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Parking flouters will be watched, warns the council

by Kathie Griffiths
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Car parking charges start up again on Saturday, with irresponsible motorists who clog up streets and snatch priority spaces being warned they are being watched.

As of July 11, Argyll and Bute Council parking wardens will be back out on the streets to enforce parking charges and to keep an eye out for anyone breaking the rules.

'To help support communities as a result of irresponsible parking in recent weeks and to ensure priority parking spaces are maintained, wardens will be actively monitoring our road network and car parks,' said a council spokesperson.

Argyll and Bute Council reinvests the money it makes on parking in front line services, including car parks and roads maintenance.

In May, a report to the council's business continuity committee (BCC) predicted parking charges could plunge by £150,000 due to Covid and

that income from public toilets would be hit too.

Oban South and the Isles councillor Roddy McCuish said he would like to have seen parking charges kept on hold until the country was in phase four of Scotland's route map through Covid.

'I fully understand the coun-

'We need to do what we can to encourage people back to town.'

cil's position on charging for car parking as they have a big black hole in their budget that has to be filled every single way, but I would rather it had been left until we were in stage four of the route map, when we would be in a far better position to see how the economy is coping and that the town is getting back on its feet,' he said.

Councillor Jim Lynch for Oban South and the Isles agreed and said: 'I'd rather have seen the council hold fire on

charges until we were further on. We need to do what we can to encourage people back into the town to support businesses right now.'

Councillor McCuish also criticised the council as 'insensitive' for using the Corran Halls car park like a showroom, parking six new electric cars that are joining its green fleet.

'It was insensitive to say the least - sorry to hear you've lost your job but look at our smart new cars. I think seeing those cars lined up as if at a car showroom will have annoyed a few people,' he said.

On Friday the latest easing of some lockdown restrictions also saw some public toilets reopening.

North Pier toilets in Oban were among the first of a phased move to have their doors unlocked. Ganavan toilets and the ones at Craignure on Mull were also due to open this week.

'This phased approach will enable the council to keep both customers and staff safe, and

Continued on page three.

Kindness rocks in Oban



Painted rocks are spreading kindness and happiness along Oban seafront having started in America five years ago. Brother and sister, six-year-old Aiden and Faye Johnston, three, were all smiles when they first spotted the jolly rocks. For the full story, turn to page three.



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See page 15 for more details.

#ObanMinded




OT

Bikers branded 'selfish' for camping at Commando Memorial in Lochaber

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



The Appin granddaughter of a Second World War commando killed in action has been left heartbroken and deeply offended by 'selfish' bikers who camped at a memorial near Spean Bridge.

Susan Simpson sent an open letter via The Oban Times hoping it would reach those who put up tents around the Commando Memorial causing hurt and distress to many, she said.

Photographs posted on Facebook showing the leather-clad group, some with the legend Satan's Slaves on their backs, and their tents on Friday attracted 600 angry responses via social media within 24 hours.

The memorial site, which is Category A listed, is regarded by the Corps of the Royal



A driver captures some of the tents that had been erected on the ground surrounding the Commando Memorial, despite clear yellow signs saying 'No overnight parking or camping'; and right, Susan Simpson's grandfather William Harvey. He is buried in Holland, but the family treat the memorial as his grave.

Marines as hallowed ground as it overlooks the terrain where commandos trained during the Second World War.

Several online posters claimed the group were ex-mil-

itary or even former Royal Marines and part of a group due to parade in Fort William to mark the 80th anniversary of the formation of the commandos, but that particular



cance of this site and to ignore the clear local anger at the perceived lack of respect shown.

'We hope that, in future, the Commando Memorial is given the respect it deserves by all those visiting this historic site.'

In her open letter to the bikers, Susan said: 'You desecrated, dishonoured and violated a hallowed and revered space.'

Susan's grandfather William Harvey was just 29 when he was gunned down by the Nazis in 1944 while helping to liberate the Dutch town of Vlissingen. Although buried in Holland, her family has treated the Commando Memorial as his grave since it was built in 1952.

'The Memorial is tantamount to a grave for us to visit, a special place that holds decades, generations of family memories associated with the Gramps I never knew, who trained hard on that ground in Lochaber to earn his beret. Nothing you did at the Memorial makes me feel that you honoured his memory or the sacrifice that he and so many he served with made,' said her letter to the bikers.

Some posts on Facebook over the weekend also made claims the bikers were delivering PPE, while others said they were acting on information there were plans by Black Lives Matter to deface the monument and they wanted to protect it.

But Susan said there was no excuse for camping on a sanctified area.

'Since 1952 countless families have gathered at the Memorial to honour the memory of veterans past and present. Countless families have chosen

this site as the last resting place for their loved ones,' she said in her letter, adding: 'There are families across the UK who are hurting and distressed because they saw your tents pitched right over the very spot they chose to scatter their loved one's ashes.'

Her letter read: 'If any of the bikers happen upon my letter here, let me assure you - you did not honour the memory of my grandfather with what you did.'

'Did you not think when you read the numerous signs explaining the sacredness of the whole site, that perhaps this was not the best place to camp, eat, drink and goodness knows what else?'

'Did you really think that one Portaloos for your whole group was suffice, especially in a pandemic when we still have to be mindful that any one of us could be a carrier?'

Susan, who signed off the letter as a proud commando granddaughter, ended by asking for a public apology 'for the distress and heartache' caused to the families of Commandos 'through your selfish acts'.

There were reports that some of the bikers moved on to Oban on Saturday, urinating at the back of the Railway Station and being abusive when confronted by staff. Police were called.

Grieg Brown, who works at the station, said two of the bikers were caught on CCTV urinating one in a recycling bin. He said: 'They didn't apologise for what they were doing, they just got abusive and swore at me.'

parade was cancelled some time ago due to the coronavirus lockdown restrictions.

The Royal Marines Association, the official charity associated with Britain's famous amphibious troops, said it hoped more respect will be shown in future.

Multiple calls were made to police, a spokesperson for Police Scotland said officers attended and spoken to the group who said they would move on in the morning and clean up after themselves.

Deputy Chief Executive of the Royal Marines Association (RMA), Brigadier Richard Spencer, said: 'While it would appear that no malicious damage has been done to the memorial or Garden of Remembrance, it is unfortunate that this group has chosen not to recognise the important historic and emotional signifi-



William Harvey's widow - and Susan Simpson's grandmother - Margaret, wearing a brooch on her coat, with No 4 Commando widows Peggy Wells and Jean Keenan meeting the Queen Mother at the unveiling of Spean Bridge Memorial. Lord Lovat is in the kilt.

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Welcome tourists back, urges holiday park owner

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Owners of a family-run holiday park near Oban say tourists must be welcomed back with confidence if the Covid-ravaged economy is to be saved.

Tralee Bay Holidays says it has ticked all the boxes in a 31-page detailed risk assessment and has spent more than £12,000 on special cleaning equipment as part of its re-opening plan this weekend to keep its staff, visitors and community safe.

Co-owner David Shellcock said he wanted to give reassurance that visitors had already been 'well briefed' about what to expect but everyone, people living near the park and including those who pass through to get to the beach, all have a key part to play in keeping the virus at distance



Tralee Bay Holidays co-owner David Shellcock with health and safety consultant David Parlett - recruiting him 18 months ago has paid dividends during Covid, said Mr Shellcock.

and safeguarding the vital local economy.

'It's important for all of us, not just this business but for our whole economy to welcome visitors back, but it has to be done wholeheartedly and safely.

'I can understand some people having concerns about

people travelling here and what they could bring with them. Visitors are equally anxious about whether it's safe but we have taken every possible step, followed guidelines, taken specialist health and safety advice and put a thorough risk assessment plan in place. We have all the tools

have a social knock-on effect for the economy and it will collapse,' he said.

All 21 furloughed staff are coming back, working in bubbles, while other anti-Covid measures include an outdoor reception, visitors signing forms before and at the end of their visit to declare good health, plenty of PPE, a 'bullet-proof cleaning' regime, including the use of fogging machines, a one-way toilet and shower block system, only accompanied children allowed to use the play area. The tent field at the holiday park's neighbouring Highfield Holidays glamping and motorhome site will remain closed and there will be signs across both sites urging people not to loiter, not to litter and pick up dog poo.

A family-sized unit, that could potentially have brought £16,000 into the business,

has been left empty in case any guests who fall ill with suspected Covid need to be isolated.

With 50 per cent of trade lost this year, bouncing back will be a challenge and could take a decade to catch up on Covid's financial implications. With about £150,000 in losses, the downside has also included new accommodation built with an investment of £250,000 not being able to be rented out for more than three months, said Mr Shellcock, who runs the sites with his brothers Richard and Ian.

But the future can be bright again, he said: 'We are looking forward at the positives now, we're expecting a busy November. As long as businesses can survive until Easter they will be fine but community support and co-operation is vital for all our sake,' added Mr Shellcock.

to do the job properly and have gone through all the scenarios.

'Everyone has a duty of care and part to play in this going well and it goes far wider than Tralee Bay - the outcome of this will affect us all. Without visitors having a positive, safe experience they won't come back again.

'Everyone has a duty of care and part to play in this survival plan. We've got to get it right, us and the communities living near tourist parks like us because if we don't it will

Parking wardens return to Oban

Continued from page one.

provide an enhanced cleaning regime during the summer period. The council is providing additional funding to provide the added cleanliness and will review this adjusted model in August,' added the council spokesperson.

But it has come with another warning that the public toilets 'will only remain open with the cooperation and responsible use by the public.'

From Wednesday July 15, the public toilets opening include Ellenabeich, Port Appin, Cuan Ferry, North Lismore, South Lismore, Fionnphort, Iona, Lochgilphead, Ardrishaig, Tarbert, Campbeltown, Islay, Jura, Coll and Tiree. As



Wardens will be checking cars to make sure drivers are not breaking the rules.

facilities start to open again, the council is urging people to continue to act responsibly and follow government advice in order to avoid a second wave of Covid-19 and potentially the

return of lockdown measures. Advice includes avoiding busy popular beauty spots, staying two metres apart, do not meet up in large groups and keep washing hands regularly.

Kindness rocks in Oban

Painted rocks are spreading kindness and happiness along Oban seafront.

The Kindness Rocks Project, which started in America five years ago, has crossed the ocean to reach Oban esplanade with the aim of brightening up people's day.

If you take one, replace one says the colourful message left anonymously on the sea wall, next to the town's war

memorial. Brother and sister six-year-old Aiden and Faye Johnston, three, were all smiles when they first spotted the jolly rocks.

Mum Fee Shaw said: 'They have painted an entire fairy garden worth of houses and characters plus rainbows of hope at home.

'They've been giving them to their grandparents, left them outside the hospital and

outside their school, but were thrilled to hear about this project as it gives us a new place to visit on our walks.

'The colourful rocks and cheery messages certainly make us smile. We've all found pebble painting a wonderfully calming activity.'

Even dad Keith has had a go. He painted the Thank You rainbow pebble for the NHS that Faye is holding.

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OT

Online council meetings set to continue until at least October

Councillors have approved plans which are set to see no face-to-face council meetings held in Argyll and Bute until at least October.

At a full council meeting held via Skype on Tuesday June 30, members agreed to continue the activities of the Business Continuity Committee (BCC) until a further review on Thursday September 24.

The BCC has been conducting the business of the council, which primarily would be dealt with by the policy and resources committee, since the end of March when it was established due to Covid.

However, other core council committees, including community services and environment, development and infrastructure, will resume from September – but again, on a virtual basis.

The council's four area committees will also meet during September, again using



computer software instead of meeting in person. After September, the next scheduled meeting of any council committee is policy and resources on October 15.

During discussion of the proposals, Councillor Robin Currie asked if the Scottish Government route map had been taken into account when the proposals were put forward?

Executive director Douglas Hendry responded: 'As it stands at the moment, and this may be what is underneath Councillor Currie's question, the Scottish Government may speed up or even, hopefully not, slow down progress through the different phases. I certainly would hope that things will be less restricted, but it could be that there are still difficulties, for example in arranging a pre-Covid meeting of the full council, if we still have to observe social

distancing. If we accept these recommendations, it puts in place a full slate of meetings that will allow us to do business and look at it again in September.'

In response to a question from council leader Aileen Morton, Mr Hendry also confirmed the next BCC meeting is planned for Thursday August 13, when policy and resources would have taken place. The council is in summer recess during July. The council's planning, protective services and licensing committee has already resumed virtual meetings, as has the Argyll and Bute licensing board.

Depute Provost Roddy McCuish, chairing the meeting in the absence of Provost Len Scoullar, said in closing: 'Thanks to all council staff and volunteers who have worked so hard to help us through this terrible pandemic. The months ahead will be extremely challenging but we must show true leadership to help those who need us most at this time. We will come through this.'



North Argyll Carers Centre manager Judith Hawcroft recently received a cheque for £4,000 from Oban Rotary Club President Douglas Small to support its work with young carers.

Covid raises numbers of unpaid carers

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Numbers of unpaid carers in North Argyll will have risen due to the Covid pandemic.

According to latest national figures, an estimated 392,000 people in Scotland have taken on the role of carers without pay during the virus crisis.

Although exact numbers are not yet known for our area, the figures will inevitably be higher now than at the start of the pandemic outbreak, says Judith Hawcroft, who is manager of North Argyll Carers Centre.

'I'm certain there will have been an increase here as well as a change in the intensity of roles of existing carers,' she said.

National statistics released by Carers UK in their report for Carers Week last month, showed approximately 239,000 women and 153,000 across Scotland have started caring for relatives who are older, disabled or living with a physical or mental illness during the pandemic.

Typically, they will have been supporting loved ones from afar, helping with food shopping, collecting medicine, managing finances and providing reassurance and emotional support.

Some will have taken on

intense caring roles, helping with tasks such as personal care, moving around the home, administering medication and preparing meals.

The Carers UK report also said more than 227,000 Scots who have started caring since the outbreak are also juggling paid work alongside their caring responsibilities, highlighting the need for working carers to be supported as they

Throughout the crisis North Argyll Carers Centre has continued to offer emotional and practical support.

return to offices and work sites. The extra 392,000, on top of the 729,000 unpaid carers in the country who were already caring before the outbreak, brings Scotland's total to 1.1 million.

But Covid-19 has also brought unpaid carers to the attention of the wider population, says Carers UK and Ms Hawcroft hopes that will help bring about more positive change to support people in those roles.

There is a majority consensus in Scotland for unpaid carers to receive more support, said a

recent poll showing nearly four in five of the Scottish thought the Government should increase support for unpaid carers: such as better financial support as well as investment in care and support services so that carers can take a break.

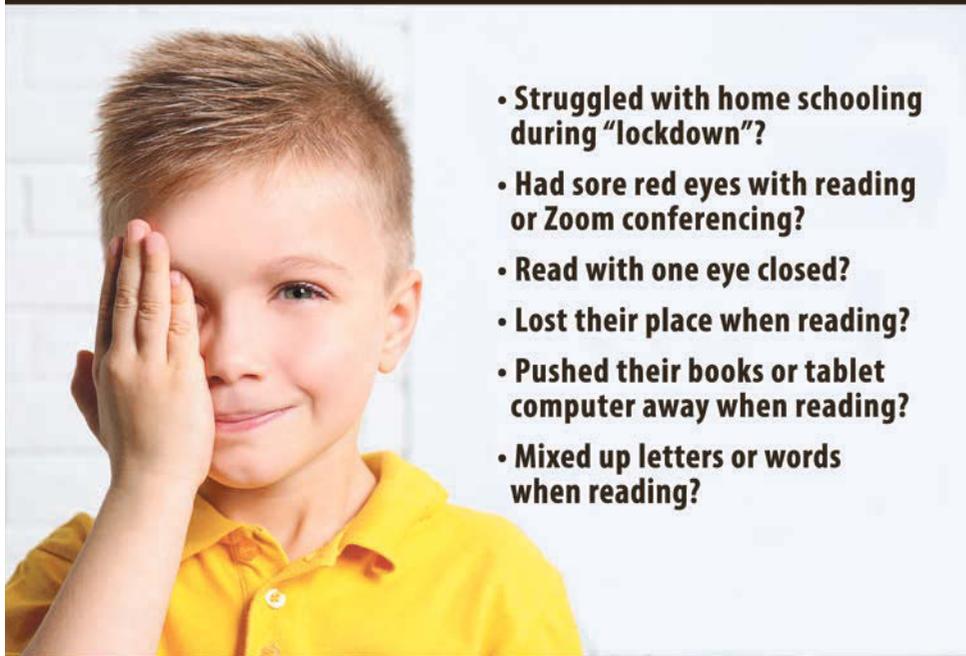
Throughout the Covid crisis, North Argyll Carers Centre has continued to offer emotional and practical support to carers across the Oban, Lorn and Isles area, maintaining connections through regular support calls and using Facebook and Whatsapp groups, video calling and Zoom.

The centre has also set up a wellbeing blog and have replaced weekly wellbeing groups with virtual sessions, Daily on-line groups for young carers, replacing after-school clubs, lunchtime drop-ins and 1:1s are also being run.

There are 600 carers and more than 100 young carers linked to the centre in Albany Street. 'But that's only those who are known to us, it's the tip of the iceberg,' said Ms Hawcroft.

Anyone caring for someone and feeling in need of support or a listening ear can contact North Argyll Carers Centre on 01631 564422, email info@northargyllcarers.org.uk or visit their website at www.northargyllcarers.org.uk

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Lismore school needs 'shed' load of help

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Islanders on Lismore are growing funds to buy their school a new garden shed.

Extreme weather has battered the present day one which is now rotten and beyond repair, so a new one is needed for when youngsters get back to class.

Teaching helper Eva Tombs is busy selling produce from her own garden to help cultivate funds to buy a replacement but needs more help - or even better, sponsorship from a well-wishing business to gift a new one.

More tools and polytunnel tape are also on the wish-list.

'We're definitely in need of a sturdy replacement shed to keep our gardening tools in, a flimsy one just wouldn't stand up to the worst of the weather here,' said Eva, who has already planted an apple orchard with pupils.

'The old shed is completely rotten



and can't be fixed. I've been selling vegetables from my garden to get funds rolling but any help would be appreciated. There might be someone or a business out there who will donate us one. We'd be very happy to put a plaque on it for them,' she said.

A polytunnel in the school garden is also showing signs of wear and tear,

but Eva has plans to fix it up. And there are two big raised beds growing strawberries, rhubarb and herbs.

'I have been growing plants most of my life, which has given me much joy and good health. As a part-time teaching assistant at the school I would very much like all the children to have that opportunity

Teaching assistant Eva Tombs is selling veg from her own garden to raise funds.

for happiness and good health also. Coming back to school after the lockdown, playing outside and experiencing growing and eating vegetables and fruits that they have had a hand in growing can give them the confidence that the earth is a good place to grow up in. The earth feeds and nourishes us when we look after it with care,' said Eva.

The start of the school year will also see the arrival of a new headteacher to replace Catherine Davies, who retired after 10 years in the post.

The tiny school, with just 12 youngsters on the primary register earlier this year and three under-fives in nursery, has been declared by inspectors as one of Argyll and Bute's best.

Anyone interested in donating towards the shed or gifting a new one to the school can contact Eva via eva.tombs@yahoo.com or by calling her on 01631 760128.

Thank you donations to Oban charities

Martyn's Monday Club has won a £250 donation from Argyll Estate Agents.

The Oban charity received 54 nominations in an online poll, closely followed by Soroba Young Family Group, which got 52 nominations and The Puffer Preservation Trust in third place with 48 votes.

The giveaway was organised by the estate agents in Combie Street to donate a total of £1,000 to local charities as a thanks for the work they do.

John McKillop from Argyll Estate Agents said: 'We had a great response - there were charities that we'd never heard of before. We hope it's helped give them a bit of exposure for the good work they all do. We'd like to thank everyone who took part.'

Des Macmillan from MCC said: 'It's great to think that so many people nominated us and that goes to show there is a need for the work we do in Oban. We have big plans for the future with our own premises and every penny will count.'

To nominate your chosen charity, visit Argyll Estate Agent's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/argyllestategentsoban/ and leave a comment explaining your choice.

Community nurses praised for resilience during Covid times

Oban's community nurses have been praised for their 'resilience' on the Covid front line, writes Kathie Griffiths.

This week Gill Fairclough, Community Nurse Team Leader, thanked her team and the former NHS colleagues who stepped back into the front line to help them during the crisis.

Nurse Fairclough said the team had faced challenges which included staff needing to be off for Covid-related reasons and made particular reference to former NHS colleagues who returned to the profession and helped sustain the community service.

'I have to thank them, without these nurses returning we would have struggled to sustain the service,' she told Britt Doughty-Godchaux, who has been interviewing hospital staff for The Oban Times.

Speaking about the entire team, she added: 'The team has shown remarkable resilience and has been amazing at supporting each other and this has helped us work through our own anxieties together.'

'I'm so proud to be part of this team, I can't speak highly enough of them. We're great

at what we do. We provide important care to those who need it most, when they need it most. For my team, I only wish community nursing was more widely recognised for the vital service that it is.'

Supporting patients and carers remotely while shielding has led the community nursing team to new ways of working to allow social distancing for both patients and staff.

The Oban team covers a vast area, stretching from Ardfern to the Bridge of Orchy, taking in Kilchrenan, Appin, Lismore, Easdale and Luining.

'People don't know what we do until they need us. We have a very highly skilled team that mirrors the skills of nurses and practitioners within the hospital and local practices. We're the first point of contact for patients, carers, GPs and care homes,' said Nurse Fairclough.

While other services had to pare back their work during Covid, the community nursing team continued to support the most vulnerable in the community.

'We are the front line, so our work is business as usual. We are a responsive service which

means due to the nature of our work we can't put patients on a waiting list, there are no unmet needs nor can we put referrals on hold,' she said.

The community nursing team has dealt with potential Covid cases daily since before day one of lockdown.

A big part of its work is to support those who cannot, for whatever reason, receive care in hospital or at their GP, and that includes those who are housebound as well as those who are shielding. Supporting palliative and end-of-life care is also part of the team's remit.

The Community Nursing Team also works closely with the Community Care Team, other multi-disciplinary teams as well as with carers.

'We work closely together to support each other. Without the whole team working together, we'd not be able to do what we do,' said Nurse Fairclough.

Treats gifted to the team from the community and visitors donated from Oban High School have also been thankfully received during the Covid outbreak. 'It's made such a difference for us,' she said.



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.

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OT

Around Oban

KAY MCDONALD

editor@obantimes.co.uk



I'm ploughing my way through mounds of papers and books at the moment to clear a relative's house which, as you can imagine, results in a mixture of laughter and tears. Old photos of people I never knew but in the background is the town I know and love – changed but still familiar. There are also lots of books about Oban and its past, some of them I've read and others I'll be taking home to read.

The history of Oban and its people is fascinating, especially when you can relate some names to families still in the town today.

I learned a lot about the history when I trained as an Oban Walking Guide, but I'm still learning all the time. It's the quirky things that fascinate me, such as the fact that llamas were once kept in Station Square and that the herring girls on the pier used the sea wall to sharpen their knives – you can still see the indentations.

I've also rediscovered a list of old nicknames, many

WHERE IS THIS?



of which referred to the jobs people did and often followed families down the generations to today. One of our family ones was Bidy, though I have no idea why, but it made me investigate what a Badge Porter was which led to pictures of very smartly uniformed men with barrows transporting luggage to the hotels.

Oban thrived as a tourist destination in the past and I'm sure it will again in the not too distant future. We're lucky enough to live in an area that draws people and then calls them back time and again.

The photograph last week was of the door into the hall at the Congregational Church and this week also has a religious flavour.

Rough ride ahead on Argyll roads

Argyll and Bute Council is facing a struggle if it is ever to lose its tag as having the most roads in need of repair in Scotland, the council's chief executive has admitted, writes Kathie Griffiths.

Pippa Milne was reacting to a recent report by Audit Scotland which stated that the area has the highest percentage of roads needing repair in the country.

The report, which said that the council was improving but needed to do more, was discussed at a full council meeting conducted via Skype on Thursday June 30.

Councillor Donnie McMillan said: 'One thing that came to me was that the roads in Argyll and Bute are the highest in need of repair in Scotland. Is there any reason why they are mentioned there, and how does the council plan to resolve this situation?'



Ms Milne said: 'This has been an issue we have had for some time – we have been on the bottom of the leader board, but we have been among the fastest improving. Because of the investment made in roads, we have taken some real steps forward.'

'One issue we have is that many of our roads started as tracks and are not fully engineered, so will be steeply

inclined. With the current measurements, we will struggle to ever get off the bottom of the leader board. This is one where we need to take a view of what we want to see.'

'We could resurface a road on one of our islands and it could in our view be a very good finish, but it could still score less well than a potholed road in a city.'

'We have made some

It's going to be an uphill battle to upgrade our roads.

significant progress, but unfortunately the only real way to make inroads is through significant investment. That is challenging with the budgets and capital we have at our disposal.'

The Audit Scotland report, issued in May, said: 'For road classes A, B and C, the council has the highest percentage of roads in need of repair of all councils in Scotland.'

Approximately 23 per cent of Argyll and Bute's roads are constructed on peat, which means the roads are prone to movement. Where roads are in need of repair, the council's strategy is to use surface dressing techniques rather than full reconstruction.

Trunk roads are managed by Transport Scotland and maintained by BEAR Scotland.

Cinema opening will be just the ticket for Oban film fans

Oban's Phoenix Cinema could be welcoming back film fans later this month, writes Kathie Griffiths.

After weeks of blank screens, cinemas around Scotland are preparing to open again soon and the Phoenix hopes to be one of them.

Strict social distancing rules to keep both customers and workers safe from Covid will be enforced when the community-owned cinema in George Street opens its box-office.

Bosses at Oban Phoenix have been working out their own risk assessment rules to tie in with government guidelines and a tentative date for reopening is towards the end of this month, says the cinema's vice-chairman Alan Chapman.

Initially the cinema closed for two weeks to be kept under review but the closure continued on guidance.

When it finally does reopen, safety measures could include being met by a number of hand sanitising stations, staff wearing PPE and staggered start and end times of films to keep the foyer unclogged.

A number of big blockbuster



Staff at Oban Phoenix Cinema hope to reopen the doors towards the end of the month.

films have been delayed during the pandemic, including the new James Bond film, *No Time to Die*, now moved to November 12 for release, and Disney's live-action remake of *Mulan*. Check out oban-phoenix.com to see what other films are coming up.

Until Covid hit, Screen One could seat 148 people with Screen Two seating just 22. During lockdown, all staff have been furloughed.

Posters have gone up outside the cinema to brighten up the locked-up building in lock-

down. Inside, the charity-registered cinema had been having a make-over in the main foyer area with a new snacks, sweets and drinks counter. The office and box office space near the front entrance was next on the to do list with help from funders.

Just recently the Phoenix Cinema received £22,436 from the National Lottery through Screen Scotland's Cinema Equipment Fund so it can deliver a high-quality and diverse programme of films to its community.

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Tony Hill at the carpark area at Ellenabeich.

Manoeuvres for overnight campervan parking on Seil

Motorhomes are being offered official overnight parking at Ellenabeich, writes Kathie Griffiths.

Spaces for overnighters have been opened up in the car park of the former Highland Arts Studio in the historic village centre.

Site owners, Easdale-based Seafari Adventures, stressed it is not a campsite and there are no toilet or waste disposal facilities available.

Co-owner Jess Hill said: 'It is for overnight parking only, it is not a campsite.'

The nearest public toilets close to the ferry pier were closed in lockdown but were due to open last week.

Seil community council chairman Julie Ferris said: 'We certainly welcome the safe parking of motorhomes.'

Community councillors have been looking at ideas of its own on how the island could gain more in the future from visiting camper vans who have previously been taking up lay-bys and spaces in the scenic council-owned car park that overlooks Mull.

Tiree residents seek CalMac assurance

by Fiona Scott
fscott@obantimes.co.uk



Islanders on Tiree say they have been left 'high and dry' by CalMac and have requested it gives them priority on the current reduced capacity service.

Tiree Community Council has written a letter to CalMac asking for assurances for islanders, who have been unable to visit their families on the mainland and those travelling to medical appointments, stating that the situation is now 'absolutely critical'.

CalMac has confirmed that from June 30, 20 per cent of availability on each boat (86 for Tiree and Coll) will be held back for 'turn up and go', which they say can be used by the islanders. But the Tiree community wants more.

'We want to avoid a feeding frenzy for online tickets every 14 days, a situation that elderly islanders will inevitably lose,' wrote Community Council



convenor Dr John Holliday.

'Islanders are also concerned that the opening up of second homes, self-catering accommodation and tourism will inevitably absorb all the available bookings, leaving islanders unable to travel off (and back on) the islands.'

'What we particularly want to avoid is having elderly island travellers having to queue through the night on Oban pier to be sure of a space on the return boat.'

Dr Holliday stressed that some islanders had not been off Tiree for five months

due to weather-related ferry cancellations and a three-week replacement of the link span, all prior to the lockdown.

Residents on the island are backing the call.

Catriona MacLennan said: 'The lifeline service is for the islanders who live and work here, more thought should have gone into the easing of lockdown for the islands.'

Carol Flett added: 'Of course tourism is important for the islands but this is our lifeline service. My daughter can't travel by ferry to the island because the few passenger spaces

Ferry protesters from left: John Patience, Phyl Meyer, Carol Flett, Dr John Holliday and Catriona MacLennan.

available seem to have been taken by long-term bookings.'

Phyl Meyer commented: 'All we are asking is that people who live here on Tiree get a chance to use it. Islanders should have a degree of priority.'

Dr Holliday added: 'If you live on an island, you live with travel restriction.'

'But what we want to see is a managed system that is fair to all the competing demands, placing islanders at the heart of the matter.'

Tiree Community Council has also made representations to the Cabinet Secretary for Transport and met with Michael Russell MSP.

In response CalMac have stated that they are trying hard to balance the needs of islanders and visitors, and that there will be leeway given for emergency travel.



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OT

Are you up for a virtual challenge?

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



A Connel couple are organising a virtual running event in memory of their friend who died from cancer.

Stacey and Max Holle will take up the challenge over one week in August to complete as bigger distance as they can in six, 12 or 24 hours.

Although it is a running race, to make sure it is as inclusive as possible they have added in the option of doing it on wheels which could involve a wheelchair, bike, scooter or even a pushchair.

Entrants can chose their own routes as long as it follows government guidance in regard to COVID-19 and travel and exercise, and they are free to break their efforts into how many sections they like as long as it adds up to

their chosen time limit. The end distance and time is logged online and will show up in the results.

The Virtual Tyndrum24 event was inspired by an ultrarunner friend of Stacey's, Mark Thornberry, who died on June 14. Despite a liver cancer diagnosis, he kept on running and when he needed help to complete the Grand Union Canal Challenge, a huge number of people, including Stacey turned up to run it. When he died he had already raised £80,000, since his death the total has reached £90,000, but his goal had been £100,000.

Stacey, who is a former cancer researcher, said: 'Mark was one of those amazing characters you meet while out on a long run who despite the odds wanted to make a difference. We hope the Virtual

Tyndrum24 will go some way to help reach the goal he wanted.

'We're thinking of having a mass Zoom start at midday on Saturday August 1 to get everyone off to an exciting start,' added Stacey.

To add some extra adventure into entrants' routes there are three photo categories, with prizes from sponsors, including North Connel-based skin care brand SKIRR. The themes are water, fire and night-time.

The cost to enter is £4 plus £2 if you are not UK Athletics or Scottish Athletics associated. Once the event costs are covered, the surplus will go to Mark's charity. People are also being encouraged to get their own sponsorship, if they can, to donate as well.

Money raised will help fund research into liver cancer at King's College Hospital in



Max and Stacy Holle have organised the virtual Tyndrum24 to raise money for research into liver cancer, in memory of their friend Mark, who died from the disease last month.

London, where Mark received support and treatment.

WayOutside adventure company is run by Stacey and Max, this January more than 100 entrants braved freezing temperatures to be part of the first Tyndrum 24-hour winter trail race, with competitors travelling from as far as Orkney and Southampton to

complete as many laps as they could over dirt tracks, rocky paths, through forestry and over river crossings.

'In the Virtual Tyndrum24, anyone can join in from any location and choose any route they like. We're excited to see who signs up and can't wait to see their water, fire and night-time photos! It's going to be a

great adventure whatever people's fitness levels. Anyone can do this!

To donate to Mark's Virgin moneygivingpage, visit uk.virginmoneygiving.com/MarkThornberry

To find out more about the Virtual Tyndrum24 event and enter go to www.wayoutside.co.uk

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Sea eagle chick flies high after surviving nest disaster

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



A miracle sea eagle chick who survived falling out of its nest has been caught on camera.

Amanda and David Fergusson who run Lochaline Dive Boat Charters unwittingly caught the youngster, now nicknamed Mira for miracle, safe and well on camera months after Mull RSPB officer Dave Sexton gave it up for dead.

Mr Sexton was horrified when a routine check on a pair of sea eagles along the Sound of Mull last year revealed their nest was hanging vertically in a tree smashed by a gale.

He raced up closer to the tree and saw there was no sign of their chick, he thought it had died after wandering off dazed or been attacked and eaten as prey.

A week later he checked the same area again and after



spotting an adult bird sitting high up the hillside on a crag, started wondering if the chick could possibly have survived.

Another time he visited he saw an adult eagle flying in the area carrying prey but it went over a ridge and out of sight, however he swore he caught the distant call of a sea eagle chick.

'Next day I was back again; found an adult again on the

same crag and this time in the still air I could clearly hear the food begging calls of a chick! The adult sea eagle kept looking down so I tilted the telescope down to the base of the crag and sitting there, shouting its head off at the parent, was the chick!

'I couldn't believe my eyes. At five weeks old when it fell out it couldn't stand up or walk, let alone fly so it must have

Thanks to its attentive parents, the sea eagle chick survived the destruction of its nest.

used all its strength to slowly shuffle its way gradually uphill through bracken and over rocks. It will have been fed on the ground by the parents, getting stronger and more mobile by the day until several weeks later it reached the top of the wood and out onto open ground.

'As I watched it even started to exercise its wings. It was just incredible that it had survived all the trauma and ordeal of its nest collapsing and thanks to the fantastic efforts of its ever attentive parents, it had made it this far,' said Mr Sexton.

The next few times he checked there was no sign of the chick and he had to wait until late summer before he heard its call again and saw it soaring into view, closely

followed by its parents. The perfect family picture and then they slowly drifted out of sight. It was one of the most satisfying experiences of my life and testament to their incredible ability to survive in this harsh and unforgiving landscape,' he said.

That was the last Mr Sexton saw of the chick until Amanda caught it on camera by chance, out hunting with an adult eagle down by the coast.

'Even when chicks start to fly they are still not safe so to know that the chick had made it through autumn and into the early winter, helped by the parents, was just fabulous to see. There's every likelihood it stayed with the parents for a few months more before slowly dispersing and beginning its own journey in life,' said Mr Sexton, who was also able to identify the origins of the male eagle of the pair to a nest in Morvern in 2008, because

he could read the colour ring A9/69 on his leg.

'Apparently Amanda has very recently been out and had an immature sea eagle coming down for fish and she was wondering if it could be this same chick. I've said it's entirely possible as it will have watched its parents doing this and will have learned what to do. In reality it could be an immature from anywhere by this stage and it wasn't ringed, so we'll never know 100 per cent but I'd say the odds are that it is our bird again!' said Mr Sexton.

Normally the RSPB run an award-winning Mull Eagle Watch programme, a big attraction for wildlife tourists, but coronavirus closed it for this year.

Sea eagles are UK's biggest bird of prey and the fourth largest eagle in the world, closely related to bald eagles in the US.

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Getting back to work with

Thousands of companies have been taking advantage of an unprecedented package of UK Government support to protect jobs and support firms as they attempt to get back to business 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 are examples of how companies have been helped, and what support is available.

CASE STUDY MADEMOISELLE MACARON

RACHEL HANRETTY, of Mademoiselle Macaron, fell in love with macarons while living in Paris.

After eating far too many patisseries, she enrolled at the Alain Ducasse cookery school to learn how to make macarons.

She said: "They're just so pretty. They're so delicate. And they're quite hard to make because there's a lot that can go wrong."

Once Rachel returned to Edinburgh and noticed a gap in the market, she decided to set up her very own macaron business.

She said: "I wanted to have that little bit of Paris with me. I focused on taste bud tourism, so when you eat these macarons you're transported to the Champs-Élysées." After nine months of

trading from home and going to food markets, Rachel set up her first bricks-and-mortar store.

She said: "It was in the centre of Edinburgh, it had a view of the castle. It was beautiful."

But since launching their online store in 2015, and realising that they could send macarons across the country, plus the fact that they had large bookings from both wholesale and wedding customers, the bricks and mortar became unnecessary.

The company, which employs eight people, lost all their wholesale customers overnight due to Coronavirus.

Rachel said: "It was really scary. All the weddings, all the wholesale customers, and the bulk of our production disappeared. And then, of course, you have phone calls from people wanting to cancel future orders and refunds.



PICTURE: CAROLYN HENRY

TASTY TREATS: Rachel Hanretty, below, has used the furlough scheme to keep Mademoiselle Macaron going.

"We entered the cash flow situation whereby the wholesale customers stopped paying the invoices. And we've now got over £30,000 worth of overdue invoices."

But, it's not all doom and gloom, as Mademoiselle Macaron has started to see an increase in online orders. It's thanks to the UK Government's furlough scheme that her business has kept afloat. Rachel said: "The furlough scheme has been a real lifeline in this time of crisis. I asked people to volunteer for furlough. So the people who wanted to and were happy to, they were the first ones to go. I cried.

"I just felt like I was stuck in this moral quandary. Do we keep going and safeguard the business, so there's a business for everyone to come back to? Or do I shut down because I can

see that this is causing people severe anguish? We managed to recall stock that was sitting in hospitality clients freezers. That is the only reason we survived. What

you make, you keep in the freezer and you use when you need to. It's not like it's a cupcake, if we were perishable goods we would never have survived."

Now everyone is back at work at Mademoiselle Macaron, they've had to be creative in terms of changing shift patterns and splitting the team in half, so there's less contact.

"We have a big kitchen so the space isn't the issue. It's more that we wanted to keep the team safe," adds Rachel.

Mademoiselle Macaron's online sales have increased so much that they're potentially in a position to hire more people on temporary contracts. Ideally, Rachel would like to help younger people and develop a training program with a college. "They've been so much more affected, and it's just something close to my heart," she said.



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

financial support package

‘We were able to pay our creditors’

CASE STUDY THE SEREN COLLECTION

WITH PLANS for a new spa at his five-star hotel, a Michelin-star chef in his restaurant and the launch of a tour operator business underway, Neil Kedward was looking forward to a good year in 2020.

But when the Covid-19 pandemic struck, the managing director of Wales-based The Seren Collection required urgent assistance from the UK Government’s support schemes to pay his creditors and maintain supplier relationships.

Mr Kedward and his wife Zoe entered the hospitality industry almost by accident in 2007.

He said: “We just happened to come home to South Wales for the weekend and stumbled across The Grove. It was a calamitous trip with lots of wrong turns and family arguments, but we found the owner in, made our offer and that was that.

“Our aspiration was much smaller than that, in fact we just wanted to convert the six outlying

buildings into self catering units – now we’re a 25 bedroom hotel.”

Neil and Zoe went on to open two restaurants in Saundersfoot and Oxwich on the back of the success of The Grove.

As if that weren’t enough to keep the team busy, he also spotted a gap in the tour operator market.

Neil said: It struck me that there weren’t enough tour operators bringing people into the country. So we started a business called routescape.com, which had a hugely encouraging start, launching at World Travel Market before a big business development trip in 2019. We had built up all our bookings for this financial year.

“And then of course the whole project was wiped out by the virus. We lost every single booking. Not just for Routescape, but for The Grove too.”

Neil added: “The loan from the Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme has allowed us to pay off all our creditors and we will be able to relaunch owing nobody any money.



FINANCIAL AID: Neil Kedward, of The Seren Collection.

Help available to companies and workers

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

The Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme has enabled businesses to put employees on a period of temporary leave (furlough) and apply for a UK Government grant to cover 80 per cent of those workers’ usual monthly wage costs, up to £2,500 a month.

The Self-Employment Income Support Scheme will allow eligible self-employed individuals to claim a taxable grant of 80 per cent of their average monthly profits, up to £7,500.

UK VAT-registered firms have been given the option to defer VAT payments until the end of June. There will be no interest or penalties on any amount deferred.

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

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

The Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme is available for loans or finance of up to £5m. The UK Government will provide the lender with an 80 per cent guarantee to support the lending.

The Coronavirus Statutory Sick Pay Rebate Scheme will repay employers the current rate of Statutory Sick Pay they pay current or former employees for sickness starting on or after March 13, 2020.

The Future Fund will issue loans between £125,000 to £5 million to innovative companies which are facing financing difficulties due to the coronavirus outbreak.

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

‘Loan and furloughing helped keep us solvent’

CASE STUDY KERR’S TYRES & AUTO

WHEN COVID-19 struck, one of Northern Ireland’s leading providers of tyres and automotive services, had just invested £2.5m in a new head office and distribution centre in Antrim and cash reserves were low.

But thanks to their ability to adapt, diversify as well as the invaluable support from the UK Government, Kerr’s Tyres & Auto has been able play a vital role in servicing and keeping the province’s key workers on the road.

Managing director Norman Kerr said: “The Antrim site used up our cash reserves and had a big impact on our cash flow.

“Unfortunately the coronavirus kicked in three months later, when we still didn’t have a chance to build up any cash reserves that we would normally have. So it had a massive impact on ourselves.

“But the problem was we had to continue trading because we supply the food sector and the white delivery van man.

“So our business had to continue. We had to pay suppliers, we had no choice in it.”

However thanks to a UK Government Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme loan of £500,000 through the Ulster Bank, as well as the furlough scheme, the family-run business was able to remain solvent and save over 50 jobs.

Norman said: “Had we not been able to get the UK Government loan scheme, it would have had a huge impact on our business. Our business, in essence, dropped probably 75 per cent within the first month.

“Thankfully that has grown steadily back since then.”



ON THE RIGHT ROAD: Norman Kerr, of Kerr’s Tyres & Auto.

OT

Council switches to hybrid vehicles

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Argyll and Bute Council has just taken delivery of 20 new cars as part of its new green transport fleet.

The cars are Ultra Low Emission Vehicles, partially funded by the Scottish Government, and will replace older cars and vans now to be removed.

Some of the new fleet were spotted this week parked up in the Corran Hall's car park.

Through Transport Scotland's Switched-on Fleets Grant, for every three-year lease paid for by the council, the Scottish Government will pay the lease for an additional vehicle - as long as the council takes a diesel car off the road for each new vehicle added.

The Scottish Government intends to end the sale of



20 Mitsubishi Outlander Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicles.

bounds. We now have ultra-low emission vehicles that suit the long distances council staff have travel to carry out their day-to-day work.

'As a council we are committed to finding ways of beating climate change. Grants like Switched-on Fleets mean we can accelerate the switch-over to cleaner energy. Moving to a new type of engine also provides training and development opportunities for our staff, particularly our apprentices.

'I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank our supplier, Parks of Hamilton. The team there pulled out all the stops to get the vans delivered during the COVID-19 crisis and we are very grateful.'

new petrol or diesel cars in Scotland by 2032. Argyll and Bute Council has just taken delivery of 20 Mitsubishi Outlander Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicles (PHEV) commercial vans. There will also be 10 Mitsubishi Outlander PHEV cars and 10 Toyota Prius PHEV cars. Once all the vehicles are delivered the council fleet will have 46

electric vehicles, which makes up 10 per cent of the fleet. Councillor Robin Currie, Policy Lead for Housing, Roads and Infrastructure Services, said: 'Argyll and Bute as a whole has embraced electric vehicles. In 2018, 4.5 per cent of cars sold here were electric, which was second highest in the country. Technology is coming on in leaps and

We can do better, says council boss

Pleas have been made for Argyll and Bute Council to fulfil its aim and forge better working relationships with its communities.

The authority has pledged

to 'engage with communities to understand and improve satisfaction with its services' after publication of an Audit Scotland report on the council in May.

But during discussion of the report at a full council meeting via Skype on Tuesday June 30, Councillor George Freeman

asked how they intended to meet that target.

Councillor Freeman said: 'Of the community groups I work with, most don't have a great opinion of the council when it comes to consultation.

'If we are going to try and engage further with communities and community



Amy's hard work has paid off with her recent award.

Amy is a cut above

Amy Cameron is proving herself to be heads and shoulders above the rest, writes Kathie Griffiths.

The aspiring hairdresser has just been named the 2020 Schools Link Student of the Year for the Oban area.

Amy recently completed Argyll College's Skills for Work Hairdressing course at

The Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework Level 4.

Tutor Lisa Johnston, who nominated Amy, said the award was well-deserved.

She said: 'Throughout the academic year Amy has consistently produced both written and practical work of the highest standard, she has worked above and beyond the requirements of the course.

'Amy used her time in class to continue developing her skills, regularly discussing and

demonstrating the skills she was learning in her place of work with a passion that shows she will do very well working in the hairdressing industry,' she said.

Oban High School head teacher Peter Bain said: 'Being awarded the Schools Link Student of the Year is a fitting tribute to her hard work and dedication towards her studies.

'I'm sure the recognition of her talent and commitment will propel her to further success. It is also fitting to thank her tutor for the support and encouragement provided to achieve such high standards and praise.'

Amy added: 'I'm so thankful that I was able to receive this award, I wouldn't have been able to do it without my friends from Trinity Hairdressers and my hairdressing tutor Lisa. Thank you very much.'

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Oban RNLI crew bid fond farewell to valued member

by Fiona Scott
fscott@obantimes.co.uk



Oban life boat team wished fair winds and following seas to Dr Colin Wilson last week when he retired after 30 years as a volunteer crew member.

It was his love of the sea that drew Colin to sign up with Oban RNLI in 1990 and since doing so he has become a dedicated crew member and an integral part of the station's family, contributing to many call outs, training exercises and fundraising events.

When asked what he will miss most, Colin said: 'I will miss working as part of a really great crew and team.

'I have shared in both the joy of many successes and in the sadness surrounding some less happy events, providing care and support wherever possible.'

It would appear that 30 years of serving one of Scotland's



Dr Colin Wilson hopes to continue volunteering in a different capacity.

Centre has seen his voluntary role extend further within the RNLI.

He has contributed as a lifeboat medical adviser and regional medical adviser for Scotland, as well as serving on the charity's medical committee.

Colin's medical knowledge and expertise in both diving medicine and treating divers with decompression sickness has proved invaluable and his colleagues will be forever grateful for his service and the knowledge he has shared with them all.

Finlo Cottier, a deputy coxswain and crew member of Oban lifeboat, who has served alongside Colin since 2001 said: 'It's always reassuring when you go to sea with Colin among the crew, he has a special blend of knowledge, wisdom and humour.'

Fellow crew member Ian Henry also reflected on Colin's

time afloat: 'Colin has been an absolute stalwart and aside from being a mentor, font of knowledge, medical advisor, and medicinal coffee prescriber, he has first and foremost been a friend, he said.'

Colin passed on his thanks to fellow crew members past and present, for great memories of working in a fantastic team.

'I also salute all those who support the RNLI throughout the country in the many ways they do, helping those in trouble at sea,' he added.

'I hope to continue my association with Oban Lifeboat by volunteering in a different capacity.'

In turn Oban RNLI thanked Colin for his commitment and dedication over the years.

'His presence at sea will be missed, but his place in our lifeboat family remains. We all wish him the very best for his well earned time on dry land,' said a spokesperson.

busiest all-weather lifeboats has resulted in some astonishing statistics, too. Colin has attended a total of 660 call-outs. His presence on call-outs alone has seen him spend more than 1,100 hours at sea, travel 12,668 miles and burn

159,891 litres of fuel. That's excluding the many exercises and delivery trips he has also participated in.

The mileage Colin has clocked up while responding to his pager is equivalent to travelling, by sea, from Oban

to Sydney via Cape Horn. Or in simpler terms, half way around the world.

In addition to the time he has given the station, Colin's 35 years experience as a local GP and time served as a senior partner of the Lorn Medical



LATEST NEWS from The Tayvallich Inn

The Tayvallich Inn is getting ready to be back - with a few changes!

A little taste of what to expect.

We've replaced our deck and reduced the number of tables inside the bar and restaurant.

We will have a reduced menu to start with but still with all the favorites, and everything will be available to take away.

We'll be providing table service only and we will ask you to phone or email ahead to book a table in the bar, restaurant or outside.

Look out next week for our new website launch, full information about how to book and hopefully a final opening date!



Seafood, sunshine and spectacular views



We can't wait to welcome you back very soon

Tayvallich, Lochgilphead, PA31 8PL Find us on Facebook:



OT

Glencruitten sees membership boom

by Fiona Scott
fscott@obantimes.co.uk



Glencruitten Golf Club, has seen a boom of more than 150 new members join in the wake of Covid-19 lockdown restrictions easing.

Built in the early 1900s the volunteer led club has had around 170 members for the past few years, relying heavily on visitor revenue and functions in its clubhouse. With lockdown restrictions introduced in March preventing travel and mass gatherings, it was a concerning time for the club and its future.

However, in the last month Glencruitten has taken on 150 new members and counting. The club is also seeing the course become extremely popular with nearly double the number of people coming out to play on an average day.

Bryan Livingston, club secretary said: 'We're really a small community so when we went into lockdown it was quite worrying for the club and we were basically in survival mode.'

Glencruitten Golf Club is also one of the first clubs to adopt the Scottish Golf's Venue Management System



(VMS) - a virtual suite of online tools that enables clubs to manage their venue online.

Livingston continued: 'We've seen a massive increase in new members joining and VMS has enabled us to manage this increase in members effectively and efficiently.'

'It's been huge asset for both the club and its members, and we feel it will be a really valuable product for smaller, community run clubs like ours where time and resources are limited.'

The new system not only makes venue management smoother for staff; it means club members can book tee times virtually, ensuring golf

can be played easily and safely during the easing of lockdown restrictions.

Livingston added: 'As such a small community, it's been brilliant to see family reunions happening on our courses as lockdown restrictions continue to ease, and of course being able to be out and about just does wonders for everyone's mental health.'

Scotland's top ranked professional golfer and local Glencruitten member, Robert MacIntyre was full of praise for the new system. Last year's European Tour Rookie of the Year took to Twitter as he made a return to the golf course last month, tweeting, 'Just booked

Last month Glencruitten Golf Club had taken on 150 new members in the wake of the lockdown.

a tee time on the new Scottish Golf App. Very good bit of kit and easy to use.'

Karin Sharp, Scottish Golf COO, said: 'It has been without a doubt a trying time for people over the last few months in lockdown. But we are delighted to see with the implementation of phase two that local golf clubs such as Glencruitten Golf Club are seeing a surge in new members.'

'Our Venue Management System is available at no additional cost to all affiliated clubs in Scotland and it is great to see that both clubs and their members are benefiting from a streamlined system.'

'With physical distancing guidelines set to be with us for a while, the system offers additional reassurance to golfers who can safely book tee-times online and complete all competition scoring using our new app.'

For more information, visit: obangolf.com or scottishgolf.org

Golf clubs set to benefit from Covid support fund

Golf clubs that have affected financially by the coronavirus pandemic are being offered support via a funding package funded by the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews, writes Fiona Scott.

In total the funding is worth £685,000 and clubs affiliated to Scottish Golf can apply for grants being made available via two separate allocations; the Covid-19 Fixed Costs Grant and the Club Relief Fund.

Fixed Costs Grant will enable every affiliated club in Scotland to apply for a maximum of £500 for costs specifically associated with preparing for safe play and club/course management following the lockdown in early March.

These can include but are not exhaustive of sanitation products, Covid-related health and safety equipment, professional fees, signs, training, video conferencing licence (e.g. zoom) and any other Covid-related spend.

The Club Relief Fund has been created to provide financial support to clubs who have been impacted by the pandemic and is concentrated on enabling clubs to reinstate or to increase expenditure in key areas to either improve member experience or boost income generation potential.

Clubs applying to this fund are required to complete a four-stage application to



ensure the review committee have the correct information available to allocate funds.

The information required includes:

- Standard Club Criteria and Agreement
- Commitment to Growing the Game
- Financial Information
- Impact of Funding

A Scottish Golf spokesperson said: 'While the provision of this funding is most welcome, we do anticipate the volume of applications to be high and the criteria outlined will be strictly applied to ensure that the funds available are distributed where most needed.'

'We continue to explore other funding options for clubs to access and will communicate any additional opportunities should these arise.'

The application process for both grants is open now until Friday July 24. More information and application forms can be found on the Scottish Golf website.

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Wanted: local heroes for volunteer sports awards

by Fiona Scott
fscott@obantimes.co.uk



Never has there been a more appropriate time to celebrate the hundreds of volunteers in our communities who have helped keep people of all ages healthy and active both during lockdown and outwith.

Charity-based leisure trust LiveArgyll has launched its 2020 Volunteer Sports Awards and nominations can now be submitted until Friday July 17.

The awards, which run annually in partnership with sportscotland, aim to celebrate and reward the success and achievements of coaches and volunteers in Argyll and Bute school and community sports clubs.

Nominations are open to both volunteer sport coaches and club volunteers with non-coaching roles.



LiveArgyll's Active Schools and Sport Manager Alex Edmonstone said: 'Volunteers are the lifeblood of community sport in Argyll and Bute.

'The commitment which so many people show, allows sport to thrive in our towns, islands and villages.

These awards help us celebrate and say thank you to a few of those people who have made a positive difference in supporting their community live richer and more active lives.'

If you have someone at your sports club or school who has

The 2019 winners.

made a real difference over the last year and beyond, you can complete the short nomination form on the LiveArgyll website.

Nominations can be submitted for volunteers who are in coaching, as well as in non-coaching roles.

The 2020 winners and runners-up will also have their entries entered into the national sportscotland Coaching, Officiating and Volunteering Awards.

All nominees of the LiveArgyll Volunteer Sports Awards 2020 will be announced in August on the LiveArgyll webpage and social media platforms as well as in

the Oban Times, Argyllshire Advertiser and Campbeltown Courier.

Final winners will be announced in early September.

Alex Edmonstone added: 'In Argyll and Bute, volunteers put in hours of their time and are crucial to the running of our clubs and providing sport to our communities.'

During lockdown the important roles of sports club volunteers has been even more evident. From running online activity to getting out there themselves and helping in the communities, heroes one and all.

For the 2020 awards there are six categories which volunteers can be nominated in. For full nomination criteria and how to nominate please visit the LiveArgyll website.

Categories are as follows:
Volunteer coach

■ Young person's coach of the year (coaches under-18s)

■ Coach of the year (25 years +)

■ Young coach of the year (25 years and under)

■ Disability coach of the year

■ Non-coaching Volunteer

■ Lifetime volunteer achievement

■ Volunteer of the year (25 years +)

■ Young volunteer of the year (25 years and under)

Nominations close at midnight on Friday July 17. For further information please email LiveArgyll's Community Sport Hub Officer at cshub@liveargyll.co.uk

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BUSINESS NEWS

Economic recovery needs 'better broadband'

The economic recovery of Argyll and Bute needs 'high quality' digital connectivity because of the reliance on online access during the pandemic.



Despite businesses, councils and communities using the essential service during lockdown, it still suffered from gaps in 'quality and coverage,' according to Islay-based councillor Alastair Redman, policy lead for economic growth at Argyll and Bute Council.

He said a 'reliable network' had been essential for the local authority to provide vital services but gaps need to be addressed 'as quickly as possible'.

'It is vital further funding is delivered to enhance the digital infrastructure in Argyll and Bute to not only help the economic recovery after Covid-19 but to secure long-term prosperity for the area,' said councillor Redman.

The council is working with the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) in Westminster. This is towards funding to extend full fibre into some of the most rural and unconnected communities. In addition, as part of a wider funding bid, Argyll and Bute is submitting an application to a DCMS competition - 5G Create, which sees up to £30 million of government funding available 'to explore and develop' new use-cases and 5G technical capabilities.

Projects of between £250,000 to a maximum of £5 million can be funded, if successful.

The council does not have responsibility for delivering digital infrastructure across the area but said it 'actively engages' with those responsible.

Donald Cameron, MSP for the Highlands and Islands, has said the region risks being left behind other parts of Scotland due to legal problems threatening the roll-out of superfast broadband to the region.

Oban woman's business has the sweet scent of success

by Ellis Butcher
ebutcher@obantimes.co.uk



An Oban woman has established a business in Glasgow making organic aromatherapy products.

Margaret Morrison-MacLeod had a moment of inspiration on wee Ganavan beach three years ago, and now trades under the name The Divine Hag, with premises in The Saltmarket.

Her aromatherapy products have gone on to be recognised by Cosmopolitan magazine, Sublime Magazine and The Best of the West. She is also in the running for the 'Janey Loves Platinum Awards' which recognise excellence and innovation in natural, organic and eco products and services.

Having studied at Paisley University, it is all a far cry from the days as a qualified chartered surveyor working across Scotland, London and eastern Europe.

Margaret explained that her grandmother was a war widow from the Isle of Barra who moved to Oban with her five children.

Margaret was born and brought up in Oban and attended St Columba's Primary School and then Oban High School.

She had suffered migraines since she was 12, which were made worse by artificial fragrances. She found that such products can often be made from refined petrochemicals and contain carcinogenics.

This led her to studying aromatherapy and producing healthy alternatives with healing properties.

She studied crystal therapy, is a Reiki master of 18 years and said she had always been interested in 'herbalism, home remedies and complementary medicines'.

Her focus is on using traditional Scottish remedies, for example using bog myrtle to repel insects.

Margaret said: 'I have throughout my life honoured the traditions taught to me by my



Margaret Morrison-MacLeod is hoping that once restrictions are lifted she can come to Oban to run the workshops she had planned before lockdown.

grandmother in using natural remedies and traditional seasonal cooking.'

Of the company name, she explained: 'The Divine Hag is a Celtic female deity who walks the hills in Argyll, also Hagia is the ancient name for the crown worn by ancient queens.'

The Divine Hag makes products for distribution to shops and online purchasers.

Of the premises, she says: 'I filled it with books on complementary healing techniques and regularly had local people calling in for a cup of tea and a chat, whilst learning what essential oils would best serve them. I often knocked up a balm or salve for them and enjoyed helping them.'

She also regularly runs workshops in how to

make room scents and perfume - with some provided at cost price for women's charities.

This summer, she had planned to revisit Oban to give classes, but Covid delayed it for now.

Products include Bliss Sleep Pillow Mist - a hypoallergenic pillow spray, blended especially for migraine and asthma sufferers.

In addition, she also makes Beastie Balm to keep midges at bay.

She added: 'My long-term goal is to be based in Argyll as I would love to bring employment to the area and to continue to develop products and sell them worldwide, bringing our Scottish purity to all.'

<https://thedivinehag.com/>

Spaghetti Carbonara



½ Syn per serving 20 minutes Serves 4

With just a handful of ingredients, this lightened-up carbonara is a dinner-time hero. It has all the taste of the creamy Italian classic without the Syns!

Ingredients

400g dried spaghetti

Small handful of fresh chives, finely snipped

4 tbsp fat-free natural fromage frais

6 back bacon rashers, visible fat removed

2 level tbsp grated fresh Parmesan

Method:

1. Cook the spaghetti according to the pack instructions. Drain well and return to the saucepan.
2. Meanwhile, place a large non-stick frying pan over a high heat. Add the bacon and dry-fry for 2-3 minutes, then turn off the heat.
3. Lightly beat the eggs, season lightly and stir in the fromage frais, 1 level tbsp Parmesan and most of the chives.
4. Add the bacon to the drained spaghetti and mix well over a low heat, then remove from the heat and stir in the egg mixture. Toss thoroughly so that the eggs thicken in the residual heat, making a sauce that coats the pasta.
5. Divide the spaghetti between 4 bowls, then divide over the remaining Parmesan and chives. Serve hot.

**PLEASE NOTE:
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Project helps North Connel skincare company

A new Argyll-based skincare company has received support from a business network helping female entrepreneurs based in rural areas.

Moira Newiss, of North Connel, launched SKIRR Skin Ltd earlier this year and has received advice from a project called W-Power established two years ago.

W-Power is part of a European Union programme delivered locally by the Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE).

One part is an online network to help overcome 'remoteness and rural-ity' faced by women-led businesses in sparsely-populated areas.

It has 50-plus member businesses locally which have been working creatively to find new ways of trading during the pandemic.

Moira Newiss found the support from W-Power valuable during lockdown.

It was only this year that she launched her first product – an

eco-friendly sports balm that uses zero-waste packaging. The aim is to prevent chafing and blisters in athletes.

The product was tested out by volunteers in January's gruelling Tyndrum24 Ultra, a winter trail race.

Moira took part in the W-Power 'virtual innovation pitching' competition and won 2,000 Euros towards the launch of the product.

It allowed her to visit Swedish Lapland in November 2019 where she connected with a skincare company and visited other female-led businesses.

Moira also received support from HIE's Innovate your Business programme. Support included one-to-one advice for developing new products.

Cathy Higginson, W-Power project manager at HIE, said: "The online nature of the W-Power network has proved extremely valuable in supporting members such as Moira across

Argyll. We are really pleased that it is playing an important role during this extremely difficult period.'

Moira, a former NHS business manager, is also a trained nutritional therapist. Skirr, an old Scots word, means to 'glide or move faster'.

She said: 'W-Power was instrumental in helping me set up my business both with financial support as well as building my confidence and as a result I have made connections with key people that I may not have done otherwise.'

'The support I have received from HIE through Innovate your Business has also been excellent and it helped me get my product ideas and designs off the ground.'

Moira's business was helped by W-Power, an online network of women entrepreneurs that was set up to help women-led businesses in sparsely-populated areas.



Pupils win Dragons Den contest with social enterprise ideas

An online Dragon's Den-style competition run via Zoom has seen £100 go to two local schools, writes Ellis Butcher.

Ruaridh, a pupil at Lochnell Primary School, won £100 for his school to develop a social enterprise idea of wildlife photography.

And Evie, a pupil at Port Ellen Primary School, Islay, also won £100 for her 'shop in the box' project.

With Ruaridh's win, young people in Benderloch will be encouraged to take photographs of local wildlife with the photos then sold and profits going to local wildlife conservation projects.

And Evie's idea to create a pop-up shop in a local

phone box selling unique items will see profits go to the RSPB, the South Islay Development project, and provide toys for her school.

The wins were part of a competition run by the Social Enterprise Academy under the banner Community Champions Challenge.

In total across Scotland, five pupils won £100 seed funding – two from Argyll and Bute alone.

An additional five won £50 seed funding and support from a social entrepreneur to bring their social enterprise ideas to life.

The competition was set up in response to Covid to give Scotland's young people an opportunity to contribute to their community.



Pupils from Lochnell primary and Port Ellen primary were both winners of the Social Enterprise Academy competition

More than 50 applications were submitted and the 10 winners were invited to pitch their ideas in presentations, videos, business plans, prototypes and design drawings.

Emily Mnyayi, head of education at the Social Enterprise Academy, said: 'Social enterprise is an

ideal way for young people to develop skills, explore how they can take action, make a difference and connect with their community.

'We can't wait to see how they develop their brilliant social enterprise ideas with the support we have put in place.'



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OT

LETTERS

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

Shame on you!

This week's article on the group of bikers who decided to camp at the Commando Memorial at Spean Bridge, is new low.

Communities in the Highlands and Islands are used to a small minority of visitors showing no respect for those who live in the areas they are visiting – this newspaper has carried numerous stories of campers leaving rubbish and human waste in their wake when free camping in our beautiful countryside – but these bikers did far more damage than that on Friday night.

They left countless families heartbroken and deeply offended by their actions, which completely ignored the fact that this site is regarded by many, including the Corps of the Royal Marines, as hallowed ground.

Many soldiers ashes will have been scattered here before the Garden of Remembrance was set up, and many families visit the monument to pay their respects as they would at a graveside.

The bikers may have cleared up after themselves, but it was too little, too late. If they had any decency, like the majority of bikers, it would never have crossed their minds to park up there for the night. The fact there are clear signs saying not to is neither here nor there. But quite frankly, the police should have given them a recorded warning and fined them.

The editor welcomes letters of approximately 300 words in length for publication on this page. However we reserve the right to shorten, to amend or to refuse to print them. Names and postal addresses must be supplied, including on emails, to indicate good faith. A daytime phone number is also required for verification. Anonymous letters will not be printed. Please email: editor@obantimes.co.uk or write to: Letters page, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB.



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

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An 'aire' could be answer for Argyll communities

As travel restrictions lift Oban and Lorn is likely to see an increase in campervan traffic and folk enjoying wild camping in our wonderful countryside.

Scotland's tourism industry will rightly be encouraging Scots to holiday at home to save our tourism industry. There is an old saying that 'it takes a whole village to raise a child' – well it also takes a positive community approach to encourage sustainable and responsible tourism.

Scotland's right to roam carries responsibilities and we must encourage visitors to respect and protect the countryside. Enhancing the infrastructure to support the welcome increase in those choosing the freedom that a campervan/mobile home undoubtedly offers would be a constructive step forward.

OLTA and BID4OBAN seek to work alongside local communities. It is therefore disheartening to hear reports on social media that some community councils have considered legislation rather than education to address this issue.

OLTA and BID4OBAN consider this increased interest in wild camping and motorhome touring as an opportunity rather than a threat. Both organisations would be happy to debate the potential for developing this niche market in a supportive way. One idea that could work well in Scotland is community camping pitches.

The concept of 'Aires' is well known and popular on the continent and it could be adapted for Scotland's rural towns and villages. An 'aire' is a low cost or free private camping area, which are usually run by the local town council and if replicated here, they could increase business to local shops, restaurants and pubs and make a positive contribution to the local economy.

There are already laws that criminalise fly tipping and littering. We do not need more just at the point when we are trying to encourage visitors back after months of lockdown.

Scotland is known for its warm welcome and hospitality. Getting the message right on social media is important and we would urge community councils to adopt a more constructive approach to what is undoubtedly a sector with growth potential for Oban and Lorn.

OLTA will be releasing its own charter later this week.

Linda Battison, marketing director OLTA.

Thanks to pipers across the world who played tribute

On Friday June 12 more than 550 pipers across

Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL

editor@obantimes.co.uk

Bha mi a' sgrìobhadh seo 's mi ag èisteachd ri naidheachdan air mar a chaidh cùisean ann an Sasainn air a' chiad latha a dh'fhosgail taighean-seinne is bidh às ùr an dèidh glasadh-sìos a' choròna-bhiorais. Far am bi an deoch a-staigh bidh ciall a-muigh a rèir seann abairt, ach gu fortanach chan eil sin a' tachairt ach ann am beagan shuidheachaidhean, agus nach math gur ann mar sin a bha ann an Sasainn Disathairne seo chaidh. Thachair beagan mi-mhodh, ghlèidh a' mhòr-chuid ciall, ach tha ceist a thaobh na h-ìre 's gun deach aig daoine air cumail bho chèile chun an astair a tha ga mholadh.

Gun teagamh bha luchd-riaghlaidh mothachail air a' chunnart a bhiodh an lùib lasachadh air riaghailtean a' ghlaisidh, ach bha iad cuideachd a' tuigsinn àmhghair luchd-gnìomhachais an cunnart a dhol fodha le dìth cosnaidh. 'S e cothromachadh doirbh a th' ann co-dhùnadh cuin a tha cunnart a' ghalair nas lugha na an cunnart eaconamach, agus 's cinnteach gur e pàirt eile dheth duilgheadas gum faodadh ath-dhùsgadh den Chovid 19 a bhith a' gabhail àite airson grunn lùithean mun tèid sin aithneachadh.

Ach tha tomhas de chunnart anns a h-uile co-dhùnadh is gluasad a nì sinn nar beatha, agus tha earbsa mhòr ga chur daonnan ann an ciall an t-sluaigh mar phàirt den fhreagairt air na cunnartan sin. Aig an aon àm tha fhios againn uile gum bheil àireamh dhaoine ann nach toir feart air modhan sòisealta rianail, deoch ann neo às, agus tha iad sin nam pàirt

eile den chunnart anns am bheil sinn fad na h-ùine. Ach bidh sinn beò le dòchas, agus cuideachd gu mòr an eisimeil seirbheis slàinte ionmholta a tha a' comharrachadh seachdadh is dà bhliadhna bho chaidh a stèidheachadh. Ged a chluinnear gearain air ìre cùraim bho àm gu àm 's i an fhianais as bitheanta gum bheil sinn air leth fortanach leithid de ghòireas slàinte a bhith againn. Ged nach biodh againn de dhearbhadh ach dicheall agus saothair an luchd-obrach thar nam mìosan a chaidh san t-stri an aghaidh a' choròna-bhiorais, thigeadh dhuinn a bhith taingeil da-rìribh asta agus a' moladh gum faigheadh an cuid sgil agus dealas tuarastal iomchaidh. Le bualadh bhas thar na dùthcha feasgar na Sàbaid seo chaidh dhearbhadh a' mhòr-shluagh às ùr an luach a tha iad a' cur air Seirbheis Nàiseanta na Slàinte, agus cha bu chòir leis sam bith a bhith air an Riaghaltas a maoinachadh chun na h-ìre air am bheil feum.

Tha cùram sòisealta air a bhith an lùib na seirbheis slàinte bho nochd i ann an 1948, ach le mòran a bharrachd a' ruigeadh seann-aois an-diugh chan eil an t-seirbheis sinn a' coileanadh a dleastanais. Ma 's e tomhas math air sìobhaltachd dùthcha a th' ann an ìre a cùraim dha a cuid sluaigh, bu mhath a-nise gum ùraicheadh Breatann a sìobhaltachd!

Civilised society can be assessed on its care for people, and our National Health Service and social services must be properly resourced!

Allan Campbell, ilean@obantimes.co.uk

the world played the haunting march The Heroes of St Valéry from doorsteps, gardens and streets, which recognised the service of the Second World War 'forgotten' 51st Highland Division. These men remained on the continent to fight the Nazis after the evacuations from Dunkirk. Despite their incredible bravery, around 10,000 men were finally encircled and captured at the Normandy fishing port of St Valéry-en-Caux on June 12, 1940.

The aim of our 80th commemoration was to ensure these men were remembered. St Valéry impacted on every town, village and hamlet across the Highlands and beyond. Eighty years on, those same communities were joined by pipers from across the globe as they paid their respects.

As well as becoming the largest piping ensemble in history, a day-long programme of virtual events, learning resources for young people and social media tribute messages achieved a reach of 169 million people. The event was supported three Armed Forces community charities: Poppyscotland, Legion Scotland and RCET: Scotland's Armed Forces Children's Charity. Each do vital work today.

To each and every piper, we say: 'Thank you!' And to those that support the work of those charities: 'Many, many thanks!' Most of all, to the men of the 51st, our thanks, gratitude and respect.

Sir Alistair Irwin KCB CBE and Neil McLennan FSA Scot FRSA, RCET, trustee and convenor St Valéry 80 Committee.

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DISTRICT NEWS

Competition winners help people to really see carers

Arts and crafts competition entries helped mark Carers Week in North Argyll, writes Fiona Scott.

Young and adult carers got inspired by the Making Carers Visible theme for Carers Week 2020 and sent in entries to an online contest organised by North Argyll Carers Centre in Albany Street.

All the entries were posted on Facebook and visitors to the page were invited to vote for their favourites.

May Thompson won the writing category with her poem highlighting the work of dedicated carers and Karen Liversedge won votes with her photograph of Tufty Plays Piano, in the Adult Arts & Crafts Category. She asked that her prize be donated to the Young Carers Service.

The winner in the young carers design category was 10-year-old Alyssa Spreadbury whose artwork collected the highest number of votes despite being up against some tough competition. Her prize was a gift voucher in the post.

Here is May's winning poem:

Making Carers Visible

*This is a poem I'd really love to share,
To draw your attention to the people who work
in care.*

*We might just be too busy; or so it always seems,
To take a proper look at what goes on behind
the scenes.*

*A doctor can give you medicine, to take away
your pain,*

*And physio can help you if you end up with a
sprain,*

*But, Carers; they do so much more; they go that
extra mile,*

*And even when they're tired and stressed; they
hide it with a smile.*

*Their dedication knows no bounds; they'll be
there when you call,*



Karen Liversedge won votes for her photograph, Tufty Plays Piano.

*Yet, often you will find that their back's against
the wall.*

*Some days, there aren't enough supplies, and
funds are very low,*

*But they would never tell you, because they
don't want you to know.*

*They'll bring the shopping, make you tea; or sit
and hold your hand,*

*And if you shed a tear or two; they'll completely
understand.*

*Their commitment and devotion is second to
none,*

*And as far as they're concerned; you're their
number one.*



Lyam Fox, from Oban, celebrated his 10th birthday on the June 25 with lots of lovely birthday wishes from family and friends.



Ruby-Grace Ronald, from Oban, turned eight on Friday July 3. She was disappointed to not have a party with her friends as planned. Ruby, spent her birthday at home with her family playing with all her new toys and eating her purple butterfly cake.

Happy lockdown birthday!

Do you have a child celebrating their birthday during the lockdown?

Send us a picture of your wee one enjoying their special day and we will publish it and wish them Happy Birthday!

Remember to include their full name, age, where you live – and tell us a little bit about what you did to make the day at home special!

Send all your pictures to editor@obantimes.co.uk



Social distancing – Tیره style

Farmhouse Cafe on the west coast of Tیره had a unique way of ensuring social distancing was observed, as it reopened for the first time since lockdown last week.

The Highland Cattle Society's Young Handler, Emily Armstrong of Balemartine Fold, took her heifer Robina Dubh to the front of the cafe where she encouraged customers to keep a safe distance between each other.

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Loch Teacuis teacher looks

Morvern Lines

IAIN THORNER

ian.thorner@btinternet.com



Following on from last week, here is the second part of an essay sent to me more than 20 years ago. It was written in the early 1880s by Mary Inglis, the primary school teacher of Kinlochteacuis side school in Morvern.

'We attended the Free Church of Lochaline, where the Reverend Alexander MacDiarmid was minister. There are happy memories of his gentleness and kindness. Mr Robertson with his unflinching goodness, reserved a seat in his gig for us and we joined up at the top of the school road, and the morning journey to church was an entrancing delight. We attended both services Gaelic and English. Our eldest sister frequently led the praise in English, and we all joined heartily in the Gaelic – as well as we could!

'Monthly services were held in the Kinloch Teagus school. These were conducted by the Rev A MacDiarmid and the Rev Donald Macfarlane of Fiunary. Mr MacDonald arrived on Saturday night and was the guest of Mr and Mrs Robertson of Kinloch. Mr Macfarlane, who drove his own phaeton, journeyed by coast road to Lochaline and thence to Kinloch Teagus arriving in the late afternoon. These services were much appreciated and loyally attended, the folk coming from Barr on the far side of the loch on these occasions, and it was a full cargo that arrived. This romantic mode of 'coming to church' never failed to delight us.

Services were held occasionally by Mr Malcolm Hunter, church missionary, stationed at Glenborrodale, in Ardnamurchan. One summer evening we watched a boat coming steadily up the loch, the solitary rower jumped out, and anchoring his craft to a big boulder, came to call. It was discovered that Mrs Hunter had attended the same college as our sister in Aberdeen, and so began a happy friendship, which brought much pleasure. Mr Hunter also preached in Gaelic and English. In Gaelic he had a powerful dramatic delivery which held our attention to the point of fascination. The hearty singing at these services was a special feature as Mr Hunter, in Gaelic, led the way mostly lustily.

'Our return visit to Glenborrodale was on a Friday afternoon, when Mr Hunter rowed the three inmates of the schoolhouse to his home for a weekend. Part of the summer holidays I



spent in Glenborrodale when Mr Hunter kindly took me with him as he voyaged on visits to his people. The shores of Loch Sunart were beautifully wooded and very colourful, there was the glowing saffron of the seaweed, wild pink roses grew in great abundance on small islets, where the tide washed almost round their roots, Mr Hunter's boat was drawn up on a ledge almost embowered in roses. He visited houses on both sides of Loch Sunart, at Ardslnish and Glencripesdale.

'To reach Glencripesdale House our track up the hill led past an ancient burying ground, impressive in its loneliness, its ancient trees standing in reverent bending lines keeping silent guard over the grey recumbent tombs. There is a memory of a visit to Carna, where leaving our boat tied to a stone, we scrambled up a rocky path, pushing past struggling bushes of the wild pink rose. Neighbours gathered for

the short service conducted in the house. The warmth of the welcome extended to Mr Hunter on all these visits always impressed me. We afterwards were entertained to tea in one of the houses. I can recall the quiet courtesy with which one teaspoon did duty round the table.

'The Sunday School at Glenborrodale was conducted by the headmaster of the school. I found it very delightful for the teacher both asked and answered his questions – the lesson was on Joseph and his brethren – in a pleasant running rhythmic style which was wholly satisfactory to us his pupils.

We had a Sunday School at Kinloch Teagus and my sister prepared pupils for the Welfare of Youth Scheme of the Free Church. In the course of time my special friend Maggie Robertson, of Kinloch – who had returned home from Perthshire – and I were sent in as candidates in the Shorter Catechism section. Much of



the preparation I did in the open air on still Sunday evenings sitting on a heathery stool among the tumble of rocks behind the school house declaiming proofs. The silent grandeur of encircling mountains thrilled to the majesty of the words.

Maggie and I passed our examination. Did it not involve a journey to Lochaline, where we were for the night, guests of Mr MacDiarmid. We were cared for in the manse by his housekeeper, Miss Paterson, who was a sister of Mr Paterson, former school master of Kinloch Teagus. Next



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Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday July 9, 2020** are listed below with differences for major ports listed underneath. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Thur	02.29	1.2	08.07	3.4
	14.39	1.1	20.32	3.7
Fri	03.10	1.3	08.43	3.3
	15.18	1.3	21.11	3.5
Sat	03.51	1.5	09.21	3.2
	15.59	1.4	21.53	3.3
Sun	04.36	1.7	10.03	3.0
	16.43	1.6	22.41	3.2
Mon	05.26	1.8	10.54	2.9
	17.33	1.8	23.41	3.1
Tues	06.23	1.8	12.05	2.8
	18.28	1.8	** **	**
Wed	01.01	3.0	07.23	1.8
	13.33	2.9	19.30	1.9

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

WEATHER

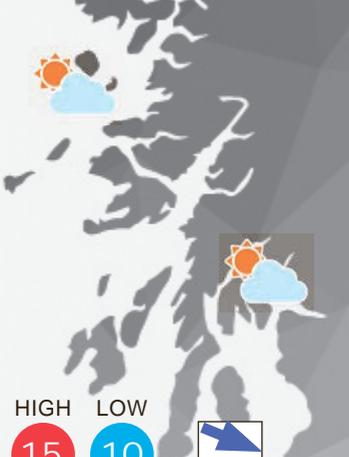
THURSDAY
Sunny intervals and a moderate breeze
Temperatures 10°C to 17°C.

FRIDAY
Sunny intervals / moderate breeze
Temperatures 10°C to 15°C.

WEEKEND OUTLOOK
Saturday
Light cloud with a gentle breeze
Temperatures 10°C to 15°C.

Sunday
Light cloud with a gentle breeze
Temperatures 12°C to 17°C.

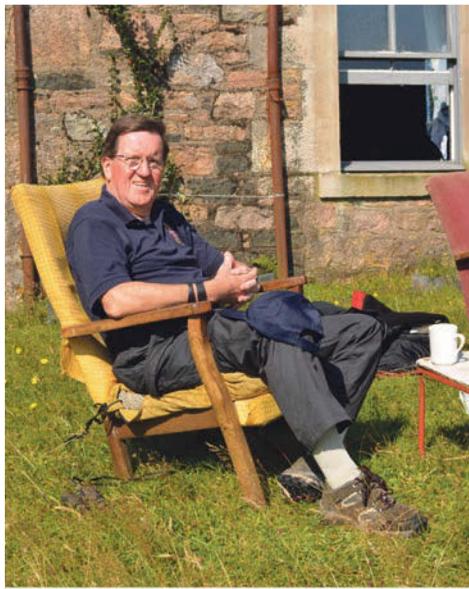
FRIDAY FORECAST



HIGH 15 LOW 10

10 MPH

back – part 2



Main: Glencripesdale Farm House home of Peter Robertson, with inset, Kinlochteacuis Farm House where Mary Inglis, the essayist, was given hospitality by Mr and Mrs John Robertson; and left, Lord Robertson of Port Ellen on holiday in Morvern.

Photographs: Iain Thornber

line. The air is familiar still. In school at Kinloch Teagus we sang so lustily, Farewell, farewell to Fiunary! I should like to go on pilgrimage and see Morvern again.'

The Robertsons, whom the writer mentions with such affection, were on old farming family from Breadalbane who came to Morvern in 1866. James John and Peter jointly took on the agricultural tenancy of Rahoy, Glencripesdale and Kinlochteacuis from the owners, the Stewarts of Auch, who sold up in 1871 to three Newtons brothers from Warwickshire. Although the Morvern leases ended in 1892, various members of the family stayed on in Morvern, while others went to Killiechroan on Mull and elsewhere in the Highlands.

Among their descendents were Jessie, the primary school teacher, Claggan, Morvern, from 1902 until 1939, and Peter (Pat), headmaster of Lochgilhead and Rockfield school in Oban, who are still remembered in teaching circles for their skill and popularity.

James John's great grandson George, is Lord Robertson of Port Ellen, one of Britain's most distinguished statesman who served as the 10th Secretary General of NATO from 1999 to 2004 and Secretary of State for Defence from 1997 to 1999. Lord Robertson, former MP for Hamilton, is also a Knight of the Order of the Thistle – the greatest order of chivalry in Scotland, conferred by Her Majesty the Queen on Scottish men and women who have held public office or who have contributed in a particular way to national life. George was born in the police station in Port Ellen, Isle of Islay, on April 12, 1946, where his father and grandfather were policemen. His grandfather played a leading role in the aftermath of the sinking of the SS Tuscania and the SS Otranto during the First World War, when hundreds of troops perished. Self-discipline and service to community and country are traditions which have continued in the Robertson family for generations.

Glencripesdale, Kinlochteacuis and Rahoy are now three separate estates. Before they were split, the last two were owned by the Highlands and Islands Development Board as an experimental deer farm but it was short-lived.

morning the examination took place, two happy candidates writing at opposite ends of the table in the minister's study. Previous to this, when my elder sister was a candidate in the Welfare of Youth examination, she had all the adventure of a voyage to Tobermory for the purpose.

'My friend Maggie Robertson and I had another adventure when she was a performer at a concert held in the school at Claggan. We walked all the way, along the margin of the loch, and over the bridge spanning the River Aline. We were hospitably welcomed and were the guests overnight of the school mistress, Miss Stewart, a gentlewoman whose air of stately charm greatly impressed us. Additional inmates of the school house were two Marys, the housekeeper and a school girl boarder.

When our hostess had occasion to leave the house there was a quaint formula, which charmed us because of its unexpectedness and gentle tones. "Can I trust you Mary MacDonald?" "Yes ma'am." "Can I trust you Mary Clark?" "Yes ma'm." The concert was lengthy and delightful, mostly Gaelic. Two items only can I recall. Bingen on the Rhine was recited by a young lady from over the hill, given with considerable dramatic power. When her name was called out my friend Maggie left her place by my side at the gallery, made her way sturdily, her steps sounding all the way to the platform. Her song was in Gaelic, all joining in the chorus.

Tho' I've neither sheep or cattle was the first

DOWN MEMORY LANE

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



We have no information with this photograph, but would like to know who these boys, and girls in blue are, when the photograph was taken, and what the occasion was. If you any 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

Blast from the past

Following on from last week's photographs, David MacPherson got in touch with us about last week's photograph to say: 'The driver pictured with Duncan MacTaggart is my dad, Gordon MacPherson, who was on the Adrishaiq run for many years.'

While Dougie MacTaggart also got in touch to say: 'The driver of the bus standing next to my father was his dear friend Gordon MacPherson. Gordon was married to Dorothy and they had two sons, Gordon who sadly died in combat during the Falklands War and David. My dad and Gordon remained lifelong friends.'

And we also heard from Robert MacCallum, who said: 'I was a High School pupil staying in Kilbowie Hostel 1962-1967. We were transported to the High School each morning by a MacBraynes Bus. I'm pretty sure the driver of the bus for much of the time was Gordon MacPherson (the smaller man in the photo), I think his widow and son David still live in the Oban area.

The taller man, Duncan MacTaggart, I think is the same man who in the 1970s and 1980s used to work as a clerk in the MacBrayne Haulage office on the Railway Pier along



with Alastair Stevenson (who still runs a carrier service to the islands). This was in a large drive-through building, roughly where the ferry terminal now stands. Duncan and Alastair worked in an office upstairs.

'The second picture is taken at the entrance to the Baptist Church in Bunessan, Isle of Mull. I can see a number of people I know. The church is no longer used, but it was kept going for a good number of years by a lay preacher Mr Bob Hardwidge and his wife Joy. They are the couple at the extreme left of the picture but are sadly no longer with us. The picture would have been taken up to 20 years ago. There are a number of faces I don't recognise, but the church was quite popular with visitors to the area and it looks like it was summertime.

'I find these old photos really interesting but this is the first time I have known something about both in the same issue!'

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LEISURE & ENTERTAINMENT

YOUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S ON IN ARGYLL AND LOCHABER

Cinema projects ready to roll

by Fiona Scott
fscott@obantimes.co.uk



Three projects in Argyll and Bute and one on Skye are among 24 projects from the Orkney Isles to Galashiels, to have received support from The National Lottery through Screen Scotland's Cinema Equipment Fund.

Funding will go towards buying new equipment to host accessible community cinema across Scotland in line with the Scottish Government's latest Covid-19 guidance, all 24 projects can now begin plans to get up and running and welcoming audiences, as soon as they're able, from Wednesday July 15.

Screen Argyll (£12,190.00) can now invest in new mobile film screening equipment and kick start a full cinema programme across 11 Hebridean islands.

Screen Argyll's Jen Skinner said: 'We're thrilled to receive this award. It will enable us to supply cinema kit to Barra, Watersay and the Small Isles, and support our work in developing film activ-



ity across Argyll and the Isles.' Oban Phoenix Cinema (22,436.00) is upgrading its equipment to allow the cinema to continue to deliver a high-quality and diverse programme to local communities.

On receiving funding an Oban Phoenix spokesperson said: 'The funding will enable us to provide top quality films and live theatre via

our new equipment to all our rural communities for which the cinema remains an important part of the social structure.'

Atlas Arts (24,962.00) in Portree plan to purchase new film projection equipment to support the relaunch of a regular discursive and artist moving image programme of film and film exhibitions on Skye, with

Screen Argyll received £12,190.00 to invest in new mobile film screening equipment.

cross-community collaboration at its core.

The cinema equipment will be a community resource aiming to build cross-island cinema engagement, supporting existing community film projects on the island with free access to equipment and resources, and working with local cultural spaces on connected programming.

Katharine Barrington, Atlas Arts said: 'Purchasing this equipment marks an important step for Atlas as we start to support and instigate new ways of working around Skye and Lochalsh, not only creating our own arts projects but working alongside the many vibrant cultural spaces and community organisations around the island to connect our collective cultural experiences.'

'This equipment will be in constant use with local film clubs, community halls and other organisations,

with Atlas also using it to create complementary programmes with these organisations and groups over time. We're also looking forward to developing long term moving image exhibitions and projects without the huge expense and labour of rent from the mainland.'

Screen Scotland's Jennifer Armitage said: 'This round of awards concludes the year-long programme of capital investment in cultural and community cinemas in Scotland.'

'When we launched the Cinema Equipment Fund last year, we had no idea what 2020 was going to bring but investing in the resilience of Scotland's film exhibition sector is more important than ever.'

'When Scotland's cinemas reopen, they will be able to offer high quality experiences, with varied programmes, and within local communities.'

Kyles Screen Community Cinema (£24,845.00) also received funding to install a cinema screen, projector and sound system together with internet connectivity at the Colintraive Village Hall.

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Robert in lockdown!

ROBERT ROBERTSON

robert.d.robertson@hotmail.co.uk



Social distanced filming goes on apace for the Tide Lines BBC Alba project that I mentioned in a previous column – and it is getting more bizarre by the day.

As you can see from this photograph, I am dressed as an astronaut in a make-shift studio set up in a producer's garden in the West End.

Like most NASA astronauts at the height of the space race, I am not at liberty to reveal any further information; but rest assured this programme is going to be filled with nonsense and I will let you know more about when it is due to be broadcast soon.

I was out shopping before this particular day of filming and (in the name of getting in to character) I thought I would pop into Home Bargains to see if they had any space related toys I could buy as props.

I found an alien water pistol which I thought would do the trick. As I handed it over the counter, my mind was distracted by a WhatsApp message on my phone so I wasn't paying attention to what the cashier was saying to me. 'Is this for the wean?' she asked



Robert being filmed for the BBC Alba programme.

may or may not have liked this water pistol. The toy never even got used in the filming so I suppose I should be grateful for the receipt.

I then ended up in Boots the chemist looking for facepaint and being shown down the ladies' make up aisle. But that is perhaps a story for another day.

A brief shout-out to finish off this week's column for Ross Wilson (piano player in Tide Lines) and his fiancée Kirsty MacKinnon who were due to be married last Saturday but whose wedding, like so many other exciting events, fell foul of coronavirus. They received numerous video messages from friends and family wishing them all the best and they were able to see a few pals outdoors throughout the course of the day.

Postponed weddings, astronaut themed filming, and imaginary weans – it really has been a strange week! Oh, how I look back fondly on the more simple times of golf nets, lawnmowers, and virtual world tours at the start of lockdown!

through her mask. For some inexplicable reason (without having registered her question) I answered 'aye'. She then went on to tell me that my wean would love this toy and that they were very popular. I now realised my mistake but didn't want to complicate things further (and wasn't in the mood for a longer conversation), so I found myself replying: 'Yea, I'm sure he will.'

She asked if I'd like the receipt. I said not to bother. 'But he might not like it and want to return it,' she said, looking me in the eye as if she somehow suspected I was a fraud and this whole wean thing was a lie.

I ended up taking the receipt for this imaginary wean who

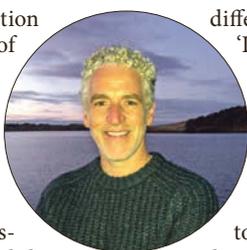
Brothers mull over whisky connections

Brothers Stewart and Gordon Buchanan, who are originally from Mull, enjoyed a dram at homes to discuss nature's impact on whisky making recently.

On Wednesday June 24, Stewart, the Global Brand Ambassador for coastal malt Glenglassaugh, joined his brother Gordon, one of Scotland's leading wildlife filmmakers, in an Instagram Live event to explore the connections between coast and cask.

In conjunction with a tasting of the Highland distillery's core range, the siblings took whisky lovers on a journey to uncover the links between whisky and nature, while exploring Glenglassaugh's rolling waves of flavour.

Both globetrotters by day, the Buchanan brothers sat down to enjoy a rare dram together in their homes to share stories and explore their respective fields of expertise. The duo encouraged whisky lovers to unearth how landscape and nature carves out unique influences in



different single malts. 'It was great to be joined by my brother. As we're often both travelling for work, we took this rare chance to slow down, enjoy a dram together and explore the strong links between coast and cask in the making of this Highland single malt.'

Gordon commented: 'Stewart and I were brought up by the coast and, particularly in times like these, it's important to connect with nature – whether that's physically, or through technology. I hope that whisky and nature fans alike enjoyed joining us online.'

M'ALBA

MY ALBA

DIARDAOIN 9 An t-Iuchar THURSDAY 9 July

- 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
- 19:00 O Mo Dhuthaich/ From Uist with Love (rpt)
- 19:30 Speaking Our Language (rpt)
- 19:55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)
- 20:00 An Là – News
- 20:30 Ceathrar air a' Chuiltheann (Four on the Cuillin) (rpt)
- 21:00 ÙR/NEW: Mathair
- 21:40 ÙR/NEW: Port – Druthag Bheag Eile
- 21:55 Eadar Chluich (rpt)
- 22:00 ÙR/NEW: Julie Fowlis – Ceol Aig baile
- 22:30 ÙR/NEW: Eileanan na Banrighe/Islands of the Queen
- 23:20 Dhan Uisge (rpt)
- 23:30 Air an Rathad/On the road (rpt)

DIHAOINE 10 An t-Iuchar FRIDAY 10 July

- 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
- 18:35 Machair (rpt)
- 19:00 An Là – News
- 19:25 Binneas-Na Trads-Seumas O' Sullivan (rpt)
- 19:30 Prosaig (rpt)
- 20:00 Ceol Aig A' Chaisdeal/Fiddle Music (rpt)
- 20:25 Fraochy Bay (rpt)
- 20:30 Fuine (rpt)
- 21:00 ÙR/NEW: Spors – Glasgow Warriors PRO12 Triumph
- 22:00 ÙR/NEW: Ceol Duthchasach/Ken Burn's Country Music
- 23:50 Dhan Uisge (rpt)

DISATHAIRNE 11 An t-Iuchar SATURDAY 11 July

- 16.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
- 17:45 An Là – News
- 18:00 SPFL Challenge Cup Final – Partick Thistle v

- Raith Rovers (rpt)
- 20.10 Port – Druthag Bheag Eile (rpt)
- 20.30 Leugh Mi (rpt)
- 21.00 ÙR/NEW: Feis Chiuil Thiriodh 2020 – Air Chuairt/ Tìree music Festival 2020
- 23.00 Dhan Uisge (rpt)
- 23.05 Ceol Duthchasach/Ken Burn's Country Music (rpt)

DIDÒMHNAICH 12 An t-Iuchar SUNDAY 12 July

- 16.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
- 18:15 An Là – News
- 18:30 Port – Druthag Bheag Eile (rpt)
- 18:50 Ar N-Aran Laitheil (rpt)
- 19:30 Slighe Anndra (rpt)
- 19:55 Fraochy Bay (rpt)
- 20.00 Ceathrar air a' Chuiltheann (Four on the Cuillin) (rpt)
- 20.30 Na Tìrìstich (from Tìree with Love) (rpt)
- 21.00 Bannan (rpt)
- 21:35 Bannan (rpt)
- 22.10 Manran aig Barrowland (rpt)
- 23.00 Eileanan na Banrighe/ Islands of the Queen (rpt)
- 23.50 Eadar Chluich (rpt)

DILUAIN 13 An t-Iuchar MONDAY 13 July

- 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
- 19:00 Sugh an Eorna/History of Whisky (rpt)
- 19:30 Speaking Our Language (rpt)
- 19:50 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)
- 19:55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)
- 20:00 An Là – News
- 20:30 Fuine (rpt)
- 21:00 Gin: Spiorad an t-Sineabhair/The Spirit of Juniper - Trusadh (rpt)
- 22.00 Bannan (rpt)
- 22.30 Spors – Glasgow Warriors PRO12 Triumph

- (rpt)
- 23.30 Julie Fowlis – Ceol Aig Baile (rpt)

DIMÀIRT 14 An t-Iuchar TUESDAY 14 July

- 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
- 19:00 O Mo Dhuthaich/ From Uist with Love (rpt)
- 19:30 Speaking Our Language (rpt)
- 19:55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)
- 20:00 An Là – News
- 20:30 ÙR/NEW: Na Tìrìstich (From Tìree with Love)
- 21.00 Sgeulachd Edward Pritchard – The Human Crocodile (rpt)
- 22:00 Feis Chiuil Thiriodh 2020 – Air Chuairt/ Tìree Music Festival 2020 (rpt)

DICIADAIN 15 An t-Iuchar WEDNESDAY 15 July

- 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
- 19:00 Sugh an Eorna (rpt)
- 19:30 Speaking Our Language (rpt)
- 19:50 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)
- 19:55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)
- 20:00 An Là – News
- 20:30 ÙR/NEW: Leugh Mi
- 21.00 Farpaisean Chon-Chaorach/Sheepdogs (rpt)
- 22.00 Bannan (rpt)
- 22:30 Port – Leodhas/Lewis (rpt)
- 23.00 Mathair (rpt)
- 23.40 Port – Druthag Bheag Eile (rpt)



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Friday	Stephen	Margo

Wallenberg book shed light on Oban history

In March 1940, 10-year old Ann Mari Wallenberg found herself part of a daring escape across occupied Europe, writes Eric Macintyre.

Leaving neutral Sweden as the Nazis invaded Norway, she and her mother travelled by any means possible through the horrors of Stalin's Russia, Mussolini's Italy and into France.

Having survived the Luftwaffe bombing their train to Calais, arrival in Britain was short-lived. As her stepfather was on Hitler's deathlist, evacuation to America, across the U-Boat infested Atlantic was the next plan. Would Ann-Mari ever return home?

This is a book on several levels - family history, social history and from the title, a childhood memory of the Second World War.

The family history resonates with Oban, as the author was the granddaughter of Alexander and Edith Mackay, the owners of Glencruitten House, redesigned for them by Sir Robert Lorimer, from the early decades of the 20th century till the early 2000s. Ann Mari writes lovingly of happy childhood days at Glencruitten in the 1930s.



Former owners of Glencruitten House, Alexander and Edith Mackay.

Regarding her parents' 1923 wedding, Ann Mari had a copy of the Oban Times account and writes that 'it is a truly gigantic newspaper, the size of a small travel rug'.

This attraction to the West Highlands was so strong that Alexander Mackay drew up a

pre-nuptial agreement which stated that his daughter, who had married a member of the Swedish Wallenberg banking dynasty, had to spend six weeks in the summer at Glencruitten.

The husband preferred to stay behind in Sweden and the couple subsequently divorced,

with Ann Mari's mother later re-marrying another banker, Charles Hambro.

The outbreak of war in 1939 saw the family in danger as Charles was head of the Special Operations Executive and a Nazi target. They got out of Paris days before the German occupation and found themselves in Moscow, Romania, Milan and Portugal, before seeking safety in America.

Eventually peace returned and Ann Mari was able to visit Glencruitten again and dance at the Argyllshire Gathering Ball in the hall which her grandfather had helped to build.

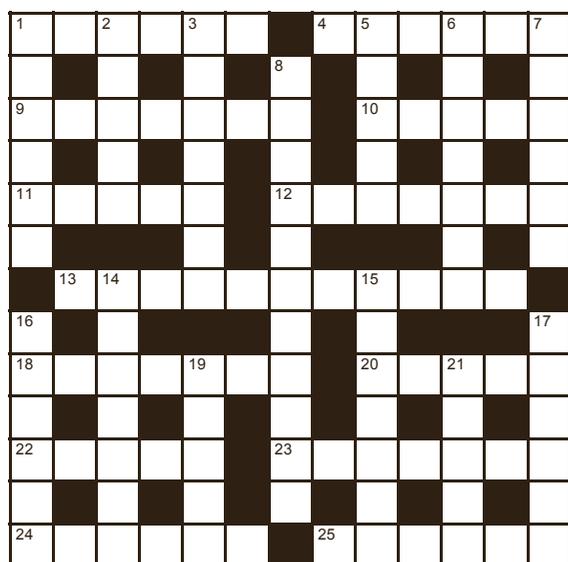
Ann Mari Wallenberg died in 2019 and her family hope to put a memorial

bench in the Cathedral of Trees, planted by her grandfather, at Glencruitten House.

The book is a record of vanished times, but its central message resonates with our present difficulties, namely that family endures and crises will pass, however much they may change the old order.

If the War Comes by Ann Mari Wallenberg, published by Clearview Books, £18.99 and available to order online and in all good bookshops.

Crossword



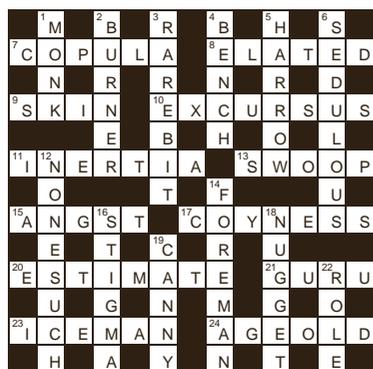
Across

- 1 Change form (6)
- 4 Racketeer (6)
- 9 Barely enough (7)
- 10 Prickly shrub (5)
- 11 Uncredited actor (5)
- 12 When the show must go on (7)
- 13 Circumlocution (11)
- 18 Old Greek money (7)
- 20 Fuss (2-3)
- 22 Willow twig (5)
- 23 Blow up (7)
- 24 Inhabitant of northern U.S (6)
- 25 Pupil protector (6)

Down

- 1 One joined (6)
- 2 Members doctrine (5)
- 3 Type of drums (7)
- 5 Annoy (5)
- 6 Cocktail (7)
- 7 Wanter (6)
- 8 Of an alert mind (11)
- 14 Jubilation (7)
- 15 Postmortem (7)
- 16 Foolish behaviour (6)
- 17 Rise (6)
- 19 Throng (5)
- 21 Whimsical (5)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION



Sketching Scotland series is a work of art

by Fiona Scott
fscott@obantimes.co.uk



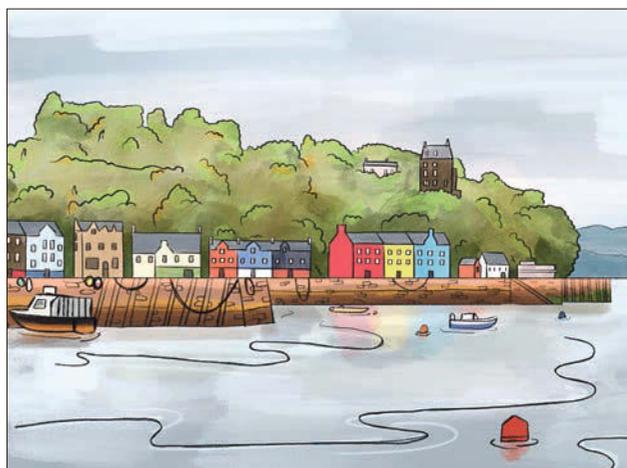
One of Argyll and The Isles most well-known landmarks is included in a new online series, launched by the national tourism organisation.

Sketching Scotland is part of VisitScotland's online activity to help visitors dream now and travel later.

A series of 20 short videos teaching virtual visitors how to sketch landmarks and locations, including the iconic Tobermory houses at the harbour, is now available online.

The picturesque village on the Isle of Mull is a popular location as the setting for books, TV and film. Legend has it the wreck of a Spanish galleon lies beneath the harbour, attracting treasure-hunters through the years.

It is hoped that while travel restrictions remain in place due to the Covid-19 pandemic,



the new Sketching Scotland series will help draw attention to one of the country's most iconic views and see it transformed into a work of art.

Each tutorial is accompanied by a voiceover giving advice and tips on how to create their drawing, as well as facts about each destination. It is hoped the creative campaign will in-

spire those who have sketched at home to visit the landmarks once travelling is possible.

As the sector gears up for a potential reopening on July 15, VisitScotland is using its online resources to help keep Scotland at the forefront of visitors' minds. It is also working closely with the Scottish Government, indus-

Tobermory is one of the iconic villages highlighted in Sketching Scotland.

try partners and businesses to provide support and guidance to aid the recovery of one of Scotland's most valuable tourism sector.

VisitScotland Regional Director David Adams McGilp said: 'The coronavirus pandemic has had a devastating impact on the tourism industry.

'We loved the thought that people all over the world could be taking 15 minutes to relax, draw and think of Scotland and, of course, hopefully visit in real life when that is possible.'

To try Sketching Scotland visit: www.visitscotland.com/see-do/attractions/arts-culture/sketching-scotland/ and share your sketches on social media using #sketchingscotland

Dear Community Friends,

As people start to transition out of lockdown and begin to plan a holiday or short break away, we at Tralee Bay Holidays would like to reassure our local community that self-catering accommodation providers in the area are working around the clock to ensure the safety of both residents and visitors.

Over the next few weeks as businesses begin to reopen, we will see an increase in the number of people coming to Argyll and the Highlands to enjoy all that the beautiful West Coast of Scotland has to offer.

Some of these people will be tourists from further afield looking to enjoy our beaches and beautiful countryside, not to mention all the amenities our towns and villages have to offer. There will also be a number of NHS and front line staff, delivery drivers, teachers and supermarket staff - all key workers who have kept the country going over the past months and are in desperate need of a break. Many visitors will also be Scots coming to Tralee from other parts of the country.

We want them all to feel welcome and safe and we are doing everything in our power to ensure that happens.

Disappointingly, there have been several incidents over the past few weeks of local residents telling 'tourists' that they are not welcome in the area, as well as negative comments on social media.

We appreciate that many people are concerned, but as our shops, cafés, bars, restaurants and hotels - which provide vital employment for people living and working in Argyll and the Highlands - depend very much on tourism as a source of income, this behaviour is counterproductive in every way.

Discouraging people from visiting will mean that many local businesses will not be able to survive financially and the long-term impact of this will be no jobs, no money, fewer services, and the possible loss of families to the area as people are forced to find work elsewhere.

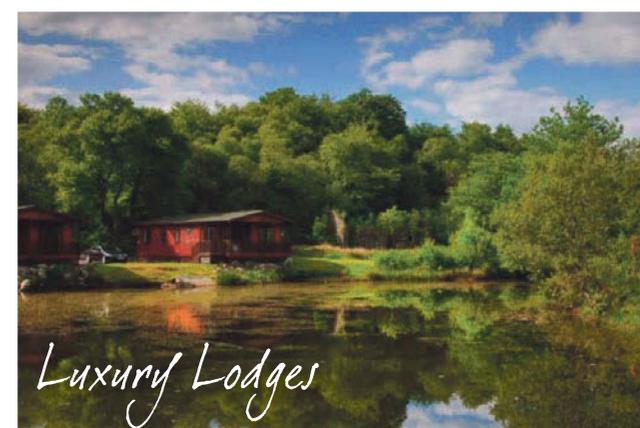
Covid-19 is something we are going to have to live with for the foreseeable future and we need to find a way to work together to create a 'new normal' that allows us to move forward safely while at the same time protecting the economy.

This is our home and our community, and we would like to thank you all for working with us to welcome visitors to this very special area and ensuring that we all survive this pandemic.

With best wishes,

David Shellcock
Tralee Bay Holidays

**Tralee
Bay
Holidays**



OPEN FOR BUSINESS

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

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

Let's spread the word as much as we can!

SUPERMARKETS & FOODHALLS

Most superstores in town are operating crowd control measures to help manage social distancing and product quantity limits are in place. They are working tirelessly to restock shelves daily. Please be patient and kind.

TESCO

Mon-Sat 8am-10pm
Sunday 10am-8pm

Older, Vulnerable Customers - Mon, Wed, & Fri 9am-10am

NHS Staff Tesco Staff - Tues, Thurs & Sun 9am -10am
Petrol Filling Station shop is closed but you will still be able to pay at the hatch.

LIDL

9 Soroba Rd, Oban
Mon-Sat 8am-10pm
Sun 8am-8pm

ALDI

Mon-Sat 9am-7pm
Sunday 9am-6pm

All day everyday key workers in the NHS, Police and Fire Service will take priority ahead of queues into stores upon showing a valid ID. This is in addition to early access on a Sunday, where they can enter stores 30 minutes prior to opening.

- 4 units on all products
- 2 units per customer on nappies and baby products
- 12 units per online order on wines or spirits, 4 units instore.

MARKS AND SPENCER

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

Older & Vulnerable Customers Mon & Thurs 8am-9am

NHS & Emergency services Tues & Fri 8am - 9am

FARMFOODS

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

BOOKERS CASH AND CARRY

Booker in Oban are still supplying retailers and caterers throughout Oban and Argyll both through normal collect and existing delivered business. Open hours as follows:

Mon-Fri 7.30am-3.00pm
Sat 7.30am-2.00pm
Sunday Closed

Social distancing measures are in place with hand sanitiser for customer and colleague use to ensure we remain as safe as possible whilst trading through this situation.

LOCAL FRESH FOOD & DRINK SUPPLIERS

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

JACKSON BUTCHERS

Opening Hours
Monday - Closed
Tuesday to Friday 9am - 4pm
Saturday 9am - 2pm
Offering FREE home delivery to Oban - daily
Kilmore and Dunbeg - Wednesday
Connel, North Connel to Appin Thursday
Card Payments preferred. Call the shop on 01631 562016 to place your order.
Also taking phone orders for collection.

IAIN DARLING/WYNNE BUTCHERS

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

TASTE OF ARGYLL

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

MILLSTONE WHOLEFOODS

Millstones is open to customers 0915am-5.15pm
Mon-Sat.
Pre-order available but not essential.
Contact Saffron on 01631 562704 or email contact@millstonewholefoods.co.uk

OBAN BEER SELLER

Shop open weekends, orders rest of week by phone/email 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
Mon-Thurs 10am-5pm
Fri & Sat 10am-9pm
Take-away available and from 15th July, sit in
We showcase some of Argylls finest produce on our new menu. Takeaway menu still available.
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

Take-away finished ahead of reopening on 17th July
Tel: 01631 565078

GEORGE STREET FISH RESTAURANT AND TAKE-AWAY

and available now also at THE VAULTS OBAN
Open 12pm-8pm daily
Tel 01631 566664

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

BOSSARDS PATISSERIE

Open
Monday- Saturday 9am - 4.30pm

CAFE SHORE

reduced hours until 15th of July.
10am-3pm Mon to Sat
11am-3pm Sun. Takeaways and outdoor seating until able to reopen inside.
After 15th July back to normal opening.

BUILDING, TRADES, GARDENING & DIY

CITY PLUMBING SUPPLIES

Doors open, plus phone and email orders taken
EMERGENCY CALL OUT?
WE ARE HERE FOR YOU
WITH OVER 20,000 SPARE PARTS TO GET THE JOB DONE - Bathroom showroom by appt only
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.couk
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
Tel: 03330 112112
www.screwfix.com

HIGHLAND FASTENERS

For all your building and DIY needs
Mon-Fri, 8am-12pm
Essential supplies only Tel: 01631 570584

HOWDEN'S JOINERY

Essential supplies for the trade, housing associations etc.
Open 7.30am-5pm Mon-Fri, 8am-12pm Sat 9-3
Tel: 01631 567083 Email: oban@howdens.com

HOMEBASE OBAN

Open 10am-5pm daily
Card payment preferred

POPPIES GARDEN CENTRE & CAFE

Garden Centre NOW OPEN
Café Opening 15th July
Orders can be placed by phone: 01631565718.
Email : sales@poppiesgardencentre.com
Or if preferred by messenger.

KINLOCHLAICH GARDEN CENTRE

Now open or 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 - 5.30pm, 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
Tel: 01631 566282

FLIT

Visit Flit self drive Facebook page for opening info
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

Vehicle repairs and vehicle rentals
Tel: 07825 581171

FIN'S PLACE

Open as normal again
Tyres, brakes, batteries etc
Tel: 01631 566 220 or 07766 757 013

TRAILWEST

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

LEGAL SERVICES

DM MACKINNON - SOLICITORS & NOTARIES

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

ANDERSON BANKS SOLICITORS & ESTATE



IN ASSOCIATION WITH

Oban Business Improvement District

www.bid4oban.co.uk



AGENTS

(OBAN AND BENBECULA)

Due to Government guidelines our offices are currently closed to the public but our staff are working remotely from home to continue to offer the highest level of service.

Contact us on our usual numbers for telephone appts or Skype/Facetime video calls can be arranged.

Contact us:

www.andersonbanks.co.uk

Anderson Banks Facebook page.

Oban Office: 01631 563158 Email: info@andersonbanks.co.uk

Benbecula office: 01870 602061

Email: uist@andersonbanks.co.uk

STEVENSON KENNEDY SOLICITORS

open for business as usual but our priority has to be the safety of our staff and clients. The office door is locked as recommended by the Authorities.

We are here for you and can be in touch by phone, mobile, Skype etc. We realise that life and business must go on. We can still meet by appointment and at a safe distance.

Stay safe and well, Gordon, Sorley, Cat, Louise and Sarah.

Main office line: 01631 562317

E-mail addresses:

gordon@stevensonkennedy.co.uk

MACPHEE & PARTNERS

Available: Mon-Fri 9am - 5pm

We remain fully available to assist with your legal and property matters – with protective measures in place. Providing a local and personal service in these difficult times.

Tel: 01631 562308

Email: law@macphee.co.uk

E THORNTON AND CO, SOLICITORS AND ESTATE AGENTS

We are open for business. We are seeing clients by appointment only. Please contact us by phone or email. Stay safe.

Telephone: 01631 566771

Email: info@ethornton.co.uk

INSURANCE

JELF CLARKE THOMSON

Open for Business As Usual.

Office is currently closed, but Jelf Clark Thomson staff are working from home from 9am-5pm,

Mon-Fri. If you email us, we will respond.

If you call us, the phone will be answered (or the call returned if a message is left). Whether it's the renewal of an existing policy, enquiries about new insurance arrangements, queries on cover or guidance on loss prevention and risk mitigation, we are here to help.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch. Office telephone number: 01631 567675
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

Open 9am-1pm and 2pm-5.30pm

Telephone consultations also available if required

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

SHOPS AND ONLINE SHOPPING

OBAN MUSIC SHOP

Open again as usual

www.musicscotland.com

Tel: 01631 566304

ORSAY

Now open as normal and also orders taken online at www.orsayoban.co.uk

SCOTTISH ISLAND JEWELLERY

Website : www.scottishislandjewellery.co.uk

Now Open

Phone mail orders/enquires on 07760297957

Shop: 01631 570005 and

Mobile : 07760297957

scottishislandjewellery@gmail.com

<http://scottishislandjewellery.co.uk/>

<https://www.facebook.com/ScottishIslandJewellery1>

The Jetty Gallery www.thejettygallery.com

email annie@thejettygallery.com

100, George St, Oban, PA344JL

Tel : 01631 570102

THE JETTY GALLERY www.thejettygallery.com

email annie@thejettygallery.com

100, George St, Oban, PA344JL

Tel : 01631 570102

ALBA ART

Now open or phone Graham on 07778003833 to discuss your requirements

We can accept 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 open for new and existing bookings.

By email eric@gowestravel.co.uk,

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

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

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

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

HOME-START LORN

Are you finding it difficult with your children at home all day, need some adult conversation – our volunteers are here to help

Tel: 07718 768305

HOPE KITCHEN

Hope Kitchen is now delivering/providing food assistance to people who are experiencing financial difficulty at this time. Please don't hesitate to get in touch either via messenger or on 01631 565730 if you find yourself short of essentials.

Those who can afford to pay for food but are self-isolating and unable to get supplies, Argyll and Bute Council has a dedicated phone line 01546 605524 to help you.

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

SHEEP CLIPPING ALL FLOCK SIZES

Contact Graeme McCulloch 0777 1605758
email graeme.mcculloch2411@gmail.com

Sponsored by
NFU Mutual Oban.
Call Euan Warnock and
Donna MacDougall on
01631 567 036 for
your insurance needs



NFU Mutual
INSURANCE | PENSIONS | INVESTMENTS

Agent of The National Farmers Union Mutual Insurance Society Limited.

Proposals must consider current circumstances

Current wage proposals must take exceptional times into consideration, according to NFUS Scotland.

NFUS recently submitted a response to the Low Pay Commission (LPC) consulta-

tion on increases to National Minimum Wage (NMW) and National Living Wage, which was informed by feedback from more than 100 members who responded to the union's employment and wages survey.

The work of the LPC has both a direct and indirect impact on Scottish farm businesses. For Scottish agricultural workers, minimum standards continue to be set by the Scottish Agricultural Wages Board (SAWB), while minimum pay for workers in diversified parts of businesses, for example processing or hospitality, may be set by the national wage regulations. The LPC consultation explored aspects

such as: the economic outlook of businesses as we enter 2021; affordability of any change to minimum rates of pay and implications on businesses and employment; the impact of changes to pay on apprentices or young workers and accommodation offset rates.

Although the consultation has officially closed, the LPC is still accepting written submissions via its website due to exceptional circumstances.

The union urged the LPC to consider the uncertain economic outlook for agriculture, including challenging market conditions following Brexit and the unknown implications of Covid-19.

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Around the markets

United Auctions, Stirling sold 833 store cattle and 155 cast cows and bulls on Wednesday 1 July.

Bullocks (367) - averaged 216.80p to 264.00p per kg for a 179kg BRBX from Holms of Caaf, and to £1350 for a 660kg SimX from Crookedstonemuir.

Dairy Bullocks (128) - averaged 176.80p to 228.60p per kg for a 280kg MOX from Holms of Caaf, and to £1030 for a 601kg HOX from Corscaplie.

Heifers (305) - averaged 213.85p to 276.10p per kg for a 460kg BRBX from Torrax, and to £1270 for a 460kg BRBX from Torrax.

Young Bulls (24) - averaged 213.44p to 245.70p per kg for a BRBX from Macherquhat, and to £790 for a AAX from Gateside.

Beef Cows and Bulls (122) - averaged 143.84p to 188.10p per kg for a LimX from The Ross, and to £1650 for a CHX from Mid Cambushinnie.

Dairy Cows (29) - averaged 111.41p to 144.60p per kg for a HOX from Wester Borland, and to £1150 for a MOX from Meikle Camoquhill.

Forward Cattle (4) - averaged 181.64p to 194.30p per kg for a AAX from Auchencloigh, and to £1370 for a AAX from Cally Estates.

Bullocks: Up to 250kgs- Holms of Caaf £620, 264.00p; 251-300kgs- Ardnamurchan Estates £750, 256.80p; 301-350kgs- Ardnamurchan Estates £840, 259.30p; 351-400kgs- Ballikinrain £960, 252.60p; 401-450kgs- Torrax £1045, Newhouse 243.80p; 451-500kgs- Torrax £1160, Newhouse 236.70p;

501-551kgs- Auchencloigh £1180, Hoprigshiels 228.10p; 552-601kgs- Newhouse £1300, Torrax 226.40p; 602-651kgs- Crookedstonemuir £1280, 204.80p, 652-701kgs- Crookedstonemuir £1350, 204.50p.

Heifers: Up to 250kgs- Holms of Caaf £590, 250.00p; 251-300kgs- Dyke £740, Ardnamurchan Estates 251.70p; 301-350kgs- Ardnamurchan Estates £790, 241.60p; 351-400kgs- Ballikinrain £890, Gateside 228.10p; 401-450kgs- Torrax £1045, 236.40p; 451-500kgs- Torrax £1270, 276.10p; 501-551kgs- Torrax £1140, 226.60p; 552-601kgs- East Drummoddie £1160, 194.60p; 602-651kgs- East Drummoddie £1200, 186.90p, 652-701kgs- East Drummoddie £1220, 182.60p.

Young Bulls: Up to 250kgs- Newmill of Castleton £420, 169.40p; 251-300kgs- Macherquhat £710, 245.70p;

301-350kgs- Gateside £790, Greenyards 235.70p.

OTM Cows: £ per head - Mid Cambushinnie (CH) £1650, Bordie (Lim) £1350, Goodockhill (Sal) £1270, Traprain (Sim) £1270, Burnside of Balhaldie (AA) £1230, Goodockhill (BS) £1170, Gateside (Lui) £1150, Meikle Camoquhill (MO) £1150, Easter Greenhill (BRB) £1070, Craigend (BF) £1050, Auchencloigh (SD) £1050.

PPK- The Ross (Lim) 188.10p, Wester Borland (BRB) 183.70p, Barbarafield (Sim) 178.70p, High Langmuir (CH) 174.80p, Goodockhill (Sal) 159.10p, Gateside (Lui) 157.10p, Cally Estates (AA) 147.90p, Auchencloigh (SD) 145.20p, Wester Borland (HO) 144.60p, Goodockhill (BS) 143.00p, Wester Borland (HF) 143.00p.

OTM Bulls: £ per head - Walkerdryke (BRB) £1630, Cortachy (Lim) £1570, Kilkivan (HE) £1450, Wester Gartshore (BS) £1290.

PPK- Walkerdryke (BRB) 164.60p, Cortachy (Lim) 141.20p, Wester Gartshore (BS) 138.70p, Kilkivan (HE) 138.10p.

Forward Cattle: £ per head - Cally Estate (AA) £1370, Gateside (Sim) £915.

PPK- Auchencloigh (AA) 194.30p, Gateside (Sim) 186.00p.

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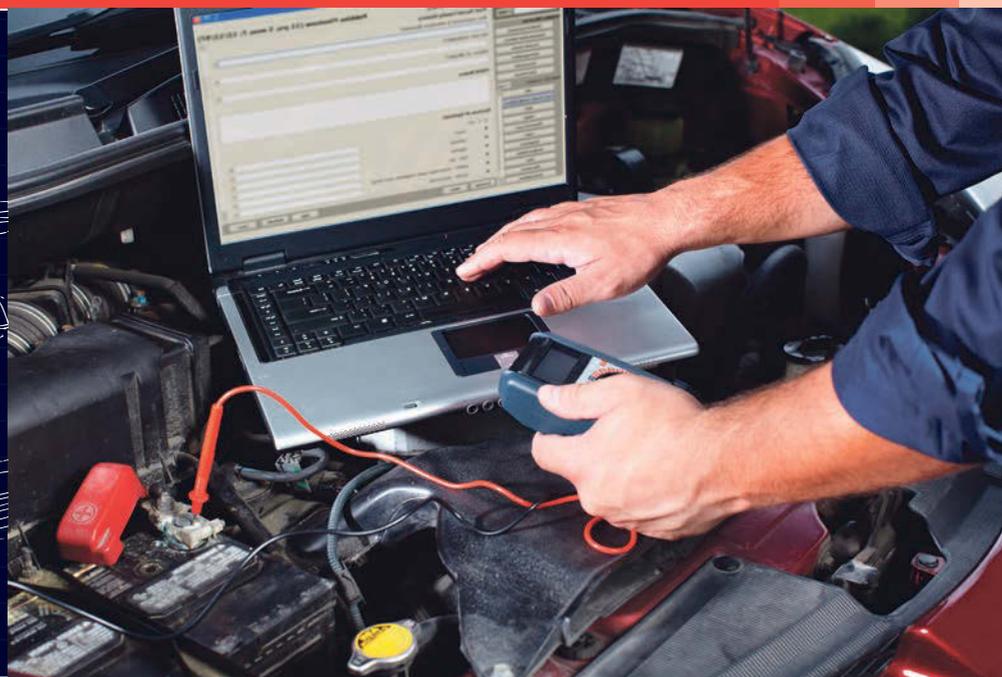
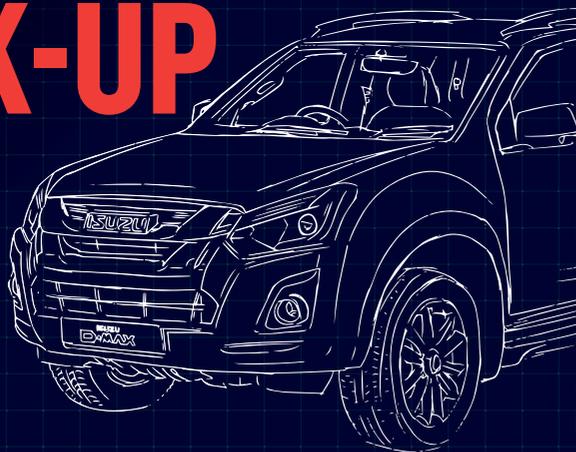
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Open for Business - 6th July

Now that areas of the economy are cautiously beginning to safely reopen, we have been working to adapt Campbeltown Motor Company into a safe environment for both customers and staff. We are delighted to be able to confirm that we will be fully open for business from Monday 6th July.

Keeping You Safe

We have installed hand sanitizer stations, 2 metre social distancing measures and protective screens at both our sales and service departments. Staff also have access to full PPE as and when required. Our premises will now look different to those who visit, and we

thank customers in advance for their cooperation with adhering to the new procedures which have been put in place.

Sales

Our sales department is now fully open for new and used sales, Motability, lease and business customers and we look forward to welcoming you soon. For now, we will be working on an appointment basis which you can arrange by using the contact details below. We can also offer sales consultations and handovers via Zoom and Skype, and home delivery for customers who would prefer a reduced contact service.

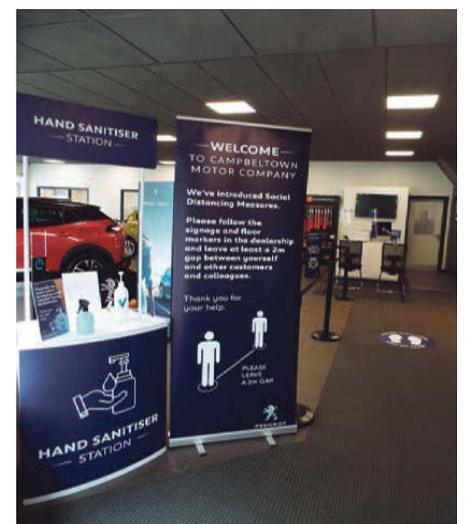
Service

Our service department is fully open for MOTs, servicing, Peugeot warranty work, all repairs, alignment and diagnostics with vehicles receiving extra cleaning measures and staff fully trained on the new safety measures

required. We can also carry out local collect and return of your vehicle. Car and van hire continues as normal.

A Big Thank You...

We would like to thank customers for all their support during these unprecedented times and we look forward to welcoming you to Campbeltown Motor Company again in the near future.



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Argyll and Bute Council

PLANNING

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

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

Ref. No.	Proposal	Site Address
20/01058/MFF	Variation to condition 2 relative to planning permission reference 18/02166/MFF – Replacement of existing steel square cages with 7 x 100m circumference cages and replacement feedbarge (with no increase in biomass) – change in wording of condition in relation to Sound of Mull ADD Deployment Plan	Fishnish B Fish Farm Fishnish Bay Sound Of Mull Argyll And Bute
20/01049/PP	Erection of 2 semi-detached houses	Plot 1 Ella Lane Tobermory Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute
20/01057/MFF	Variation to condition 2 relative to planning permission reference 18/02024/MFF (Replacement of existing steel square cages with 10 x 100m circumference cages and retention of feedbarge (with no increase in biomass) – change in wording of condition in relation to Sound of Mull ADD Deployment Plan	Fishnish A Fish Farm Fishnish Bay Sound Of Mull Argyll And Bute
19/02523/PP	Use of land for the siting of 3 modular buildings for use as temporary accommodation	Land North Of 39 Frederick Crescent Port Ellen Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute
20/00817/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse, installation of biodisc treatment plant, air source heat pump and formation of access	Land North East Of Kilmory School House Ballygrant Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute
20/01003/PP	Renewal of planning permission reference 17/01166/PP (Erection of dwellinghouse and ancillary steading)	Site North West Of Rockside Farm Bruichladdich Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute
20/00970/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse	Land North Of Anvil House Main Street Port Charlotte Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute

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

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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
20/02274/FUL	The Steading, Camas Inas, Acharacle	Erection of boathouse with self-contained residential unit above
20/02280/FUL	Land 75M East Of Ar Dachaidh Fassfern, Kinlocheil	Erection of house
20/02194/FUL	Land 285M SW Of The Strath, Glencoe	Change of use of land from agricultural to equestrian manege
20/02257/PIP	Land 40M South Of Invergloy House Spean Bridge	Erection of house
20/01860/FUL	Annat Cottage, Corpach, Fort William	Alterations and change of use of garage to form residential annex

Time period for comments is 14 days
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX
Email: eplanning@highland.gov.uk

FIRST REG OF A CROFT
Hamish MacPherson has registered their croft 1/2 7 Tote, Snizort on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland.
Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by 25 March 2021.
Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C7010.

FIRST REGISTRATION OF A CROFT
Mr & Mrs C Rozga have registered their croft Orca Croft, Ardmenish, Jura on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland.
Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by 25th March 2021.
Details of the registration can be found at <http://www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home>. The croft registration number is C7005.

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House Price	£49,924	£152,469	£102,545.00	205.40%
Deposit	£4,992	£15,247	£10,255	205.43%
Earnings	£16,914	£30,000*	13,086	77.37%
Deposit % Earnings	29.50%	50.70%		21.20%

*2019 earnings data used

You can clearly see that in Scotland, house prices have risen by 205.40% but earnings have only risen by 77.37%. The deposit as % of earnings has increased by 21.20%.

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DEATHS

MACDONALD - Hugh Alexander, late of Caol and Fort William, passed away recently in Hempstead, Kent. Dearly beloved husband of Brenda, his devoted wife for fifty three years and adored son of the late Veena and Jackie (ex Macbraynes driver) of Fort William. Cherished brother of Liz and treasured dad of Alison and Iain and doting grandad (Abuelo) to his vivacious Nieta (granddaughter) Karla. Much respected brother-in-law to John (JC) and dear son-in-law to Alan (Yardie) his dearest and loving family friend Jorge from Albufeira is remembered with much affection. Although Hugh did not live in Scotland during his adult life, his heart will forever remain in the Highlands. Hugh's departure has left a huge hole in our lives but leaves many fulfilled memories to be shared by all. A private funeral will be held near his home in Kent.

MACGILLIVRAY - Peacefully at Royal Alexandra Hospital, Paisley, Catherine (Cathie), of Lochgoilhead and Acharacle on June 29, 2020, aged 91 years. Dear sister to Nan and much loved auntie to all her nieces and nephews.

NICHOL - Peacefully on July 1, 2020, Mary, aged 75 years, of Clarkston and Kintra, Mull. Daughter of the late Aliena and John McCallum. Beloved wife of Jim, much loved mother to Catriona and Lorna. Devoted gran to Myles, Alex, Lucy and Jamie. Dear mother-in-law to Ken and Euan. Interment, Mearns Cemetery, East Renfrewshire.

MANSON - Margaret (née Aitchison), aged 97, from Mallaig, died peacefully in the tender care of Abbeyfield House, Ballachulish on Saturday, July 4, 2020. A much loved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. Beloved wife of the late William John Manson MBE. The funeral will take place at the Old Morar Cemetery on Wednesday, July 15 at

2.00pm, in accordance with current restrictions.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

ROSS - Ian Ross (Ninnie), Wendy, Susan-Jane, Pamela and Judith would like to express their heartfelt thanks to all relatives, friends, Railway Club Bowlers, and neighbours for the many expressions of sympathy and support on the sad passing of Helen Ross. The family would also like to express their appreciation to Tweevddale Surgery, the GPs and the district nurses who enabled Helen to pass in her own home surrounded by her family. Sincere thanks also to Manson & MacBeath Funeral Directors and Reverend Richard Baxter for their care and professionalism during this difficult time. A total of £1,270 was raised for Macmillan Nurses Lochaber in Helen's memory.

TINDALL - The family of Maurice Tindall would like to thank all the relatives, friends and neighbours for all the kind messages of

sympathy, cards, flowers, baking and phone calls following our very sad loss of a loving husband, dear father and devoted papa. Special thanks to Rev. James Beaton for the comforting words at the graveside and to Catriona Hoey for all her help with the funeral arrangements at this difficult time. A special thanks to all staff at Lorn and Islands Hospital and Eader Glinn for the great care they all gave to Maurice.

MEMORIALS

BROWN - Treasured memories of wonderful parents, dad Lachlan, died July 2, 1972, mam Annie, died July 4, 2002.

Those we love don't go away

They walk beside us every day.

- Their loving daughter Christina, grandchildren Alison and Ewan, Dunoon, Devon and USA.

CAMPBELL - In loving memory of our dear mum and granny, Mary Campbell, passed away July 6, 1998.

Memories of you are fondly kept,

Someone too special to ever forget.

- Your loving daughter Kay, and grandchildren Duncan and Caroline.

MACDONALD - Loving memories of Ruth, died July 8, 2019. Precious memories of a loving wife, mum and granny.

One year has passed since that sad day,

You closed your eyes then drifted away,

Left us quietly without a fuss,

Which broke the hearts of all of us.

- John, Frances, Marie and grandchildren x

MACKAY - In loving memory of our dear mother Annie, died July 6, 1998.

Always in our thoughts.

- Family Inveraray and Canada.

MACLELLAN - In loving of my dear brother James, who died on July 4, 2017, dear uncle and godfather.

Those we love don't go away

They walk beside us every day

Unseen, unheard but always near

Still loved, still missed and very dear.

- Sister Jean in Ballachulish and family, home and away.

POTTER - In memory of Iain, died July 6, 2015, a dear husband, dad and grandpa.

Sorely missed.

- Katrina and family.

POTTER - Treasured memories of my dear son and our brother Iain, who died on July 6, 2015.

Always in our thoughts.

- Mum and sisters Irene and Karen and their families.

SMITH - In loving memory of our dear mum Morag, who died July 14, 2007 and also our dear dad Jimmy, who died August 1, 2012.

In our hearts you will always stay

Loved and remembered every day.

- Violet and Theresa.

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THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

I wonder if the Duke of Sutherland is feeling a wee bit shoogly upon his plinth high above Golspie.

Placed there, he looks over the land denuded of people due to he and his wife's policies, and as an inadvertent representation of Victorian familial ego-centricity.

Today, statues are tumbling as people vent their anger on the physical elevation of the enslavers and purveyors of human beings. Personally, I am not worried about statues falling as I am not a pigeon. However, I do understand the arguments that by removing these visible signs we could

erase the warnings of history. And, that as all human being are flawed where do you draw the line on morality? Statues to those who profited from slavery are on another level though, for they are a racist 'in your face' provocation. Why inflict them on our brothers and sisters whose ancestors were innocent victims. The legacy of racist slavery needs to be rectified in practice and in symbol.

For what it is worth, I would put the offending characters in a museum.

We are warned in the Ten Commandments; You shall not make for yourself an idol

(Exodus 20 v 4). Wise words indeed, for the veneration of flawed human beings is problematic. My Caithness forebearers (maternal-side) include those who were cleared by the Duke's henchmen. Thank goodness there is a statue in Helmsdale to those who were Clearance victims. That is appropriate and Gospel - blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the Earth.

So, the telling legacy we should leave from our age is the genuine elevation of all who have suffered, been marginalised and brutalised.

**Reverend Dugald Cameron,
Kilmore and Oban**

Visitors urged to use official campsites

Tourists are being urged to use official campsites to help keep themselves and communities they are visiting Covid free.

Argyll and Bute Council says at this critical stage in the Scottish Government's roadmap to ease further lockdown restrictions, it is important that communities and visitors work together to avoid a second wave of Covid.

The council is asking visitors in caravans, motorhomes and campervans to make use of official campsites to not only protect health but also to help support the local economy.

Councillor Alastair Redman, Policy Lead for Economic Growth, said: 'People have done an amazing job and made a lot of sacrifices to suppress this

virus locally and nationally. We are now enjoying more lockdown restrictions being lifted, but that could change very quickly if we don't all act responsibly.

'Tourism is one of our key industries in Argyll and Bute. Many of our businesses are built around it, it provides jobs for our young people and we enjoy bringing people to the area, many of whom come back to live and work. Covid has however hit the industry hard.

'So we ask our returning visitors - help us to welcome you back. Please follow national guidance. Use official campsites so that numbers can be properly managed and so that your waste can be disposed of safely. It will not only keep you safe: it

will help keep our businesses going at this crucial time so that people can enjoy coming here for years to come.'

From July 3 it became possible to use a caravan or motorhome provided that it is fully self-contained, and there is no requirement to access shared indoor facilities.

To find out more about government guidelines go to the Scottish Government website: www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-what-you-can-and-cannot-do/pages/sport-culture-and-leisure/

The Scottish Government has also published guidance for owners of campsites: www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-caravan-sites-and-holiday-parks/

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Patience is a virtue for Tiree sailor

by Fiona Scott
fscott@obantimes.co.uk



Being confined to dry land for three months was not what Luke Patience had in mind as he headed towards his third Olympic Games.

But the Tiree sailor is going with the flow as the world steadily works towards getting back on an even keel after the coronavirus pandemic.

The 33-year-old and his fellow sailors were the first Team GB athletes picked for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

And, following the decision to postpone the Games by 12 months because of Covid-19, the Royal Yachting Association's selection committee confirmed Patience and his colleagues' qualification carries over.

After some early deliberation on the matter of the postponement, the reluctant landlubber has turned the whole experi-

ence into a positive.

'At first I was almost dependent, but I think that was because of having to wait another year. But now, I see it as a wonderful opportunity to be better than I was going to be. And to do another year of

'I think I am fitter than I've ever been, purely because I can dedicate way more time to it than normal when I'm travelling and sailing'

what I love.'

Had coronavirus not happened Patience would already have competed in the World Championships in Palma, Majorca, which was about to start when lock down began.

'Obviously it was cancelled, but essentially we were mid season and competing all over

Europe,' he added, 'then we would have been on multiple trips to Japan getting prepared. It all just turned off over night - very strange.'

A member of the British Sailing Team and the Tiree Maritime Trust, Patience left the island last Thursday, June 29, to return to training having spent lockdown with his parents at the family home in Caolis where they have lived for around 10 years.

'My father, John, had been going to Tiree for 30 or 40 years, he always considered it a second home,' said Patience, who was born in Aberdeen, grew up in Rhu and went to school in Helensburgh.

'I've had a mixed upbringing geographically. I consider them all a home and feel affiliated to all three areas. But now, Tiree is home.

'Lockdown on the island has been a good experience for me both mentally and physically.

'Switching off, reflecting. It's so rare to get that time to stop and think about everything. Particularly on where I was at, if I was on target and really be critical and ask myself what more I can do. I've fished a lot over this time, it really switches me off.

'I think I am fitter than I've ever been, purely because I can dedicate way more time to it than normal when I'm travelling and sailing.

'I've done a lot of road biking and basically made a gym out of everything heavy in the garden!'



Luke Patience spent lockdown at parent's home on the island of Tiree.

Patience won a silver medalist in the 470 class at the 2012 London Olympics along with his then sailing partner Stuart Bithill.

For Rio 2016 Patience formed a new partnership with Elliot Willis, but when Willis was diagnosed with cancer just months before the Games, Patience called on Chester's Chris Grube to step in - and they finished a

credible fifth. Since then the duo have notched wins at the Enoshima Olympic Week, the 470 North American Championships and the Miami round of the 2018 World Cup Series.

The partnership will continue in Tokyo next year.

'We will push everyday for another year and try and bring home Gold to UK soil,' concluded Patience.



Ryder Cup at Glencruitten

The Ryder Cup will make a sensational appearance at Glencruitten Golf Club on Saturday.

Unfortunately it is not the real one but teams from Oban Saints and Oban Camanachd will play each other for the coveted replica trophy.

Saints captain Dene Cassells said: When the golf course opened a lot of our players joined to keep the fitness levels up. We started a league, which has 15 players, just to give a wee competitive edge to the games.

'A lot of our boys have never played golf before but are thoroughly enjoying it so we decided to throw out a challenge to the Camanachd lads, many of whom are good golfers. We know it will be difficult as playing shinty is more akin to golf than football, but both teams are up for a bit of friendly rivalry.'

Matches:

Dene Cassells v Kenny Wotherspoon
Craig MacEwan v Scott MacMillan
Peter MacCallum v Gareth Evans
Sean Ford v Aidan MacIntyre
Matt Rippon v Lorne Dickie
Fraser MacFarlane v Gary McKerracher
Willie Gemmell v Ian MacMillan
Steven MacLeod v Malcolm Clark
Kerr Newbigging v Daniel MacVicar
Jamie Graham v Garry Lord
Ben Pollock v Pat Steeman
Graham Douglas v Craig Easton



Luke Patience on a practice run in Palma just before lockdown. Photograph: Lloyd Images.

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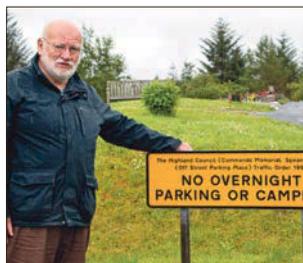
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Thursday 9 July, 2020

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Disgust and outrage as bikers camp at Memorial



Calls to name trio of osprey chicks

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MAKE THE SWITCH

Kinloch parents' despair over 'revolving door' of teachers

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Highland Council this week stands accused of riding roughshod over the concerns of parents in Kinlochleven, leaving the local primary school in what has been described as a 'downward spiral' due to a constant 'revolving door' of teacher appointments.

The situation has now been compounded with the shock news that popular overall head teacher of the whole three-to-18 years campus that combines nursery, primary and secondary education, Rebecca Machin, is leaving her post to go back to classroom teaching in Invergordon.

Speaking to the Lochaber Times this week, local parent council chairperson, Pauline Byers, told us: 'We as parents are extremely concerned about our children's education in Kinlochleven Primary.'

'Over the past four years we have had five heads/acting heads in the primary school.



'We lost our last acting head, who was promised the role of Deputy Primary Head under the new three-to-18 campus, to another region, due to the total incompetence of Highland Council, leaving the school in a downward spiral since.'

'We have had serious problems in the school with

a constant revolving door of staff. We have expressed our concerns to Highland Council Education on numerous occasions, to be disregarded and pushed aside constantly.'

'We had staff off with stress, a period of time with no head/acting head at all, high school staff having to cover primary

classes and a constant parade of supply teachers through our doors.'

'Due to Highland Council's failures to provide adequate staffing, our Primary 6/7 class has had more than 10 different teachers in one year.'

'Parents are now in the position of Primary 7 pupils going

Councillor Andrew Baxter with concerned parents outside Kinlochleven Primary School.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

into high school where we have serious concerns about their level of education.'

Asked to comment, local Highland councillor, Andrew Baxter (Fort William and Ardnamurchan), told us: 'Once again, we see confusion in our primary schools ahead of the new school year.'

'The Highland Council system of staff allocation leads to uncertainty for our staff, which I know is having an impact on morale.'

'And there is even more uncertainty for our children, who continue to see a conveyor belt of teachers. After so many months of upheaval the one thing our children need is a familiar face and certainty when they return to school.'

'Yet, I am told not to ask questions about specific schools at council meetings.'

The area's constituency MSP, Kate Forbes, said she was sorry to hear that Rebecca Machin was leaving.

'She was very much the driving force behind a lot of the high school initiatives and I'm sure she'll be sorely missed by colleagues, pupils and families in the area,' said Ms Forbes.

'Adapting to a three-to-18 campus requires a period of transition, but that task is made much harder if there is a lack of continuity in the senior leadership team.'

'The primary parent council has told me there have been four depute heads in five years, so I hope Highland Council will look very seriously at what can be done so pupils can enjoy a time of stability. That is in everyone's best interests.'

'I am raising this matter with the Highland Council and hope to secure answers for local parents who are understandably worried by these developments.'

Continued on page five.

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LT

Gender reveal for Scottish osprey 'stars of lockdown'

by Fiona Scott
fscott@obantimes.co.uk



Members of the public are being asked to help name three osprey chicks that have become an international hit during coronavirus lockdown this summer.

Barely five weeks old, the trio at Loch Arkaig Pine Forest have been watched by over a quarter of a million fans on a livestreaming nest camera supported by players of People's Postcode Lottery.

The youngsters were confirmed over the weekend to be two males and a female.

George Anderson of Woodland Trust Scotland said: 'The chicks were ringed at the end of last week and measurements taken at the time suggest they are two males and a female.'

'They don't have any, how can I put it, visible external attrib-



People can vote to name the chicks via the Woodland Trust's social media channels this week.

utes. You can't just lift the tail and check. It comes down to weight plus measurements of the beak, talon and wing size.'

The naming discussion and vote will take place across Woodland Trust's social media channels this week.

Sanjay Singh, Senior Programmes Manager at People's Postcode Lottery added: 'We're delighted our

players' funding has provided a window into this incredible osprey family, giving much needed support to so many people during this strange summer.

'The naming of the chicks adds a bit of extra fun, so we hope everyone will come up with good suggestions and take part in the eventual vote. And we still have a couple of months left to enjoy watching our osprey family before they leave on migration.'

The nest camera has been running since 2017. Last year it attracted an audience of 60,000 viewers (that's viewers not individual views). This year it has seen its audience shoot up to 290,000 viewers so far, with almost two million individual visits to the web page.

'Some people follow it all day every day. We have heard time and again from people who are shielding that it has

helped keep them sane,' said Mr Anderson.

The livestream has been a big hit with the media as an antidote to virus news too, with appearances on BBC Breakfast, Channel 4 News and BBC Springwatch.

The three siblings all have tag numbers and are described as follows:

JJ6: Male. The eldest. Hatched on May 29. The calm, patient one.

JJ8: Female. Hatched on June 1. The born leader.

JJ7: Male. Hatched June 3. The feisty one. Small and had to be assertive to survive.

The birds are expected to take their first flights by the end of the month before migrating south towards the end of August.

The naming discussion and vote will take place across Woodland Trust's social media channels this week.

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Economy could suffer under immigration plan, says MSPs

A proposed new points-based immigration system could halve the number of people coming to Scotland, risking labour shortages in key sectors, an independent expert group has warned.

New research by the Expert Advisory Group on Migration and Population shows that 55.9 per cent of migrants who want to work in the Highlands (68.7 per cent in the Western Isles) would be ineligible under UK Government proposals – shutting the door on the ability to recruit talented, skilled and dedicated workers from Europe and elsewhere.

The Scottish Parliament's Finance Committee has also warned that demographic changes could pose risks to Scottish public spending, and the ability to fund the NHS.

Kate Forbes, MSP for Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch, said: 'There is nothing more critical to the future economy of the Highlands than inward migration. We know that so many businesses have relied on citizens from other countries who choose to contribute to the Highland economy.'

'Furthermore, the Covid-19



Nah-Eileanan an Iar MSP Alasdair Allan says the islands are facing a demographic crisis.

crisis has clearly demonstrated the UK's reliance on key workers who have come to Scotland from all over the world. This pandemic has shown beyond doubt that people working in the roles which the Tories describe as 'lower-skilled' are absolutely vital to our communities.

'Carers, nurseries and support workers have held the NHS and Care Homes up during the last few weeks.'

'This could hammer public services like the NHS – as an ageing population leaves Scotland with fewer working-age taxpayers.'

The new research also showed that the islands would be affected worse than any other local authority area in the country.

Nah-Eileanan an Iar MSP Alasdair Allan added: 'The islands are facing a demographic crisis. Sustained inward migration is a critical necessity here but, despite the clear evidence, the Tories seem utterly determined to back the plans which will be immeasurably damaging to the Western Isles and Scotland as a whole.'

'We need the power to attract and retain the workers we need to fund our public services, and allow our economy to flourish.'

According to previous analysis by the Expert Advisory Group, 53 per cent of roles filled by employees in Scotland earn less than £25,000, including up to 90 per cent of jobs in the care sector.

Baxter hailed for 'greatness' after shock exit from Independents

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

As the dust settles on the shock expulsion of senior Lochaber councillor Andrew Baxter from the Independent group on Highland Council, the Fort and Ardnamurchan ward member from Kinlochleven has been hailed for his 'greatness', but someone also with a propensity for both destruction and self-destruction.

The comments came from fellow Independent and Caol and Mallaig councillor Allan Henderson.

Councillor Baxter, who has been on the council since 2012, received an official email on Thursday telling him he was to leave the Independent group immediately.

Councillor Baxter, who now becomes a non-aligned member - he has flagged himself as a 'Real Independent' - forfeits his seat on the Economy and Infrastructure Committee, although remains chairman of Lochaber Area Committee for now.

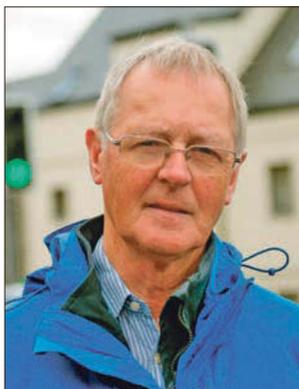
His expulsion came after he posted a video on the independent group's Facebook page, which had been compiled by Conservative group leader Councillor Andrew Jarvie attacking the administration leadership, but which has been alleged to contain factual errors on the local authority's financial position.

Commenting afterwards, Councillor Baxter said: 'I hadn't realised that if you disagree or dissent with the leadership you can no longer be an independent councillor.'

'But thankfully that was clarified when they sent me this email during yesterday's (Thursday) Education Committee clearing up my misunderstanding and providing their definition of an independent councillor. I now sit on the council as a real independent.'



Councillor Andrew Baxter was expelled from the Independents group on Highland Council.



Councillor Allan Henderson, fellow independent and councillor for Caol and Mallaig.

Asked for his reaction to Councillor Baxter being ejected from the Independents, Councillor Henderson told the Lochaber Times: 'In my opinion, Andrew has more political nous than all other 72 councillors - myself included - and knows that.'

'Twinned with this greatness he has two buttons, one destruct and the other self-destruct and unfortunately he has been pressing both for some time, so this notice will come as no surprise to Andrew. In fact some Independent members showed surprise that he was still an Independent.'

'I just hope that his colleagues do not adopt his mantra, 'forgive, but not forget your enemies', as we in Lochaber negotiate for capital benefits, such as a replacement Corran

Ferry. 'There are much more important things than the colour of a jumper, or moniker of groups, as we strive for the betterment of Lochaber.'

Councillor Henderson's fellow Caol and Mallaig Independent, Ben Thompson, said he was sorry to see Councillor Baxter leave the group: 'I think Lochaber benefits when our councillors speak loudly with one voice, so we often need to work together, and I've no doubt we will continue to do that.'

The Lochaber Times has asked the independent group councillors Margaret Davidson (Leader of Highland Council) and Alister Mackinnon (Budget Leader) for a statement on Councillor Baxter's expulsion.

Science tourism opportunity on the horizon for Lochaber

Science tourism could be at the heart of future travel experiences in Lochaber, the Highlands and the Arctic, according to two research centres at the University of the Highlands and Islands.

The researchers, part of an international consortium, are calling for tourism businesses interested in developing products in remote destinations across a range of subjects such as marine science, geology, climate change, archaeology and local ecosystems to take part in the EU-funded project worth more than €1 million.

Led by the Arctic Centre at the University of Lapland, the two-year scientific tourism (SCITOUR) project will help small businesses and start-ups based in remote northern regions to create, promote and sell new products offering tourists an educational experience, and help to diversify local economies.

The SCITOUR project has

grown out of recent patterns where once remote areas have become more accessible.

Though many Arctic destinations are closed to visitors this year, given fears about the

spread of Covid-19 in small and vulnerable communities with little medical infrastructure, over the last decades Arctic and peri-Arctic regions have seen an increase in visitors.

The growth of the expedition cruise industry, cheaper accommodation and an increase in flights have all contributed to this trend.

The project is part-funded by the Northern Periphery and Arctic (NPA) Programme of the European Union.

It draws on the expertise of Perth College UHI's Centre for Mountain Studies and the Centre for Recreation and Tourism Research at West Highland College UHI - which has a campus in Fort William

and elsewhere in Lochaber and

Skye - research bodies with experience of managing similar projects on slow adventure and ecotourism.

They will work with international partners at the University of Lapland, University of Iceland and Greenland National Museum, as well as tourism entrepreneurs and tourism marketing associations.

Fort William-based Dr Steve Taylor, head of the Centre for Recreation and Tourism Research, explained: 'In Scotland, we will be working closely with tourism entrepreneurs in remote areas to help them develop and market scientific tourism products.'

'Influenced by the idea of the academic field trip, where students are taken out to learn in the environment, this embraces a range of subjects such as marine science, climate change, geology, archaeology, astronomy, traditional knowledge, and local ecosystems.'

'We invite tourism businesses in the Highlands and Islands to get in touch with us if you are interested in being involved.'



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West Highland Peninsula tourism survey launched

Sunart, Morvern, Moidart, Ardnamurchan and Ardgour Tourist Association (SMMAATA) have launched a survey to help them gauge how the local tourism sector feel about reopening.

The Tourism Restart Community Survey will look at how West Highland Peninsulas tourism businesses are preparing, if at all, for reopening following the Scottish Government's announcement that the Tourism Sector may be able to open from July 15.

A SMMAATA spokesperson said: 'We are a remote community with good but geographically challenging health care provision and so need to balance the risks associated with any reintroduction of tourists with the revenue that this brings to our tourism businesses and the area as a whole.'

According to the group revenue from tourism is worth £20m per annum (both direct and indirect) to the West Highland Peninsulas.

'We are hopeful the survey will provide us with some



Loch Teacuis. Photo: Iain Thornber

indication of which businesses will reopen and how they will reopen,' continued the spokesperson.

'This will then help us in communicating with our visitors and importantly in assuring our communities that we are all working towards reducing the risks associated with welcoming back visitors.'

The survey covers three key issues relating to the reopening of the tourist industry, confidence in welcoming visitors back to the area, in keeping communities safe and importance to the local economy.

Anonymous results of the survey will be shared with Industry bodies, local community councils and other destination marketing organisations.

Go to surveymonkey.co.uk to fill in the short questionnaire.

Ardgour residents lodge port plan objections

Kilmallie Community Council has now formally lodged its written objection to proposals for the Sunday berthing and disembarking of vessels at Corpach port, writes Mark Entwistle.

It was last month the council agreed unanimously to submit an objection to the application to vary existing planning consent conditions from local hauliers and port operators, Boyd Brothers (Haulage) Ltd.

In its letter, the community council stated: 'Over the last few years Kilmallie Community Council has received more complaints about noise and disturbance from activities by Boyd Brothers than any other company in the area.'

'However, noise from other operators at Annat, including BSW [sawmill operator] has also been a concern. All



Corpach Harbour.

these noise issues need to be adequately addressed before any further activities or extensions to working hours are permitted.

'Although the berthing of vessels in itself does not cause significant disturbance, it will directly facilitate activities that have given rise to a large number of complaints, particularly the loading of timber and bashing logs against blocks in order to line them up before loading.'

'We have proposed the establishment of a liaison group to include all the operators at Annat as well as Highland Council officials, SEPA, residents and the relevant community councils.'

'The aim of the group would be to find satisfactory solutions for everyone to any noise, disturbance or other environmental impacts. If it can be proven that the issues that are causing concern can be satisfactorily addressed

through the ongoing work of a liaison group then we would be pleased to reconsider our objection to Sunday berthing in the fullness of time, but certainly not at present.'

The issue of pollution and disturbance at the port also reared its head at the recent meeting of Ardgour Community Council, with a number of residents on the opposite side of the loch from the port also lodging formal objections.

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Colour Sergeant Peter Grant, left, takes over Pipe Major Colin Simpson.

New pipe major for The Highlanders

Lochaber's local infantry battalion, The Highlanders (4 SCOTS), has announced the appointment of a new pipe major.

Colour Sergeant Peter Grant was previously Pipe Sgt of the band before leaving to take up the role of Fire Support Company CQMS (company quartermaster sergeant).

He takes over from Pipe Major Colin Simpson who has been in the post for the past three years.

In an online statement, the battalion - part of The Royal Regiment of Scotland - commented: 'We would like to congratulate the outgoing pipe major, Colin Simpson, for an excellent three years in the job.'

'PM Simpson led the band through various high profile ceremonial engagements and very successful competing seasons - notably winning the RSPBA European and UK Championships (2017) in Grade 3B.

'He also defended our crown as Army champions after it was won under Pipe Major Macgregor in 2017. PM Simpson now moves on to the role of Headquarter Company CQMS.'

'All ranks in the band wish Pipe Major Simpson all the very best for the future and welcome back to Pipe Major Grant.'

The Highlanders are currently based at Boulton Barracks, Catterick, in North Yorkshire.

Jacobite Express trains to suspend Arisaig stop

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Lord of the Isles, a historic steam locomotive named after the Middle Ages ruler of Scotland's west coast, is 'coming home' to haul the Jacobite Express train when it starts running again later this month following the easing of Covid-19 lockdown restrictions.

But stringent on-board social distancing and other safety measures mean only around a third of the usual 700 daily passengers will be carried between Fort William and Mallaig starting on Wednesday July 15.

The decision had already been made that the train will not stop at Glenfinnan and there has now been confirmation that it will not halt at Arisaig

'We have been working with Transport Scotland to introduce a raft of safety measures both on board and at the stations.'

either when services restart.

A spokesman for operators West Coast Railways said: 'Hopefully if everything works OK we will slowly be able to increase the number of passengers on our twice-daily service over the summer.'

'But the safety of passengers, train crew and local people remains paramount. So with a reduced number of seats in each carriage, the total will remain far below full capacity for the foreseeable future.'

Lord of the Isles is one of two heritage steam engines which will travel up to Fort William on July 13 hauling the train's vintage carriages from their base at Carnforth in Lancashire.

Built in Glasgow in 1949, the 'Peppercorn K1' locomotive



The Lord of the Isles, pictured, is returning to Lochaber next week to haul the Jacobite Express. Photograph: John Hunt.

regularly worked the West Highland Line before being withdrawn from service by British Rail in 1967. But it was saved from the scrapheap and restored to its former glory.

The other steam engine pulling the Jacobite this month will be former LMS Black Five 'Sherwood Forester', which was built at Newcastle in 1936 to haul passenger and freight trains. That will be replaced by sister locomotive 'Lancashire Fusilier' in August.

All passengers will have to wear face masks on board the Jacobite this summer and in order to maintain on-board social distancing, the buffet car will remain closed. Instead there will be a trolley serving refreshments.

The spokesman added: 'We have been working with Transport Scotland's Rail Directorate to introduce a raft of safety measures both on board and at the stations.'

'We are confident they will minimise any risk without impinging on people's enjoyment of what is regarded as one of the most spectacular railway journeys in the world.'

'We are reducing the number of tickets being made available

with many seats being taken out of use. Only members of the same family or social pod will be allowed to sit together, and screens will be erected between rows of seats.

'Extra signs and stewards are planned at both Fort William and Mallaig stations to direct passengers and ensure queuing is both safe and manageable and we have cancelled the normal 20-minute stop at Glenfinnan station.'

'I am now told that the train will not stop to pick up or put down passengers at Arisaig, so people will only get on and off at Fort William and Mallaig.'

'A comprehensive booklet of all the safety measures is currently being drawn up and we plan to translate this into French, Spanish and German before issuing a copy to every passenger.'

'We know that many people have been keen to see the Jacobite running again and, of course, the tourists it attracts will bring a welcome boost to the local economy after the lockdown.'

'But we are also very aware of our responsibilities, so we plan to open up the service slowly and carefully.'

Kinlochleven parents' despair over 'revolving door' of teachers

Continued from page one.

Asked to comment on all the teacher changes at Kinlochleven, Highland Council only told us: 'The head teacher [Ms Machin] has advised the council that she is leaving her post.'

'The depute head teacher will take up the post of acting head teacher and the Education Service will back-fill the acting depute head teacher post.'

Acting head teacher of Kinlochleven Primary is now Joseph Hannaway, while the new depute head teacher for the primary is Loren Crowley.

But, gathered together with other irate parents and Councillor Baxter outside the primary school on Tuesday, Mrs Byers added that this year the primary school did not now have a teacher to cover the P6/7 class, to work alongside the new deputy head, who was appointed in November.

'Highland Council has had since November to advertise and fill the shared teaching vacancy and has not done so,' she told us. 'We are now in the position that we are starting a

new term in August and the children will be going back to a temporary teacher with the position not even yet advertised and will not be until the start of the new school year in August and then it will be several weeks before interviewing can even commence.'

'Highland Council has now decided in its wisdom to remove the two fantastic teachers we have, who covered our Primary 1,2,3 and Primary 4,5, thus taking away any stability and continuity our children would have had going back into school in the new term.'

'This after all the upset and turmoil the children have already gone through this year, and they are going back into an already very different environment from what they know, with new routines and perhaps isolated from their friends by distancing rules.'

'We have additional needs children who will be going to school with no one who understands their capabilities and needs, and how to deal with situations when they arise.'

'Highland Council tells us

that it struggles to attract staff because of housing issues and lack of work for partners, and yet both teachers it is removing from the school are local and settled in the area with no housing or partner issues.'

Mrs Byers said parents also wanted to know why the local authority was putting local Pupil Support Assistants (PSAs) through teacher training degrees – as it did with one of the teachers who now does not have a position – if it was not to grow the local workforce and stop the endless cycle of people leaving.

'Mr Swinney keeps announcing the importance of education, sadly we do not feel that this is the case. We have been disregarded and pushed aside by Highland Council,' said Mrs Byers. 'We feel that Highland Council has rode roughshod over the parents' concerns at Kinlochleven Primary for the past two years.'

'The children deserve better and the teachers that have worked hard, especially over the last three months, deserve better.'



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LT

Calls for 'more respect' after bikers camp at Memorial

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

The Royal Marines Association, the official charity associated with Britain's famous amphibious troops, says it hopes more respect will be shown in future after a group of bikers sparked outrage at the weekend when they set up tents and a campsite close to the iconic Commando Memorial at Spean Bridge.

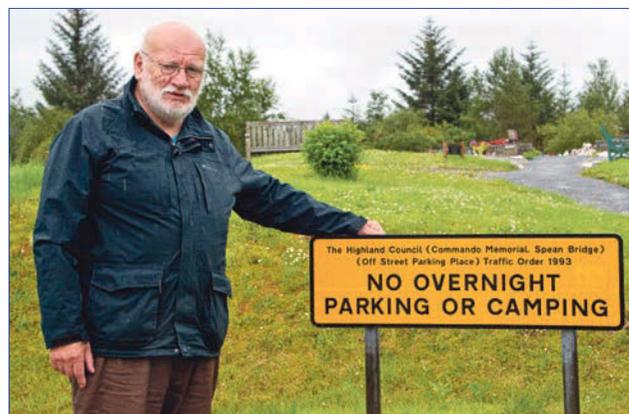
More than 600 people expressed their anger after a local resident posted photographs of the 30-strong group, including some wearing leathers bearing the legend 'Satan's Slaves' on the back, with tents at the memorial site on Friday night.

There were also reports of barbecues being held and it prompted multiple calls to the police and local MSP Kate Forbes appealing for action



to be taken. Some of those posting angry comments said they were relatives of Royal

Marines whose ashes are scattered in the remembrance garden near the monument.



Left, bikers erected tents on the site of the Commando Memorial at Spean Bridge over the weekend; and above, John Fotheringham behind the sign at the memorial.

The site, which is Category A listed, is regarded by the Corps of the Royal Marines as hallowed ground as it overlooks the terrain where commandos trained during the Second World War. It has a number of prominent signs making it clear there is no camping and no overnight stays.

Several online posters claimed the group were ex-military or even former Royal Marines and part of a group due to parade in Fort William this weekend to mark the 80th anniversary of the formation of the commandos.

But this was dismissed by others, with one person explaining that particular parade had been cancelled some time ago due to the coronavirus lockdown restrictions.

One Lochaber resident posted: 'Disrespectful- would they camp in a graveyard?' And one Oban resident posted: 'My grandfather was in No 4 Commando and died

in Holland in 1944. That memorial is our family's main point of remembrance for him as we cannot visit his grave in Holland regularly.'

Asked if they were aware of the campsite, a spokesperson for Police Scotland said officers had attended and spoken to the group.

Advice was given and the group told officers they would move on in the morning and clean up after themselves.

The Lochaber Times contacted the Royal Marines Association (RMA) for a comment. Its Deputy Chief Executive, Brigadier Richard Spencer, told us: 'The Commando Memorial is of considerable significance to not only the Royal Marines but also the wider commando community, with the ashes of many commandos being scattered in the Garden of Remembrance, which is maintained jointly by the Royal Marines, RMA - The

Royal Marines charity and Highland Council, and is sited adjacent to the Commando Memorial itself.

'Whilst it would appear that no malicious damage has been done to the memorial or Garden of Remembrance, it is unfortunate that this group has chosen not to recognise the important historic and emotional significance of this site and to ignore the clear local anger at the perceived lack of respect shown.

'We hope that, in future, the Commando Memorial is given the respect it deserves by all those visiting this historic site.'

Spean Bridge resident and former chairman of the local community council, John Fotheringham, said it was 'totally unacceptable' that people had opted to camp at the monument.

'This is disrespectful, particularly as there is a garden of remembrance there and which is so important to so many families across the UK.

'The ashes of a number of marines who served their country with distinction are scattered there.

'This is probably the most important memorial in Lochaber as well as being of national significance in the UK.'

Local MSP Kate Forbes told the Lochaber Times: 'I have seen images circulating tonight of people camping at the Commando Memorial. These are completely disrespectful and unacceptable.

'The Commando Memorial requires respect; it is not a campsite. I am speaking to the police.'

Highlands and Islands lose sight of optical service as Specsavers withdraws

Specsavers has withdrawn its Highlands and Islands rural service due to the impact of coronavirus, writes Fiona Scott.

Six staff members have been made redundant as a result of the closure which means there will no longer be a visiting opticians service at centres in 15 locations across the area.

The Highlands and Islands service visited Lewis, N/S Uist, Barra, Lochcarron, Gairloch, Lochinver, Lairg, Strontian,

Mallaig, Portree, Kyleakin, Islay, Campbeltown, Arran and Benbecula when it was operational.

Specsavers admitted the decision to close its Highlands and Islands optical service had been a difficult one but said that the service was no longer sustainable.

'The Covid-19 pandemic has had a big impact across all areas of the Specsavers business and the company has had to make some tough decisions to ensure it continues to be

viable,' said a spokesperson for the company. Posting on its Facebook page, the Mallaig Community Centre wrote: 'This was a well-used service and a regular source of income for the Community Centre, and we'd like to thank the team who came regularly. Our thoughts are with those who have lost their jobs.'

Specsavers has said that all impacted customers are being contacted with details of alternative Specsavers options for their eye care needs.

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Call for Highland Council to be more 'honest' over climate declaration

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Highland Council needs to be honest and rescind its declaration of a climate emergency until it is seriously prepared to do more than just talk about.

That was the reaction from local climate and environmental campaigners in Lochaber to last week's statement from the local authority that it recognised the 'pressing need' to build on positive behaviour changes and emissions reductions arising from the Covid-19 pandemic to accelerate the region's shift to a net zero carbon future.

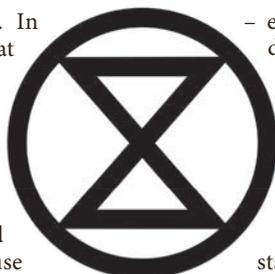
It has been over a year since the council declared a climate and ecological emergency and recommitted to achieving a carbon neutral

region by 2025. In its statement that it recognised the need for a 'green recovery' to meet climate change commitments, the council said

it was vital to use what had been learned from the pandemic response to shape how the region tackles the long-term threat posed by climate change and to avoid a return to 'business as usual'.

From a carbon and environmental perspective, the council said it has seen benefits from a drop in energy consumption due to the closure or part closure of many buildings and schools since lockdown.

For first two full months of lockdown – April and May



– energy costs were down by £768,000, a reduction of 33 per cent compared to the same period in 2019.

With the majority of council staff working from home, this has also resulted in a significant decrease in emissions from road transport as well as an improvement in air quality.

The Inverness-headquartered authority has also hailed the installation of temporary walking, cycling and wheeling routes across Highland region through a £750k award from the Scottish Government as further reducing transport-related emissions.

Council Leader Margaret Davidson, said that while

the Covid-19 emergency had come out of the blue, the climate and ecological emergency had not.

'As a council we are already taking action and investing in our climate change commitments,' she said.

'However, we also recognise the pressing need to take the learning and positive outcomes from the pandemic, such as reduced travel, working from home and the increasing interest in local food growing and production, and use this to reshape how we operate as a council going forward.'

And she added: 'The pandemic has given the people of Highland an opportunity to reflect on what's really important, which is ultimately our health and wellbeing, and it is incumbent on us to ensure that we embed this within a

green economic recovery that works to the benefit of both the people of Highland, and the planet.'

But the Fort William branch of environmental pressure group Extinction Rebellion (XR) is not impressed by what it claims is just more talk and little action.

A branch spokesperson told the Lochaber Times: 'In May 2019, 14 months ago, Highland Council declared a climate and ecological emergency.'

'Since then it has been focused on reducing its own carbon emissions, and there has been no tangible progress towards achieving its objective of a carbon neutral region by 2025.'

'There has been no visible effort made to reverse the ecological emergency, and no evidence of a regional de-

velopment strategy that puts environmental protection before short-term financial gain, as shown by the recent approval of HIE's spaceport on the Mhoine in Sutherland. 'As we emerge from lockdown, all policies and actions should be aligned with the objective of building a fairer and more sustainable future to tackle the climate and ecological crises.'

'If Highland Council is serious about its declaration of emergency, it will use the response to Covid-19 as a template, and immediately facilitate the level of system change and behaviour change required to achieve its declared aims.'

'If not, Highland Council should be honest and rescind the declaration until it is prepared to act on it rather than just talk about it.'



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Plan lodged for world's first rewilding centre

Trees for Life has submitted a planning application for the world's first rewilding centre at its 10,000-acre Dundreggan estate in Glenmoriston, between Skye and Loch Ness.

The application was lodged with Highland Council on June 22 and features a visitor centre inspired by wild native forests and the rich natural and cultural heritage of the Highlands.

The conservation charity expects the pioneering project to welcome more than 50,000 visitors annually – showcasing the benefits of rewilding and working with nature rather than against it, while boosting the rural economy and creating at least 15 new local jobs.

'Dundreggan Rewilding Centre will be a place for people from all walks of life to rewild themselves by exploring and enjoying a remarkable wild landscape in a beautiful



Highland glen, and to spend time learning about the area's unique wildlife and inspiring Gaelic history,' said Trees for Life chief executive, Steve Micklewright.

The inclusive centre will provide events, experiences and exhibitions for casual visitors, those seeking a more immersive experience, and groups with specific requirements – such as those with physical or learning disabilities, families and schools. To fit in with the

landscape, the building's design has been inspired by local Gaelic heritage and history, and by the globally important but endangered Caledonian Forest – with verticals representing trees, changing light to reflect how light plays in woodlands, and materials and colours conjuring up bracken and forest bark.

In the all-weather visitor centre, a 'Welcome Tree' central space will be a focal point where people can discover the

A visualisation of the planned centre.

activities on offer. A Gaelic bothy area will spotlight local history and heritage, and there will be spaces for learning and events.

An accessible 20-bed accommodation space will be constructed on the site of an original lodge, enabling people to stay longer at the acclaimed rewilding estate.

The project has been made possible thanks to more than £2 million support from The National Lottery Heritage Fund, the Scottish Natural Heritage-led Natural and Cultural Heritage Fund funded through the European Regional Development Fund, and from others. Trees for Life is seeking further funding to ensure the centre can be constructed on schedule in 2021.

Fort hanging baskets brighten high street

Since the start of lockdown in March, the Fort William Town Team (FWTT) Committee continued to meet virtually to try to make plans for the town's summer flower displays.

Usually they would have been arranging litter picks, plot tidy-ups, planting days and sponsored hanging baskets. The community organisation always keep their volunteers busy and really appreciate all of the support that comes from around the town.

But by the end of May it looked like there was little hope of achieving any of their annual projects, so a last ditch attempt was made to find suppliers.

With the help of Jamie Hail Lawn and Landscapes, who manage the watering of baskets, the Town Team sourced a delivery of 40 hanging baskets and 100 begonias from Growforth Limited based in Dunfermline.

'We are now excited to tell you that we have been able to plant up the containers throughout the High Street and the hanging baskets have



One of the displays in Fort William. Photograph: Iain Ferguson

now been installed too,' a Town Team spokesperson told us this week.

'All of the plants and baskets were being gifted to the community from FWTT to brighten the town for when we all came out of lockdown, but now almost 20 baskets have been happily sponsored by families and businesses instead, so thank you and your plaques will go up shortly.'

'All's well that end's well, as they say and although we may not have quite achieved last year's numbers, we finally have flowers for 2020 and we really hope you can all get out and about to enjoy them.'

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Group seeks backing for community hotel venture

by Fiona Scott
fscott@obantimes.co.uk



A newly formed community group is looking to bring one of the vacant hospitality venues in Fort William into community ownership for the benefit of the town and surrounding communities.

The like-minded locals, led by walk guide and climber Andy Davidson, are steering an initiative called Fort William Community Owned Social Enterprise Tourism Business, with a view to boosting the social, environmental and financial benefits of the area.

'If we can drive this forward and make it happen it could provide educational and employment opportunities, financially contribute to and support community projects, and promote environmentally and sustainable tourism travel



to the Highlands,' said Andy, who established his own Up and Doon guided walks business in 2012.

Initially the group is looking at ways to fund the purchase of a vacant hotel building in Fort William from where a variety

of community-led projects could be run. A variety of funding options are being explored. 'Potential funding could be accessed through various sources depending on how this is set up,' said Andy.

'We have to decide whether this is going to be a charity or commercial business, or a social enterprise which would encapsulate both. Much depends on how the enterprise is set up legally as to which funds would be applicable.'

To help them achieve their aims the group is now looking for people with social entrepreneurship skills or simply a pro-active, can-do approach to making this happen and a

willingness to help out with things such as writing funding proposals, following action plans, creating surveys etc.

The group has already set up a Facebook page outlining its aims and listing potential benefits for both the community and businesses in the area. They have also lobbied local MPs, MSPs and the business and tourism sector.

'We want to encourage a closer relationship and connection between tourism and locals, leading to a greater community benefit from tourism activities intrinsic to the business model,' explained Andy.

'We recognise the importance of the local community and value their contribution to our successful tourism industry.'

'Working in partnership with Lochaber High, West

Highland College UHI, Skills Development Scotland and other education providers we could also provide a range of access points and progression routes to quality career opportunities.

'Students in Fort William could potentially have access to employment and accommodation while they study in the area.'

The group, which already has around 200 followers on their Facebook page, are currently putting together a survey in order to further gauge public opinion on a community owned social enterprise.

Anyone interested in finding out more about Fort William Community Owned Social Enterprise Tourism Business or joining the action group can do so through their Facebook page or by emailing Andy at fortwilliamcose@gmail.com.

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Future of Corran Ferry on the table

Members of The Highland Council's Economy and Infrastructure Committee this week had the opportunity to discuss progress made with the Corran Ferry Project, which is reviewing the options for securing a replacement ferry and considering the way forward for the future operation and management of the service.

The Corran Ferry service has reached a critical point and strategic decisions need to be made. Following discussions at the committee on Wednesday, councillors asked officers to advise Transport Scotland that the council is interested in a transfer of the service based on the principles set out in the Scottish Ferries Plan.

The outline business case prepared by the project team and discussed by the committee today focuses on the immediate problems with the service and looks at plans to get a larger replacement vessel and the supporting infrastructure in place to ensure a sustainable service can continue until such time that a fixed link is built.

Committee chairperson, Councillor Trish Robertson, said: 'Matters have been coming to a head for some years. We are now at a point where a critical decision is needed as



any delay in making a strategic choice to invest or transfer the service could result in its failure. The report presented to the committee highlights that all the options, short-term and long-term, for securing a reliable and fit for purpose connection across the Corran Narrows require significant investment.

'With a fixed link potentially taking decades to come on stream, a larger replacement ferry is needed now. However, with the council under significant budget pressure, funding support will be needed from the Scottish Government.

'The decision taken today to approach Transport Scotland about the transfer of the service is a step forward.'

Earlier this week, Lochaber councillors had the chance to discuss the issue during their local area committee.

Lochaber Councillor Allan Henderson, chairman of HITRANS, which with Highland Council and Highlands and Islands Enterprise funded the Fixed Link Outline Feasibility Study, said: 'The Corran Ferry is the busiest single vessel route in Scotland, providing a lifeline service to the remote communities of Ardnamurchan, Morvern and Mull.

'The current service, operated with an ageing vessel and limited crew numbers, is no longer sustainable as demand increases, so we need to take action. Doing nothing is not an option.

'The recent feasibility study concluded that the construction of a bridge or tunnel across the Corran Narrows is a viable proposition that deserves more detailed examination.

'It has been submitted to

Transport Scotland for their consideration. Meanwhile we require a new ferry now to ensure this important lifeline route can reliably serve our communities. Following our debate today we can now confirm our position which is a positive step in the right direction.'

As well as approaching Transport Scotland about the transfer of the service, the committee agreed that retaining two quarter loader vessels is an overly expensive model and therefore the preferred replacement vessel and slipways option should be a straight through Roll-on/roll-off ferry with a relief second vessel secured from elsewhere.

This will remove the constraints on the route once and for all and will deliver economies of scale benefits and is in line with CMAL Ferries operated by CalMac. Support was also given to a five-year ferry plan to ensure that the future of the service is sustainable.

Members also agreed that a Corran Narrows Options Working Group be set up as soon as possible. This will complement the local engagement and consultation already happening in the community which will be continuing.

VIEW FROM THE CHAMBER



As high street establishments begin to reopen it is more important than ever that we support our local businesses, shop local and ensure we follow the new measures to stay safe and help local business to remain sustainable.

The Highland Bookshop in Fort William has reopened to customers, offering private shopping in the mornings to ease crowding, with additional safe options for customers.

The Highland Soap Company has reopened all its high street shops after a busy lockdown period where staff made a number of early changes in their production cycle to support care workers and customers.

Great Glen Charcuterie rallies the call for shopping and supporting local businesses. Anja Baak of Great Glen Charcuterie recently spoke to us saying: 'It has been very encouraging to see much more sales coming from local customers. There is a real trend to buy local and direct from producers. I think people are looking for connections, we have been getting lots of repeat orders and hopefully this is something to stay.'

In other encouraging news, a number of activity and accommodation providers are continuing with building

plans to reopen from 15 July.

This includes The Garrison Hotel, which will be open for overnight stays and bed & breakfast; the Kingshouse Hotel and Ballachulish Hotel, which are reopening with alfresco dining; plus Glencoe Mountain Resort plans to reopen its access chairlift, mountain bike tracks, takeaway café and some of its pods.

A number of other activity providers including River to Sea Scotland, Rugged Paddleboard Glencoe, Up and Doon Guided Walks, and Abacus Mountain Guides are getting back to business with new measures in place so guests and staff are kept safe.

Nevis Range Mountain Resort is also on track for reopening from July 15, offering access to 25 miles of outdoor adventure, trails, walks and mountain bike routes in line with government guidance. You can book your gondola pass online today at nevisrange.co.uk.

Highland Council has published a Guide for Businesses: Supporting Economic Recovery in Highland, which provides advice and support to shops, leisure facilities and other businesses likely to experience an upsurge in visitor numbers as lockdown restrictions are eased.

Visit www.highland.gov.uk/info/1/business_and_trade or contact the Chamber to let us know you are reopening. Email us at membership@lochaberchamber.co.uk.

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Wheely great summer send off for Inverlochy pupils

by Fiona Scott

fscott@obantimes.co.uk



Staff at Inverlochy Primary School arranged a special drive-by last Wednesday, July 1, in order to wish their pupils a happy summer holiday and bid a fond farewell to primary seven leavers.

Families, holding banners and signs, lined the streets as the cavalcade wound its way around the parks and along Claggan and Camanachd Crescent for the pre-summer wave.

The school described the event as 'a special and very emotional summer send-off', on its Facebook page, adding, 'It was certainly a moment in time that we won't forget and as always, we are just so grateful for the wonderful pupils and families surrounding us.'

'Huge heartfelt thank you to you all for coming along.'



LATEST NEWS from The Tayvallich Inn

The Tayvallich Inn is getting ready to be back - with a few changes!

A little taste of what to expect.

We've replaced our deck and reduced the number of tables inside the bar and restaurant.

We will have a reduced menu to start with but still with all the favorites, and everything will be available to take away.

We'll be providing table service only and we will ask you to phone or email ahead to book a table in the bar, restaurant or outside.

Look out next week for our new website launch, full information about how to book and hopefully a final opening date!



Seafood, sunshine and spectacular views



We can't wait to welcome you back very soon

Tayvallich, Lochgilphead, PA31 8PL Find us on Facebook:



LT

A830 road resurfacing at Corpach

Essential work to address a section of the A830 near Corpach between the Police Station Roundabout and Banavie Swing Bridge got under way this week.

A 750m stretch of the A830 was being resurfaced.

Work started on Tuesday, July 7, and is expected to take place over five days between 9.30am and 6pm each day, with surfacing scheduled to be completed by 6pm on Monday July 13. No works will take place over the weekend.

The A830 will remain open throughout the improvements, however to keep everyone safe during the project a 10mph convoy system will be in place.

Traffic management will be removed outwith working hours to keep disruption to a minimum, although a speed restriction of 30mph will remain in place as traffic will be travelling over a temporary surface.

Eddie Ross, BEAR Scotland's North West Representative said: "This essential £115,000 surfacing project on the A830 will upgrade the existing road surface, greatly improving the quality and safety for road users. Cleansing stations will be implemented on site to ensure all staff remain safe.

'We've taken steps to minimise disruption and our teams will do all they can to finish the project as quickly and safely as possible.'

Mental Health Matters

NIC GODDARD

fort@obantimes.co.uk

The Highlands has long been considered an area where mental health issues raise cause for concern with Fort William dubbed 'a mental health black hole' due to the large numbers of people suffering depression, anxiety and high rates of suicide.

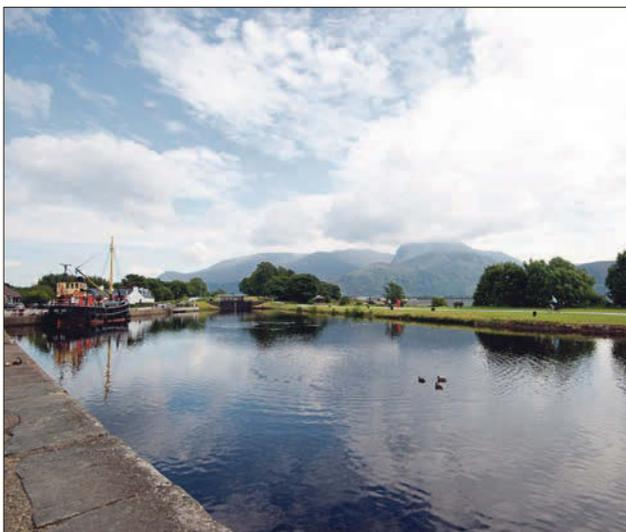
While the reaction to the coronavirus pandemic has been largely focused on physical wellbeing, the lockdown measures have undoubtedly had an impact on people's mental wellbeing and as we take the first tentative steps back towards 'normal' life, pretty much everyone will emerge affected by the legacy of the strange times we find ourselves living through.

Some of these issues are specific to our demographic groups - from the young people who have had interruptions in their education or face uncertainty about their future with cancelled exams to the elderly and those with underlying health issues who have been shielding.

Many in the area make a living from tourism-based work so may be facing employment or financial concerns.

The usual support networks of socialising, sporting activities, hobbies and

recreational pursuits have been closed down to us and even as everything gradually opens back up there will be fear and trepidation as to how safe it is.



But we are not alone. There are many organisations and support networks in place throughout the area. Charities and organisations exist and have been operating throughout lockdown, albeit sometimes in different ways to usual.

As lockdown eases and we return to a 'new normal' we will be focusing on some of these methods of support with spotlights on some of the ways in which you can access help, stories about the people who work, volunteer and use these organisations, hints and tips for taking care of your mental wellbeing and some of the many local resources our readers can draw upon.

One such organisation, Ewen's Room, a charity on the peninsula offering support to

promote mental wellbeing with a telephone helpline, open door drop-in sessions in Strontian, Acharacle and Fort William (prior to lockdown) and running workshops, has moved to online zoom hosted sessions during the pandemic.

I spoke with Hugh Asher from Ewen's Room about the recent Coping with Covid workshop he hosted online.

Hugh explained that moving from in person to online workshops has been a great support for people during the lockdown, telling me: 'We had nine people attend the recent Coping with Covid workshop, which is more than we average for our face-to-face sessions.'

'Opening them up online has meant that in these rural areas people don't need to travel to

Exercising outdoors is good for our mental health and wellbeing.

join in, which can be a barrier. A registration process makes the sessions secure and all attendees are able to see the rest of the group, so we're still getting that face-to-face feedback, albeit via a screen.'

The workshop took more of a discussion group format than a slideshow, with participants sharing their own concerns and stories about life during the lockdown and the current easing of restrictions.

Topics included people feeling fearful about contracting coronavirus themselves or about vulnerable and shielding friends and relatives being infected.

Attendees shared frustrations about others not following guidelines and concerns about how safe the return of visitors to the area was. There were also positive experiences shared of communities pulling together and the vital role that volunteers and small local businesses had played.

Hugh told me that the group also shared tips and ideas for dealing with covid-related anxiety.

'Some great ideas that came up were limiting your exposure to the news and social media, having a go at some mindful-

ness techniques and trying to maintain a good daily routine of eating healthily and getting enough sleep.

'The session included signposting to helpful online resources. A top tip was to try to stay active - exercise has been shown to reduce stress, anxiety and depression.

'Try and exercise outside if possible as evidence suggests that we benefit more from exercise done outside in nature rather than indoors. Walking in nature can also boost memory, creativity and enhance problem-solving skills.'

The course proved so useful that it is being run again on August 18. It is open to everyone and you can find more information about how to register at www.ewensroom.com

Hugh told me: 'The feedback was positive with people feeling that they had learned some new things to try to help them to maintain good mental and physical wellbeing during this period and the opportunity to talk to a wider group of people than their immediate friends and family - something they had had limited opportunity to do recently.'

As part of our mental wellbeing column we will also be offering a mental health Q and A service where you can write / email in with a question and we will be printing answers to your questions drawing on the help and advice of an expert. Get in touch at fort@obantimes.co.uk



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Playparks set to start reopening this week

The Highland Council is planning to reopen play areas across the region throughout summer, writes Mark Entwistle.

Advice was provided by the Scottish Government at the end of last month as to the safety measures that should be applied.

The council has 436 play spaces of which 336 are equipped play areas with 2011 individual items of play equipment.

Since the lockdown, these play parks have been closed and have not been inspected, or had any maintenance work carried out.

Before reopening, all council play parks have to be in a safe and serviceable condition. To do this a full inspection and maintenance programme must be carried out.

The council said this is a



significant undertaking and will take time, so needs to be done in a phased, prioritised manner due to staff shortages.

The council said it expects to begin opening sites from this week onwards and its website will be updated next week with the list of the sites reopening first across the region.

All park users are asked to use the facilities safely, observe social distancing, apply enhanced hygiene and to keep the parks tidy by taking their litter home with them.

The council's Amenities Service is operating at a much-reduced capacity with less than 50 percent

Before reopening, all council play parks will have to be inspected and maintenance work carried out to ensure equipment is safe.

staff compared to previous years. Many communities have supported the service during the pandemic with grass cutting, strimming and generally maintaining sites in their areas.

'We would like to encourage community volunteers to assist us with the grass cutting in play areas, as long as they have carried out a risk assessment and adhere to social distancing,' added the council today (Monday).

Councillor Allan Henderson (Caol and Mallaig), chairman of the Communities and Place Committee, said: 'We are very pleased to be able to begin a

phased reopening of Highland Council play parks from today. This will be a gradual process as the council has to ensure that checks and safety inspections of the play equipment and infrastructure are carried out within the available staffing levels of the council.

'We ask everyone to bear with us as not all play parks can reopen at the same time and signage will be erected indicating whether they are safe to use.'

The local authority added that people must continue to take responsibility for themselves while using the play parks and do so at their own risk, and must follow government guidelines on social distancing.

Signs will also be erected at all play parks to remind people to wash their hands and or use sanitiser as appropriate.

Glenelg to Skye ferry set to restart in 2021

Probably Scotland's most romantic sea crossing, the Glenelg-Skye Ferry, has announced that due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, it will not be operating during the remainder of the 2020 season.

A statement on the official Facebook page said the decision had been made with 'consideration for financial implications and with concern for public and crew safety'.

The vessel used for the crossing, Glenachulish, is the last manually operated turntable ferry in Scotland and has been ferrying vehicles across the Kylerhea straits since 1934.

People come from all over the world to travel on the iconic ferry, which operators say will be back in action next year.



Rediscover Glencoe...

With many of our shops, outdoor activities, café 'sitooteries' and beer gardens open now, we're getting used to venturing out a wee bit more in this 'new normal'!

The easing of travel restrictions and the welcoming of overnight guests to some self-catering accommodation has also started which has seen an increase of people in the area.

It's important that visitors, locals and businesses spread kindness and we all maintain the guidelines for Covid-19 containment. Thankfully there are many reminders for us as businesses and communities place signage around the area.

It's a strange new normal for us all. With its social distancing, face coverings, cough etiquette and increased hand hygiene.

Though the experience of visiting your favourite local shop or activity may have changed in-line with the regulations. A warm Highland welcome awaits when you arrive.

Businesses who have opened have been through all the required risk assessments, written new protocols, positioned the appropriate signage and purchased cupboards-full of new cleaning products to meet the regulations.

Other businesses are making their preparations to welcome locals and visitors back safely when they are ready and able to do so.

Concern remains for the continuing health and safety of our local communities. In response to this Discover Glencoe has compiled and published an easily accessible 'Visitors Charter' on our website Covid-19 pages. It's available for everyone to read and use.

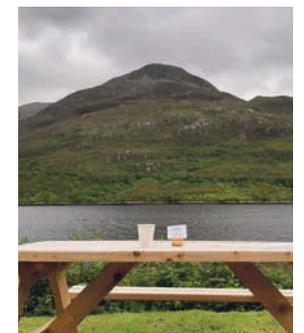
Looking to the future, a provisional date of 15 July has been set for when all



tourism businesses may be able to resume operations, if it's safe to do so and with everyone observing the guidelines.

Hopefully, from 15 July locals and visitors will

be able to begin to enjoy the area more fully again. Visitors will be able to book a stay at any type of holiday accommodation. We will all be able to eat out at our favourite restaurant.



For information and the Visitor Charter: discoverglencoe.scot/covid-19

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LETTERS

Write to us: send your letters to fort@obantimes.co.uk
or The Editor, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB

Shame on you!

This week's article on the group of bikers who decided to camp at the Commando Memorial at Spean Bridge, is new low.

Communities in the Highlands and Islands are used to a small minority of visitors showing no respect for those who live in the areas they are visiting – this newspaper has carried numerous stories of campers leaving rubbish and human waste in their wake when free camping in our beautiful countryside – but these bikers did far more damage than that on Friday night.

They left countless families heartbroken and deeply offended by their actions, which completely ignored the fact that this site is regarded by many, including the Corps of the Royal Marines, as hallowed ground.

Many soldiers ashes will have been scattered here before the Garden of Remembrance was set up, and many families visit the monument to pay their respects as they would at a graveside.

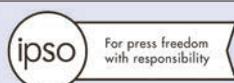
The bikers may have cleared up after themselves, but it was too little, too late. If they had any decency, like the majority of bikers, it would never have crossed their minds to park up there for the night. The fact there are clear signs saying not to is neither here nor there. But quite frankly, the police should have given them a recorded warning and fined them.

The editor welcomes letters of approximately 300 words in length for publication on this page. However we reserve the right to shorten, to amend or to refuse to print them. Names and postal addresses must be supplied, including on emails, to indicate good faith. A daytime phone number is also required for verification. Anonymous letters will not be printed. Please email: editor@obantimes.co.uk or write to: Letters page, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB.

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

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; telephone on 01631 568000; or email 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. We will abide by the decision of IPSO.



An 'aire' could be answer for Argyll communities

As travel restrictions lift Oban and Lorn is likely to see an increase in campervan traffic and folk enjoying wild camping in our wonderful countryside.

Scotland's tourism industry will rightly be encouraging Scots to holiday at home to save our tourism industry. There is an old saying that 'it takes a whole village to raise a child' – well it also takes a positive community approach to encourage sustainable and responsible tourism.

Scotland's right to roam carries responsibilities and we must encourage visitors to respect and protect the countryside. Enhancing the infrastructure to support the welcome increase in those choosing the freedom that a campervan/mobile home undoubtedly offers would be a constructive step forward.

OLTA and BID4OBAN seek to work alongside local communities. It is therefore disheartening to hear reports on social media that some community councils have considered legislation rather than education to address this issue.

OLTA and BID4OBAN consider this increased interest in wild camping and motorhome touring as an opportunity rather than a threat. Both organisations would be happy to debate the potential for developing this niche market in a supportive way. One idea that could work well in Scotland is community camping pitches.

The concept of 'Aires' is well known and popular on the continent and it could be adapted for Scotland's rural towns and villages. An 'aire' is a low cost or free private camping area, which are usually run by the local town council and if replicated here, they could increase business to local shops, restaurants and pubs and make a positive contribution to the local economy.

There are already laws that criminalise fly tipping and littering. We do not need more just at the point when we are trying to encourage visitors back after months of lockdown.

Scotland is known for its warm welcome and hospitality. Getting the message right on social media is important and we would urge community councils to adopt a more constructive approach to what is undoubtedly a sector with growth potential for Oban and Lorn.

OLTA will be releasing its own charter later this week.

Linda Battison, marketing director OLTA.

Thanks to pipers across the world who played tribute

On Friday June 12 more than 550 pipers across

Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL

editor@obantimes.co.uk

Bha mi a' sgrìobhadh seo 's mi ag èisteachd ri naidheachdan air mar a chaidh cùisean ann an Sasainn air a' chiad latha a dh'fhosgail taighean-seinne is bidh às ùr an dèidh glasadh-sìos a' choròna-bhiorais. Far am bi an deoch a-staigh bidh ciall a-muigh a rèir seann abairt, ach gu fortanach chan eil sin a' tachairt ach ann am beagan shuidheachaidhean, agus nach math gur ann mar sin a bha ann an Sasainn Disathairne seo chaidh. Thachair beagan mì-mhodh, ghlèidh a' mhòr-chuid ciall, ach tha ceist a thaobh na h-ìre 's gun deach aig daoine air cumail bho chèile chun an astair a tha ga mholadh.

Gun teagamh bha luchd-riaghlaidh mothachail air a' chunnart a bhiodh an lùib lasachadh air riaghailtean a' ghlaisidh, ach bha iad cuideachd a' tuigsinn àmhghair luchd-gnìomhachais an cunnart a dhol fodha le dith cosnaidh. 'S e cothromachadh doirbh a th' ann co-dhùnadh cuin a tha cunnart a' ghalair nas lugha na an cunnart eaconamach, agus 's cinnteach gur e pàirt eile dheth duilgheadas gum faodadh ath-dhùsgadh den Chovid 19 a bhith a' gabhail àite airson grunn làithean mun tèid sin aithneachadh.

Ach tha tomhas de chunnart anns a h-uile co-dhùnadh is gluasad a nì sinn nar beatha, agus tha earbsa mhòr ga chur daonnan ann an ciall an t-sluaigh mar phàirt den fhreagairt air na cunnartan sin. Aig an aon àm tha fhios againn uile gum bheil àireamh dhaoine ann nach toir feart air modhan sòisealta rianail, deoch ann neo às, agus tha iad sin nam pàirt

eile den chunnart anns am bheil sinn fad na h-ùine. Ach bidh sinn beò le dòchas, agus cuideachd gu mòr an eisimeil seirbheis slàinte ionmholta a tha a' comharrachadh seachd is dà bhliadhna bho chaidh a stèidheachadh. Ged a chluinnear gearain air ìre cùraim bho àm gu àm 's i an fhianais as bitheanta gum bheil sinn air leth fortanach leithid de ghòireas slàinte a bhith againn. Ged nach biodh againn de dhearbhadh ach dicheall agus saothair an luchd-obrach thar nam mìosan a chaidh san t-strì an aghaidh a' choròna-bhiorais, thigeadh dhuinn a bhith taingeil da-rìribh asta agus a' moladh gum faigheadh an cuid sgìl agus dealas tuarastal iomchaidh. Le bualadh bhas thar na dùthcha feasgar na Sàbaid seo chaidh dhearbhadh a' mhòr-shluagh às ùr an luach a tha iad a' cur air Seirbheis Nàiseanta na Slàinte, agus cha bu chòir leig sam bith a bhith air an Riaghaltas a maoinachadh chun na h-ìre air am bheil feum.

Tha cùram sòisealta air a bhith an lùib na seirbheis slàinte bho nochd i ann an 1948, ach le mòran a bharrachd a' ruigheadh seann-aois an-diugh chan eil an t-seirbheis sinn a' coileanadh a dleastanas. Ma 's e tomhas math air sìobhaltachd dùthcha a th' ann an ìre a cùraim dha a cuid sluaigh, bu mhath a-nise gun ùraicheadh Breatann a sìobhaltachd!

Civilised society can be assessed on its care for people, and our National Health Service and social services must be properly resourced!

Allan Campbell, ilean@obantimes.co.uk

the world played the haunting march The Heroes of St Valéry from doorsteps, gardens and streets, which recognised the service of the Second World War 'forgotten' 51st Highland Division. These men remained on the continent to fight the Nazis after the evacuations from Dunkirk. Despite their incredible bravery, around 10,000 men were finally encircled and captured at the Normandy fishing port of St Valéry-en-Caux on June 12, 1940.

The aim of our 80th commemoration was to ensure these men were remembered. St Valéry impacted on every town, village and hamlet across the Highlands and beyond. Eighty years on, those same communities were joined by pipers from across the globe as they paid their respects.

As well as becoming the largest piping ensemble in history, a day-long programme of virtual events, learning resources for young people and social media tribute messages achieved a reach of 169 million people. The event was supported three Armed Forces community charities: Poppyscotland, Legion Scotland and RCET: Scotland's Armed Forces Children's Charity. Each do vital work today.

To each and every piper, we say: 'Thank you!' And to those that support the work of those charities: 'Many, many thanks!' Most of all, to the men of the 51st, our thanks, gratitude and respect.

Sir Alistair Irwin KCB CBE and Neil McLennan FSA Scot FRSA, RCET, trustee and convenor St Valéry 80 Committee.

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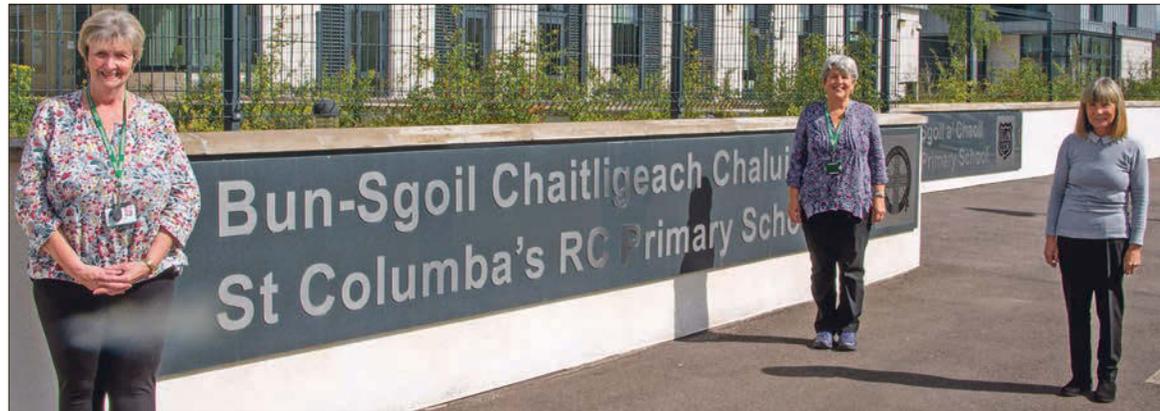
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Happy lockdown birthday, to you!



Aine MacPhie celebrated her eighth birthday on June 26 at her home in Mallaig. Her family arranged a Zoom party for her with the company 'Captain Fantastica' and she invited all her friends along online to join in the fun. The children were set tasks and games and party bags were dropped off at all the children's houses with face paint crayons for everyone, so many of them had their faces painted for the party. At the end there was cake and everyone sung happy birthday. Aine said it was her 'best birthday ever' and everyone had a wonderful day.

Do you have a child celebrating their birthday during the lockdown? Send us their picture, including their full name, age, where you live – telling us a little bit about what you did to make the day at home special – and we will publish it and wish them Happy Birthday!
Send all your pictures to fort@obantimes.co.uk



All good things go in threes

A number of staff retired from St Columba's School in Caol recently. After considerable amount of

service to the pupils at both the now demolished Lochside and the new school Head Teacher Violet Smith after 42 years, left, Pupil Support Assistant, Abigail Weinberg with 15 years and Kitchen Supervisor, Katherine -Ann Munro with 24 years

all stepped down from their posts this summer. However, although she is retiring, Miss Smith will temporarily stay on until and new head teacher is appointed.
Photograph Iain Ferguson, alba. photos.

Masons' gifts

The brethren of Fort William's Lodge 43 dug deep into their own pockets when they heard that the Belford Hospital was in need of a specialist cardiac monitor which can be worn by patients in their own home and raised enough money for its purchase. In the course of lockdown the Lodge has also carried out other good works in supplying £500 worth of toiletries to NHS staff in the Belford, along with iPads to Invernevis House and Moss Park Care Homes, allowing residents to stay in touch with friends and family. They have also helped local businesses in premises owned by the Lodge to stay open.
Lodge 43 Warden Graham Kelly met with Health Support Worker Wendy MacDonald and Chief Cardiac Physiologist Kathy Tighe to hear how useful the new equipment has been.

Wheels keep turning for Lochaber Rotary

Lochaber Rotary has appointed its new President for 2020-21, writes Fiona Scott.

Reverend Richard Baxter received the chain of office from 2019-20 President Clive Talbot at the Peace Memorial in Fort William on Wednesday, July 8 during a Zoom meeting. A video of the handover was shared.

'Since we cannot have our normal meetings in the Alexandra Hotel at present, this part of the Parade seemed like the perfect place for the handover,' said Clive.

Richard explained that the bell-tower in the middle of the monument came from the old Maryburgh Church (later the Town Hall), the successor of which, Duncansburgh MacIntosh.

'The monument has a plaque unveiled in 1995 to mark the 50th anniversary of the end of the Second World War, and this year is the 75th anniversary of that milestone,' he



continued. It marks the friendship between Fort William, Dudley and Hiroshima, and contains the words "May we all work together for peace and goodwill and live together as one great family", words that are very close to the heart of Rotary's values. 'Finally, the back of the monument

has a plaque bearing the words "Rotary and Peace the world over". It would be hard to think of a more fitting place.'
Lochaber Rotary has been serving the community since 1949, and marked its own 70th anniversary during Clive's presidency.

A socially distanced handover of the Rotary chain of office from retiring President Clive Talbot, right, to new incumbent, Rev Richard Baxter.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos.

Asked about plans for the year ahead, Richard Baxter said: 'Many of our regular activities cannot go ahead during the Covid-19 outbreak, but we are meeting online, and planning a series of events.'

'We will focus on supporting a wide range of local causes and helping local businesses to recover from the effects of the pandemic, and we will support Rotary's international work on eradicating polio and a range of other humanitarian causes.'

Lochaber Rotary continue to welcome members of any age, gender, race or background interested in sharing in service to the community and enjoying friendship together.

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OPEN FOR BUSINESS

We are publishing this information **in association with** Lochaber Chamber of Commerce. Featuring the businesses in Lochaber that are open and able to offer vital products and services to our community during the current Covid-19 pandemic. Many of these businesses are working under extreme pressure to bring quality products and services to the people of Lochaber and beyond. Please remember to exercise caution when shopping and only shop for essential supplies. Along with our wonderful NHS staff and carers, our local food, fuel, news platforms and home supply businesses are our community champions!

We realise that many more businesses would love to be open, serving locals and visitors alike – our deepest empathy goes out to these businesses and we look forward to seeing their doors wide open when this is all over.
Please feel free to get in touch with us if you would like to feature your business, or know a business that should be included. Email nmurphy@obantimes.co.uk or get in touch via our Facebook page on messenger. Let's spread the word as much as we can!

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NHS/Key Worker Priority Hour: Tuesday/Thursday 9am-10am Sunday 9am-10am. Vulnerable customers Monday 9am-10am, Wednesday 9am-10am, Friday 9-10am

TAKEAWAY FOOD

THE GEOGRAPHER

Open for orders Fri-Sun, from 4.30pm
Order from 2.30pm
See FB page for full menu
Delivery service
Tel: 01397 705011

SPICE TANDOORI

Open daily from 4pm
Phone orders only
Payment preferred over telephone by card
Deliveries from 5pm
Tel: 01397 705192

MACARI'S FISH & CHIPS

Order via JustEat
Order from 3.30pm for collection from 4pm.
Social distancing rules apply for queuing customers
Tel: 01397 703333

BEN NEVIS TAKEAWAY

Inverlochty
Pizza!
Place your order via JustEat or
Tel: 01397706171

THE STABLES RESTAURANT

Extensive takeaway available with weekend specials.
Tel: 01397 700730, Wed-Sat, 5pm-9pm
Contactless collection service.

TORLINNHE GUEST HOUSE

Starts next week
3-course special menu and Healthy Juice menu
Collection from Achintore Road.
20% discount for NHS workers
Visit Facebook page for more information

CAFE MANGO

Special take-away menu
From Friday 1st May and every Tuesday to Sunday.
Place orders from 2pm on 01397 698183.
Delivery service or open to one-person collection
Check FB page for full menu

LOCHSIDE BRASSERIE AT THE WHISPERING PINE LODGE

Now Open
Drive-in takeaway and delivery
11am-2.30pm and 5pm-9pm
Tel: 01397 713966 or 07903 082501
Spean Bridge, PH34 4DZ

CRAFTS & THINGS, GLENCOE

Café open for takeaway food, 3rd to 5th July. Café open for takeaway and outdoor area seating, 6th to 14th July. Open as normal from 15th July. 10am-4pm weekdays, 9.30-4pm weekends. T. 01855 811325 W. www.craftsandthings.co.uk

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We are



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LOCH LEVEN SEAFOOD CAFÉ, ONICH

Open for takeaway from 9th July, Thurs / Fri / Sat only, from shop. 01855 821048 www.lochlevenseafoodcafe.co.uk

LOCAL FRESH FOOD SUPPLIERS

LOCHABER LARDER

Blar Mhor Ind. Estate
Collection or delivery
Shop open: 9am-1pm, Tues to Sat for collection
In conjunction with Iain Stewart Fishmonger, JM Breckenridge and Glen Spean Brewery
Great selection of meats, fish, vegetables, eggs, milk, butter and flour
Check out FB for list of details
Order by 1pm for next day delivery
Fort William and surrounding area, Mon-Sat
Mallaig Tues & Thurs
Strontian & Acharacle Wed
Kinlochleven & Ballachulish Thurs
Spean Bridge & Roy Bridge Sat
Telephone orders: 01397 703070

IAIN STEWART FISHMONGER

Collection or delivery – Blar Mhor Ind. Estate
Open 9am-1pm Tues to Sat
lobster, langoustine, kings scallops, mussels, also fresh in from peterhead fish Market
wild halibut, monkfish, Haddock, lemon sole, hake, cod
Deliveries available outwith these hours
Check out Facebook for updates
Tel orders: 07795 232324

THE WILDCAT

Fort William
Open 11am-4pm
Tues, Thurs, Sat
Doors closed but we will assist at the door
Usual selection of delicious vegan food
Ordering in advance helps.
Wildcat.groceries@gmail.com

FOOD LOCHABER

We're back soon!
Orders for locally grown fresh produce open on Thursday 23rd April, and we'll deliver safely to your doorstep on the 30th. There's never been a more important time to shop locally and support small scale growers in the community.
Visit: www.foodlochaber.org for more info.

WILDCAT

Vegetables!
Deliveries can be arranged locally please pre-order fruit and vegetables. Check FB for catalogue. Please place orders by 2pm Sundays for delivery to us the following Thursday. If you can't collect, have a delivery from us on the Thursday, we can keep fruit and veg for you for the Saturday or following Tuesday.

ARDSHEALACH SMOKEHOUSE & FINE FOODS

Glenuig
Order online: www.smokedproduce.com
Tel: 01687 470266

NEVIS BAKERY

Fort William shop closed to the public but products available from Road to the Isles filling station, Spar Claggan, Grange Stores, Co-op stores in Caol, Corpach and Mallaig
Tel: 01397 772087

BUILDING, PLUMBING, DIY SUPPLIES

LBS

the shop floor is closed to non-staff. emailed orders/enquiries preferred.
alternatively by phone
sales@lochaberdry.co.uk or 01397 700350
orders will be left out the back of our yard at a pre-arranged time.

deliveries may be possible but please enquire first. we will try our best to accommodate.

H.I.S

Call/email to order then collect
Open 8am-5pm Mon-Fri for collections

Telephone your order ahead on 01397 705159
Visit: www.hisltd.co.uk

MACTAVISH PLUMBING & HEATING

Open for emergency call-outs
Tel: 07547 237737

LEGAL SERVICES

MACPHEE & PARTNERS

Available: Mon-Fri 9am - 5pm
We remain fully available to assist with your legal and property matters – with protective measures in place. Providing a local and personal service in these difficult times.
Tel: 01397701000
Email: law@macphee.co.uk

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
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 (Mallaig)
E. contact@morarmotorskyel.com (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

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

Open Tues-Sat, 10am-1pm for private viewings by arrangement and 2-5pm open with restricted numbers.
Online sales also available: www.holroydgallery.co.uk e. sarah@holroydgallery.co.uk t. 01855 821277

GLEN SPEAN BREWERY

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See FB for full menu and pricelist
www.glenspeanbrewing.com

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Beautiful gift items available and gift vouchers available on the website.
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T: 07443656528

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Skirr is the sustainable solution for adventure and endurance athletes who love nature and the outdoors.
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

Open, 0915-1715, Monday to Saturday, 1015-1615, Sunday
W: 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

Open, 12-4pm, Monday to Saturday T. 01397 703651 W. www.granitehousefortwilliam.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
T: 07443656528

CRAFTS & THINGS, GLENCOE

Gift and book shop open, 10am-4pm weekdays, 9.30-4pm weekends. T. 01855 811325 W. www.craftsandthings.co.uk

TOOLS & TACKLE, BALLACHULISH

Open, 10am-12.30pm, Mon-Sat. T. 01855 811111 W. www.toolsandtackle.co.uk

THE HIGHLAND BOOKSHOP

Open, 12-4pm Monday to Saturday T. 01397 705931 W. www.highlandbookshop.com/

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
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

LOCHABER HOPE

Running a fully remote service.
Tel: 01397 704836,
email: reception@lochaberhope.org.uk
FB: lochaberhope or 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/ Contact: e. 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/

SHIEL BUSES AND CITYLINK

Both companies continue to run reduced timetable for essential journeys
www.shielbuses.co.uk
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
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.kinlochlaichgardencentre.co.uk
T: 07881525754

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Primary pupils tackle SLT virtual challenges

by Fiona Scott
fscott@obantimes.co.uk



Pupils from Kinlochleven, Ballachulish and Duror Primary schools took part in the week long event which saw players and officials from the community football club set daily video challenges for the children to tackle.

Organised by Leah Burns, principle teacher of KASG, the event took place from Monday, June 22 to Friday June 26. Each morning the children would come together virtually for an online meet during which

Miss Burns would go through the task for the day, including a warm up, two challenges and a cool down. The challenges were pre-recorded by members of both the men's and ladies football teams. In turn the children sent videos of themselves undertaking the challenges back to the school.

'We have had some really good feedback from the kids and parents and I had a fantastic week,' said Miss Burns.

'We truly couldn't have done this without South Lochaber Thistle and their encouraging, motivating and sometimes hi-

larious videos and the support of the parents and the children who worked so hard.'

Setting the pace for the week, SLT players Hanna Dougan and Barna Tot through down the gauntlet with the first two tests which included a squat and balance challenge where the children balanced a toilet roll on their head and completed as many squats as possible.

President Peter Newman and women's team player Kirsty Delaney took the lead on day two when an 'around the world' challenge saw the children passing an object round

their body as many times as possible. Balls, teddies, water bottles and oranges all proved useful props for this one.

Wednesday brought an aim and throw challenge as part of the tasks set by SLT women's team captain Debbie Davidson and former player Charlotte Adam-Prosser who has recently signed for Edinburgh City Ladies. This one measured how many times the participants could throw rolled up socks in to a basket or bin in the space of a minute.

Athletics was the name of the game on day four with two of the fastest players at the club, men's team captain and record

'The children loved that SLT were involved and particularly enjoyed Alan joining in with the meets for the last two challenges.'

goal scorer Martin Munro and women's team player Natalie Macdonald, setting challenges that involved the plank, touching the ground and jumping in the air as many times as they could.

The final day saw veteran player David Forbes set a ninja challenge and manager Alan (Spud) Gray demonstrated a dress-up challenge which involved seeing how many items of clothing you could do in a minute. Everyone was invited to join in with this one, pro-



Alan Gray, Manager of South Lochaber Thistle.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

ducing hilarious results. Gray also joined the virtual meeting on the final day to congratulate the pupils on their hard work and to tell them all to make sure that they, 'stay active, keep smiling and have fun,' throughout their holidays.

Miss Burns added: 'The best part of the week was the community spirit, all starting with the involvement of parents who joined in with many of the challenges as well as helping out with video, time keeping and tallying scores.'

'The children enjoyed working with their siblings

and commenting on each other's videos to support each other. They loved that SLT were involved and particularly enjoyed Alan joining in with the meets for the last two challenges.'

A virtual awards ceremony was held last Monday when certificates for various levels of participation were sent out.



Children competed in a variety of challenges, set by South Lochaber Thistle football club, during the week.



What we are doing to help

- We are continuing to bring you accurate and trustworthy news in-paper and online
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Keeping our community informed

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

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

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