchan Estate, Kilchoan.

SQQ 36.5kg to 45.5kg (53) averaged 172.3p (-64.2p) per kg.

Feeding sheep (143) sold to £130 gross for a Texel ewe from New House, Muir of Ord.

Other leading prices per head and per kg:  
New season lambs: SuffX - New House, & Lochdhu, Nairn, £100, New House, 232.6p; DorsX - Brae Edge, Olrig, £100, 212.8p; TexX - Wester Raddery, Fortrose, £95, Meikle Ussie, 214.3p; RylX - Brae Edge, £95, 208.8p; Zwb - Wester Raddery, £94, 208.9p; BFL - Wester Raddery, £91, 206.8p.

Feeding sheep: TexX ewe - Lochdhu, £98; SuffX ewe - New House, £94 & £90; LynX ewe - South Clunes, Kirkhill, £81; TexX wdr - Dell Farm, Inverness, £80; CharX ewe - Greenlands Farm, Arabella, £80; BeltX ewe - Greenlands Farm, £79; BF - Milton Farm, Aberarder, £73; Mule - Milton of Culloden, Inverness, £71 (twice); Chev ewe - 17-19 Achtravil, Rogart, £70.



One of the new range of posters informing the public about the crop being grown in the field.

**SHEEP CLIPPING**  
All flock sizes  
Contact  
Graeme McCulloch  
0777 1605758  
email  
graeme.mcculloch2411@gmail.com

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# PUBLIC NOTICES

**WATER ENVIRONMENT AND WATER SERVICES (SCOTLAND) ACT 2003  
WATER ENVIRONMENT (CONTROLLED ACTIVITIES) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2011  
APPLICATION FOR VARIATION OF AUTHORISATION  
LOCH SPELVE B, LOCH SPELVE, ISLE OF MULL**

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/1008861 authorising the carrying on of controlled activities at, near or in connection with Loch Spelve B (Dalnaha) marine cage 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 production of salmon at an existing cage fish farm.	Loch Spelve	NM 6889 2700

SEPA considers that the above change(s) to controlled activities 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](mailto: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](mailto:registry@sepa.org.uk) quoting reference number CAR/L/1008861

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.

**MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010  
NEW PONTOON, ARDNAMURCHAN, ACHARACLE**

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

Cost	Latitude	Longitude	£40,000
Location	56° 45.124' N	005° 54.423' W	
Ardnamurchan, Acharacle	56° 45.127' N	005° 54.403' W	
	56° 45.121' N	005° 54.422' W	
	56° 45.124' N	005° 54.402' W	
	56° 45.093' N	005° 54.411' W	
	56° 45.108' N	005° 54.416' W	
	56° 45.111' N	005° 54.397' W	
	56° 45.091' N	005° 54.385' W	

(WGS84)

Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at <https://bit.ly/2B0fE17>

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

MS.MarineLicensing@gov.scot within 28 days of the date of this notice, quoting reference: 07259 and Ardnamurchan Estate.

**Fair Processing Notice**

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

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

**MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010  
SCOTTISH WATER  
DUNSTAFFNAGE BAY, DUNBEG, OBAN**

Notice is hereby given that Scottish Water has applied to the Scottish Ministers of the Scottish Government, under Part 4 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, in respect of construction of an outfall pipe at:

Cost	Latitude	Longitude	£177,215.35
Location	56° 26.829' N	005° 26.352' W	
Construction Area	56° 26.856' N	005° 26.404' W	
Construction Area	56° 26.975' N	005° 26.290' W	
Construction Area	56° 26.966' N	005° 26.246' W	

(WGS84)

Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at: <https://bit.ly/37A2X2K>.

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

Licensing Operations Team, Marine Scotland, Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB within 28 days of the date of this notice or by email to: [MS.MarineLicensing@gov.scot](mailto:MS.MarineLicensing@gov.scot), quoting reference: 07280 and Scottish Water.

**Fair Processing Notice**

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

A full privacy notice can be found at: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/Licensing/marine/PrivacyNotice>. If you are unable to access this, or you have any queries or concerns about how your personal information will be handled, contact MS-LOT at: [ms.marinelicensing@gov.scot](mailto:ms.marinelicensing@gov.scot) or Marine Scotland - Licensing Operations Team, Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB.

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



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

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

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

Reference Number	Development	Address	Proposal Description
20/01418/FUL	Tirindish Steading, Spean Bridge		Demolish store, erection of storage building, change of use - Steading from house to restaurant with staff accommodation, part change of use of Brewery Cottage to office/shop, siting of 3 timber cabins, erection of bike shed, fire pit and associated parking
20/02148/FUL	Nc'nean Distillery	Drimmin, Oban	Erection of maturation building, bottling building and cask storage building
20/01708/FUL	Land 3390M SW Of Loch Ossian Youth Hostel	Corrour Station	Proposed Alteration/Upgrade of path/Track to 4x4 Vehicle Access track for Deer Management & Peatland Restoration

**Time period for comments is 14 days**

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

**PROPOSED DIVISION  
OF A CROFT**

Mrs Catherine Macrithie Mackinnon is applying to divide the owner-occupied Croft at 15 Cleadale Isle of Eigg in the Parish of the Small Isles into one new Croft. Written comments from those with a relevant interest (which may be made public) to: Crofting Commission Leachkin Road Inverness IV3 8NW, [info@crofting.gov.scot](mailto:info@crofting.gov.scot) within 28 days from the date of the advert.

**PROPOSED ASSIGNATION  
OF A CROFT**

Dugald Charles MacNaughton is applying to assign the tenancy of the croft at Glen Mamie, Lochailort, Glen Mamie/ Arisaig and Moidart to James MacNaughton of 3 Rhobana View, Morar, Inverness-shire PH40 4PF. Written comments from those with a relevant interest (which may be made public) to: Crofting Commission, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW, [info@crofting.gov.scot](mailto:info@crofting.gov.scot) by 23/07/2020.

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

1. N Harvey, 6 Eorabus, 0.16 ha, Site for a dwelling house, Fencing/use conditions (104232)
  2. A Graham, 12 Tighphuirist, Braehead, 0.075 ha, Proposed new development, with fencing conditions, (104213)
- Full details at [www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk](http://www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk)

**Oban Times  
PUBLIC NOTICES**

**CONDITIONS OF ACCEPTANCE FOR ADVERTISEMENTS**

YOUR attention is drawn to the following terms and conditions which relate to the placing of advertisements in all publications owned by Wyvex Media Limited.

Parties to this agreement are the Publisher, Wyvex Media Limited on the one part and the Advertiser on the other part. The Publisher publishes newspapers, magazines, books and provides advertising space therein or provides for the delivery of advertising materials to the public within these publications.

- 1 Advertising copy shall be legal, decent, honest and truthful and comply with the British Code of Advertising Practice and all other codes.
- 2 The Publisher does not guarantee the insertion of any particular advertisement.
- 3 The Publisher reserves the right to cancel or alter the advertisement by giving reasonable notice.
- 4 An order for an advertisement shall be deemed to be made on acceptance of the advertisers' order by the Publisher whether placed by telephone, mail, fax or in person.
- 5 Cancellation of display advertising must be received by the Publisher before the publishing deadline, failing which, the publisher reserves the right to invoice the customer in full for the whole cost of the advertisement.
- 6 The parties submit to the jurisdiction of the Scottish Courts and Scots Law. In the event of any dispute or action by the Publisher to recover payment from an advertiser, it is agreed that matters will be settled in the Oban, Argyll Sheriff Court or such other Court as the Publisher may choose.
- 7 The Publisher shall not be liable for any loss or damage occasioned by any total or partial failure (however caused) of publication or distribution of any newspaper or edition in which any advertisement is scheduled to appear. In the event of any error, misprint or omission in the printing of an advertisement or part of an advertisement, the Publisher will either re-insert the advertisement or relevant part of the advertisement, as the case may be, or make reason-

able refund or adjustment to the cost. No re-insertion, refund or adjustment will be made where the error, misprint or omission does not materially detract from the advertisement.

8 Errors must be notified to the Publisher in writing within fourteen days of publication. In no circumstances shall the total liability of the Publisher for any error, misprint or omission exceed the amount of a full refund of any price paid to the Publisher for the particular advertisement in connection with which liability arose or the cost of a further or corrective advertisement of a type and standard reasonably comparable to that in connection with which liability arose.

9 The Advertiser/Advertising Agency agrees to indemnify the Publisher in respect of all costs, damages or other charges falling upon the publication as the result of legal actions or threatened legal actions arising from the publication of the advertisement in any one or more of a series of advertisements published in accordance with copy instructions supplied to the publication in pursuance of the Advertiser/Advertising Agency order.

10 Adverts under the value of £75 must be paid on acceptance of order by the Publisher. All advertising on a credit basis must be agreed with the Publisher in advance.

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# PUBLIC NOTICES

## Argyll and Bute Council

### CIVIC GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 1982 TAXI FARE REVIEW

Notice is hereby given that Argyll and Bute Council, having consulted with taxi operators licensed by the authority, propose to make no amendments to the maximum fares and charges for taxis operating within the jurisdiction of Argyll and Bute Council as detailed below. It is proposed that these will be effective from 22nd October 2020. Due to Coronavirus, our offices are NOT staffed at present, any person wishing to lodge representations in respect of these proposals should do so by email to [licensing@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@argyll-bute.gov.uk) no later than 3rd August 2020. If you do not have access to e-mail then you can still submit your representations in writing to the Head of Legal and Regulatory Support, Argyll and Bute Council, Kilmory, Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8RT no later than 3rd August 2020.

Tariff	Description	Initial Charge	Subsequent Charge
Tariff 1	Hirings from ranks or "flag" Hiring between 7am and 10pm		
	Initial charge (860 yards or part thereof) Subsequent charge (each 176 yards or part thereof)	£3.00	20 pence
Tariff 2	Hirings from ranks or "flag" Hiring between 10pm and 7am		
	Initial charge (860 yards or part thereof) Subsequent charge (each 150 yards or part thereof)	£3.60	20 pence
	Tariff 2 also applies to hirings from ranks or "flag" between 6pm and 10pm December 24th, 6pm and 10pm December 31st and between 7am 2nd January and 7am 3rd January		
Tariff 3	Hiring from ranks or "flag" between 10pm 24th December and 7am 27th December and 10pm 31st December and 7am 2nd January		
	Initial Charge (860 yards or part thereof) Subsequent Charge (each 120 yards or part thereof)	£4.20	20 pence

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**Taxi called by means of telephone** – 30 pence additional charge

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**Fee by negotiation** – for all journeys commencing within but finishing outwith Argyll & Bute, in a place of the above charges, such fares may be charged as prior to the acceptance of the hire, were proposed to the hirer and accepted by him/her

**Ferry Fares** – The hirer shall be liable for the cost of a return ferry fare for any journey involving a ferry

**David Logan, Head of Legal & Regulatory Support, Argyll and Bute Council, Kilmory, Lochgilphead, PA31 8RT**

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us at:

[www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk)

Comhairle Earra – Ghàidheal agus Bhòid



## Argyll and Bute Council

### PLANNING

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

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

Ref. No.	Proposal	Site Address
20/00963/PP	Erection of 2 dwellinghouses, installation of septic tanks, air source heat pumps and formation of access	Plots 2 And 3 Land Adjacent To Morven Cullipool Isle Of Luing Argyll And Bute
20/00919/PP	Erection of holiday unit (amended design relative to planning permission reference 18/01663/PP)	Land South Of Creagh-Na-Hullach Ardtun Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute
20/00982/PP	Change of use from restaurant/bar to gymnasium, treatment rooms and associated welfare facilities	Former O'Donnells Bar Breadalbane Street Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 5NZ

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:

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## BIRTH

**LANGFORD** - On June 9, 2020 at Ninewells, Dundee, to Dr Julia (née Macleod) and Simon, a daughter, Olive Grace, a sister for Harry.

## DEATHS

**JOHNSTONE** - Peacefully at home on June 9, 2020, aged 57 years, Neil Ferguson Johnstone, a dearly loved son, brother, father, father-in-law, grandfather, uncle and friend to many. A private funeral service has taken place in accordance with current restrictions.

**RUTH** - Peacefully at Oakview Nursing Home in Glasgow on June 22, 2020, Hannah (Anna) formerly of Albany Street, Oban, much loved sister, aunt and friend to many. Rest in Peace Hannah. Thank you to all the staff at Oakview for their exceptional care and attention.

**TOPPING** - Peacefully at his home, surrounded by his loving family, aged 80 years, Peter David Topping, beloved husband of Barbara, dearly loved dad of Sue and Pam, respected father-in-law of Frank

and loving grandpa of Lucy. Much loved and sorely missed. A private family funeral will be held in accordance with the current guidelines.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

**CLARK** - The family of the late Margaret MacLean Clark (née Campbell) would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for the many kind expressions of sympathy, flowers, cards and telephone calls following their recent sad loss and all who paid their respects on her final journey from Dalintart Drive to Pennyfuir Cemetery. Special thanks to Reverend Ken Hunter for his comforting graveside service, Hamish Hoey and Sons for funeral arrangements and piper Niall Jordan. Thanks to Lynette at Petals of Oban for floral tributes. We would also like to thank Lorn Medical Centre and Careplus staff for their care and compassion shown to Mum in her final weeks.

**KENNEDY** - The family of Grace Kennedy would like to thank everyone for their kind messages of support, sympa-

thy, flowers and cards, and to all who paid their respects on her final journey to Kilmallie. Thanks to Father David for his comforting graveside service and to Scott Greenlees for being so caring and efficient. Thank you to the Macmillan nurses, Dr Pooleman and the community nurses for their support throughout Grace's illness. Finally, thank you to Castle Care for their kind and compassionate care in Grace's final weeks.

**MACDONALD** - John, Fay and family wish to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for the many comforting expressions of sympathy and support, flowers, messages, cards and phone calls following the loss of our mum Margaret and to everyone who paid their last respects on her final journey to Pennyfuir. Our grateful thanks to the doctors and nurses on Ward B who looked after our mum so well. Special thanks to Father James for always being a source of comfort to our mum and family and for his graveside service. Thanks to Lynette from Petals of Oban for the beautiful floral

tributes. Grateful thanks to Ian MacInnes, D & A Munns for his kind, respectful and professional service. Finally, to the community nurses Gill, Maree, Catherine, Gaynor, Sedona and Lynne and the NHS carers Cara, Teenie, Roseann and Linda who showed endless kindness, compassion and exceptional support to our mum and family, we are forever grateful.

**MACKINNON** - Mary and family of the late Duncan would like to thank all friends, relatives and neighbours for their lovely cards, flowers and messages of support and for those that paid their respects at the roadside. Thank you to Dr Grose, all of the staff at the Macmillan Day Bed Unit and Community Nursing Team and Louise at the occupational therapy department who took such wonderful care of Duncan during his illness. Thank you also to the Rev Tom Telfer for his comforting graveside service, Ian MacInnes and staff at D & A Munn for their care and attention with the funeral arrangements and to Ishbel, Lorna and Jane for their kind help on the day of the funeral.

**McMILLAN** - Ann Ross McMillan (née Lawrie). Ann lived a fulfilling life and was actively involved in various voluntary organisations: namely, Girl Guiding in earlier years; and, for many years can be remembered providing first aid cover at numerous events. Above all though, Ann was unique; a kind and gentle lady who was always smiling and touched many hearts. As a

family we would like to thank all the professionals and services that enabled my beloved wife, our special Mum and Grandma, to spend her last days at home. To Castle Care, we are indebted to you all; the care, dignity, and respect that you have shown Ann will be forever cherished. Julie Gibb and Sandra Leslie, we take comfort that you were with Ann when she passed; and Seonaid MacNally (Hope), your presence as the end neared was unique given our many wonderful memories. The professionalism and thoughtfulness shown by MacLellan Funeral Directors was exceptional (special acknowledgement to Amanda Wood); and the magnificent flower display provided by McDonald Bros a vibrant and beautiful tribute to Ann's life. We also thank everyone for their kind messages, cards, and gifts. As Ann made her final journey through Corpach and Caol, we deeply appreciate the many friends, neighbours and acquaintances who paid their respects.

Look beyond the empty chair  
To know a life well spent  
Look beyond the solitude  
To days of true content  
Cherish in your broken heart  
Each moment gladly shared  
And feel the touch of memory  
Beyond the empty chair.  
From Billy, Heather, Kenny, Fiona, Alan, Ross, Fiona, Isla and Kieran.

**WARNOCK** - Dunrina and family would like to sincerely thank relatives, friends and neighbours for all of their mes-

sages, cards, flowers, phone calls and kind expressions of sympathy on the loss of Jim. We would also like to thank Craig Nevis surgery staff for their care and attention; to Dr Lindemann, district nurses Jane and Shona for their kindness and care shown towards Jim; to the staff at Boots pharmacy; to Manson and MacBeath Funeral Directors for the kindness, help and guidance at a very difficult time; to Alison Stewart for her comforting service and to McDonald Bros for the beautiful flowers.

## MEMORIALS

**CAMERON** - In loving memory of my dear mother Mary, who died June 25, 2015. Also remembering loved ones before and after.

Never more than a thought away,  
Loved and remembered every day.

- From her loving daughter Margaret.

**FERGUSON** - In loving memory of Donnie, who died June 26, 2004. A dearly loved husband and Dad who is in our hearts forever.

- Ann, John, David, Lorne and the family.

**LAWRIE** - John W (Ian), who passed away June 27, 2019. In thankful and loving remembrance of a very dear husband, dad, father-in-law and grandpa.

So many happy memories of Ian, always treasured forever within all our hearts. Very sadly missed.  
- Helen and all the family.

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**MACPHEE** - Treasured memories of my dear mother Marion Lawrie, who passed away June 21, 1992.

Forever in our hearts you'll stay  
Loved and remembered every day.

- From Dugald, Janis and family.

**STEWART** - In loving memory of a dear mother and granny, Nan, who died June 25, 2002.

Gone are the days we used to share,  
But in our hearts you are always there.

- Catherine, Kenneth, Margaret and families.

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## THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

I, like so many other people, am trying to make sense of all we are living through.

The overwhelming tragedy is that we are at the mercy of this vile coronavirus. Rather than living through it, people are dying through it.

I am in the realm of those being shielded as I have a pre-existing medical condition and am seemingly more liable than most to become very ill if I were to catch corona. This threat does not encourage me!

I appreciate enormously the help and support from my family and also the way the community is responding to all manner of needs and opportunities to show our love and care to one another.

One of the challenges I have had to face is that some of the reporting in the media, while rightly informing us of the triumphs and the tragedies, is short on encouragement for those of us who need more reassurance than the statistics indicate as to the likelihood of developing COVID-19.

I find myself losing perspective on the future outcomes. I have been having panic attacks and heightened stress levels. There are days when I can't allow myself to watch the news and endless programmes on the subject.

I have never had so much of what seems like a post-traumatic stress reaction. I applaud the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, who in a recent interview spoke openly about his mental health journey and how depressed he was last year and is now taking anti-depressants.

People are perceived as weak or needing to pull themselves together when they have a mental health issue. Archbishop Welby's response is: 'There is nothing pathetic about it. It is no more pathetic than being ill in any other way. And we just need to get over that.'

There are a number of issues facing the world which seem to be making a call to act more robustly to bring attention to these dangerous and fragile events.

George Floyd was seen by people round the world having the air squeezed out of his lungs by a policeman to the point of death. Suddenly there erupted a movement driven by anger and years of racial hatred and discrimination that swept through towns and cities, not just in the USA but across the world.

The coming of coronavirus and the emotional fever along with the protests following George Floyd's death stand as two markers in history which could well be a tipping point as both would appear to be uncontrollable.

I don't know what to think about the way life is and will be for months and years. I try not to absorb the negative and concentrate on the opportunities for church and community to work together to our mutual good.

Trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture. **Psalm 37:3**

Together may we know the deep peace that only comes from God.

Reverend Ian M McFarlane,  
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# Community led Wee Walk project is gathering pace

by Fiona Scott  
fscott@obantimes.co.uk



A brand new community project aimed at encouraging people to get out and about, get active, and enjoy what is on their own doorstep during lockdown is gathering speed.

Wee Walk Oban was the brainchild of outdoor enthusiasts Iwan and Lindsey Roberts after they realised there was a lack of easily accessible information on local walk routes.

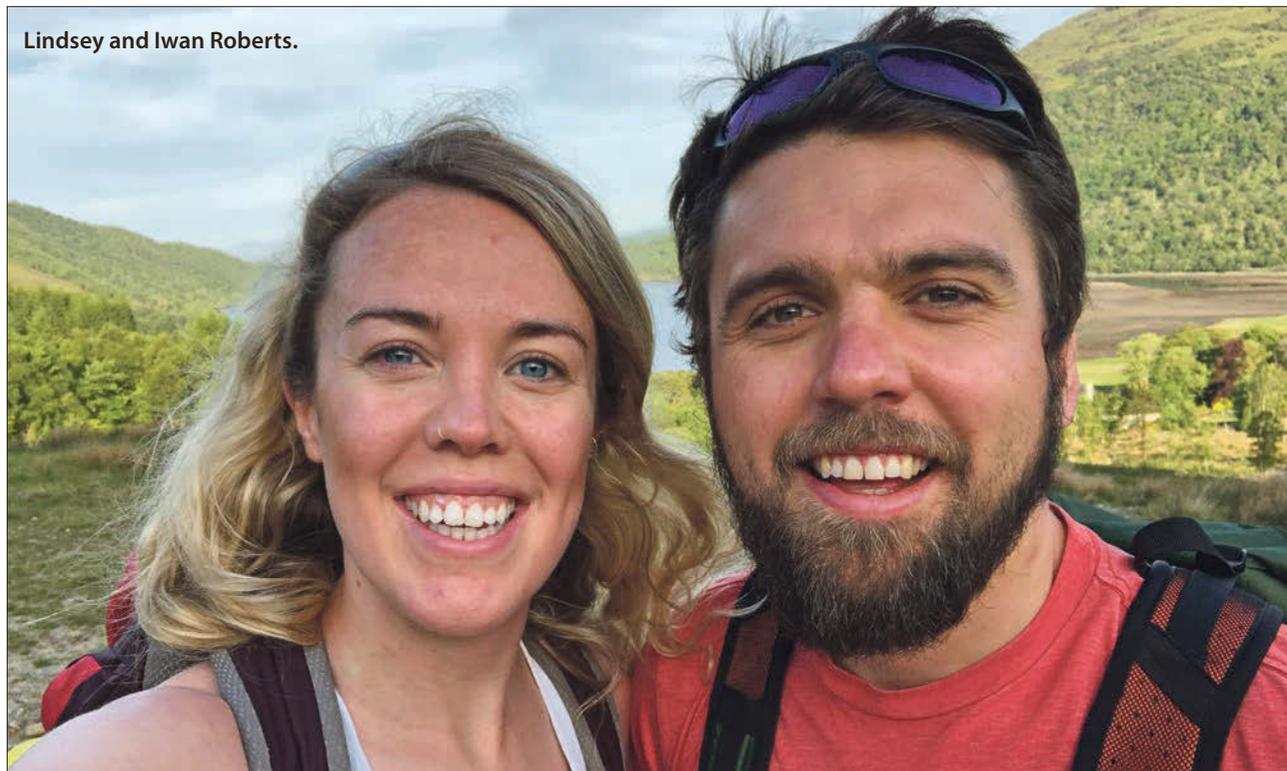
**'We had a fantastic response to our call to the community and so far have 12 routes written up with photos and route maps, with many others to add.'**

Following an appeal to the public to suggest local walks, in early May, however, the couple have been inundated with interest and information, and will be ready to launch the Wee Walk Oban website next month.

'With the government announcing at the start of lockdown that you could go outside for exercise once a day, which meant it felt almost prescriptive, a lot of people started walking and exploring a bit,' explained Iwan.

'We wanted to harness that

Lindsey and Iwan Roberts.



enthusiasm because we know how good walking, and just being outdoors, is for mental and physical health and wanted to help encourage more people to do so.

'There will also be many people now who have been shielding for weeks, and this could be a good resource to help build some fitness back up.'

Former captain of Oban Lorne RFC, Iwan is currently on furlough from his job as operations manager at Atlantis

Leisure while Lyndsey is a dentist at Oban Dental Care.

Together with their dog Nola the couple walk around town everyday and also enjoy a bit of hill walking.

Iwan continued: 'We had a fantastic response to our call to the community and so far have 12 routes written up with photos and route maps, with many others to add.'

'The website will be ready to launch in the first week of July, alongside our Instagram page, where there will be monthly

competitions to encourage all to get those steps in, and explore and see Oban from new angles.

'Prizes include things like outdoor gear from Outside Edge, thanks to Dave Bleazard, and free passes to Atlantis Leisure once it reopens.'

'The first competition will be encouraging the community to litter pick while on their walks, and we'll announce details on this before launching.'

Wee Walk Oban is a not-for-profit community project,

which the Roberts' intend to keep running after lockdown is over. Community groups and individuals, including Lorn and Oban Healthy Options, Peter Darling from the Dove Centre, Andrew Spence from BID and Des MacMillan from Martyn's Monday Club have all helped out in some way to get things up and running. Jolyon Gritten, Argyll and Bute Council's Access Officer has also been involved.

'We'll signpost some of these groups on the website

too, as well as how to take the next steps to exploring the outdoors responsibly and on a bigger scale: because it's for absolutely everyone to enjoy,' added Iwan.

The website and PDF's of the walks will be free of charge and although the free service is primarily for the community it will also serve as a good resource for tourists too.

The couple are looking to produce business cards for B and B's to hand out to their patrons, instead of printing out walks while the website also includes detailed information on the Scottish Outdoor Access Code, which will educate and encourage all to enjoy the outdoors responsibly.

Walks include obvious/local classics like McCaig's, Pulpit, The Mast. Then there's Chicken Run and Squirrel Walk, a few Glencruitten ones and Ardbhan Craigs above Kerrera ferry with plenty more to come.

All walks so far start at the clocktower, and range from 40 minutes to 2.5 hours. There are a few which are wheelchair and pram accessible and the Roberts' are looking to expand to walks slightly further afield in the future.



## TIDES Thursday June 25, 2020

Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday June 25, 2020 are listed below with differences for major ports listed underneath. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Thur	02.23	1.1	08.18	3.4
	14.31	0.9	20.28	3.6
Fri	03.13	1.2	09.05	3.3
	15.20	1.0	21.18	3.5
Sat	04.09	1.3	09.59	3.1
	16.14	1.1	22.14	3.4
Sun	05.15	1.4	11.04	3.0
	17.15	0.7	18.46	4.0
Mon	06.26	1.4	12.29	3.0
	18.23	1.2	** **	**
Tues	00.46	3.3	07.38	1.4
	13.54	3.1	19.33	1.2
Wed	02.08	3.3	08.43	1.3
	14.57	3.2	20.41	1.2

## OBAN WEATHER

**THURSDAY**  
Thundery showers and a gentle breeze  
Temperatures 15°C to 24°C.

**FRIDAY**  
Light rain showers and a moderate breeze  
14°C to 22°C.

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

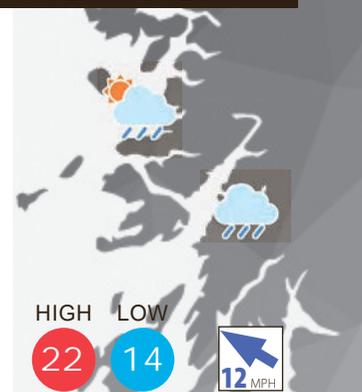
**Sunday**  
Light rain / moderate breeze. 11°C to 15°C.

### 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



# LOCHABER TIMES

## & OBAN TIMES

No 8517

Thursday 25 June, 2020

www.lochabertimes.co.uk

95p



### Fort William journalist scoops top award



### Activist Holly voted Young Scotswoman of Year

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### MAKE THE SWITCH

# Local anger over Corpach port Sunday changes plan

by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Years of endless wrangling between the community and businesses over levels of noise and other forms of pollution and disturbance at Corpach port saw frustrated councillors this week agree to formally object to proposals for berthing and disembarking of ships on Sundays.

The Section 42 application has been lodged with Highland Council by Boyd Brothers (Haulage) Ltd, which has pledged there will be no stevedoring involved if the application is approved.

The firm said while it does not intend to make Sunday berthing/disembarking at Annat Pier a regular occurrence, it claims it is vital the option is available to ensure the safe navigation of vessels.

'As a result of increased business in recent years, particularly within the aquaculture sector, it is important that the availability of port facilities

on a Sunday reduces costs and eases the ability of local companies to safely operate their vessels,' said a supporting statement.

'We do not intend to pursue an application to allow Sunday stevedoring only berthing and disembarking of the vessels.'

'We are aware of the concerns of the local community regard-

**'The noise created is minimal and would cause no disruption...'**

ing noise disruption. However, the noise created by vessels berthing and disembarking is minimal and would cause no disruption to the local community.'

But at Monday's Kilmallie Community Council meeting - held virtually due to coronavirus restrictions - exasperated councillors and members of the public were in no mood to view the proposal sympathetically, coming as it did in the wake of

recent complaints over noise from Boyd Brothers' cutting up of scrap metal fish farm cages and a pontoon on the shore.

Community council chairman Colin Wood said there had been complaints from people living on both sides of the loch about the noise levels.

Both Highland Council planning officers and SEPA were contacted over the matter and representatives of both bodies took part in Monday's discussions.

'I feel part of the reaction from the community is due to the lack of notice people got and then all of a sudden there's a scrap yard operating,' said Councillor Wood.

Mr Boyd said he was unaware planning permission was needed for such operations to cut up scrap metal, given that in years gone by other firms had engaged in similar activities without issue.

'We had heard it was going to be a steel fish cage, but rather

Continued on page four.

## Shingler's tryst...



A Spean Bridge couple were granted a special dispensation to marry during lockdown, last Thursday. Seb and Heidi Shingler arrived for an intimate ceremony at the Municipal Gardens in Fort William by canoe, with their dog Freya acting as coxswain. For the full story, turn to page two. Photograph: A Brightside Photography

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LT

# National award honour for Fort journalist Connor

by Fiona Scott  
fscott@obantimes.co.uk



A former Nevis Radio presenter is leading the way for broadcast journalism in Scotland with his coverage of some of the biggest stories of the decade bagging him two major awards over the past two years.

At the beginning of the month Connor Gillies was named Royal Television Scotland (RTS) Young Journalist of the Year, adding to his UK Reporter of the Year title won at the 2018 Sky News/IRN Awards in London in 2018.

Through his work with some of the countries top radio stations the 28-year-old covered the Clutha helicopter disaster and the George Square bin lorry tragedy, while his international assignments include interviewing President Donald



Connor Gillies  
News reporter  
BBC REPORTING SCOTLAND

Trump before he moved in to the White House, reporting live from the beaches of Greece on the refugee crisis and reporting from Florida in the wake of another deadly school shooting.

He told us: 'I am thrilled to win this prestigious award from the Royal Television

Society. I always wanted to work in broadcasting but I sort of fell in to journalism. As my family and friends will testify, I have always asked questions and never taken anything at face value. They never got any peace and quiet.

'I am so lucky to get to do this job every day and while this

Connor Gillies now reports from around the world for BBC Scotland.

recognition is unexpected, it is very much appreciated.'

Having got his first taste of broadcasting presenting the Drive Time show at his local radio station, the former Lochside Primary School and Lochaber High School pupil joined the Bauer Media group as a reporter in Ayr after graduating from Glasgow Caledonian University.

'School finished about 3.30pm and I had to get myself to the Ben Nevis industrial estate and on air for 4pm,' he recalled.

'Fond memories and I'll be forever grateful for all the opportunities.'

Following a short spell in the south west, Connor moved to Radio Clyde in Glasgow

and then in 2015 switched to rival company Global Radio. In late 2018 he moved to BBC Scotland as a news reporter for television and radio where he broadcasts packages and presents live inserts for flagship news programmes, including Reporting Scotland, The Nine and BBC Radio Scotland.

'Television news is a team effort,' he added.

'It would not be possible without the talented and hard-working production teams and camera crews at BBC Scotland.

'I'd also like to thank the people who open their lives to us and trust us with their stories, sometimes in tragic and difficult circumstances.'

The RTS award is open to all television and video web journalists working in news, current affairs, features and sport up to the age of 30 and is presented in memory of George Sinclair.

The award recipient receives £1,000 gifted by the Sinclair Trust.

An RTS spokesperson said: 'Connor won because his entries demonstrated excellent news sense, were clearly well researched and showed he has that extra talent of being able to build strong relations with his contributors.'

'His approach also displayed a strong skill in investigative reporting, revealing the persevering nature that is so vital to this genre. We congratulate Connor on his first-class work.'

Connor beat off some stiff opposition for the award, with Courtney Cameron, STV News, and BBC Scotland's Rajdeep Sandhu also making the shortlist.

'I have the most supportive family in Fort William and Arisaig who back everything I do - and always have. I'll be forever grateful,' he concluded.

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Seb and Heidi, together with their dog Freya, arrived for their wedding at the Municipal Gardens in a canoe. Photograph: Abrightside Photography

## A wedding to float your boat

A Spean Bridge couple made waves last Thursday when they paddled round Loch Linnhe before tying the knot in Fort William Municipal Gardens, writes Fiona Scott.

Seb Shingler and Heidi Schwenk were granted a special dispensation, due to exceptional family circumstances, which allowed their nuptials to take place during lockdown.

After jumping into their canoe at West Highland College UHI, where Heidi works as a lecturer in adventure studies, the outdoors-loving couple and their dog Freya travelled around the shore to the Municipal Gardens near

the Yacht Club, where they took their vows. Speaking to the Lochaber Times this week Seb, who works for Highlands and Islands Enterprise, said: 'The whole day was absolutely amazing. We both love the outdoors and do a lot of walking and canoeing so it seemed the right thing to do.'

'Heidi's work colleagues had arranged to line the shore, socially distanced, to see us off and there was a piper playing too, which was just wonderful.'

'We were a bit concerned about Freya as she had never been on the canoe before.'

'We had a training session

with her the Tuesday before the wedding though and she was just fine. We would both like to thank everyone involved in making our special day even more special.'

Following an intimate ceremony, witnessed by two friends and presided over by Fort William registrar ??, all those present took part in a quai ceremony before travelling to Glen Nevis and Old Inverloch Castle for a few photographs taken by John Paul Peebles from Abrightside Photography.

At the time of going to print, marriages in the Highland council area are postponed until further notice.

# Fears some eligible children missing out on free meals

by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

A Lochaber community group has now distributed around 1,700 free lunch packs for local school children amidst fears fewer eligible children are receiving the school meal vouchers being issued during the coronavirus lockdown than received free school meals previously.

Last week, First Minister Nicola Sturgeon announced that all eligible school pupils were to receive free school meals during the summer break to help tackle food poverty.

By the time the summer school holidays begin, Highland Council said it will have issued 67,500 vouchers across the Highlands, amounting to more than £1m.

**'It is possible less children are receiving vouchers than those formerly getting free school meals.'**

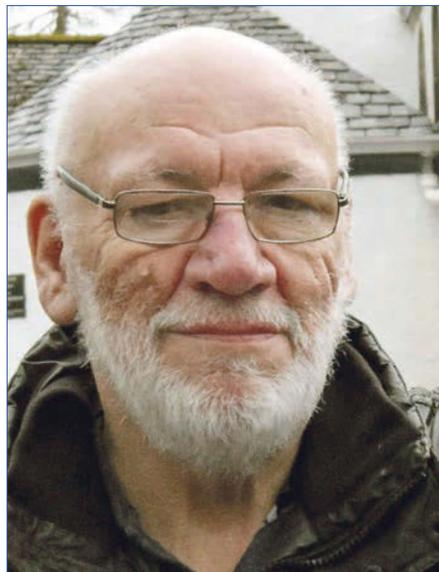
But John Fotheringham, chairman of the Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achncarry SCIO (Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation), is worried that the numbers being talked about are misleading.

'We don't know how many more children in the Highlands are actually benefiting from these awards during these unprecedented times, indeed it is possible less children are receiving free school vouchers than those that were formerly getting free school meals,' Mr Fotheringham told us.

'Normally, primaries one to three and those children from families with low income get free school meals in term time and Highland Council receives the monies through a block grant or by some other means.'

The SCIO's 1,700 packed lunches have been delivered to up to 70 local primary school children in the SCIO area since April 22.

These are distributed by



**SCIO chairman, John Fotheringham, who fears some children are missing out on the free meals during the lockdown.**

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

volunteers three days a week thanks to grants from the Scottish Government Supporting Communities Fund and the Lund Trust.

The council said free school meal provision during the COVID-19 pandemic is targeted and is being paid to P1-3 pupils in receipt of school clothing grants and all P4-S6 young people who meet the national qualifying criteria.

'Around 4,500 pupils in Highland are receiving fortnightly vouchers to the equivalent of £15 per pupil, per week. This includes an average weekly increase of 50 pupils each week since lockdown began,' said a council spokesperson.

Councillor Ben Thompson (Caol and Mallaig) told us: 'The Scottish Government guidance clearly says free school meal provision is for eligible children only. The council continues to pay staff who would normally supply school meals without any school meal income to offset that.'

'In addition, the high value of the vouchers paid out compared to the cost of serving meals in schools means that the council is worse off. There is no free school meal money not being paid out.'

But Mr Fotheringham still worries there will be some children and their families falling through the net.

'Our volunteers on the ground during lockdown

recognised that there was an issue with Highland Council not providing vouchers for children in Primaries 1-3 unless their parents could prove they had been made redundant or furloughing brought a significant loss in income,' he explained.

'There is a perceived stigma by some about involving Highland Council and their Social Work Department, about families' finances, and others had difficulties due to the speed of the lockdown to produce the paperwork needed by the agencies.'

'We felt by supporting families in this way, those who were in need might also ask for essential food packages. But I don't think we envisaged either the volume of take up or popularity.'

'We explained to parents we were doing this with money we got from the government so people didn't feel it was charity. We were expecting to maybe only need to be helping 20 or 30 kids but that mushroomed to over 70 children out of a school of 125.'

'I cannot understand why they just didn't continue with the agreed format in the pandemic and offer support to additional children.'

'We don't intend to stop till we know Highland Council will reinstate their obligation to P1-3 children in the local primary school once children go back to school in August.'

## KFC finally announces Fort opening



Fast food giant Kentucky Fried Chicken (KFC) has finally confirmed the long awaited opening date for its new Fort William outlet, with 35 jobs to be created in November, writes Mark Entwistle.

The mystery surrounding what was happening with the empty KFC building, on the town's North Road, has been a source of much speculation over the past year.

The last word on what was happening with

the franchise was in October, when a spokesperson for the franchisee, The Herbert Group, said the opening of the branch had been delayed due to 'matters beyond our control'.

With recruitment advertising now appearing online for the new jobs, including a restaurant manager, a KFC spokesperson told the Lochaber Times this week: 'Fort William here we come! Our brand new restaurant is due to open in November and will create 35 jobs.'



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LT

# Travis Perkins consulting with staff over possible Fort branch closure

by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Builder merchants Travis Perkins said it is too early to say whether the company's Fort William branch will be one of the 165 outlets across the UK earmarked for closure due to the impact of the coronavirus.

The closures represent approximately eight per cent of the firm's network, and will primarily affect branches where it is either difficult to implement safe working practices, or where reduced volumes are impacting on profitability.

Regrettably, said Travis Perkins, the changes are likely to result in a number of job losses, although the company said it will do its best to retain colleagues where possible.

The company, which has its branch in Fort William



located in Ben Nevis Industrial Estate, also told the Lochaber Times that as it had only just started consultation with staff

whose jobs are at risk, a final number cannot be confirmed at this stage, but it is likely to be around 2,500.

Travis Perkins plc CEO Nick Roberts, commented: 'The COVID pandemic has created significant challenges

**Travis Perkins is considering closing a number of its 165 outlets across the country, including its branch in Fort William.** Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

across our group and I have been hugely encouraged by the flexibility of our colleagues to adapt our business models successfully and at pace, which has enabled us to maintain safe working practices whilst continuing to provide an effective service to our customers.

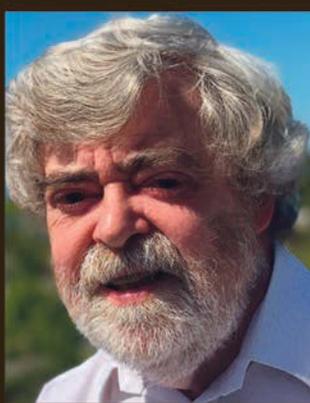
'While we have experienced improving trends more recently, we do not expect a return to pre-COVID trading conditions for some time and consequently we have had to take the very difficult decision to begin consultations on the closure of selected branches and to reduce our workforce

to ensure we can protect the group as a whole.

'This is in no way a reflection on those employees impacted and we will do everything we can to support them during this process. The group has a robust balance sheet, strong liquidity position and I am confident that these proposed changes will enable us to trade successfully through this period of uncertainty with a cost base that better reflects the environment we are operating in.'

Quizzed over whether there was any threat to the Fort William branch, a spokesman added: 'We only started consultation about the announced proposals earlier this week, which means our priorities are now to support our colleagues and that we are unfortunately unable to provide you with details of the proposed local impact at this stage.'

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## Sunday changes proposal for Corpach port gets thumbs down

Continued from page one.

than one with plastic floats it turned out to be all steel and we had to dismantle it quickly as we couldn't leave it in an unsafe condition,' explained Mr Boyd. 'I broke it up with hydraulic shears which was the quickest, cleanest way of doing it.'

Mr Boyd added his sister had gone over to the other side of the loch, at Achaphubuil, and recorded the noise level on her iPad, saying: 'When you listen to what she recorded, the seagulls and peewits were making more noise than I was.'

But this prompted incredulity from community councillors and local residents listening in.

Councillor Wood told Mr Boyd: 'The noise was said to be so loud people could not go about their normal lives. Some form of communication ahead of starting would have been useful.'

Mr Boyd said he was happy to speak to people if they had contacted him about problems.

But local businessman, Norman Clark, said the argument over the cutting up of the scrap metal structures was like the endless arguments between the company and the local com-

munity over previous berthing/ departures of ships on Sundays: 'That's not supposed to happen on Sundays and if you want to get the community on side you have to start talking to them before such things happen, not afterwards.'

Dr Michael Foxley, who lives at Achaphubuil, said the noise went on for eight or nine hours a day for three weeks: 'This has been going on for years and has seen people sell up and leave.'

And he told Mr Boyd: 'If you think operating an unauthorised scrap yard for three weeks on the shoreline at Corpach is OK, you are living on a different planet from the rest of us.'

David Mudie, Highland Council's planning manager for the south Highland area, offered some hope the recurring issues could be dealt with: 'The new application for operating hours on a Sunday at Annat jetty brings an opportunity to look at all the existing planning conditions and gives the community the chance to make comments.'

But Mr Clark said people had lodged complaints with Highland Council over noise and other disturbance for years. 'They just seem to get added to

some file somewhere and nobody then does anything other than pass the buck,' he said.

Councillor Wood added: 'There is definitely a sense of helplessness in the community and the feeling that we are not being listened to over this.'

Mr Boyd said he was definitely open to members of the community council coming to discuss any matters of concern.

But he cautioned: 'People have to remember this is still an industrial site and along with BSW and others, creates employment for something like 600-plus jobs. There will be a certain level of noise.'

Mrs Jillian Clark said no one disputed the importance of the jobs created, but added: 'All we are asking is for people to abide by the rules in terms of the planning conditions that already exist. It's not asking much.'

Mrs Clark warned Mr Boyd that people did not believe there would be no Sunday operations if the application was granted. 'You've lost our trust,' she added.

The community council agreed it had little alternative but to lodge a formal objection to the application for Sunday berthing and disembarking.

# Jacobite steam train to bypass Glenfinnan halt, says operator

by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

The Jacobite Express will not be making its usual stop at Glenfinnan station when it restarts its scheduled trips between Fort William and Mallaig next month as coronavirus lockdown restrictions are slowly lifted.

The Scottish Government has said tourism business can reopen from July 15, assuming the infection rate for the virus does not start rising again before then.

There will be special measures to keep passengers safe aboard the 'Harry Potter' train during its 84-mile round trip on what has been described as the most beautiful rail journey in the world.

Face masks will now be compulsory on public travel, according to new government rules announced last week, bringing the country into line with restrictions in England on the use of face coverings.

A spokesman for West Coast Railways (WCR), which runs the twice-daily steam-hauled service, told the Lochaber Times: 'We are chuffed at the prospect of getting back on track, although the safety of passengers, staff and the local community remains paramount.'

'The Scottish Government has announced it intends to lift restrictions on the tourism and the leisure sector on July 15 and so we hope to start running again that day.'

'But we are waiting for them to confirm, something they have promised to do on July 9.'

Among the safety measures planned are changes to seating plans in the Jacobite's vintage carriages so that people can maintain social distancing on board the train.

Instead of paper tickets, electronic ones will be sent out to passengers' mobile phones.

Food will be served wrapped or covered, while cutlery will be sealed, and every carriage will be equipped with sanitised hand dispensers.

Passengers will also be encouraged not to move around the train during the journey.

The spokesman added: 'We want to make travelling on the Jacobite as safe as possible without distracting from the experience.'

However, with the decision not to reopen either Glenfinnan station museum



Councillor Denis Rixon.

or the nearby popular Dining Car cafe at this time due to the social distancing measures, WCR told the Lochaber Times the Jacobite would not now be stopping at Glenfinnan.

The WCR spokesperson added: 'Normally we wait there for about 20 minutes to give passengers the chance to stretch their legs and explore.'

'It is a pity because the museum is fascinating to visit and the cafe in a restored dining car dishes up some scrumptious cakes and lunches.'

'But there is plenty more to enjoy during the train journey and not stopping will give us more time to clean the train once it reaches its destination so we can ensure our passengers' safety.'

'Glenfinnan Station Museum, toilets and the Glenfinnan Dining Car are to remain closed until the 2021 season. Tourists visiting the station will not have access to toilets, potentially resulting in a "Glenfinnan Andrex trail".'

'There will be no parking for tourists. That will be a problem for residents in itself.'

'Glenfinnan has been in almost complete isolation for the whole of lockdown. Naturally, there is local concern that the village will not be able to cope with the needs of visiting tour-

ists so soon after lockdown eases.'

Giving his reaction to the news of the restart of services, Councillor Ben Thompson (Caol and Mallaig), told us: 'I think good communication is going to be really important as we step carefully out of lockdown. I hope all businesses, but especially those that attract tourists, will communicate their plans well in advance of safe reopening to both their customers and local residents.'

'I've seen a few businesses do this already - for example Nevis Range [last week] which I thought was a clear and reassuring announcement.'

His fellow Caol and Mallaig councillor, Denis Rixon, feels WCR has made efforts to address public concerns around COVID-19, saying: 'But if we assume five carriages that is still 170 passengers - plus crew - twice a day, seven days a week, in peak season. You will be able to alight at Arisaig if you ask the guard. When you get to Mallaig you have an hour and a half 'to enjoy a walk'.'

'None of this is necessarily bad - but I would ask West Coast Railways to address the concerns of the wider public, as well as the travelling passengers.'

'Maintaining social distancing with 170 passengers milling around in Fort William Railway Station is going to be a logistical challenge in itself - not to mention the much smaller railway station in Mallaig.'

'Nothing is insuperable - but much more detail please. You have the Highland public to reassure

- as well as your passengers.' The third Caol and Mallaig councillor, Allan Henderson, added: 'Already we have indiscriminate tourists wandering

about Glenfinnan and reports of tourists cold calling B&Bs.'

'Before anything concrete happens we need to be assured that it is safe and all tourists

The Jacobite steam train draws tens of thousands of visitors each year to Glenfinnan. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image.

can be safely welcomed. If this goes wrong we will be closed down for a lot longer than the three months.

'While I admire WCR for having the confidence in their business model there is a big piece of work to give the confidence to the community, especially at the alighting end where businesses do not appear to be able to go from virtual lockdown to fully open.'

'Phasing is the key and to me the need to accommodate and feed the excursionists needs to take precedence over the trip. I have not yet seen confidence in the tourism industry, with many hotels and B&Bs not yet able to open successfully and safely due to following national guidelines.'

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LT

# Morvern community hydro confirms financial deal

by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

More than £6million has now been secured to allow the development of a new community hydro-power energy generation scheme on the Barr River, near Loch Teacuis on Morvern.

The Morvern Community Development Company has worked with Triodos Bank UK and the Scottish Investment Bank to secure the cash to develop the high-head (142m) hydropower project.

Once installed, the scheme is expected to have a 1.6MW capacity and to generate approximately 4,269,000 kWh each year – enough to power more than 1,000 homes. It will take approximately 14 months to build and is expected to operate for at least 50 years.

The community has been exploring the potential for a shared-ownership hydropow-



er scheme since 2013. Now this new funding will help with the construction and operation of the hydropower scheme by MorVolts Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Morvern Community Development Company (MCDC), a registered charity that will benefit the community of Morvern.

Jane Stuart-Smith, chairwoman of the MCDC, told us: 'Getting to this point has taken

a huge investment of local volunteer effort sustained over many years.

'Morvern is a delightful place to live and work but it faces challenges to maintain a sustainable community in a remote rural community location. MCDC has a strong track record in creating and delivering local infrastructure projects. The income from the scheme will be an important

**The new community hydro-power energy generation scheme will be built on the Barr River, near Loch Teacuis on Morvern.**

source of investment into the local development priorities. There is an increasing focus on community involvement in energy networks. The scheme also gives the Morvern community a strategic stake in the energy supply on the peninsula.'

A total of £6.49 million has been secured, made up of a £4.26 million Triodos Bank loan and £2.23m from the Energy Investment Fund, which is administered on behalf of the Scottish Government.

Paul Wheelhouse, Minister for Energy, Connectivity and the Islands, added: 'Morvern is a fantastic example of what an empowered community

can achieve, with a great track record in project delivery and actively engaged in planning for their future.

'The Scottish Government through our Community and Renewable Energy Scheme (CARES) delivered by Local Energy Scotland, has been assisting Morvern since 2014, providing both advice and funding support, and I am pleased our Scottish Investment Bank has been able to contribute £2.23 million through the Energy Investment Fund to make it happen.

'At 1.6 MW, the scheme is, I understand, the largest hydro in the UK to be entirely community-owned and that is a tremendous achievement.

'I am also really delighted that all profits from the project will be channelled back into the community. I am sure, this will make a real and positive difference to the lives of local

people and this is why we are keen to see more projects such as this.'

Philip Bazin, environment manager at Triodos Bank UK, said: 'This is a great example of a community energy project – bringing people and organisations together to do something for both people and planet.

'It is encouraging to have success stories like this right now of people coming together to overcome the challenges brought about by the current crisis.'

Kerry Sharp, director, Scottish Investment Bank, said: 'Scotland has been harnessing the power of water through hydro-electric schemes for more than 100 years, particularly in the Highlands. We're genuinely excited to help MCDC continue to capitalise on Morvern's natural and built environment for the benefit of the local community.'

## Fort minister says parish church not reopening yet

Despite the latest relaxation of coronavirus lockdown rules that means this week places of worship in Scotland can reopen for individual prayer or contemplation, Duncansburgh MacIntosh Parish Church in Fort William will not be one of them, writes Mark Entwistle.

So said the church's minister, Rev Richard Baxter, who was commenting on the reopening of places of worship as of Monday of this week, subject to physical distancing and hygiene safeguards.

Rev Baxter told the Lochaber Times: 'We could now open this church building for private prayer – but we won't.

'Why not? Because if you care here to pray, we'd have to make you wash or sanitise your hands at the door; instruct you to wear a mask; ask if you had Covid symptoms, underlying health problems, or got a flu jab – and turn you away if the answer to any of those was 'yes'; tell you which seat you could sit in; warn you not to sing; make sure you left by a different door, then clean and sanitise every surface you touched.



**Rev Richard Baxter is minister of Duncansburgh MacIntosh Church.**

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

'Alternatively you could sit in an armchair with a cup of tea; sit on the Parade watching the birds; walk along the sea front. and talk to God just as easily.

'You don't need special

words, a special place, special objects or special people to talk to God. He loves you and He's listening. So just do it. This church building is still shut. The ears of Heaven are not.'

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Bealltainn is doing well and loves spending her days out in the sun, lying among the vegetation in her enclosure.

## Rescued otter update

Regular Lochaber Times readers may recall our recent story on Bealltainn, the otter cub who sought help (well, food, actually) from a friendly human on the Ross of Mull in May, writes Fiona Scott.

Her mother was nowhere to be found, so Mull Otter Group's Sue and

Darren Morley transported her to the International Otter Survival Fund (IOSF) sanctuary on the Isle of Skye.

Ben Yoxon of IOSF updated us this week.

'Bealltainn is doing really well, she is growing and loves spending her days out in the sun - when it's out - lying among the vegetation in her

enclosure. When she first came she was fairly unbothered by people but since then has become a lot more reserved and shy.

'She loves her food, particularly the octopus provided by local fishermen, and continues to grow.'

Bealltainn's gradual wariness of humans is being hailed as a great start to her eventual return to the wild.

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

Gardenless residents in Upper Achintore have the opportunity to get their fingers green during lockdown thanks to the local regeneration group, writes Fiona Scott.

With support from High Life Highland's Green Health Initiative programme, the Upper Achintore Regeneration Group is putting together 150 Windowsill Gardening Kits/Green Health Packs for distribution to families and children living in flats without gardens in the Upper Achintore community.

The purpose of the packs is to provide enjoyment, educate, release some creative talents and, who knows, discover a new hobby during this restrictive period of lockdown.

The packs have been funded by the Scottish Government's Supporting Communities Fund and will be distributed locally by the group.

In little under two weeks, the



People living in Upper Achintore can request the free packs.

group has explored and consulted locally to identify how best the funding could be used to benefit the community. The individual packs will include four windowsill planting pots, compost, herb and flower seeds and one suction bird feeder together with bird seed.

Guidance sheets will accompany the pack and the herbs can be grown and harvested for family use.

Now that the funding has

been secured, the group is in the process of sourcing, buying and making up the packs for distribution to local residents free of charge, while respecting physical distancing rules.

Group chairman Mark Linfield said: 'We recognise how difficult the lockdown period has been for families, particularly those with children living in the high density flats at Ross Place, Moray Place, Lundavra Road, above

Heathercroft and in Angus Crescent.

'As we slowly emerge from lockdown we hope the packs can help families develop new hobbies and interests at home especially with the summer holidays about to start.

'If nothing else the 12 weeks of lockdown has made most of us appreciate how lucky we are to live where we do as opposed to living in a city.'

The packs are free and all the group are asking is that the recipients complete a feedback form and send photographs for posting on their Facebook page.

Anyone living in any of the flats in Upper Achintore can request a pack by messaging the Upper Achintore Regeneration Group's Facebook Page or email the secretary: [uarg19@aol.com](mailto:uarg19@aol.com). The group is also looking for help in making up and distributing the kits - again please email.



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Leia Livornese, from Kinlochleven, turned 17 on June 16. Her Mum, Dad and brother Lucas blew up balloons while family friend Tracey made a salted caramel brownie birthday cheesecake. There was party hats and streamers, and 'Isa' from Still Game was also on the guest list!

## Happy lockdown birthday!

Send us a photograph of your wee one enjoying their special day and we will publish it and wish them Happy Birthday.

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Send your photographs to [fort@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:fort@obantimes.co.uk)

# Activist Holly named Scotswoman of year

by Mark Entwistle  
[mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk)

Local teenage climate change school striker and environmental activist Holly Gillibrand has been named as the 2019 Glasgow Times Young Scotswoman of the Year, following a public vote.

Inspired by Swedish teenage climate campaigner, Greta Thunberg, Holly, a fourth-year pupil at Lochaber High School, started striking from school every Friday morning at the start of last year.

Her profile has continued to grow, with the result being a flurry of invitations to speak at national events, including the Green Party's political conference and Edinburgh Book Festival.

Holly has also just been announced as a youth advisor and 'future voice' for the charity, Heal Rewilding.



Holly speaks at the Climate change march in Fort William last year. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

Holly, aged 15 – often referred to as 'Scotland's Greta Thunberg' – is also a regular columnist for the Lochaber Times.

From Kinlochail near Fort William, where she lives with her family, Holly would have been presented with the prestigious award at a glitzy gala dinner in Glasgow, but due to

the coronavirus pandemic this had to be cancelled and now Holly, and her fellow finalists, will be invited to attend next year's celebrations instead.

Glasgow Times Editor Callum Baird commented in his newspaper: 'All of our Young SWOTY [Glasgow Times Young Scotswoman of the Year] finalists are amazing

and Holly is a very worthy winner.

'We have all been inspired by her willingness to stand up for what she believes in, her passion for the natural world, and her determination to speak up in the fight against climate change.'

'She is a fantastic role model for young people everywhere.'

Mum Kate Willis told us: 'We (her parents) are incredibly proud of what Holly is doing, and it is good to see that her efforts are being noticed, but this is tinged with sadness.'

'Holly should not have to strike from school every Friday morning to fight for

action on the climate and ecological crisis. The greatest reward for Holly will be when the Scottish, and other governments, start taking this crisis seriously and take action, as they have shown they can do with COVID-19.'

Holly told the Lochaber Times: 'I am incredibly honoured to have won this award, though it is also very frustrating that on the same day the winner was announced, the Scottish Government released their climate emission stats for 2018, which revealed that emissions in Scotland went up by 1.5 per cent between 2017 and 2018 and the climate target for 2018 was missed.'

'We are heading in the completely wrong direction and I hope to use this award as a platform to speak about the imminent collapse of our life support systems if we do nothing.'



In line with Scottish Government guidelines we are starting some of our repairs and maintenance works. We want to do this safely and in accordance with the guidelines and also taking account of our tenants views. We have started some external work but where we need access to your property we will contact you and discuss with you. The discussion will be around what we need to do and how we will do it safely.

We want to thank all our tenants and communities where we have housing. We are grateful for the patience shown and everyone's generosity of spirit during the last 13 weeks.

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## MSP says islanders a priority when ferry access rules relaxed

Na h-Eileanan an Iar SNP MSP Alasdair Allan has raised the issue of access to ferry services for islanders at First Minister's Questions, writes Mark Entwistle.

Since March 22, ferry travel has not been permitted unless the traveller can demonstrate they have an essential reason for travelling or are a key worker.

People will be able to travel beyond their local area in Phase 3 of the Scottish Government's Routemap out of lockdown, and a provisional date of July 15 has been given for tourism to resume.

### Concerns

Social distancing measures will constrain ferry capacity and there are concerns that islanders may find it difficult to access ferry tickets at the point that travel is permitted again.

Mr Allan commented: 'This was a useful opportunity to raise an issue that I know has been causing a lot of my constituents concern.'

'Islanders have not seen their families and friends on the mainland since March. They have understood the health reasons for this and



Alasdair Allan says islanders should be able to priority book ferry tickets to visit family once travel restrictions are lifted.

have strongly supported the restrictions.

'The lockdown has been necessary, but it has also brought great strains to people's personal lives. It is important that, at whatever point it is considered safe to change the present travel advice about ferries, islanders have some kind of opportunity to book what will likely be a limited supply of ferry tickets, perhaps on some priority basis.'

'The overriding priority

when it comes to this issue has to be ensuring that the reintroduction of ferry travel is safe, and I am grateful for the First Minister's recognition of the need to manage the situation in such a way that ensures islanders are not disadvantaged.'

**KEEPINTOUCH**  
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# Work starts on Black Parks path project

by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

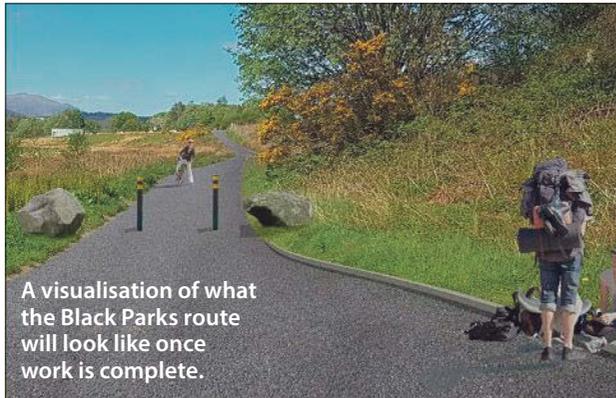
Road surface and drainage improvement works to make the Black Parks Road in Fort William more accessible to walkers and cyclists are set to start on Monday.

The work is being conducted as part of the national 'Spaces for People' programme funded by the Scottish Government and managed nationally by Sustrans Scotland.

The Black Parks road improvements are aimed at encouraging the local community to continue walking and cycling in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Work on the road, which runs through land owned by Jahama Highland Estates, will restrict access between Inverloch and the railway bridge over the River Lochy until July 19.

The route will be closed to vehicle-through-traffic while a diversionary path will maintain access for walkers



A visualisation of what the Black Parks route will look like once work is complete.

and cyclists. Road surfacing and drainage work is intended to be the first phase of the project designed to make the road more pedestrian and cycle-friendly, giving residents and visitors healthier and safer access to shops and local healthcare facilities.

Jahama Highland Estates has also applied for a temporary road closure order that would grant an extended period of 18 months to close the road for further work such as the installation of locking bollards

to provide controlled closure points.

With public support, the aim is to turn the Black Parks road into a permanent cycling and walkway route barring all vehicular through route access apart from emergency services and utility companies.

Improvement works are also being planned for the footpath between Inverloch and the shops on the A82, accessed via the railway bridge.

The Black Parks Road from where it leaves Inverloch to

the junction with the railway bridge over the River Lochy is a much loved Lochaber favourite and the route is used by cyclists, dog walkers and family groups with toddlers.

It is also a major route for school students cycling and walking to and from the High School and the pre-school toddlers accessing Stramash. The Black Parks road has seen a large increase in walkers and cyclists during the COVID-19 period.

Recently, a stakeholder group has met to discuss how the route can be made free of vehicular traffic so that residents from Fort William, Inverloch, Caol and the surrounding areas can cycle or walk along this section of road without meeting as many vehicles, as is currently the case.

The group consists of representatives from Highland Council, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Jahama Highland Estates, Historic Environment Scotland,

Fort William, Inverloch and Torlundy Community Council, Hitrans/Sustrans and latterly the Highland Soap Company.

A spokesperson for the Highland Council 'Spaces for People' programme said: 'It is great to see local organisations and communities pulling together to transform this key active travel route which will benefit both locals and visitors of all ages.'

'Active travel for utility and recreation purposes has never been as popular and this project will complement that and hopefully encourage more individuals and families to enjoy the benefits of walking and cycling.'

Julia Stoddart, chief operating officer of Jahama Highland Estates, added: 'Our support for making the Black Parks road a walking and cycling route reflects the feedback we have received from local residents who want a safe and secure access route through Fort William.'

'This project complements our longer-term vision to utilise part of the estate's property in this area for a community-based nature reserve to enhance local wellbeing.'

'With our new management strategy focusing on sustainability, Jahama Highland Estates is delighted to work collaboratively with local stakeholders to help facilitate projects that benefit both people and place.'

Scott Dingwall, head of regional development for Highlands and Islands Enterprise, added: 'Sustainable active travel is an important factor in our transition to an economy based on net-zero emissions.'

'The Fort William Active Travel Plan will form a local contribution to that transition. During the COVID-19 lockdown the use of the Black Parks road by walkers and cyclists has increased significantly. These works will help improve the safety of this active travel.'

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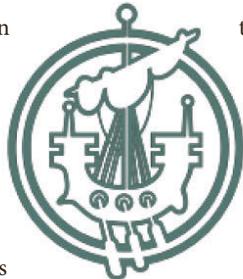


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## COVID-19: Route Map for Western Isles public transport

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar has been making preparations for moving into Phase 2 of the relaxation of coronavirus lockdown measures and has provided an updated route map for Western Isles transport.



their own face coverings.

Face coverings will be required for all passengers booked on key worker transport from Monday June 22.

Operators will be asked to display prominent signage on buses that physical distancing should be maintained and that face coverings should be worn.

The next step will be to allow increased access to public bus services while maintaining control of passenger numbers. This will be achieved by extending the scope of the current booking system but also moving closer to a regular timetabled service.

It is intended that service changes to public buses will begin on Monday, June 29. Details of the available services and how to book will be issued on Wednesday June 24.

The guidance has now changed to make face coverings compulsory. From Monday, June 22, passengers are only permitted to travel on public transport if they are wearing appropriate face covering.

Exceptions will apply, such as young children or for those with health conditions for whom a face covering would be inappropriate. Passengers will be expected to provide

Travel on public transport should only be used for essential journeys. During Phase 2, workers will continue to be given priority on the services running at the start and end of the day.

Requests for shopping or short distance leisure travel would be accommodated by the mid-morning/mid-afternoon services which are less likely to have many travelling workers.

Increased cleaning regimes for buses will be carried out, especially when buses are used for different groups of passengers and for routes between different communities.

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Five Class 153 trains are being transformed to carry up to 20 bikes.

# New active travel design unveiled

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



ScotRail has unveiled the livery design for its first active travel carriage, designated for carrying bikes and large sporting equipment on one of Scotland's most scenic routes.

Designed by Scottish artist, Peter McDermott, the eye-catching livery depicts typical Highland scenery along the West Highland Line, including the Glenfinnan monument and viaduct, Skye Cuillin mountain range, Ben Lomond, and the castle on Loch Awe.

Five Class 153 trains are being transformed to carry up to 20 bikes to enhance existing ScotRail services on the West Highland Line initially, providing custom designed racks to accommodate bikes, sporting equipment and large items

of luggage as well as more seats for customers.

The trains will also support winter sports in Scotland during the winter months, accommodating large bulky items such as ski bags and rucksacks, and undergoing a full interior and exterior refresh including installation of free Wifi, at seat power sockets and a refurbished toilet with controlled emission toilet (CET) tank.

The first carriage is due for completion later this year when the refurbishment programme can fully resume following the current Coronavirus pandemic, and will enter service once staff can be safely trained on the carriages.

Tom Smith, ScotRail Project Manager, said: 'We're delighted to be able to share the exterior design of our first active travel carriage.'

McDermott's

eye-catching design pays real homage to the beautiful and tranquil West Highland Line.

'We're living in uncertain times, but when these carriages are eventually introduced, it will be a welcome boost for cyclists and those in search of outdoor pursuits along Scotland's most scenic railways.'

Peter McDermott, artist and designer of ScotRail's Class 153 livery, commented: 'It was a great pleasure to have been asked to produce this illustration, particularly as my own illustrative style is directly inspired by such artists as Norman Wilkinson and Tom Purvis, who among others, were responsible for the much-loved railway art of the 1930s and 40s.'

'Their work was confined to train compartments and poster hoardings, but fortunately for me I've had the unique oppor-

tunity to work on a much larger canvas, which now allows this iconic illustrative style to travel through, and contribute to the very landscape we've all sought to interpret.'

'I hope they would be as delighted as I am with the end result.'

Bill Reeve, Transport Scotland's Director of Rail, said: 'It is exciting to see the finalised design for these Class 153 carriages, one which incorporates the beauty of the Scottish landscape whilst clearly promoting their active travel purpose. This comes as a result of close collaboration between the artist Peter McDermott and ScotRail.'

'We look forward to seeing what are sure to become iconic carriages enter passenger service in the future, once we have reached more certain times in our current phased exit from COVID-19 lockdown.'



  
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Lochaber Yacht Club members made the most of the good weather on Saturday;



## Yacht club members get back to messing about on the water

It was all hands on deck on Loch Linnhe on Saturday as Sailing enthusiasts from around the region weighed anchor for the first time in almost three months, writes Fiona Scott.

Lochaber Yacht Club (LYC) members took to the loch in single handed boats, or same

household sailors in double handers, for an afternoon of planned, socially distanced sailing.

'Saturday should have been the LYC 2020 Regatta but due to COVID our plans had to change,' said committee member Karen Dean.

In total there were five boats

on the loch, with volunteers in two safety boats and onshore to assist with launching.

'A good wind, warm sunshine and great views meant everyone had a very enjoyable afternoon,' added Karen.

Anyone wishing to join Lochaber Yacht Club can do so by visiting loch-

aber-yacht-club.co.uk/ and fill in the application form. New active members are most welcome. The club have a large family membership with lots of young sailors and a few old sea-salts too.

For all the latest news visit the Lochaber Yacht Club Facebook page.

## NHS Western Isles supports local firms through staff scheme

The NHS Western Isles Donations Group is asking all local businesses throughout the Outer Hebrides to sign up to a NHS Staff Voucher Scheme, to enable its staff to purchase items from their businesses.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, NHS Western Isles has received many generous cash donations from local and national organisations, including a £40,000 donation from Point and Sandwich Trust and a £39,000 donation from the NHS National Charities Together.

This has allowed it to provide a number of comfort items to front line staff and patients including toiletries, electrical goods and comfortable seats for break areas.

A questionnaire was distributed to staff seeking their views on how to spend the monies.

Following feedback it has been decided that a portion will be used to give all NHS Western Isles staff a £20 voucher, to be redeemed at any local business that supplies approved goods or services and has signed

up to the scheme. Staff feedback showed they are keen that as much of the money as possible is spent supporting local businesses.

The vouchers, which will be distributed to staff and retailers/businesses who sign up, will then be reimbursed by NHS Western Isles.

The Donations Group is asking businesses to get in touch and sign-up to the scheme. Any staff member who has a preferred business they would like to use their voucher with, can ask the business to get in touch so they can be added to the approved supplier list.

If you are based within the Outer Hebrides and would like to be included in the scheme, please email the Donations Group at: whib.hpadmin@nhs.net for further details.

The scheme is open to all goods and services, with the exception of items such as alcohol, tobacco products and other prohibited goods.

Further details can be provided by email, please get in touch.





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# Stafainn pupils have eyes on First Minister's prize

by Fiona Scott  
fscott@obantimes.co.uk



A primary school on Skye has been announced as one of the winners of the First Minister's Reading Challenge 2019-2020.

Despite the school year being disrupted by lockdown, many schools still submitted their challenge, showcasing the excellent work achieved by their pupils and staff with the winners announced online on Monday by Scottish Book Trust, the national charity changing lives through reading and writing.

The Gaelic Medium Education (GME) Reading Journey was awarded to Sgoil Stafainn. Reading for pleasure is at the heart of the school, with staff continually finding innovative ways to approach reading in a way that pupils find fun, all while they gain confidence with the Gaelic language.

This year pupils used the Gaelic alphabet to inspire a great reading project, with new stories to discover for each letter.

Pupils have continued to engage with books while schools have been closed and have responded to what they have been reading with fantastic drawings and reviews. The panel also commented on the



Children at Sgoil Stafainn focus on fun as staff find innovative ways to approach reading.

commitment to reading and enthusiasm from the P1-3 teacher.

Karen Graham, acting head teacher at Sgoil Stafainn said: 'Here at Sgoil Stafainn we are extremely proud of everything we have done while taking part in the First Minister's Reading Challenge and are delighted to have taken part in the Gaelic challenge again this year.

'Everyone at our school has worked together to promote a strong reading culture which promotes the Gaelic language and inspires all to read for enjoyment and take a real pleasure from reading and books.

'We love seeing the benefits

this challenge brings in developing the use of Gaelic at our school.'

Now in its fourth year, the challenge encourages children to read for pleasure and develop a life-long love of books. The awards recognise the efforts of schools and pupils to support reading for enjoyment and create a reading culture in their school, home or community.

First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon, said: 'It is great to see so many young people discover their own love of reading but also help to bring that passion and inspiration to their friends, families, schools and local communities.'

All winners will receive book tokens and a trophy. The national winners of the School Reading Journey Award, Reading Inspiration Award and GME Reading Journey will also receive funding for an author event from Scottish Book Trust.



## Training scheme offers addiction worker opportunities

A new training and jobs project for people with experience of drug or alcohol problems is looking for recruits in the Highlands and Islands, writes kathie griffiths.

The pilot scheme has been modelled on an award-winning Addiction Worker Training Project running successfully in other parts of Scotland since 2004.

Those taking part will be supported over nine months to get a recognised qualification in Health and Social Care, while gaining work experience from placements in services near them.

The Recovery Worker Training Project (RWTP) is being run by the Scottish Drugs Forum (SDF) in partnership with Highlands and Islands Alcohol and Drug



David Liddell, CEO of Scottish Drugs Forum.

Partnership (ADP). David Liddell, CEO of Scottish Drugs Forum, said: 'Over the years, our experience elsewhere in Scotland has been that above 80 per cent of those graduating from the paid employment programme go on to work in either addiction services or the wider social care services. The programme therefore not only benefits individuals, but also

local services seeking to recruit motivated and skilled workers.'

As well as helping services and developing their own skills and confidence, the trainees also get a weekly wage.

The deadline for RWTP in the Highlands and Islands is noon on Tuesday July 21. Interested? Visit [www.sdf.org.uk/jobs](http://www.sdf.org.uk/jobs) for information on how to apply.

## A WORLD IN DISTRESS - SIGNS OF THE PROMISED RETURN OF JESUS CHRIST TO BRING AN END TO HUMAN RULE

Jesus was asked by his disciples, "What shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?" Matt. 24 v 3

He said, "Nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes in diverse places. All these things are the beginning of sorrows." Matt. 24 v 7 - 8

He also said that there would be "distress of nations with perplexity" i.e. distress with no way out. Luke 21 v 25-26

Jesus is to "judge the world in righteousness." Acts 17v31

He is the Great King who will reign at Jerusalem over all nations. Matt. 5 v 35, Psalm 2 v 6 - 8 and Isaiah 2 v 1 - 4

After the coming time of great trouble (Daniel 12 v 1), the Kingdom of Jesus will bring peace and blessing upon the earth, the peace on earth promised when he was born. Psalm 72 and Luke 2 v 14.

Please send for free copies of:-  
Jesus Christ - His Life and Work  
The Second Coming of Jesus Christ  
The Kingdom of God

What is the Christian Hope?  
The Local Secretary, The Household of Faith,  
11, Maplebeck Road, Arnold, Nottingham. NG5 7JT

LT

## LETTERS

Write to us: send your letters to [fort@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:fort@obantimes.co.uk)  
or The Editor, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB**Our children should not miss out on vital meals**

John Fotheringham, chairman of the Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achncarry SCIO voiced concerns this week that fewer eligible children in the Lochaber area are receiving school meal vouchers since lockdown than previously received school meals.

While a Highland Council spokesperson said 4,500 pupils in the region are receiving the fortnightly vouchers, Mr Fotheringham worries that families who have been laid off or furloughed are struggling to ask for help, including applying for the meal vouchers.

We urge the council to reassure families that it will reinstate its obligation to P1-3 children in the local school once children go back to the classroom in August.

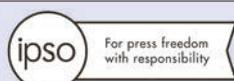
**Business, but not as usual**

It is good news that businesses such as the Jacobite Steam Train are making plans to reopen safely now First Minister Nicola Sturgeon has given the go ahead for July 15.

However, despite the train not stopping in Glenfinnan, villagers are understandably concerned people will flock to the village to watch the train pass through, and with the museum, cafe and toilets remaining closed, this has the potential to cause problems.

Communication is key and echo Councillor Rixson's plea for West Coast Railways to address the concerns of the wider public, as well as the travelling passengers.

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](mailto: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.**

At the Oban Times we endeavour to ensure that all our reports are fair and accurate and comply with the Editors' Code of Practice set by the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO). We realise, however, that mistakes happen from time to time. If we have published anything that is factually incorrect, please email: [editor@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk); telephone on 01631 568000; or email [editor@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk)

We will attempt to resolve your issue in a timely, reasonable and amicable manner. However, if you are unsatisfied with our response, you can contact IPSO by email: [inquiries@ipso.co.uk](mailto:inquiries@ipso.co.uk). We will abide by the decision of IPSO.

**Emergency fund for Oban?**

Given the recent very damning front page of a national Sunday newspaper claiming Oban is the most severely economically hit town in Scotland, followed by figures just released that reports Oban Lorn and the Isles have 935 people claiming unemployment benefit an increase of 140, in my opinion this is just the tip of the iceberg and more will follow.

Argyll and Bute as a whole has an alarming total 3,300 claimants, a figure that has almost doubled since February 2020. Is this not the time to all of us to call on central government to set up an emergency fund for Oban as the worst hit town, and Argyll and Bute as a whole, as a matter of urgency. This will help with a recovery before we are too far down the road to economic wipe out.

**Councillor R McCuish,  
Ward Oban South and the Isles**

**Tear down Highland statue**

The discussion whether to remove certain statues and/or change certain street names that celebrate those people who were involved in the slave trade is taking place throughout the UK. It has taken the loss of life and reassessing historical fact to get to this stage.

Money and power for the wealthy came from those who bought and sold black human beings to work on their plantations. In return they ploughed some of their profits into bricks and mortar in their home cities. All this at the expense of indigenous people they slaughtered.

Yet we glorify the British Empire and those who brought it about by raising statues and street names to people who have shamed Scotland and indeed humanity.

The indigenous population of the highlands were not immune to suffering at the hands of such people looking to acquire even more wealth. Here in the Highlands we have a massive statue of the Duke of Sutherland on the top of Beinn a' Bhraigaidh.

In early 1996 the local council planning committee refused an application to dismantle the Duke of Sutherland's statue on Beinn a' Bhraigaidh. If the people who were cleared from the Sutherland estate had been black and that application was being considered today it would have been approved and that statue would rightly be removed.

The first Duke of Sutherland held more titles than Alex Ferguson has won football silverware. He was the second Marquis of Stafford, an MP and one of the richest men in England. His family originated from Yorkshire and married into

**Beachd Ailein**

ALLAN CAMPBELL

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

Tha mi a' sgrìobhadh seo is dealbhan agus aithris ball-coise air an telebhisean. Chan e neach-leantainn sgioba ball-coise àraid th' annamsa, ach 's fhìor thoil leam deagh gheama, agus tha mi a' tuigsinn an togail a tha milleannan de dhaoine air fhaotainn às an spòrs a bhith ga chluich a-rithist fiù 's às aonais luchd-amhairc aig na pàircean cluiche. Bha bruidhinn air mar a rachadh deilbh is brataichean luchd-taice a chur mu thimcheall phàircean, agus fiù 's clàraidhean den t-seòrsa fuaim a tha àbhaisteach bho luchd-amhairc an spòrs. Ach le mothachadh air na tha sgiobaidhean a' call ri linn dìth luchd-amhairc theagamh nach eil e na iongnadh gum bheil na sanasan aig cuid de phàircean air fàs mòran nas motha, agus 's dòcha nas buadhmoire. Bidh dòchas gum bheil na chì daoine de spòrs air telebhisean na thogail (a rèir 's ciamar a thèid dhan sgioba aca!) agus na fhaohadh, an dèidh ùine cho fada às aonais cur-seachad agus cuspair còmhraidh air am bheil iad cho measail. Ceum cudromach air an t-slighe air ais bho aonarachd agus bacaidhean a' Chovid19, ach mar a tha Buidheann Slàinte an t-Saoghail a' rabhadh tha coròna-bhioras a' sior sgapadh feadh an t-saoghail agus leanaidh an dùbhlán a bhios oirnn uile a thaobh dìon ciallach na aghaidh.

Ro thoiseach nan geamaichean thug cluicheadairean ball-coise aithne agus urram dha na chailleadh ri linn Covid19, agus nochd iad cuideachd buidheachas dha saothair agus dealas luchd-obrach na slàinte. Bha teachdaire-

achd làidir eile follaiseach bhuapa cuideachd, le faclan air an cuid lèintean, agus lùbadh glùine. Dhùisg murt Sheòrais Floyd guth dhaoine dubha feadh an t-saoghail, agus gu sònraichte an ìre 's gum bheil co-ionannachd cor agus chothroman air àicheadh dhaibh anns na dùthchannan adhartach. Mar a thog mi roimhe an seo tha gràin-cinnidh na sgiùrs feadh an t-saoghail fhathast agus cha b' iongnadh guthan dhaoine dubha, agus luchd-taice certais, a bhith gan togail mar a tha. Bho chualas e air an 19 Samhain 1863 tha an 271 facal a labhair Abraham Lincoln anns an dà mhionaid a thug an "Òraid Gettysburg" aige air a bhith air am meas mar bhriathran cho cudromach, agus le amas cho bunaiteach, 's a chaidh a chur an cèill riamh. Nan robh Ameireagaidh, agus dùthchannan eile, air an t-amas a chuir Lincoln romhpa a choileanadh, theagamh nach robh Seòras Floyd air bàsachadh mar a rinn e agus nach biodh cluicheadairean ball-coise is miltean eile ag iomairt mar a tha. Tha an samhla 8.46 na phàirt de na tha ga thaisbeanadh, an ùine a chum oifigeir poileas a ghlùn air amhaich Sheòrais Floyd, chun an deach a thachdadh. Còrr air ceithir uimhir na h-ùine bhruidhinn Lincoln, agus 's dòcha gun tig na mionaidean is na diogan sin gu bhith a cheart cho cudromach ann an eachdraidh Ameireagaidh agus an t-saoghail.

**Allan Campbell  
ailean@obantimes.co.uk**

a wealthy Stafford family of French descent. In due course, the second Marquis married the Ban Mhorair Chataibh, the great lady of Sutherland.

It is interesting to note that after Culloden the Duke of Cumberland and the Duke of Newcastle gave serious consideration to clearing the inhabitants of the Highland glens to the colonies, but this was thought to be unmanageable and the easier option of burning their homes, destroying their crops and driving away or killing their cattle was taken. The genocide of the Highlanders was government policy.

The first Duke of Sutherland was not the first or last Highland laird to clear his people but he was certainly the most successful.

When he died, his wife decided to erect two statues in England and one on top of Beinn a' Bhraigaidh to honour the achievements of this

man who had made a desert of the land he had acquired through marriage and by betraying the people whose families had lived on that land for centuries. That is why it should come down.

At the time of the clearances, while many people in Golspie wished to help, they too were at the mercy of the Duke, unlike the church men who chose to betray their flocks – again for profit. The statue is an affront to the memory of not only the Sutherland Highlanders who were cleared but to all Highlanders who suffered the same fate. Winifred Ewing MEP attended a debate in Golspie in 1995 at which the majority of local people did not want the statue removed. Winnie is on record stating that in her view it was like having a statue of Hitler outside Auschwitz.

**Bill Clark, Banavie**

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# DISTRICT NEWS

Send us your district news. Email: [fort@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:fort@obantimes.co.uk)  
or call 01397 703003



Plockton correspondent Charlie MacRae tries out the bench donated by Maureen Leask in memory of her husband Dughall.



## Stornoway minister opens session in Scottish Parliament

Last week's session of the Scottish Parliament was opened with Time for Reflection by Reverend James MacIver of Stornoway Free Church.

Mr MacIver was invited to deliver Time for Reflection by Na h-Eileanan an Iar MSP Alasdair Allan.

Time for Reflection opens business in the Chamber of the Scottish Parliament, and is presented by invited speakers from different faith communities every week.

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the address was delivered via video link. Mr Allan commented: 'I was delighted to be able to nominate Rev MacIver to deliver this week's Time for Reflection and address the chamber of the Scottish Parliament.'

'He is a respected and well-known figure, and his address was characteristically thought-provoking and relevant to the issues that society and the world at large face.'



Rev James MacIver.

# News from Plockton

At a full committee meeting of Plockton Small Boat Sailing Club on June 16 it was decided to cancel the annual regatta fortnight, due to be held from July 27-August 8 this year.

This is very sad news for the village as the regatta was the summer highlight and this is the first time it has been cancelled since the Second World War, when no sailing was held from 1940 to 1946.

Secretary Neil MacCrae hoped some members would pay their membership as the club has expenses despite no sailing.

Plockton and District Community Council have thanked Mrs Maureen

Leask from Aberdeen for the donation of a bench to the village.

Maureen was a regular visitor with her husband Dughall who sadly died in February 2019.

While on holiday in Plockton, Dughall used to repair benches and tidy the area round the war memorial. The area in the middle of the village where the bench was placed was recently cleared of weeds by Fraser and Shona Jackson from Edinburgh who have a holiday house in the village and had their holiday extended due to the lockdown.

On Saturday evening, June 14, Donnie MacLean, 8 Heathmount Place, Kyle made his final journey,

driving the train from Inverness to Kyle after nearly 50 years. Well-wishers with placards lined the station platforms along the route and a large crowd and piper met the train at Kyle.

Donnie joined the railway as a 16-year-old in 1971 starting as a goods checker when Kyle was a buddy station with trains and ferries. He eventually got a job as a train driver, like his father, Fachie, before him.

In April, Donnie retired from the fire service after 37 years with Kyle Fire Brigade. He intends spending more time on his croft at Drumbuie and also hopes to buy a season ticket to watch Ross County FC.

Austin Boyle has applied to change

his deli at 12 Harbour Street, Plockton to a distillery and apothecary. Representations can be made up to July 8.

Recent deaths in Lochalsh and Glenshiel have been: Catriona MacKay, Balmacara; David MacLeod, Kyle; Adam Grant, Sallachy; John (Curly) French, Plockton; John MacLeod, Dornie.

Sympathy is expressed to sorrowing relatives.

Finally, congratulations to Margaret MacRae Sutherland, Frithard Road, Plockton, who celebrated her 90th birthday on May 13 and to Charlie G MacRae who celebrated his 80th birthday June 19.



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## Opportunities in offshore wind launched

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar has welcomed the launch of the ScotWind Offshore Wind Leasing Round.

Investors and developers can now take the first steps in obtaining a Lease Agreement to build Offshore Wind Farms in identified 'areas of deployment' around Scotland.

Three of these Areas of Deployment – N2, N3 and N4 – are in the Hebridean Marine Region and hold the potential to create jobs in the Outer Hebrides supply chain and to bring considerable benefit to island communities.

Leader of Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, Councillor Roddie Mackay, said: "This is a major step forward for the islands. We have been working closely with Marine Scotland to ensure its new Sectoral Plan for Offshore Wind includes areas of deployment around the Outer Hebrides and now Crown Estate Scotland is offering seabed leases in these areas.

The conditions are right for the Outer Hebrides to lead the UK into a new, low carbon future."

# 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.



## Rediscover Glencoe...

As restrictions slowly ease, while the tracks are still quiet and the activities aren't all 'booked out until October', there is a real opportunity to reconnect with our own backyard and experience the joy of living here.

No-one knows an area like the locals. Where to go, what to do or see, and when. The way it can invade every sense and always gives more than it takes. But, few of us living here have the time or opportunity to enjoy this landscape during the high season.

We don't think of being a tourist where we live. We're all too busy – we know the area. Or we can't get a booking to suit the times we're free. We usually lack the ability to drop everything and go out to enjoy a sunny day...

This is the time when we can support our communities and local businesses. Buy local, support local, enjoy local.

This is our opportunity to reignite our passion for this place we call home. To spend time here in our favourite place.



It's time to recapture in our hearts and minds why we make this place our home and rediscover all that it has to offer us.

During the recovery period, as the restriction ease, more businesses will open safely and the possibilities to enjoy will increase.



Locally there are lots of options, these include:

- try a new activity like paddle boarding
- experience a place we've not visited before like Highland Titles Nature Reserve
- enjoy the knowledge shared on a guided walk with a local guide
- make time to show the kids our favourite things from a childhood here
- support local crafters and producers by using them instead of large retailers
- explore pathways we've not had the time or opportunity to share with our family before.

You will find up-to-date information on our website: [discoverglencoe.scot/covid19](https://discoverglencoe.scot/covid19)

# OPEN FOR BUSINESS

We are publishing this information **in association with** Lochaber Chamber of Commerce. Featuring the businesses in Lochaber that are open and able to offer vital products and services to our community during the current Covid-19 pandemic. Many of these businesses are working under extreme pressure to bring quality products and services to the people of Lochaber and beyond. Please remember to exercise caution when shopping and only shop for essential supplies. Along with our wonderful NHS staff and carers, our local food, fuel, news platforms and home supply businesses are our community champions!

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

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

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Visit: [www.foodlochaber.org](http://www.foodlochaber.org) for more info.

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Vegetables!  
Deliveries can be arranged locally please pre-order fruit and vegetables. Check FB for catalogue. Please place orders by 2pm Sundays for delivery to us the following Thursday. If you can't collect, have a delivery from us on the Thursday, we can keep fruit and veg for you for the Saturday or following Tuesday.

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## GARAGES

### FORT WILLIAM TYRE SERVICES

Open for essential workers and commercial freight organisations  
Tel: 01397 700277 or 07702 433 495

### MCCONECHY'S TYRES & EXHAUSTS

Open as usual Mon-Sat 8.30am-5.30pm  
Sat 8.30am-12.30pm  
Social distancing measures in place  
Tel: 01397 706197  
Email: [fort-william@mcconechys.co.uk](mailto:fort-william@mcconechys.co.uk)  
[www.mcconechys.co.uk](http://www.mcconechys.co.uk)

## FUEL/SERVICE STATIONS

### BP ROAD TO THE ISLES

Open 7 days, 24 hours  
Jet wash, shop and off license  
Tel: 01397 703406

### ESSO GARAGE

Open 24 hours, 7 days  
Tel: 01397 702706

### GLEANERS

(Ben Nevis Filling Station Fort William and Onich Services)  
Tel: 01397 702346 ahead of travelling for opening hours

### MORRISONS SERVICE STATION

Open 6.30am-10.30pm,  
Tel: 01397 700333

### GLENCOE FILLING STATION

Open 7 days 8am-6.30pm (from 10am Sun)  
Tel: 01855 811308

### THE FERRY STORES & KILCHOAN FILLING STATION

Open Mon-Sat 9am-5.30pm,  
For all your essential supplies.  
Free local delivery.  
Tel: 01972 510201

### JOHNSTON BROS FILLING STATION, MALLAIG

Open Mon-Fri 10am-5pm, Sat 10am-2pm  
Tel: 01687 462 215

### MORAR MOTORS

Car hire, breakdown and recovery  
Car Hire 01687 462118  
Recovery 01687 462118  
E. [morarmotors@aol.com](mailto:morarmotors@aol.com) (Mallaig)  
E. [contact@morarmotorskyel..](mailto:contact@morarmotorskyel..) (Kyle)

### STRONTIAN FILLING STATION

Open Mon-Sat 8am-7pm. Sun 10.30am-6pm  
Tel: 01967 402135

## TAXIS

For essential travel only:

### A&A TAXIS

Available 24/7  
Tel: 01397 701702

### SPEEDERS CABS

Available 24/7  
Tel: 01397 704000

## CHEMIST & HEALTHCARE

### BOOTS THE CHEMIST

Open Mon-Fri 9am-6pm, Sat 9am-5.30pm  
Please call ahead to ensure repeat prescriptions are ready  
Tel: 01397 705143

## CONVENIENCE STORES/ NEWSAGENTS

### STRONTIAN STORES

Free delivery for those unable to leave their homes  
Telephone orders to 01967 402268  
Email [strontianshop@gmail.com](mailto:strontianshop@gmail.com)

## SPAR

Claggan and Grange Road  
Open 8am-9pm, 7 days  
Fruit, veg, meat, lottery, wines, beers and spirits  
Tel: 01397 702558 - Claggan  
Tel: 01397 705562 - Grange Road

## PET SUPPLIES

### DIRECT PET SUPPLIES/PETSTOP

Open Tuesday - 9:00am until 5:30pm  
Thursday - 9:00am until 5:30pm  
Saturday - 10:00am until 5:00 pm  
Social distancing measures in place  
Tel: 01397 700715

## SHOPS & ONLINE SHOPPING

### HOLROYD GALLERY, NORTH BALLACHULISH

Opening Monday 29 June, then Tues-Sat, 10am-1pm for private viewings by arrangement and 2-5pm open with restricted numbers. Online sales also available: [www.holroydgallery.co.uk](http://www.holroydgallery.co.uk) e. [sarah@holroydgallery.co.uk](mailto:sarah@holroydgallery.co.uk) t. 01855 821277

### GLEN SPEAN BREWERY

Message via Facebook page for delivery to your door all around Lochaber  
See FB for full menu and pricelist  
[www.glenspeanbrewing.com](http://www.glenspeanbrewing.com)

### PH33 WEB SHOP

Beautiful gift items available and gift vouchers available on the website.  
Easy online ordering and delivery to your door. W: <https://ph33.onlinewebshop>  
T: 07443656528

### GREAT GLEN CHARCUTERIE

Delivered to your door  
Check FB for recipe ideas and updates  
[www.greatglencharcuterie.com](http://www.greatglencharcuterie.com)  
Use code FREEDELIVERY for orders over £20  
Tel: 01397 712121

### SKIRR SKINCARE

Skirr is the sustainable solution for adventure and endurance athletes who love nature and the outdoors.  
[www.skirrskin.co.uk](http://www.skirrskin.co.uk)  
Tel: 07709014479

### EMPORIUM OF WORLDLY GOODS

We are delivering to the local area for free (minimum order £10, Fort William to Corpach to Torlundy) or you can collect food, soaps, disinfectant, essential oils, or anything else you might need, from the shopfront by appointment  
Visit FB page for details on how to order online

### THE HIGHLAND SOAP COMPANY

Beautiful selection of handmade soaps, candles, bath, body and skincare products  
[www.highlandsoaps.com](http://www.highlandsoaps.com)

### MARSHALL & PEARSON

Telephone orders taken on Wednesday between 10am and 12pm for same day delivery.  
Order on 01397 700500  
Enquiries via messenger

### THE GRANITE HOUSE

Lots of games and toys, books and more  
FREE local delivery on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays (check FB page for delivery areas on these days)  
Email [gillian@granitthousefortwilliam.co.uk](mailto:gillian@granitthousefortwilliam.co.uk)  
Visit [www.granitthousefortwilliam.co.uk](http://www.granitthousefortwilliam.co.uk)

### PIXEL SPIRITS DISTILLERY & GIN SCHOOL

Delivered locally, posted or collection. Gin, gift items, vouchers and online experiences.  
Pixel Spirits Hand Sanitiser is available for locals to collect, and bulk orders taken for local businesses.  
W: [www.pixelspiritsltd.co.uk](http://www.pixelspiritsltd.co.uk)  
T: 07443656528

## OTHER INFO FOR ESSENTIAL SERVICES

### FOODBANK BALLACHULISH

Visit FB page for more information FB: Covid-19: Ballachulish Community Support  
New foodbank at the Ballachulish Village Hall on Fridays 12PM-2pm

### FOODBANK LOCHABER

Tel: 01397 700212/077785 03276  
[www.lochaberfoodbank.org](http://www.lochaberfoodbank.org)  
FB: lochaberfoodbank

### LOCHABER CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU

We are still working, although we are working from home we are still here for you.

Due to COVID-19, we are running a reduced service. To help keep you and our staff safe, our bureau will only be operating a telephone and email advice service. Tel: 01397 705311 (10 am to 4 pm), Email: [adviser@lochaberCAB.casonline.org.uk](mailto:adviser@lochaberCAB.casonline.org.uk)

### LOCHABER HOPE

Running a fully remote service.  
Tel: 01397 704836,  
email: [reception@lochaberhope.org.uk](mailto:reception@lochaberhope.org.uk)  
FB: lochaberhope or [www.lochaberhope.org.uk](http://www.lochaberhope.org.uk)

## SPORT AND LEISURE

### RUGGED PADDLEBOARD

Private Loch Leven Lessons or Rental, available by arrangement. Full details [www.ruggedpaddleboard.co.uk/covid-phase2/](http://www.ruggedpaddleboard.co.uk/covid-phase2/) Contact: e. [info@ruggedpaddleboard.co.uk](mailto:info@ruggedpaddleboard.co.uk) or t. 01855 604 044

### HIGHLAND TITLES NATURE RESERVE

Car park and paths open, please take any litter home with you and leave only footprints, details: [www.highlandtitles.com/nature-reserves/](http://www.highlandtitles.com/nature-reserves/)

### SHIEL BUSES AND CITYLINK

Both companies continue to run reduced timetable for essential journeys  
[www.shielbuses.co.uk](http://www.shielbuses.co.uk)  
[www.citylink.co.uk](http://www.citylink.co.uk)

### OFF BEAT BIKES

Bike Hire & Shop  
Open Mon, Wed, Fri 12pm-4pm  
or by appointment only

### DRAGON'S TOOTH GOLF COURSE

Open fully, normal hours.  
For more info on safe golfing with us at this time visit [glencoeactivities.com](http://glencoeactivities.com)  
Tel 01855 413202

### CRANKITUPGEAR

Glencoe  
Bike repairs and sales available by arrangement/pre-booking only  
Tel: 01855 811694

### KINLOCHLAICH GARDEN CENTRE

Open 7 days, 10am-4pm.  
Also available by arrangement/pre-booking in addition to public opening hours after 4pm.  
W: [www.kinlochlauchgardencentre.co.uk](http://www.kinlochlauchgardencentre.co.uk)  
T: 07881525754

*Information correct at time of going to press. Check [www.obantimes.co.uk/openforbusiness](http://www.obantimes.co.uk/openforbusiness) for updated information. This page will run in the Lochaber Times every week for as long as necessary - printed information will be updated weekly.*

# OPEN FOR BUSINESS

KINDLY SPONSORED BY

## MOWI®

PROUD TO BE PART  
OF THE LOCHABER  
COMMUNITY



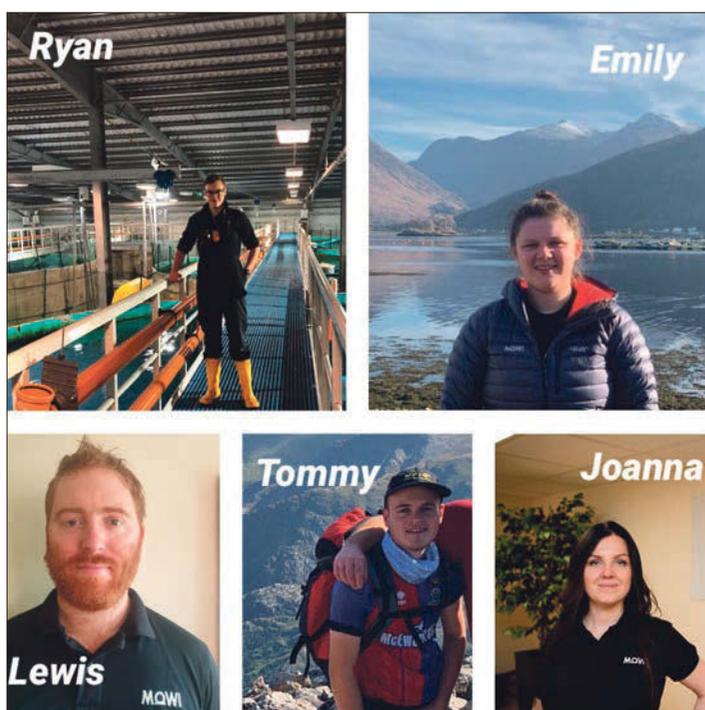
# Did salmon find me a career?

Developing the Young Workforce (DYW) West Highland has launched its first-in-a-series of online career events with the initial sector featuring Mowi and aquaculture under the theme 'Will Salmon Find Me a Career?', which took place on Wednesday June 17.

The first event welcomed more than 60 participants via Zoom to highlight and showcase the employment paths and progression opportunities within the world's leading seafood company and the largest producer of farmed salmon, Mowi, crucially displaying that they remain buoyant in the current COVID-19 situation and continue to actively recruit.

The career series is aimed at school leavers and other young people who have been made redundant, are unemployed, or are simply looking for a career change in Lochaber, Skye, and Wester Ross. Education professionals also joined the event to build awareness of the exciting careers that are available locally.

The events will highlight the quality of job roles and the skills, employment behaviours and attributes needed that employers look for. This insight will help equip young people to take them anywhere in the world and by providing this experience locally shows them that there are brilliant opportunities also available closer



Meet the virtual careers session speakers from the Mowi team.

to home. They say that every day is a learning day, and that was certainly true when Mowi preceded with five of their young employees to lead the event. This included modern and graduate apprentices providing a personal overview of their role, their career pathways, and their hopes for the future.

The energy and passion shown by the young people for their daily work reminded the audience of just how important a meaningful and rewarding career can be to health and wellbeing, as well as economic health, particularly at the present time. It is even more gratifying that career possibilities

are available across the rural areas of the West Highlands.

The audience were surprised to learn that there are more than 80 different career roles at MOWI alone, including roles in planning, procurement, logistics, finance, marketing, human resources, translation, science, marine and engineering.

The event provided the exciting opportunity for the online participants to directly question the panel, as well as Mowi offering a virtual mock interview with their human resources department. As expected there has been an encouraging response from the participants who have already come forward to utilise this amazing opportunity and we are pleased to announce that the session recording is available for viewing on our YouTube channel. Search YouTube for DYW West Highland for more information.

Donald Waring, Learning and Development Manager at Mowi and DYW West Highland Board Member commented, saying: 'MOWI were delighted to take part in our first ever online careers event. Partnering with DYW West Highland and education colleagues is the best way to connect with our future aquaculture talent.'

Emily Connolly, Apprentice Electrician at MOWI, who was one of the speakers at the virtual event,

said: 'I really enjoyed taking part explaining how I achieved my role and being able to inspire others to join MOWI.'

Stuart Caddell, Deputy Head of Gairloch High School and DYW West Highland Board Member, added: 'What an excellent virtual event run by DYW West Highland promoting careers in aquaculture available across the West Highlands.'

'Mowi employees provided excellent insight into the benefits of working and living in the West Highlands.'

And Frazer Coupland, DYW West Highland Programme Lead and CEO of Lochaber Chamber of Commerce, said: 'We were delighted with the outcome of this event. The feedback has been outstanding and we will now be looking to repeat this with other sectors, so if your business is interested, form an orderly queue.'

'Thanks to virtual delivery, geography is no longer a barrier and allows us to reach across our whole network at once, and your employees can take part in this rewarding experience from their own workplace.'

If you are an employer who like to showcase your experience to young people or if you would like to join other similar events, then keep an eye out on [www.dywesthighland.org](http://www.dywesthighland.org)

## Communication is key as Lochaber prepares to welcome back visitors



At the time of writing this, Lochaber is now in Phase 2 of Scottish Government's route map for moving out of lockdown which was updated on 19 June.

As physical distancing requirements and protections remain in place, local communities are still adjusting to the 'new-normal' and navigating the pace of information and subsequent change happening each week. Some businesses are

continuing to operate in these changed times, many are seeking more information, developed plans from industry and scenario planning their reopening.

This is very much the case for businesses within the tourism and hospitality sector, construction and customer-facing industries, for example, who are waiting for guidance to be published for all to understand.

We want to ensure that Lochaber is kept safe, in doing so we continue to meet and engage with key stakeholders and decision makers to make our collective voice heard. We are not unique in wanting to be safe as a community however,

your local chamber of commerce is working to ensure that business and community voices are heard, and information is shared.

Lochaber, the Outdoor Capital of the UK, is a special place and we have been working really hard with the business community, local marketing groups, the local authority and politicians to ensure when the time is right, we are ready.

We need to be providing our visitors with the appropriate information, managing their expectations and they need to know what facilities are open. We need to collectively be promoting positive behaviours and ensuring

the right infrastructure is in place to deal with issues as they arise.

As we go forward we will be adopting four key themes; **Know the Guidelines** – we all need to understand the Scottish governments guidelines and standards; **Plan Ahead** – we know what to expect, we need to let our visitors know what they should expect; **Show Understanding** – our visitors may not be as well informed on the intricacies between UK and Scottish Government guidelines, we all interpret messages differently; **Kindness and Humanity** – this will go a long way in the future support local businesses. As business recovery continues and

as a business you decide on your plans to reopen, please know that your local chamber of commerce is here for you.

Tell us when you plan to reopen, any conditions you would like your potential customers to know about, any news and updates that you would like to share with the local business community so that Lochaber Chamber of Commerce can be right there with you.

Contact us by emailing [membership@lochaberchamber.co.uk](mailto:membership@lochaberchamber.co.uk) and we will get the conversation started. As ever, we are keeping our website up-to-date with the latest guidance so head online today for more information.

## Levi clocks up the miles to achieve his Rangers' goal

by Fiona Scott

fscott@obantimes.co.uk



A kicking keen young footballer from Fort William has been keeping up his distance training in order to achieve his goal of one day playing for Glasgow Rangers FC.

Before lockdown 10-year-old Levi MacLean was travelling up to 700 miles a week to various footballing venues to hone his skills.

The former Fort Juniors players branched out in order to gain more competitive experience and now plays for Loch Nell in Oban and for Knightswood FC in Glasgow, often playing for both in a single weekend and occasionally on the same day, travelling from Oban to Glasgow.

He also travels to the TOFSS 'The Other Foot Soccer School' in Inverness once a week to work on his left foot (he is nat-

urally right footed) and also attends weekly fitness classes in Claggan during the week.

'I love football and would play it all day if I could,' said Levi.

'If I get the chance I would like it to be my job and I am going to train as hard as I can in order to do that.'

During Lockdown Levi was given a fitness and skills programme from Knightswood FC and has been totally dedicated to doing it whatever the weather (even in 26 degree heat). He also has an electronic vest which records his vital signs, heart, breathing etc. during training.

He even spends his down time playing football outside with his mates as well as playing games on his Xbox with his friends from Glasgow.

His dad Colin (Speeder) MacLean says he can always tell when his son is on with



Levi MacLean gets stuck into some lockdown training.

the Glasgow boys as his accent changes completely.

Levi, who attends Inverlochly Primary School, has the full

support of his mum Leona Jones and dad who, luckily for

him, has his own taxi company.

'We can often drive 700 miles a week going to Inverness, Oban, Glasgow or wherever training or matches are,' said Mr MacLean.

'It is a bit of a commitment, but I love driving and don't mind. Levi is learning to sleep and relax during the journeys, and we always make a point of arriving early so he has a chance to warm up properly before he starts.'

'It is what he wants to do and we are fully behind him.'

Levi is currently part of the Rangers FC Development Squad and hopes that by also playing at Knightswood he can do what it takes to be selected for the Rangers Football Academy. Big sister, Shannon Sinclair, lives in the city and is more than happy to accommodate the youngster should this happen.

## Laxdale pupils hone their skills at Virtual Sports Week



Laxdale Primary School on Lewis held a virtual Sports Week from June 8-12 with pupils of all ages joining in the fun, writes Fiona Scott.

Staff came up with the idea to try and make up for the children missing out on the Sports Week they would normally have due to Lockdown

Isabella and Sara on the podium in first and second place.

Restrictions. Teacher Lorraine Morrison said: 'We as a school were so aware that the children have been working hard at laptops and missing out on so much of our planned sporting activities scheduled this term.'

'We always have a Sports Week, so staff Stephen Campbell, Kaye Anne Afrin and I were tasked with devising a virtual sports week for the whole school.'

'In keeping with our ethos of a



Finlay GM1 and his brothers Lachlan and Fraser taking part in the warm-up.

growth mindset, our emphasis was on individuals doing their

best and trying to better themselves and learn new skills.

'We coined the slogan - Never give up, be your best, you're a champion!'

'Used both in English and Gaelic and we devised challenges based on the Active Schools model and devoted a day to each theme.'

The creative elements and activities ranged from making podiums, medals, race numbers and flags, which were all

displayed online during the grand finale on the Friday when the children held the virtual sports day which finished with an awards ceremony. Visit the Laxdale Primary Facebook page to see more on the event.



### TIDES Thursday June 25, 2020

Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday June 25, 2020 are listed below with differences for major ports listed underneath. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Thur	02.23	1.1	08.18	3.4
	14.31	0.9	20.28	3.6
Fri	03.13	1.2	09.05	3.3
	15.20	1.0	21.18	3.5
Sat	04.09	1.3	09.59	3.1
	16.14	1.1	22.14	3.4
Sun	05.15	1.4	11.04	3.0
	17.15	0.7	18.46	4.0
Mon	06.26	1.4	12.29	3.0
	18.23	1.2	** **	**
Tues	00.46	3.3	07.38	1.4
	13.54	3.1	19.33	1.2
Wed	02.08	3.3	08.43	1.3
	14.57	3.2	20.41	1.2

### FORT WILLIAM WEATHER

**THURSDAY**  
Thundery showers and a gentle breeze  
Temperatures 15°C to 24°C.

**FRIDAY**  
Thundery showers and a gentle breeze  
15°C to 24°C.

**WEEKEND OUTLOOK**  
**Saturday**  
Thundery showers. 12°C to 18°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

