

The Oban Times
we ♥ local

Research shows that for every £1 spent with a local, independent business, between 50p-70p circulates back into that local economy

THANK YOU

Every time you pick up a copy of The Oban Times you are not just helping one local business but a whole range of local businesses

Charity opens its caravan at Tralee for bereaved families

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



A charity giving bereaved families a break gets the keys to its first respite caravan later this month.

Thanks to overwhelming support of well wishers, Anam Cara Fasgadh will start welcoming families to its luxury caravan at Tralee Bay Holiday Park near Oban on August 1.

The charity's Michael McGuire said there is already a waiting list of child-loss families desperately needing the safe haven it can provide after just 14 months of fundraising.

Mr McGuire of Caol, Fort William and his wife Rachel lost their son Kyle when he was stillborn almost 32 weeks into her pregnancy in May 2009.

The couple were at Tralee Bay recently with their six-year-old daughter Amelie, who has been helping with fundraising, to view the caravan for the first time.

Mr McGuire said: 'This caravan will become a lifeline



Susan and Andrew Simpson with daughters Charis and Niamh at the Tralee Bay caravan.

for many families, especially now when times are even more difficult because of coronavirus. All being well, people will be able to come here to spend time that they need with loved one and it won't cost them a penny.'

The charity's ambition is to open up a network of similar caravans and cabins at peaceful holiday park locations around the UK but lots more funds will be needed to make it happen.

Lockdown meant the can-

cellation of many events it had planned for this year including a Ben Nevis Night Climb Challenge, now moved to next June.

Co-founder Susan Simpson, who lost two babies Alex and Eilidh Beth, said: 'Our

first caravan is already in big demand. We're getting more and more enquiries and our calendar is filling up. Our own family knows first-hand how special a space like this can be when you have experienced losing a child.'

Her other daughters Niamh, 11, and Charis who is 15, were among the first alongside the McGuire family to get a sneak-peak inside the new caravan with dad Andrew.

Anam Cara Fasgadh is there to help families who have lost a baby, child or young person – its name in Gaelic means love and shelter for bereaved souls.

The caravan at Tralee, sleeping a family of four with two bathrooms and decking overlooking a lake, is just a few minutes stroll from the beach.

Earlier this month, the charity was also gifted a family week in a caravan by the owner of Port Ban Holiday Park at Kilberry near Tarbert.

'We appreciate everyone's help so much, it has got us to

this milestone and we hope there will be more to come with people's loving support,' said Mrs Simpson.

To kit it out the already furnished caravan at Tralee, the charity has drawn up a wish list on its website including home-from-home essentials like pots and pans and a storage shed.

Support is also needed to help make-up welcome packs for visiting families including local produce, gift vouchers, eating out tokens and children's craft activities.

And the charity will also be funding their own mascot teddies for families to take home as keepsakes.

In the UK each year an estimated 17,000 plus families are bereaved through stillbirth or the death of an infant, child or young person up to the age of 25 – more than 250,000 others experience a miscarriage.

To find out more about Anam Cara Fasgadh and how you can help or get its help, visit www.anamcarafasgadh.org



SUMMER BED SALE - ON NOW!

Beds | Mattresses
Headboards | Bunks

mathesons
FURNISHINGS

Store Open: Tues - Fri: 9am - 5.30pm | Sat: 9.30am - 5pm

Tweedmill, Soroba Rd, Oban | 01631 565195 | info@mathesons.co.uk | mathesons.co.uk

OT

Clash over capacity on Oban-Mull ferry

by Ellis Butcher
ebutcher@obantimes.co.uk



West Coast Motors and Caledonian MacBrayne have clashed over the capacity on ferries going to Mull.

Colin Craig, managing director of West Coast Motors, warned that its Mull Tours coach business, which takes sightseers on coach trips, is in jeopardy unless passenger capacity is extended on the lifeline Oban-Mull service.

But Robert Morrison, operations director at CalMac, said it could not allocate more space onboard to passengers from a 'private company at the expense of residents and other island businesses'.

The disagreement went public following a statement by the Oban and Lorn Tourism Alliance (OLTA) in support of West Coast Motors and backed by BID4Oban.

Mr Craig, a long-standing OLTA member, warned that the Mull Tours business is facing the 'very difficult prospect' of shutting down with the loss of approximately 12 members of staff, mainly based on the island, which he called a 'disaster' for tourism on Mull and the wider Oban



Colin Craig, MD of West Coast Motors, warned that its Mull Tours coach business is in jeopardy unless passenger capacity is extended on the lifeline Oban-Mull service.

area. He said other ferry operators are now carrying 56 per cent of capacity but claimed the Mull ferry was running at only 17 per cent. Mr Craig suggested CalMac had delayed implementing the one-metre rule permitted by the Scottish Government last week.

Mr Craig added: 'From information I have received, the outer deck areas remain closed as does the cafeteria and lounge. Why? It is a question that both OLTA and BID4Oban want answered. As communities and busi-

nesses pull together to get our area through this crisis it is extremely worrying that CalMac appears to be behind the curve.'

But CalMac said in response that it had implemented the change and capacity on the Mull service is now up to 35 per cent. The only area closed is the 'forward cafe' which had been allocated to staff for meal breaks to maintain social distancing measures, said CalMac.

Mr Morrison, for CalMac, added: 'Our contract would not allow for us to allocate 30

per cent of available capacity of a sailing to a private company at the expense of residents and other island businesses. That would be unfair to all other passengers.

'We sympathise entirely with anybody that is seeing their business affected just now but these capacities on each ferry have been arrived at through our expert marine managers, working with health and safety managers and the Scottish Government.'

Passenger and staff health were the company's 'top priorities,' CalMac added.

Linda Battison, OLTA marketing director, said it was crucial that the island's tourism industry is not 'hamstrung' by a lack of capacity on the vital ferry service.

'Oban has always been the Gateway to the Isles and whilst we encourage visitors to spend time on the mainland, the attraction of easily accessible islands gives us a unique selling point,' she said.

'Our tourism industry will suffer if visitors cannot easily travel between the two destinations and Muileachs, too, will be prevented from shopping on the mainland - so this is not just about tourists.'

The Nine broadcasts live from North Pier

BBC Scotland's The Nine was broadcast live from Oban last Wednesday night on the week that many businesses reopened for the first time in months, writes Fiona Scott.

Presenter Rebecca Curran was joined by chief news correspondent James Cook on North Pier for the live broadcast with the former carrying out interviews with Bid4Oban's Andrew Spence, town ambassador Kay MacDonald and tour guide Irianni Munoz.

The town appeared on the hour-long news programme due to it being one of the hardest hit financially because of the effect lockdown has had on its tourism sector, with cruises, bus tours and events all cancelled over the summer and for the foreseeable future.

When asked if the town was capable of getting enough people back to make up the deficit Mr Spence commented: 'I am quite concerned about the situation. We have a significant amount of trade to make up and that is going to be a real uphill struggle for all of us.'

'We never write anything off, however, and one of the things the Bid organisation prides itself on is its ability to be able to extend the season.'

'We now have a highly successful Winter Festival in November and are fast becoming an all-year-round destination. It's going to be very

difficult but what is good to see that hotels and self catering units are seeing bookings pick up again.

'What we have to do now is ensure that we get that safety message across, make sure that we are operating safely and that our tourists are safe when they come here.'

Among the many devastating blows to the town over the last 100 or so days has been the loss of revenue from 22,000 cruise ship passengers along with a multitude of coach tours and event cancellations.

Town Ambassador Kay MacDonald said: 'Oban is such a warm, friendly place and it has been really sad seeing it so quiet.'

'Over the last week, however, there has been a real buzz about the place as the shops and cafes open up again which is fantastic.'

'I don't think there is anywhere quite like Oban. No matter what the weather there is always something here to attract people and when they are ready to return we will be here and ready to welcome them back.'

The show also featured footage and interviews from Eeusk, the Royal Hotel, the Ranald Hotel, Manor House, and Mark Mitchell, Sea Kayak Oban, with soundbites also used for Drivetime on BBC Radio Scotland.



WE ARE OPEN AS NORMAL!

Mon-Fri: 8.30am - 5pm, Sat: 9am-1pm

AUTO REPAIRS LTD



We look forward to seeing our customers again!

ACCIDENT REPAIR CENTRE WE ARE NOT JUST A BODY SHOP
VEHICLE SERVICING + MECHANICAL REPAIRS • VEHICLE DIAGNOSTICS
4 WHEEL ALIGNMENT • AIR-CON SERVICING • GENERAL MOTOR REPAIRS



Glengallan Industrial Estate, Oban. Tel: 01631 566009
email: info@cjautos-oban.co.uk www.cjautos-oban.co.uk

KENNETH FERGUSON

ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR LTD

YOUR LOCAL SOLAR PV INSTALLER

CONVERTS DAYLIGHT IN TO ELECTRICITY

- CUTS YOUR ELECTRICITY BILLS
- REDUCES CARBON FOOTPRINT
- TAX FREE SAVINGS
- FREE NO OBLIGATION SURVEY







Morar House, Connel, Argyll PA37 1PA
 Tel: 01631 710862 Mobile: 07917 167477 Web: fergusonelectrical.co.uk

Tributes paid to brave Brian

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



A send off fit for a hero is being planned by family and friends of retired firefighter Brian MacDonald who battled motor neurone disease.

Although only close family will be able to attend the 43-year-old's funeral at St Columba's Cathedral in Oban on Monday. A big turn-out, including uniformed former colleagues, is expected along the route of his last journey through the town.

A fire engine will lead the funeral procession from the cathedral on the esplanade through the town up to the fire station and then back through Oban before heading to Cardross Crematorium. Mass for Brian starts at 10am.

Diagnosed 17 months ago with the muscle-wasting condition MND, he was with family when he had a heart attack and died on July 15. He was leaving Lorn & Islands Hospital after a few days stay when he took ill in the car park and had to be rushed into A&E.

His brother John Bruce MacDonald and sister Tia MacDonald, who were both with him when he passed away, led the tributes.

'A diagnosis of MND would destroy and break most people, but not Brian. He kept his smile and humour until the very end. He still had all the patter and banter. You could never meet a stronger guy. He made a huge impact on anyone he met. Just a minute in Brian's company and you'd go away



Brian with his mum Annie at Ganavan just a few weeks ago; Brian with his sister Tia; and below, Brian on his much-loved Barra. He had hoped to visit his family home one more time.

feeling you'd known him for years. He had a heart of gold and would go the extra mile to help anyone,' said John Bruce.

And Tia added: 'Although he was only 43, he must've lived his life many times. Everyone has a story to share about him and that's what is keeping us going right now.'

Brian's family also thanked

his 'first-class' private care team and MND nurse Kitty Millar for their support.

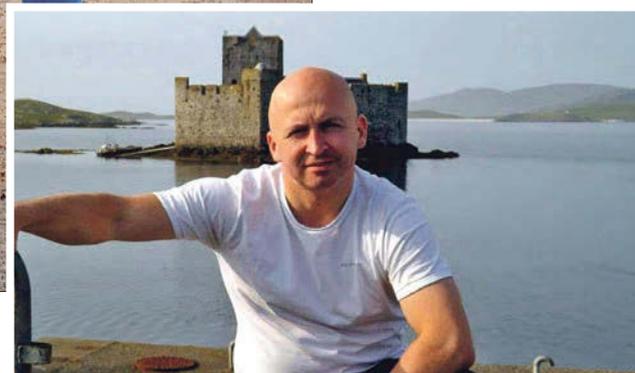
More than 1,000 people responded to the family's Facebook post to remember Brian's smile, charm, strength and courage.

Family friend George Berry who fundraised more than £2,000 last year to help Brian

live life to the full, said the world had lost one of its good guys.

He said: 'He was such a great guy, a good guy, a peace-loving man, a gentleman through and through, who will never leave my memory. The world is a lesser place without him. I wish he'd been given more time and beaten this cursed illness.

'He kept his smile and humour until the very end. He made a huge impact on anyone he met. You could never meet a stronger guy.'



Brian had been hoping to take part in the largest ever pioneering clinical trial of drugs tackling motor neurone disease, but Covid halted it. He had signed up with the likes of rugby legend Doddie Weir.

In an interview in April, Brian told The Oban Times his condition was deteriorating and he had been recording a voice bank funded by the Fire Fighters Charity because losing his voice and sense of humour would be his 'worst case scenario'.

During his career in Glasgow, he attended some of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service's biggest incidents. He was part of the emergency response sent to the Clutha bar on November 29, 2013, after a police helicopter plummeted through its roof, killing seven people and all three crew members.

He also responded to the George Square bin lorry crash in December 2014 which killed six and injured 15 others just days before Christmas.

He said at his retirement ceremony at Oban Fire Station in January that being a firefighter was 'the best job in the world'. The fire service was a huge part of his life, with over 164 years of service from members of his family, including his dad, brother, uncle and cousins.

Chief Officer of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Martin Blunden said: 'Brian was a unique individual - a real connector of people, truly passionate about being a firefighter and above all, a family man.'

Safer Summer Days Out



Find out everything you need to know to enjoy a fun-packed, safe summer in our 4 page guide later in today's edition.

Produced in partnership with the UK Government

All together >

OT

Strathfillan councillors step down

A long-standing member of Strathfillan Community Council has stepped down after 15 years of service to villages including Crianlarich, Tyndrum and Inverarnan.

Alan Smailes, of Crianlarich, last served as chairman for four years and previously held positions of vice chairman and secretary for three years. He has formally resigned from the community council which has not met since the pandemic.

Mr Smailes said he had intended to continue up to the next election but felt with the coronavirus it was the right time to go.

Also stepping down is vice chairman Ian Marett.



One-way pavement plan for Oban town centre

On-street parking could be removed from parts of Oban's town centre – temporarily at least – in a bid to make social distancing easier, under proposals by Argyll and Bute Council, writes Ellis Butcher.

The authority has begun a survey to gauge views from residents and businesses on implementing one-way pavements on Dunollie Road and on George Street from Breadalbane Street to Stafford Street, with people walking in different directions on each side of the road.

The council has also proposed pedestrian lane markings on George Street from Stafford Street to Argyll Square, and a one-way system on the Corran Esplanade, from Stafford Street to the Corran Halls.

The survey also asks those taking part to consent to agreement being sought with Transport Scotland for the removal of on-street parking



on the affected roads. The proposals have been made after the council received £315,000 from the Spaces for People programme to deliver temporary infrastructure to enable safer access for people who are walking, cycling or on wheels during the Covid pandemic.

The council said: 'Oban is our

busiest town for visitors and tourists, and we expect visitor numbers to rise as our tourism industry reopens.

'Our focus has been to identify temporary options to enable residents and visitors to safely maintain social distancing and therefore feel safe when visiting Oban town centre.

'We have identified these for a number of the key streets in Oban and would like to understand your preferred options.

'On the A85 Dunollie Road there is only a narrow footway on the west side of the road. We are proposing an advisory pedestrian one-way route on this footway.

'On the A85 George Street from Breadalbane Street (near the Phoenix Cinema) to Stafford Street (Oban Distillery) we propose to introduce an advisory pedestrian one-way system on the footways, with pedestrians

asked to walk towards the town centre on one side of the road and away from the town centre on the other side of the road.

Argyll and Bute Council is encouraging people to engage with the public consultations concerning one-way pavement plans for Oban and Tobermory to help with social distancing. The consultation runs until July 26.

asked to walk towards the town centre on one side of the road and away from the town centre on the other side of the road.

'On the A85 George Street from Stafford Street (Oban Distillery) to the Argyll Square, we propose to introduce pedestrian lane markings on the inland footway to create two pedestrian 'lanes' to enable two-way use of the footway along front of shops.

'On the A85 Corran Esplanade from Stafford Street to the Corran Halls we propose to introduce an advisory pedestrian one-way system on the continuous seaward footway.

'An additional option to temporarily create additional space for pedestrians to social distance would be to remove some of the on-street parking in Oban.

'As the A85 is a trunk road, the road including the on-

street parking is controlled by Transport Scotland.'

The Spaces for People programme is funded by Transport Scotland and administered by Sustrans.

Councillor Alastair Redman, the council's policy lead for economic growth, said: 'We have some initial ideas on how we help reopen our towns. Before putting anything in place, we want to consult with local businesses and residents first to find out what they think. We need to create more space for people to move around safely and use our local businesses as they open up.'

'Consultations will be online and will be done quickly as it is vital people are given the opportunity to start getting out and making use of our town centres again as safely as possible. I would urge everyone to give us your views.'

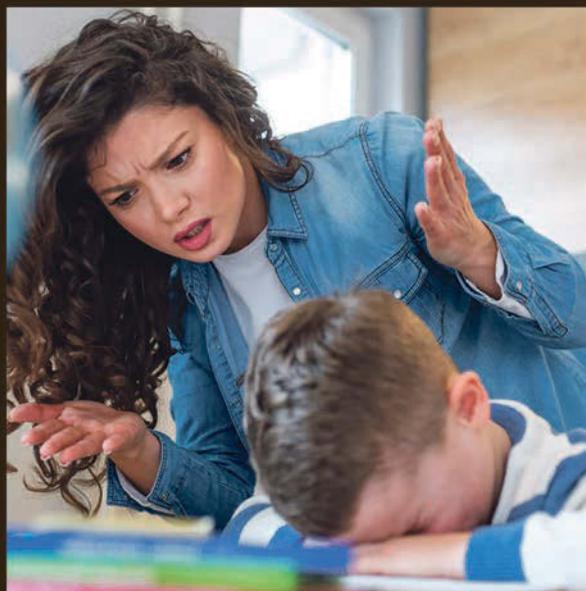
The survey can be accessed at the council website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/consultations/spaces-people-engagement-survey

The consultation is open until Sunday July 26.

A similar consultation is under way for Tobermory where the idea is that parking facilities are temporarily removed from part of Tobermory's Main Street to enable people to socially distance better.

The authority has begun a survey to gauge views from residents and businesses on the plans for the stretch of the street between the Ledaig car park and the Back Brae.

Home schooling been a nightmare? Fed up with temper tantrums when reading?



Your child has just lost 4 months of schooling

Vision Therapy can help make up that lost time

To find out how Vision Therapy can help your child please contact 01631 563170 for an initial "no cost" consultation.

As accredited members of The British Association of Behavioural Optometrists and having undertaken many hundreds of hours of specialist training, Wallace Optometrists are uniquely placed to help you child achieve maximum success in life.

WALLACE optometrists
11-12 Argyll Square, Oban, Argyll PA34 4AZ
01631 563170

Kodak and the Kodak trade dress are trademarks of Kodak used under license by Signet Armolite, Inc

Kodak LENS VISION CENTRE

Appeal made for more foster carers

More foster carers are needed across Argyll to offer children a secure and loving home, writes Kathie Griffiths.

Argyll and Bute Council has put out an appeal for people interested in finding out more to get in touch with a view to applying to become a foster carer.

The local authority says it is always on the look out for more foster carers to come forward.

It says there is a 'variety of reasons' why foster homes are in such need, either on a temporary basis while plans are made for children's future or for a longer time if they are unable to go back to their family.

Policy Lead for Social Care,

Councillor Kieron Green said young people deserve a 'caring, stable environment' and is backing the appeal.

He said: 'Every child deserves to live in a safe, loving home but unfortunately that's not always possible. That's why we need people in our communities to help – to give a child a chance.'

'There are a number of reasons why children and young people can't remain with their own families and need to be looked after and accommodated.'

'We need more foster carers to provide these young people with the caring, stable environment they deserve and we are calling on mem-

bers of the public to help.' Foster carers can come from a variety of backgrounds. As long as you are over 21, factors including age, marital status and sexuality do not matter.

'The most important thing for us is that we match the children with people who we believe will give them love and stability.'

'If you are interested and think that you could help make a difference to a young person's life. Please do get in touch with us,' added Councillor Green.

Interested? Visit www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/social-care-and-health/fostering, email FPduty@argyll-bute.gov.uk or call 01546 605517 to talk to someone.



Mr Patrick Stewart, who is retiring as Lord Lieutenant after 33 years of service to Her Majesty The Queen and Argyll and Bute.

Dedication, dignity and duty – the mark of a Lord-Lieutenant

'He has carried out his role with the utmost dignity and dedication to duty.'

These were the words of praise for Lieutenant colleagues as Patrick Stewart embarked on his final week in the role of Lord-Lieutenant of Argyll and Bute.

Due to retire on Saturday, July 25, Mr Stewart has served the Lieutenancy of Argyll and Bute since his first appointment as a Depute Lieutenant in 1987 and then in the role of Vice Lieutenant in 2002. He was appointed Lord-Lieutenant of Argyll and Bute by Her Majesty The Queen in 2011.

During that time he has been involved in numerous Royal visits to the area and marking special occasions in Argyll and Bute – including The Queen's Golden and Diamond Jubilees in 2002 and 2012 respectively, and Her 90th Birthday Celebrations in 2016.

On behalf of Her Majesty, he has overseen numerous awards presentations to people and organisations across Argyll and Bute who have made outstanding contributions to

community life – including the Oban Times' David Buchanan – an area of Lieutenancy work in which Patrick has been particularly active.

He has also played a part in other, perhaps more personal celebrations. A duty in which he has taken great pleasure is marking the special occasions of local people, such as 100th and 105th birthdays, and Diamond and Platinum Wedding anniversaries, making presentations on behalf of Her Majesty The Queen. A matter of considerable personal pleasure was his presentation of a 105th birthday card to his mother, Mrs Ailsa Stewart who, like Patrick, still lives in Campbeltown.

A key achievement of Patrick's tenure was the co-ordination of Argyll and Bute's First World War Centenary Commemorations. This already-significant task brought with it additional gravitas and importance when it became apparent that the 2018 centenary commemorations in Islay would attract very considerable international attention.

While each of the centenary

events, in Oban, Helensburgh and Dunoon were successfully realised, the 2018 commemoration provided the greatest test. This brought together HRH The Princess Royal with numerous international and national politicians, dignitaries, local residents and overseas visitors – plus a fleet of international warships – for a series of events on Islay to mark the loss of the SS Tuscania and the HMS Otranto. With Patrick at the helm, employing his characteristic commitment and attention to detail, this put Argyll and Bute on the international stage, as well providing a very fitting and moving memorial for the lost, saved and the rescuers.

A particular personal highlight was his appointment as a Companion of the Royal Victorian Order in the 2020 Queen's New Year Honours. While perhaps no surprise to others given his many years of service, Patrick was humbled and delighted at the award, which is made at the personal behest of Her Majesty The Queen to mark dedicated service to the monarchy.

First female appointment for Lieutenancy in Argyll and Bute

Argyll and Bute will have its first female Lord-Lieutenant following the appointment of Mrs Jane MacLeod, confirmed by Her Majesty the Queen on July 14.

The current Lord-Lieutenant, Mr Patrick Stewart CVO MBE WS, is due to retire on Saturday, July 25, after 33 years of service to the Lieutenancy of Argyll and Bute, and nine years as the Queen's official representative to the area.

Mrs MacLeod was first appointed to the Lieutenancy in 2006 and is currently the Vice Lieutenant for Argyll and Bute.

Over the past 14 years she has been involved in all aspects of Lieutenancy business, including playing a key role in Royal visits, participating in the honours system and supporting Argyll and Bute's twelve Depute Lieutenants.

The Lord-Lieutenant Patrick Stewart said: 'I was most pleased to hear that



Jane MacLeod will take up her new post on Saturday.

Her Majesty the Queen had confirmed the appointment of Jane MacLeod to the role of Lord-Lieutenant. Jane has been a tremendous support to the Lieutenancy and to me over the past several years.

'She is passionate about seeing Argyll and Bute and its people thrive and has played a very active part in community life over the years. She will make a first-class Lord-Lieutenant and I wish her all the very best in this new role.'

I know she will bring to it her characteristic dedication and commitment.'

Mrs MacLeod added: 'It is an immense privilege and honour to be appointed by Her Majesty to serve as Her Lord-Lieutenant in Argyll and Bute. I have very much enjoyed working with Patrick and the Lieutenancy over the years. I am absolutely delighted to be appointed and I am very much looking forward to embarking on this new challenge.'

Following Mr Stewart's retiral on Saturday, Mrs MacLeod will become the Lord-Lieutenant for Argyll and Bute. The role involves acting as the official representative of Her Majesty the Queen in Argyll and Bute; assisting in the arrangements for Royal visits to the area; identifying and nominating people and community groups to various national honours and awards schemes; and a range of other ceremonial duties.

MACLEOD

CONSTRUCTION LIMITED



Rock & Gravel Quarries

KILMARTIN & ACHNABA STONE®

We are delighted to be open to the public again!
Customers and staff are always MacLeods top priority and we will continue to work within Government guidelines to ensure safety for all!

www.macleodconstruction.co.uk



OT

Around Oban

KAY McDONALD

editor@obantimes.co.uk



That's the first week back at work almost done and dusted and what a shock to the system it was.

Joe and I are only part-time at the moment but even that left me bemused, but happy.

I've missed seeing people so much, but on Monday it felt really strange being surrounded by bustle again and it took a few minutes to get used to it after three months of seclusion.

The town is certainly buzzing this week and as time goes by I'm sure we'll all settle into our routines of mask wearing and sanitising.

Joe and I have been distributing new leaflets and posters around the businesses entitled 'Oban Minded' to emphasis the need for everyone to follow the advice and be kind to one another, especially as we all get used to the new ways of working which can be quite stressful until we're more confident in what we're doing.

Observe social distancing, Be considerate, Allow more time to travel, Normal

WHERE IS THIS?



service has not yet been resumed, Maintain hand hygiene, In shops and on public transport cover your face, New protocols – new ways of working, Do explore our hidden gems, Experience more, Don't leave home if you're displaying symptoms of Covid-19.

Catchy, isn't it?

If you would like copies of the leaflet or poster then please let us know by emailing info@bid4oban.co.uk or calling at the BID4Oban office on Stevenson Street which will be open until noon most days.

Last week's photograph was of the restaurant door at the Columba Hotel, which I'd never noticed before, and this week's photograph is up a side street, but which one?

TSI launches website to boost local charities

Charities and community groups in Argyll and Bute will now be able to publicise their volunteering opportunities to a much wider audience, thanks to a new website, writes Fiona Scott.

Launched this week by the Third Sector Interface (TSI) volunteerargyllandbute.org will act as a portal where organisations can advertise their volunteering requirements and volunteers can access the most up-to-date opportunities in both their local area and across the region.

The website was originally due to launch at the end of April, but because of the challenges and complexities of the recent pandemic and a desperate need for more volunteers across the county, it was repurposed for the emergency and community response. A fantastic response from volunteers wanting to register



Samantha Stubbs

with the site saw around 1,000 people signing up in the first few weeks after the launch.

Samantha Stubbs, strategic development manager for the TSI told us: 'As lockdown measures relax, many of the volunteers have asked to stay registered on the system, so there is no better time for voluntary and community organisations to tap into that reservoir of goodwill and recruit the volunteers they need in their communities.'

The new portal is easy to use and is backed up with telephone assistance from Argyll and Bute TSI.

'For charities, it provides not only a jobs board to advertise volunteering opportunities, but also a comprehensive volunteer management system to help them to schedule volunteer support, log volunteering hours, communicate with volunteers and securely manage volunteer data including PVG checks and training logs,' explained Samantha.

A spokesperson from one of the Third Sector organisations that have already tested the website said: 'The system has provided my organisation with a convenient platform to recruit volunteers for events.'

'It also provides a great medium for monitoring our volunteers and rewarding them for their efforts. We can post information about training

courses, too, meaning that our volunteers can also use it as a portal to find upskilling opportunities. If you are looking for a simple and effective way to gain and keep volunteers, I would recommend this system – it will make your life so much easier.'

Another organisation member added: 'Overall I would recommend this system to any volunteer managers who want to keep everything in one place, allowing you to have a log of voluntary hours and help you as a manager to become more efficient and effective in your role.'

If any charities or organisations would like to register a volunteering opportunity then they can do so by visiting www.volunteerargyllandbute.org. If they need any help with using the system, phone the TSI's third sector support line on 0300 303 4141.

Moving Home? Renovating?

Thinking about a multi-fuel stove or wood-burner?

We provide a professional, local service and we're open for business!

from trusted manufacturers

arada
-stoves-

hunterstoves

Mendip
Stoves

Dean
Forge

Opening hours: Open Tuesday to Saturday 10am to 5pm



STOVECRAFT

Lorne Street, Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8LU

Tel: 01546 603111

Contact us on 07470 699572 at any other time.

Kilbowie demolition would be vandalism says MSP Russell

Demolishing Kilbowie Outdoor Centre would be vandalism says MSP Michael Russell, writes Kathie Griffiths.

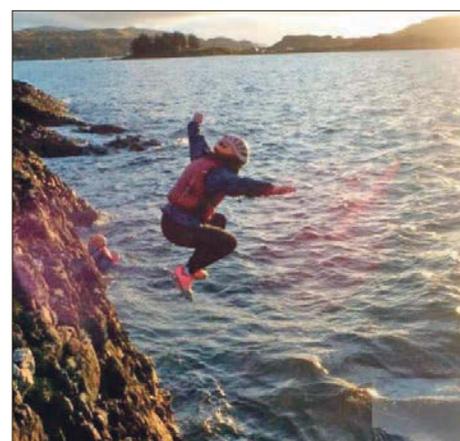
Mr Russell says North Lanarkshire Council's recent decision to close its 'great facility' in Oban was already 'educational vandalism' but said it would be 'doubly wrong' to vandalise the site as well.

North Lanarkshire Council's (NLC) own website reveals plans to offer the recently upgraded centre's main site for sale as a 'cleared site' later this year.

Mr Russell said it was an 'extraordinary' move and added: 'North Lanarkshire has been guilty of educational vandalism in closing Kilbowie, especially given the need for outdoor education.'

'If they are now intending to demolish the building, as many of the staff believe, then they will be committing actual vandalism too,' he said.

Oban councillor Roddy McCuish said the centre should be 'mothballed' during Covid uncertainty in case it could be used for emergency accommodation or extra classroom space.



Hundreds of youngsters have benefited from the centre over the years. But with the demolition of the centre thousands of primary seven children would miss out on that experience.

NLC councillors narrowly voted for the centre's closure at a policy and strategy meeting at the beginning of February despite outrage from supporters of the Save Kilbowie Outdoor Centre (SKOC) group.

A spokesperson for North Lanarkshire Council said this week: 'A procurement contract to demolish the remaining buildings at the former outdoor centre will be issued in the coming weeks. The work is expected to be completed by the end of the year and the land will then be marketed for sale.'

Kathleen Murgatroyd who

retired from Kilbowie's staff in 2005 and has been backing the SKOC group said demolition would be 'drastic' with 'no going back'.

Until Covid, all primary seven children in North Lanarkshire, about 100 miles from Oban, got the chance to attend Kilbowie every academic year while it also hosted a number of Oban community-based activities at weekends and in the holidays.

As well as employing outdoor instructors there were also Argyll and Bute Council jobs supplying catering and cleaning services.



Drone s will fly multiple routes between hospitals and medical practices across the region.

Drones trial has lift off across Argyll

by Ellis Butcher
ebutcher@obantimes.co.uk



A successful drone trial to fly medical supplies and equipment between Oban and Mull will see the service extended in September.

Drone delivery company Skyparts has announced a collaboration with Vodafone and digital consultants Deloitte to fly multiple routes between hospitals and medical practices across Argyll and Bute.

In May, Skyparts started a 'UK first' with a two-week series of test flights between Oban hospital and Mull - cutting a six-hour journey by road and ferry down to 30-minute round trips.

The next step involves a three-month project, although exact routes, islands and health care centres have yet to be finalised, with talks ongoing with the Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership.

Skyparts will establish a ground control operation centre - at a place to be decided - and start delivering pathology samples, medicine, essential PPE and Covid testing kits.

The process requires formal approval from the Civil Aviation Authority. Commercial operations for the NHS are expected to start in 2021.

NHS staff will be able to make

on-demand and scheduled requests to use Skyparts drones, via technology developed by Deloitte.

The drones will be remotely piloted and will fly automatically along predefined routes.

Communication between the drone and the ground control station will be provided using Vodafone's 4G network and satellite communications.

Extra safety measures will be put in place to ensure connectivity coverage is provided at all times, Skyparts said.

By the end of the project, it aims to fully integrate drones into the local NHS supply chain, build a route network and create a service for permanent operations.

Duncan Walker, chief executive officer at Skyparts, said: 'Using drone deliveries within supply chains can create significant time and cost savings.'

'This project is a natural progression from our recent trials with the NHS in Scotland as we scale and develop our operations, supporting a wider network of hospitals and medical practices as they continue to respond to the Covid pandemic.'

'We want more healthcare facilities to benefit from our service over the long-term and the experience of this important initiative will put us another step closer to permanent

operations that the whole of the NHS could soon benefit from.'

Anne Sheehan, of Vodafone Business UK, said: 'There will be huge benefits from the use of drones connected to the mobile network that can be flown safely and securely beyond line of sight. This is a brilliant example of how using connected drones can radically change the way things are done and really change people's lives.'

Scott Campbell, partner and leader in Deloitte Ventures, said: 'Hard-to-reach communities in Argyll and Bute will benefit from drones as an alternative to land or sea transportation. This project is a powerful example of the value that drones could bring to communities and wider society in the coming years.'

During the trials, the drone leaving Oban flew at a height of around 100m with general air space starting at 120m and upwards. It flies well below 120m to avoid collisions and uses pre-programmed routes to avoid going directly over houses.

The unmanned aerial vehicle used in the trial can cruise at 55mph, has a flight range of 62 miles and has a maximum take-off weight of 20kg.

Although its initial take-off mode generates noise, the 'aeroplane cruise mode' it flies in, is inaudible.

Redundancies loom as Oban hotel closes

A prominent hotel in Oban has closed to visitors for a second time this year with the loss of 12 jobs, writes Ellis Butcher.

The two-star Regent Hotel on the Corran Esplanade closed suddenly in January and then reopened briefly at the start of March under new management before having to shut its doors again before the month was out due to the coronavirus.

Hotel management company Bespoke Hotels, based in Warrington, had been running it on behalf of the owner.

Bespoke has confirmed that the striking Art Deco property has now been sold to another hotel firm, with the building being lined up for use as staff accommodation.

A statement from Bespoke said: 'The hotel has been sold and the new owners have decided not to operate it as a



hotel for the foreseeable future. Regrettably we have therefore been left with no option but to make the current employees roles redundant and will offer them every support as we move through this process.'

As for holidaymakers with breaks, Bespoke said there are not too many bookings in place for the property due to coronavirus having brought tourism

to a standstill. Future dates will be cancelled with a move offered to an alternative hotel within the Bespoke portfolio, or refunded, the spokesperson said.

Before the pandemic struck The Regent was described as having 'huge potential' - commanding a view across the bay, with a restaurant, lounge and bar.

UK Government
Scotland

A PLAN FOR JOBS

£1,000

TO COMPANIES FOR EVERY
FURLOUGHED WORKER STILL EMPLOYED
AS OF 31 JANUARY 2021

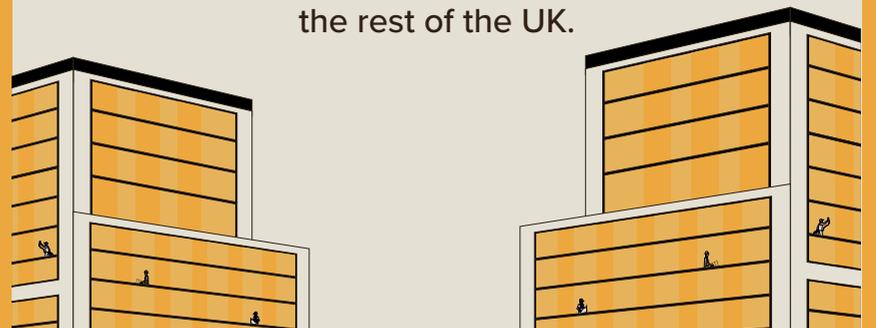
£2 BILLION

KICKSTART SCHEME TO CREATE
JOBS FOR 16-24-YEAR-OLDS

VAT CUT TO 5%

FOR TOURISM & HOSPITALITY
FOR THE NEXT 6 MONTHS

With these measures and more,
the UK Government is helping protect
livelihoods in Scotland and across
the rest of the UK.



Find out more at [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk) or search **Plan for Jobs**

OT

Archaeologist unearths more of Historic Kilbride's past

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Recycled gravestones and a drystone wall built across a ruined church's doorway to keep grazing animals out - or in - are just some of the latest discoveries being made by archaeologists at Historic Kilbride.

Archaeologist Claire Ellis spend two days on the site, three miles out of Oban at Lerags Glen, after Historic Environment Scotland gave permission for more of the church's past to be uncovered.

A stonemason has been waiting for the exploratory dig to happen first so he could start urgent work on the western gable that is crumbling and in danger of collapsing.

The work at the scheduled monument is all part of a massive conservation and restoration scheme being run



Dr Claire Ellis uncovers more of the past at Historic Kilbride, left, including this chunk of stone with the letter B carved into it.



by The Friends of Kilbride charity.

The charity says fundraising to help pay for the scheme has

been devastated by the coronavirus but members hope visitors will start to return and make generous donations

now the site has been allowed to open to the public again as a lockdown eases.

Heaps of fallen rubble, including roof tiles, overgrown with turf and vegetation, had to be removed so a doorway in the west gable could be seen clearer and the original floor level of the church revealed down to a layer of cobbles.

Included in the pile was a number of what are believed to be medieval stones, one inscribed with a single letter 'B'

and nothing else. The stones could well come from the original church that stood on the site from that era - the first mention of it is 1249. In 1671 the church there was described in records as 'altogether demolished' and in 1707 the prayer house was built. In Victorian times, the ruined walls were topped with a kind of concrete to make it look like a folly.

Chunks of white sandstone buried until last week look similar to the stone, which came from Morvern or Mull, to decorate Lismore's 13th century cathedral.

Dr Ellis also found some ironwork that could have been from a coffin or part of a lock from the 1707 prayer house, shards of plasterwork, pottery and a 50p coin from the Sixties were also in her haul.

The metre or so high drystone wall blocking the western gable door was put up in a 'rough and ready' manner and probably to keep stock in or out as the kirk grounds were used for grazing animals when the site was de-sanctified in the mid 1800s.

Trowelling also exposed a flat stone with no visible carving or lettering that could have been recycled from an earlier medieval grave to be turned upside down and used as a doorstep into the church.

Because every step of the excavation work had to be agreed in advance, Dr Ellis was not able to turn it over.

All her findings will now go into a detailed report to help the Friends of Kilbride secure more grants for future work and a copy will be sent to The National Archive in Edinburgh for posterity.

The Friends hope to have a grand opening, sticking to Covid guidelines, in few weeks time, once the stonework is finished and the west gable wall is standing strong.

The whole conservation project, covering three phases of works, could cost around £300,000 and take years to complete. A grant of £7,000 from Carraig Gheal Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund has helped but more money is needed, says chairman of Friends of Historic Kilbride, Seymour Adams.

Urgent work needs to be carried out first but a future plan could be to expose the church floor to turn into another visitor area but, 'We'd need a rich benefactor first', said Dr Ellis.

To find out more, go to friendsofkilbride.scot or visit its Facebook page.

A donation can be made by writing to Friends of Kilbride C/o The Secretary Friends of Kilbride, An Tobar, Lerags, Oban, PA34 4SE.



Friends of Historic Kilbride Seymour Adams and Liam Griffin are looking forward to welcoming back visitors and raising more funds again.

0%

FINANCE AVAILABLE

Tralee Heating Services

- LPG & Natural Gas
- Landlord & Safety certificates
- Installations
- Repairs
- Servicing

All Heating Services for domestic & leisure

T: 01631 720 255
M: 07590 440 877
E: traleebaygas@gmail.com
W: www.traleeheatingservices.co.uk

NO CALL OUT CHARGE FOR OBAN & SURROUNDING AREA.

CALLING ALL HOTELS, B&Bs, OFFICES & RESTAURANTS

Control the spread of dangerous bacteria and viruses through our specialist disinfection strategy and provide a safe working environment for staff and customers.

COVID-19: Provide protection for staff and customers

- ☑ Strategy proven effective against Coronavirus
- ☑ Equipment as used by NHS

Crowdfunding plan to help print family mystery book

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk

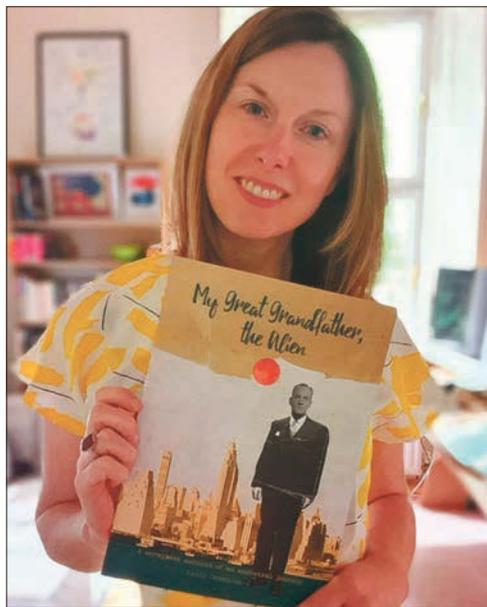


The life story of a 1920s Taynuilt ship steward who left his family to make his fortune in New York is about to be made into a graphic novel.

Thomas Carmichael's great-granddaughter Katie Carmichael has just launched a Kickstarter campaign so she can share the century-long family mystery that surrounds his life and ended in murder – or was it an accident?

Thomas Carmichael worked for David MacBrayne on highland mail steamers and was based at Oban Pier and Glenshellach Terrace until he emigrated to work for the United Fruit Company.

Thanks to Scotland's People and other family history databases, Katie was able to piece together the sketchy



Katie Carmichael with her book about her great-grandfather Thomas Carmichael, pictured above on his wedding day with his new wife, Mary.

information about Thomas to reveal details of his life and his death in Depression-era New York, a time when many Scots

were emigrating in the hope of new lives and work.

Katie, from Alloa, said: "Thomas grew up in Glasgow

and worked in Oban on RMS Plover, but shortly after he married Mary from Taynuilt his work as a ship steward kept

him at sea far more than he was ever on land. All the information our family had about him since then was his name and a story that he'd been murdered on the docks in New York.'

The book called My Great Grandfather, the Alien, is a fully illustrated scrap-book-style graphic novel, which includes illustrations created from the archival documents that helped Katie join the dots about her ancestor, bringing his story to life.

'It would mean the world to me to raise enough from the Kickstarter campaign to bring the book to print. Ultimately, I want to capture and preserve this fascinating piece of local social history for generations to come by telling Thomas's story in a graphic novel,' said Katie.

Researcher and genealogist Mary Evans, who contributes

to the BBC show Who Do You Think You Are?, said: 'Family stories passed down the generations are a wonderful way of putting flesh on the bones of our family history but they can become embellished along the way as gaps are seemingly filled and facts enhanced.'

'Katie has set out to find documentary evidence for the intriguing story of her great-grandfather, Thomas Carmichael, and the result is this fascinating and beautifully illustrated book. From the rural Highlands and Islands of Scotland to the cosmopolitan areas of New York, his life is mapped out in detail. And there is still a chance to use the imagination: was it accident or murder?'

The Kickstarter campaign for My Great Grandfather, the Alien can be found at: tiny.cc/MGGTA

SEPTIC TANK SERVICES

Callum Simpson

- ✓ SEPTIC TANK EMPTYING & CLEANING
- ✓ SEPTIC TANK INSTALLATION
- ✓ GROUNDWORKS & LANDSCAPING
- ✓ CRANE HIRE

In Partnership with
Turley Bros.



We won't be beaten on price, service or quality.

Turley Treatment Tanks

CONCRETE TANK - 40 YEAR WARRANTY

www.septictankservicesltd.com 07917358285



Accredited Installer

OT

Carers serve up a new recipe book

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Soups and starters, mains, sides and sauces, baking and sweet treats are all on the menu in the book that was the idea of Mairi Fleck who is the Learning and Development Coordinator at North Argyll Carers Centre in Oban's Albany Street.

'What do you do when you're spending 24 hours a day in the confines of your own home, shielding from an invisible virus that's spreading across the world? Eat good food, it would seem,' said Mairi.

Among the recipes are Bea's Bean Fritters, Bob's Squeaky Cheese Curry, Lorraine's Slimming Orange Chicken, Betty's Gypsy Tart, Sheila's Clottie Dumpling, Gran's Tattie Scones, Tony's Leftover Doner Kebabs, and Cathie's



Mairi Fleck tries out a recipe from the new Caring and Sharing cook book.

Easy Ice-cream. As the team at the centre changed to working from home during lockdown, Mairi started up a weekly on-

line Zoom coffee morning to keep in touch with carers and help each other get through the troubling times.

'It quickly became apparent that cooking, and eating, were important to us all and a large part of each coffee morning

consisted of us sharing recipes, suggesting recipe books to buy and lots of chat about how to avoid food waste and make things when vital ingredients were in short supply, or not available at all.

'So much talk about cooking and baking that putting our own cookery book together seemed like the right idea,' said Mairi.

Thanks to the power of social media, recipes for the book project started flowing in from carers and their families, members of staff, long lost relatives, complete strangers and virtual friends from the other side of the world.

'I've received emails, letters, phone calls, and photographs of faded handwritten recipes from treasured family cook-books,' added Mairi.

A group of five volunteer

artists and illustrators worked alongside Mairi to make the book look good and funding was received from Shared Care Scotland to make it happen.

'We have recipes in it to make for every occasion. We hope people will enjoy their culinary creations and keep on caring and sharing,' added Mairi.

The book costs £7.50 including postage and packing. To get a copy, send an email to info@northargyllcarers.org.uk, leaving your name and phone number. An assistant from the carers centre will call back to take a card payment.

YOURSTORY

share with us: editor@obantimes.co.uk
telephone 01631 568000

Play nicely, urges worried neighbour

Parents of older children playing in the tots area of an Oban play park are being asked to remind their youngsters to stay in their own fun space, writes Kathie Griffiths.

People living near the play park next to the Atlantis Leisure Centre are worried

someone could get hurt if the fives and unders area keeps being misused by children who are too big for it.

Maggie Clayton who lives near by has already raised concerns about older children playing inappropriately with some of the equipment while

smaller children are dangerously close and could be at risk.

She says a notice pointing out the area is only for fives and under is being ignored by some.

The community play park for five- to 15-year-olds had to be shut in 2018 after it failed a safety inspection because sections of flooring had become hazardous. Funding for the state-of-the-art facility, which was first opened in 2015, was raised through community fundraising events and grants.

Work to reopen the £334,000 award winning park stalled on multiple occasions due to a variety of reasons and after such a long wait, the play park finally opened at the start of this year.

The joy was short lived after its gates were locked again when the Covid outbreak struck but re-opened earlier this month as part of the Scottish Government's exit out of lockdown plan.

'It's wonderful to see children playing in the park again but it's important they all play

safe. The worry is that little ones could get hurt if bigger children are on the equipment and are misusing it. There is a notice that clearly marks out the fives and under section. It also says children need to be accompanied,' said Maggie, who recently had to asked a group of five boys, aged about 12, to leave the tots' area for causing 'mayhem'.

'I watched them for a few minutes and decided that they were either going to badly injure a toddler or damage the equipment. I went and spoke

to them, nicely of course, and after a bit of attitude, they moved into the gardens - but were obviously just waiting for me to go. Sure enough, they were back when I came home.

'It would be helpful to get the message out to parents to remind their older children to stick to the play area that is meant for their own age group. It's very worrying otherwise that someone could get hurt, either the older ones breaking equipment or little ones getting accidentally injured,' she added.

THE SPORTS SHOP IS OPEN!

HUGE 20% OFF

all existing sale stock - great bargains on footwear, clothing and equipment for men, ladies and juniors

BEFORE YOU BUY GIVE US A TRY...

Before you next go online to make a purchase from a large corporation, why not pop into your local Sport Shop to see if we can help.

Not only will you receive your item there and then, but we are giving an **EXTRA 20% OFF** all sale stock for the whole of July.

We would love it if all our local sports teams would at least give us a chance at quoting for their kit and equipment

Local businesses need your support now more than ever

4 MacGregor Court, Oban, PA34 4DJ TEL: 01631 562050 thesportsshop-oban@btconnect.com

Open Mon-Sat 9am-5.30pm / Sun 12noon - 4pm
Safe shopping measures in place

Please support your town and **SHOP LOCAL**

WE ARE OPEN

MADE IN ARGYLL

More than just souvenirs!
Sensibly priced
Quality crafts
Handmade by locals

Unit 5, The Waterfront (opposite train station).
TEL: 07703 301831
www.madeinargyll.co.uk



Night or day the bodyclocks of tiny marine organisms keep ticking regardless, scientists have discovered.

Body clocks keep ticking in the high Arctic Ocean

Scientists have discovered how the bodyclocks of tiny marine life in the Arctic summer keep ticking even when day becomes indistinguishable from night.

When the midnight sun beats down, it seems the biological clocks of minuscule marine organisms carry on regardless despite permanent daylight.

Marine biologists from Oban studying how climate change affects the Arctic found that the genes of tiny shrimp-like animal plankton called copepods keep ticking even hundreds of metres under snow-covered sea-ice.

Indications are that animals are using other signs such as tides to set their body clocks.

Researchers had previously suspected the daily cycles of biology would cease during the Arctic summer when the sun is permanently above the horizon and day and night become indistinguishable. They expected the lack of a light-dark trigger to affect the proper functioning of the circadian clocks that affect tourists and marine plankton alike.

Project leader Dr Kim Last from the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) at Dunstaffnage, said: 'It's simply astonishing to know that these tiny copepods have a functioning circadian clock when they can be tens to hundreds of metres underwater and sea-ice at a time when there is virtually no difference between day and night.'

Researchers also found while in the

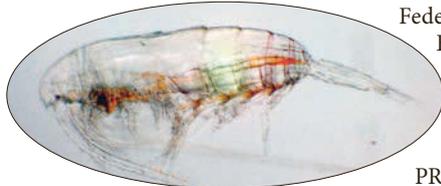
southern Arctic, circadian clock genes generally cycled daily, in the north and only a few hundred miles from the North Pole, their clock had changed.

Lukas Hüppe from the Helmholtz Institute for Functional Marine Biodiversity and the Alfred Wegener Institute in Germany who was the lead author of the paper published in The Royal Society Biology Letters, said: 'We noticed that the circadian clock had changed from following a 24 hour cycle to a 12 hour cycle. We assume this means that the animals are using other signals to set their clock which may include the tides.'

Co-author of the paper Dr David Wilcockson from the University of Aberystwyth added: 'We know that many intertidal marine organisms have tidal as well as circadian clocks. These Arctic copepods may have the ability to modify or switch between clocks depending on where they end up.'

Copepods are essential to the Atlantic and Arctic food webs because they store fat and are the main food source for fish and many sea birds and whales. The findings will provide clues on their survival at very high latitudes.

This work was supported by the CHASE project, part of the Changing Arctic Ocean programme, jointly funded by the UKRI Natural Environment Research Council and the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research. Ocean expedition time was supported by the CAO Arctic PRIZE project.



Oban lifeboat alerted twice in one day

Reports of an aircraft ditched in the sea and two people stuck on a drifting yacht, meant Oban lifeboat was called out twice in one day.

The first alert happened at 1.25pm on July 15, when the crew of the Mora Edith MacDonald got a call from the UK Coastguard to help a yacht drifting in light winds to the

west of Kerrera. It was understood the vessel, with two people onboard, was experiencing engine difficulty and was unable to make a steady speed under sail.

A lifeboat member was transferred onto the yacht to fix a tow line and the vessel was brought back to Oban Bay by 2.10pm where it moored up at the North Pier Pontoons.

Then at 11.20pm, a call came in of an aircraft ditching to the south of Mull.

As the crew assembled at the station, it was established the aircraft was not in any danger and that it was a false alarm with good intent. With no further assistance needed, the volunteer crew were requested to stand down.

UK Government
Scotland
UK TRANSITION

Prepare for a change of course

On 1 January 2021, there will be new requirements for exporting fish to the EU. To keep your business moving, make sure to register for catch certificates and export health certificates.

Find out more at [gov.uk/transition](https://www.gov.uk/transition)

**UK'S NEW START
LET'S GET GOING**

- ✓ Check
- ✓ Change
- ✓ Go

OT

Oban Regatta store reopens after refit

The Regatta store in Oban will reopen on August 7 – following its sister site at Fort William, which opened on July 17.

It is part of a roll-out of new stores and new jobs, the outdoor clothing company said, with work having been carried out at the George Street store, and High Street, Fort William.

A total of 10 jobs have been created across the two openings and one in Callander, the company said.

Regatta has more than 48 retail stores and retail partners across the UK.

Jo Black (pictured), retail director, said: 'This really is an exciting time for the Regatta brand to be opening in Fort William, Callander and Oban.'

'Scotland is a fabulous marketplace and our customers can expect to receive great service, great brands and see an incredible range suitable for all the family at affordable prices as we look to inspire more and more people to fall in love with the great outdoors.'



Ambassadors are back on the beat

Oban's town ambassadors are back on the beat for the first time this year – helping spread the word of all the town has to offer, writes Ellis Butcher.

Kay McDonald and Joe Reich, both from Oban, donned their trademark uniforms, ambassador badges and Covid-compliant face shields on Monday. Ensuring they were maintaining two-metre social distancing, they greeted people on the promenade as pavements again begin to fill with visitors as restrictions were lifted.

The ambassadors play a vital role in providing a warm West Highland welcome to the little bay, usually between Easter until the end of September, said Andy Spence, chief executive of BID4Oban which provides the initiative.

With a sound knowledge of the town and its gems – hidden and not so hidden – it is their



role to engage with visitors and keep good relationships with shopkeepers and businesses.

While life has returned to Oban, visitor numbers have understandably yet to reach the peak of previous seasons when the ambassadors greet 'tens of thousands' of people – particularly those on the cruise ships, which bring 23,000

people ashore every year. They can help with everything from directions to advising of local boat trips and attractions.

Kay, born and bred in Oban, has served as an ambassador for eight years. She said: 'I am passionate about Oban. It doesn't just have one unique selling point, it's such a beautiful place but it has such a strong,

Kay McDonald and Joe Reich are back on the esplanade welcoming visitors to Oban.

friendly community too.' Joe, originally from Taynuilt, said: 'Right along the west coast of Scotland, tell me anywhere that's like Oban for scenery and everything else? You've got good communications – buses, trains and ferries come in and out of here, it's got everything.'

Extra care is being taken by the ambassadors to maintain social distancing.

Visitors and residents are also being asked to respect a new charter to help curb the spread of the coronavirus – 4,000 posters of the charter have been created to get the message out.

It calls on people to be #ObanMinded and support local stores and services but also to take simple steps to keep communities in Oban and Lorn safe.

Mr Spence said the new charter was designed to make people aware of the 'behaviours' now expected from tourists and locals alike following the pandemic. In particular, the message still needs to get out to those visiting shops to wear face coverings and for those visiting pubs to leave their contact details to support track and trace, he said.

Mr Spence said: 'If we don't comply with the rules, it could create all sorts of issues for the town and there's a risk we could encourage Covid.'

The campaign has been backed by Oban Community Council and convenor Marri Malloy, and Linda Battison on behalf of the Oban and Lorn Tourism Alliance (OLTA).

The campaign has also been shared with other towns across Argyll and Bute, and the Scotland's Towns Partnership.

Oban tourism centre gears up for reopening

Visit Scotland has announced plans to reopen its tourism centre in Oban next week, writes Ellis Butcher.

The national tourism authority said its 'phased approach' to reopening its iCentres nationally aimed to put staff and visitor safety first.

After a string of openings recently, the second phase starts on Monday, July 27 and

includes the North Pier centre in Oban, it said.

VisitScotland said a staggered reopening was needed due to internal changes being made at every one of its 26 iCentres to ensure they are adapted for physical distancing.

It pledged a range of safety features from screens, hand sanitisers and signs.

It warned some opening

dates may be subject to change and that reopened centres would initially only offer an information service to visitors.

Ticketing, accommodation booking and retail would be reopened as soon as it was safe to do so.

Manuela Calchini, head of information at VisitScotland, said: 'Our iCentre staff have been working to get the cen-

tres reopened and are looking forward to being able to help visitors with face to face enquiries for the first time in four months.

'The information services never really closed however, and I'd like to pay tribute to the team for all its hard work in getting to this point.'

'Our iCentres are a significant part of the community

and we understand that there will be a desire to open them as soon as possible – we share that desire and want to support the tourism industry and communities as we come out of lockdown, however the safety of our staff and visitors is paramount.'

Around two million customers a year use the iCentres, VisitScotland said.

Helping you get back to work!

For all your essential building and DIY needs

Open: Monday to Friday 7.30am till 5pm

Facemasks and Visors NOW IN STOCK

HIRE and SUPPLIES

Tel: 01631 566306
www.hireandsupplies.com



AM Transport

Going the extra mile for you

Nationwide delivery service

Serving Highlands and Islands and West/Central Scotland

Daily service from Glasgow and Argyll

Deliveries and collections from all over Britain

Local staff understand the needs of a local community

Building 120A, MACC Business Park, Campbeltown, PA28 6NU

We now have a depot in Linwood which can receive goods if you order online and they don't deliver to your address give us a call.

We can collect from our Linwood address at favourable rates.

We are in Ikea everyday for next day delivery to all Argyll and Bute.

Please call 01586 554270 for more details

Fax: 01586 550461 Email: enquiries@amtransportcampbeltown.co.uk

www.amtransportcampbeltown.co.uk

Tributes flood in after sudden death of community champion

Tributes have flooded in after the sudden death of a woman renowned as one of the best community representatives that Oban and Lorn has ever known.

Marilyn Henderson, of Kilchrenan, who for many years was the volunteer secretary of Avich and Kilchrenan Community Council, died on Friday July 17, within days of falling ill.

Blood tests revealed the shock news that the 72-year-old widow, who was taken to Lorn and Islands Hospital after feeling unwell, had terminal lung cancer.

Community council chairman John Fleming said: 'She will be sadly missed. She had a heart of gold and liked to support anything that was going on.'

Mrs Henderson had taken a step back, since taking time out to nurse her husband Graham, who died after losing his own battle against cancer three years ago. However, in her heyday, she was a woman renowned for her admirable ability to politely take politicians and government officials to task, as she sought to look after the best interests of the community that she loved.

Councillor Elaine Robertson, chairperson of Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Committee, said: 'Marilyn's death is a huge loss to Kilchrenan and the community, she kept everybody informed of what was happening and was a lovely person.'

'She was one of the linchpins in the community, whether it was about the village hall, the church, or anything else, she kept the community up to date with all the significant events.'

The Reverend Tom Telfer, minister of Kilchrenan Parish Church, where Mrs Henderson was an elder, said: 'She was at the heart of Kilchrenan, she not only lived at the heart of it physically, she was a communication hub. 'This is absolutely a



Marilyn Henderson who passed away last week.

big shock and Kilchrenan will feel it for some time. Often you can categorise people, but I have never met anyone like Marilyn, she was just unique.'

Mrs Henderson hadn't been seen out much since lockdown but she was still emailing her many contacts regularly.

Her neighbour Anthony Phillips discovered she was unwell when he went to deliver shopping to her.

He said there had been no prior warning that his good friend was so seriously ill and added: 'I was going into Oban so I asked if she wanted anything and she asked me to get her some fruit.'

'I was away for about three hours and found when I got back that she had collapsed in the chair. She said she felt weak and had phoned the doctor. She was taken to hospital and it was discovered after blood tests that she had terminal lung cancer and it had spread.'

'We had been friends for almost 30 years and like everyone in the village my wife and I are struggling to come to terms with what has happened.'

Mrs Henderson is survived by her brother, Michael Andrew, who lives in Stirling. Her funeral will be held at Kilchrenan Parish Church cemetery at 1pm on Friday (July 24) and the cortege will drive through the village, prior to the graveside service, to allow people to pay their last respects.

Going for a walk? Make it snappy!

Wee Walk Oban are hoping subscribers snap up the chance to get out and about during the rest of July, writes Fiona Scott.

Project founders Iwan and Lyndsey Roberts are inviting members of the community to join in with the first of many monthly photographic competitions.

This month's theme is Litter Pick and the couple are looking for walkers to use the tag @weewalkoban on Instagram with a picture of them litter picking or they can email it to obanwalks@gmail.com

'We will be looking to have competitions every month to encourage more people to get out walking, or just to con-

tinue getting their daily walk in if they have been during lockdown,' said Iwan.

This week there is a goodie bag from Outside Edge up for grabs for the best one. Next month (August) the theme will be Sunset Shots.

Visit obanwalks.org.uk for more information and route ideas.



Your photograph could be of a litter pick...

Are you a current or former Postmaster?

If you held a contract with Post Office and experienced shortfalls which you believe were caused by previous versions of Horizon, you may be eligible to make a claim.

If you wish to register a claim, the Historical Shortfall Scheme is open until 14 August 2020.

Cases will be assessed by an independent advisory panel.

For details and to submit a claim please visit
onepostoffice.co.uk/scheme

POST
OFFICE

OT

Behind the scenes at Atlantis

The fight against Covid-19 may be far from over, but seeing shops reopen and visitors beginning to return to the town as lockdown restrictions ease is a good sign that we're headed in the right direction.

The past few weeks have been similarly busy at Atlantis as we make the necessary adjustments and preparations to allow us to reopen safely when allowed to do so. Read on to find out what we've been up to:

Changes in the changing

As you may know, we've been working hard over the past couple of years to put in place a plan for how to refresh our wet-side changing rooms.

It's a big and expensive job for Atlantis so it's important we get it right. One benefit of the centre being closed is that the changing rooms have had a chance to properly dry out – this has allowed us to carry out some small works that were urgently needed. We've replaced some of the wet-wall



The tennis courts are open and Gregor Brydon continues to offer coaching.

covering around the shower areas and renewed the shower units themselves – there's even a new cold shower for the sauna. There is a long way to go but after so much planning it's great to see a small part of this project under way.

Working out how to work out

Atlantis' gym remains closed for now but we've been busy getting as much in place ready for reopening. The biggest change is that we've moved all the gym equipment into the main Sports Hall. This means that each station enjoys over 2m social distancing from the

next. Our priority is making sure Atlantis is a safe place to welcome you back to – finding the best configuration for the gym is a really important aspect of this.

The gym will reopen when and how the government advises us it is safe to do so.

A new home for Atlantis online

Atlantis has a new website! We've been working in the background to update our online presence, modernising the look and feel of it as well as making it easier to use. The website will continue to change in the coming weeks as

more activities are reopened, check it out at: atlantisleisure.co.uk

Wee Walk Oban takes a big step

Last time we told you about Wee Walk Oban's plans to bring together an online resource to help Oban's walkers find information about getting out and about around the town. This month, Wee Walk launched its website! There's lots of useful pieces of information on there already, check it out at: www.obanwalks.org.uk

Serving up a bit of familiarity

We've loved having Oban's tennis players taking advantage of the reopened courts at Atlantis. As the government has continued to ease restrictions, we've been reflecting that by updating the guidance for tennis. Doubles can now be played between players of different households with social

distancing being observed. We've also reopened the toilet facilities for the use of tennis players and playpark users.

Gregor Brydon continues to offer coaching. He's being helped by a new ball machine that can automatically deliver a variety of shots to help with training, coaching and practice.

A welcome new reception

As lockdown restrictions have continued to ease, we've been busy making some necessary changes to the centre. One of the biggest changes you'll notice is a brand new reception. There's still some work to do but we've reconfigured the welcome desk to give the whole area more room which will make using it easier for staff and customers alike. We've also taken the opportunity to install the various screens and sanitary equipment that will help ensure we can keep everybody safe once we reopen.

The Future at Atlantis: what's next?

It's been a difficult time for many organisations across the country this past few months and Atlantis has had to think very creatively about how to get through lockdown and how we operate once we reopen.

Throughout lockdown the Board have been working behind the scenes to review all of Atlantis' activities and think carefully about what changes need to be made. There's been a lot to work out with more still to be done as the government continues to update advice and guidance.

Atlantis' foundations have always been rooted in community. It's important that we build a route-map towards reopening together. There will be lots of changes to come and we'll keep you updated along the way – thank you for your ongoing support and patience.

we  local

Research shows that for every £1 spent with a local, independent business, between 50p-70p circulates back into that local

So every time you pick up a copy of The Oban Times you are not just helping one local business but a whole range of local businesses


The Oban Times

Can't get to the shops?



SPECIAL OFFER
3 months
for just
£4.80

PAGE TURNER
version of the Oban Times
available online

SUBSCRIBE AT WWW.OBANTIMES.CO.UK/SUBSCRIPTIONS



Dr Cowan's research will help with oyster conservation.

SAMS research to aid oyster conservation

Understanding how oysters respond to the natural environment during reproduction could increase productivity in hatcheries and also improve the success of conservation measures, according to a researcher at the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) in Oban.



difficult to recreate in a captive environment such as a hatchery. This can lead to problems in the synchrony of adults spawning and metamorphosis of larvae into spat.

'At the fundamental level, if you can understand the hormonal control mechanisms of reproduction and how environmental factors are driving these, you can tailor culture conditions to optimise reproductive success in a hatchery.

'This information can be used, not only to increase production but supports the conservation of the species.'

Dr Cowan gained her PhD at the Institute of Aquaculture in Stirling before working for five years at the University of Cadiz in Spain studying brain hormone systems in sea bass.

Originally from Kintyre, she is enjoying being back on the west coast of Scotland, where oyster production is so important.

Dr Cowan has a helper in MSc student Aaliyah Malla, pictured, who is completing her Masters dissertation researching broodstock conditioning of native oyster.

Aaliyah has been undertaking a Master programme on Aquaculture, Environment and Society, studying for one year at SAMS – a partner in the University of the Highlands and Islands – and six months each at the University of Crete and the University of Nantes.

Dr Mairi Cowan will spend the next three years investigating hormonal and environmental factors that control the development of bivalves during key life stages, focussing on the Native Oyster *Ostrea edulis*.

Her €337,400 Neuroshell project is funded by a EU Horizon 2020 Marie Curie Fellowship.

Dr Cowan is currently studying how temperature and light affect the hormones of native oysters and samples their neural and reproductive tissues during the conditioning and spawning period to identify the hormones that are involved in mediating environmental effects on reproduction.

She said: 'Environmental factors are controlling the seasonality of reproduction in oysters through mechanisms of hormone control, but exactly which hormone systems are involved in this transduction is unclear.

'Oysters integrate a medley of cues from the natural environment, which can be

New support fund to help struggling childminders

A support fund has been established for childminders experiencing financial strain due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA) launched the Childminding Workforce Support Fund on Thursday, July 16, in partnership with Scottish Government.

It will provide small grants of up to £350 to registered

childminders who meet the eligibility criteria.

SCMA has released £30,000 from its reserves, with the government matchfunding.

While a number of childminding settings remained open to provide critical childcare for key workers and vulnerable children, many childminding settings across Scotland had to temporarily close.

Chief executive of the SCMA, Graeme McAlister, said: 'We recognise that this will not solve every financial concern but we sincerely hope the availability of a small grant will help to alleviate some of the immediate pressure some professional childminders are experiencing.

'In particular, it is aimed at those childminders who have

not been eligible for other sources of funding and also those whose businesses may take some time to recover their normal operating model. We are grateful to the Scottish Government for providing match funding.'

For further information and how to apply visit www.childminding.org/covid-19/workforce-fund.

UK Government Scotland
UK TRANSITION

UK'S NEW START LET'S GET GOING

The UK has left the EU. As we transition to our new relationship, we all need to take action to prepare.

Sign up now on gov.uk/transition

- ✓ Check
- ✓ Change
- ✓ Go

Under the spell of the swan

Morvern Lines

IAIN THORNER

ian.thorner@btinternet.com



There can surely be no better sight in the world than seeing 30 to 40 wild whooper swans alighting and taking off from a reed-fringed Highland lochan beneath the hills as they migrate to eastern Iceland in the spring of the year.

The journey to their breeding grounds is a long one. Some fly non-stop and at very high altitudes – the pilot of a jet once reported seeing a flock of them at 8,000 feet – others stop-off, refresh themselves and refill their crops for a few days as they wait for their friends to catch up. Then, all together, off they go paddling at ninety-to-the dozen into the wind, webbed feet and wing beats moving in unison until, suddenly, they are airborne emitting their melodious bugle-call notes as if to reassure the younger birds as they gather height and head northwards.

Whooper swans are the national bird of Finland and feature on the Finnish 1 euro coin.

The whooper swan is one of the loveliest of all creatures, its snow white wings arched over its back and its curved neck is near perfection. When words such as elegance, beauty, longevity and power come to mind, it is something of a shock to come across a dead one as I experienced not long ago when I discovered its limp remains on the shores of Loch Arienas – a large inland loch in Morvern.

I had seen this young whooper alone and looking unwell some weeks before. At Slimbridge near Dursley in Gloucestershire, the home of the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust's Slimbridge Reserve, which was started by Sir Peter Scott – scientists have confirmed the old belief that swans can pass away from a broken heart if their partner dies and they don't find another. Perhaps this is what happened here or that it was injured and got separated from its companions – incidentally, a group of swans is called a bevy, or a wedge, when they are in flight.

An old legend tells that there are very few swans on Loch Sunart because of a doomed love affair between a young Celtic chieftain and a local girl. When the chief's mother, who opposed a marriage, turned her into a swan to derail their love, the young man accidentally shot it with an arrow while he was out hunting. Learning of the swan's real identity he killed himself to join it at the bottom of the loch.



Believe it or not swans are seldom seen on Loch Sunart even to this day. Shades of Tchaikovsky's opera, Swan Lake, which is a timeless love story that mixes magic, tragedy, and romance into four acts. It features Prince Siegfried and a lovely swan princess named Odette. Under the spell of a sorcerer, Odette spends her days as a swan swimming on a loch of tears and her nights in her beautiful human form. The solo dance, the Dying Swan, is taken from the Carnival of the Animals, composed in 1886 for the ballerina Anna Pavlova, who performed it about 4,000 times, and not from Swan Lake as is commonly thought. The swan is called Eala in Scottish and Irish Gaelic and was known of old for its majestic grace and gliding mystical beauty associated with the Otherworld.

An Eala Bhan – The White Swan - is said to be the best Gaelic song in the world. It was com-

posed by Domhnall Ruadh MacDhomhnaill Choruna – Red Donald MacDonald of Corruna, North Uist - when he was recovering from his injuries after being wounded in action in 1916, while serving with the King's Own Cameron Highlanders in No Man's Land at the Battle of the Somme. It is a love song addressed to Maggie Macleod of Lochmaddy, South Uist. The bard writes: 'I reckon I'm in a pretty sorry state, with my heart being seized by sadness from the time when I left the high mist-shrouded hills, the little valleys filled with love songs, with their lochs, bays, and streams and the white swan who stays there every day when I am hunting'.

Considered one of Scotland's greatest war poets Donald MacDonald's An Eala Bhan was sung in Gaelic by North Uist's own Julie Fowlis on July 1, 2016, at the Thiepval War Memorial in France on the 100th anniversary of the Battle of



the Somme which was attended by the British Prime Minister, David Cameron, French president Francois Hollande, the Prince of Wales, the Duchess of Cornwall, the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, Prince Harry and several thousand mourners.

When a swan is wounded, dying or about



NORTH WEST MARINE
DIVING & MARINE SPECIALISTS

SPONSORS OF THE OBAN TIMES WEATHER AND TIDES

7 E Glengallan Road, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HG
T: 01631 565740 F: 01631 565780
M: 07836 366419
Em: enquiries@northwestmarine.co.uk
Web: www.northwestmarine.co.uk

**Chain, shackles and buoys
all available to purchase**

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday July 23, 2020** are listed below with differences for major ports listed underneath. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Thur	01.31	0.8	07.27	3.7
	13.34	0.6	20.18	3.9
Fri	02.15	0.8	08.05	3.6
	14.18	0.6	20.18	3.9
Sat	03.00	0.9	08.47	3.5
	15.04	0.7	21.02	3.7
Sun	03.48	1.1	09.34	3.3
	15.54	0.8	21.52	3.5
Mon	04.44	1.2	10.30	3.1
	16.50	1.0	22.51	3.3
Tues	05.48	1.4	11.44	3.0
	17.55	1.2	** **	**
Wed	00.09	3.1	07.00	1.5
	13.21	3.0	20.22	1.4

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardnishig	-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

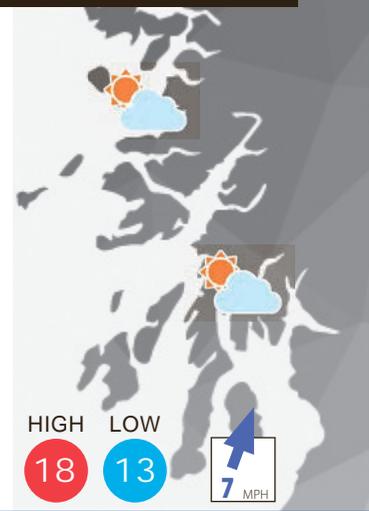
THURSDAY
Drizzle and a moderate breeze
Temperatures 10°C to 17°C.

FRIDAY
Light cloud and a gentle breeze
Temperatures 13°C to 18°C.

WEEKEND OUTLOOK
Saturday
Light rain and a gentle breeze
Temperatures 12°C to 16°C.

Sunday
Light rain and a moderate breeze
Temperatures 10°C to 15°C.

FRIDAY FORECAST



Singing swans



Whooper swans in flight across the Uists, and inset, a family of swans. Photographs: John Love; and above, the remains of the two-year-old whooper swan found by Iain Thornber at Loch Arienas, Morvern. Photograph: Iain Thornber.

to take off, it is said to sing. Aeschylus, the Greek dramatist poet who lived long before Plato, when speaking of Cassandra priestess of Apollo in Greek mythology, says: 'She, like the swan expiring, dies in melody'. Nearer home, the supposed blind third century Scottish bard, Ossian, according to James Macpherson, wrote: 'Sweet was her song as the voice of the wounded swan, when she sings away her soul in death and feels in her breast the fatal dart of the hunter'. The ancients all believed that a swan's singing prowess was heightened as death approaches, giving rise to the idea of the swan song, or the final performance.

John Cameron, in his Gaelic Names of Plants, Edinburgh (1883), tells us that the Stinking goosefoot plant (*Chenopodium vulvaria*), found on damp waste ground and on the fringes of hill lochs, is the favourite food of swans - hence its Gaelic name, Elefleog. (El or ela, a swan; and fle or fleadh, a feast). Others suggest the name comes from its leaves which resemble the foot of a goose. It gives off a nauseating smell of rotten fish thanks to the presence of trimethylamine but, despite this and its unattractive appear-

ance, it is used in the homeopathic treatment of gout, rheumatism, hysteria and nervousness. Because of its rarity and declining numbers it is protected in the UK under the Wildlife and Countryside Act.

Returning to the swan I found at Loch Arienas. The Queen has a prerogative over all swans in England and Wales but not in Scotland. Nevertheless, I felt that a record should go to David Barber MVO, Her Majesty's officially-appointed Swan Keeper, or Swan Marker to give him his proper title. His duty is to count the number of young cygnets each year on certain stretches of the River Thames and its tributaries and to despatch swans all over the world, sent as gifts in the Queen's name. Having provided the facts, my instructions were to dispose of the body. So, I buried it, facing north, just below the summit of an unnamed heather-topped point overlooking the spot where it had been washed ashore. Who knows, one day a new place name, 'Rubha na h-eala', may yet find its way onto Ordnance Survey maps for posterity and in memory of the little swan who never made it to Iceland in 2020.

DOWN MEMORY LANE

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



We have no information on this photograph, but it looks like it was taken up at Mossfield, Oban. If you have any information about when this was taken and what the occasion was; and of course, who the happy lady and even happier soldiers were, we'd love to hear from you! Email editor@obantimes.co.uk

Readers remember...

Our photograph in our July 9 paper garnered a couple of replies, with former Strathclyde police officer Alex Clark recognising a few faces. He thought the location may have been Oban Games in the late 60s.

However, Donnie MacDonald, who is in the photograph, told us: 'All of the personnel were stationed in Campbeltown and from that I would suggest the date to be in the early 1970s, possibly about 1972.'

'The vehicle in the background is the Argyll County Police Mobile Office. This was used extensively throughout Argyll, mostly at agricultural shows, police open days and major incidents. I would guess this location may have been either at Campbeltown Agricultural Show or more likely, Campbeltown Police Office Open Day.'

'Looking at the photograph starting at the right hand side, the personnel are Inspector James Ross (Traffic Department based in Lochgilphead); WPC Janet McMurchy (deceased); Constable Donnie MacDonald (Traffic); Constable Alister Black (in mountain rescue kit); Constable Ian MacLennan (Traffic); Constable Seumas Ferguson;



Constable Christine Alexander (may have been a cadet at this time, I cannot make out if her hat has a diced band or solid blue band); and Constable Robert Topen (belongs to Dundee area and later transferred to Tayside Police).

'I was born in Glencoe and was brought up in Duror, attending Duror Primary School and later Oban High School via "The Ballachulish Express".'

'I joined Argyll County Police as a cadet on 27/12/65, based in Oban. I was appointed as a Police Constable on 04/05/1967 and transferred to Campbeltown the following day. I returned to Oban in 1976 and then transferred to Lochgilphead until my retirement on 31/08/2001.'

**ORDER IN-STORE,
BY PHONE OR ONLINE**

SHOWROOM VISITS BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

THE
BATHROOM
SHOWROOM

CITY
PLUMBING
SUPPLIES

the-bathroom-showroom.co.uk

OPEN: MON-FRI 7.30AM-5PM, SAT 8AM-12PM



**EMERGENCY
CALL OUT?
WE ARE HERE FOR YOU**
WITH OVER 20,000
SPARE PARTS TO GET THE
JOB DONE

Browse online at
www.cityplumbing.co.uk
Please call 01631 567640
for free click and collect

OT

LETTERS

Oban says farewell to much loved firefighter, Brian

Next Monday will see Oban's streets filled with people paying their final respects to Brian MacDonald.

The former firefighter, who was known to so many for his kindness, humour and smile, will make his final journey through the town after he passed away last Wednesday.

Diagnosed 17 months ago with the muscle-wasting condition Motor Neurone Disease, Brian was leaving Lorn & Islands Hospital after being admitted for a few days when he took ill in the car park and had to be rushed into A&E.

Since last Wednesday tributes have been flooding in, with many messages of love and condolences also being left on The Oban Times Facebook page.

The Oban Times spoke to Brian on a number of occasions about his illness, and without fail he was always cheerful and always looking at the positives. He was strong and a real fighter, and we had nothing but admiration for this man who was taken far too soon.

We offer our condolences to his family, and many friends and colleagues. He will be much missed.

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.

Barr River hydro scheme

Mr Iain Thornber's letter, 'Will community benefit from hydro scheme?' paints a rather jaundiced picture of the Barr River scheme. Perhaps I could offer a more positive view. Morvern Community Development Company (MCDC) is building the first wholly community-owned hydro scheme in Morvern. As your correspondent knows, all the surpluses generated by the scheme will flow back to the community.

I would agree wholeheartedly with the need for 'total transparency, openness, and frank engagement with local residents as to where the income, if any will go and just who will disburse it'. Fortunately, MCDC is a democratic organisation. It is, as your correspondent knows, a charity owned and controlled by its members. Membership is open to all the electors of Morvern. The community will continue to guide how MCDC operates and how the surplus income generated by the scheme is invested in the community.

I am somewhat surprised at your correspondent's comment that information has been 'woefully lacking'. As your correspondent knows, the membership agreed to the scheme going ahead after seven years of consultation. In a ballot of the residents in Morvern, conducted by Highland Council, 94.6 per cent of those who voted were in favour of building the hydro scheme. MCDC has held several public meetings where questions, including your correspondent's, have been answered fully and frankly. MCDC will, of course, continue to keep the community updated on progress.

It is a shame that your correspondent uses your letters page to pour scorn on the hard work of volunteers within his own community. On the bright side, it has the unintended consequence of highlighting how many brilliant things are happening on the tiny Morvern peninsula (population around 320).

Nick Tordoff, elected director, Morvern Community Development Company, Lochaline Harbour, Morvern.

Corpach Harbour – a success story

I write regarding the recent planning application by Boyd Bros. at Corpach Harbour.

When the Pulp Mill closed in the early eighties, huge unemployment brought despair. Covid-19 is with us and the full devastation, particularly in tourism, may not be clear until next winter and way beyond. How fortunate we are in this community to now have such a diversified local economy. One of the great success stories to

Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL

editor@obantimes.co.uk



Bha caochladh adhbharan againn airson tilleadh dhan Eilean Sgitheanach airson trì làithean air an t-seachdain seo chaidh, agus mar a thachair bha sinn a' siubhal a-null air an latha a bha riaghailtean a' ghlasaidh gan togail gu ire mhòr.

'S dòcha ri linn an lasachaidh sin a bhith dìreach a' tachairt, bha sinn mothachail gun robh na rathaidean fhathast gu math sàmhach airson an àm den bhliadhna, ach mun àm a thill sinn Disathairne abair, mar a tha an seanfhacal ga chur, "gun robh car eile ann an adharc an daimh!" Gun fhacal brèige bha càraichean agus carbadan campachaidh a' taomadh a-staigh chun an taobh an iar, agus dhan Eilean Sgitheanach gu sònraichte, agus mar a bha mi ag ràdh anns a' chòlhb mu dheireadh a sgrìobh mi tha earbsa mhòr ga chur ann an ciall mhuintir na sgìre, agus an luchd-turais. Air sgàth slàinte agus maith gach coimhearsnachd bidh sinn an dòchas gun dearbh iad uile gum bheil iad a' toillsinn na h-earbsa sin!

Ged nach robh cus dòchais agam gum biodh ùine neo cothrom iasgaich ann chuir mi slatan is acfhainn anns a' chàr cuide ris a' chòrr den gheadhachail a tha daonnan na phàirt den t-seòrsa turais seo, agus gu mì-fhortanach thill an uidheam gun ùrachadh eòlais air an t-sàl! Ach bidh cothroman eile ann tha mi 'n dòchas, agus bha mi cho farmadach air iasgairean eile 's mi a' faicinn nan sùlairean a' bualadh air siol ann an Loch Dhùn Bheagain! Chuir mi, ge-tà eòlas às ùr air a' mheanbhchuileig, ach gu fortanach chum frioghan gaoithe smachd an

ire mhath oirre. A rèir aithris teaghlach, nuair a bha mo shinn-seanair a' togail cruach-fheòir san iodhlann air feasgar ciùin cuileagach is a thuir nàbaidh ris gun robh "a' chuileag dona", fhreagair am bodach còir "cuin a bha i riamh math?"

Ged a tha fios agam gum bheil cuid ann air nach cuir "a' chuileag" cus dragh idir, na mo bheachd fhìn seo a' phrìomh easbaidh a th' ann an sgìrean dùthchail a' chinn a tuath 's an iar. Tha cuimhne agam air fear a b' aithne dhomh nach robh idir àrd, ag ràdh "nach math an àirde" ris an fhear mhòr aig an deach air ruigheachd air rud a bha suidhichte os an cionn.

Fhreagair am fear mòr, le snodha-gàire, gun chuir a' chuileag-bheag tric dhachaigh e a dh'aindeoin a chuid meud! Nuair a tha taghadh de sheallaidhean cho taitneach air feadh na Gàidhealtachd agus nan eileanan far an iarradh daoine 's dòcha suidhe air feasgar samhraidh, tha a' mheanbh-chuileag mhallaichte ag àicheadh sin dhuinn agus gar cur an teicheadh a bhroinn taighe!

Bhiodh Iain Noble ag ràdh rium gum bu chòir dhuinn dòigh a lorg air an glacadh 's an reic ann an cnogain, mar sògh a dh'fhaodadh a bhith cho cliùiteach ri siol Bheluga!

Renewing my acquaintance with the dreaded midges on Skye last week, as so often before, I thought how this is the area's only disincentive!

Allan Campbell
ailean@obantimes.co.uk

come out of the devastation from the pulp mill closure in the 1980s, has been the regeneration of the factory site and associated port. Corpach Boatyard started the renewal, both building and repairing boats. Other small businesses followed.

Boyd Bros. Haulage then had the vision to develop sea transport into remote areas and thereby taking many large timber lorries off small roads. This grew into Corpach Harbour as we know it today. Another local company, Great Glen Shipping, was then successfully established.

The main site is now home to one of the biggest and most advanced sawmills in Europe. Corpach Harbour is a very important part of

that success. Ferguson Transport and Shipping relocated their main base to Corpach and the vision for an integrated Road, Rail and Sea Hub is becoming a reality, taking thousands of lorry trips off our roads and creating hundreds of local jobs.

This planning application is about ships docking on a Sunday. There are good safety and efficiency reasons for this. Noise of ships docking is not the issue. Historical issue of 'flaunting operating rules' should be dealt with objectively, constructively and fairly.

Things are going to be even harder for businesses after the Covid devastation.

We need to support the diversity of our local economy and fully value the jobs that are so

Still operating under Government guidelines

SEPTIC TANK

Do you need your tank checked? Need an installation quote? We're here to help.

CALL: 01546 603989
info@mbcargyll.com • mbcargyll.com

Family Run Business Since 2005 • Accredited Installer • SEPA & CHAS Registered

Workshops available to let

Sizes ranging from 62 Sqm to 1500 Sqm on secure business park site
Onsite offices, accommodation, internal and external storage space
Flexible lease terms available

Contact MACC Developments Ltd Office on 01586 551555 or
enquiries@maccdl.co.uk for further information

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

vital to the wider welfare of our community, our economy and the funding of our public services.

Corpach Harbour is a great success for the wider Fort William economy and Boyd Bros should be congratulated for making it happen. There should be reasonable debate on all the issues that this planning application has thrown up. However, we should be careful for what we wish. Supporting local business should not divide us but unite us in common sense - and good community solutions.

Finlay Finlayson, Corpach Resident.

Endorsing Aires

As a person who has been motorhoming for the past 26 years, may I say that I fully endorse the letter from Linda Battison, marketing director, OLTA (Oban Times, July 9).

I have previously written to Argyll and Bute Council on more than one occasion, pointing out the value of aires, even making suggestions of possible sites. I received very non-committal answers.

Aires can be found on the continent and in Ireland. They can be coin operated and provide facilities for fresh water, grey waste and black (toilet) water. They also provide for litter disposal. This alleviates problems that could happen when there are no facilities.

The large majority of motorhomers are responsible people and appreciate their environment. Motorhome owners spend money in the local shops, local attractions, cafes and pubs, thus boosting the income of the local area.

I do hope that Argyll and Bute Council will recognise the benefit of aires and will construct some in the near future. There has been a huge increase in the sales of campervan/motorhome this year.

Just don't get me started on the subject of parking and height barriers!!

Ann Gillies, Hunters Quay, Dunoon.

Forward thinking

Open letter to Highland Council members and residents of Fort William,

In light of so much infrastructure funds being made available from government, I would like to suggest forward moves concerning the future

of our town. Install temporary metered angled parking bays in the high street from October 1-May 1, some with charge points for electric vehicles. This would greatly improve winter foot fall.

Completely waterproof walkways in the high street with polycarbonate cantilever covers. This would create an all season west highland market town.

To revive our thriving port and historic pier, we should instigate an optional assessment for a new and extended town pier. One which reaches into deep water and includes a hammer head design to accept large cruising vessels. A break water should be installed on the north side, including additional town centre parking and a launch facility for boaters. Berthing rights should be created for the world famous Crannog restaurant and cruises.

A pontoon system suggested in the past by Councillor Murphy and Tony Usher from Highland Council could be installed in the calm water area. This would serve the efficient highland ferries and possibly attract private investment for a water taxi service to the excellent Corpach marina which is currently under construction.

N. MacLean, Fort William

Expelled from Independent

Irrespective of which political party councillors belong to, diluting Lochaber's voting representation is unacceptable.

Lochaber councillors may disagree with each other but they should never stand shoulder to shoulder with the Inverness-based administration at the cost of losing a Lochaber vote.

Independents are making out it has never happened before. This is not the case. During my second term as an Independent councillor, I spoke and voted on issues that were not in line with the Independent administration's views. On one occasion I was asked to resign from the administration by the chairman of the Independent group. I told him I would not be resigning. I subsequently received an email advising me the Independent, Lib Dem and Labour Councillors had, at the administration group's business meeting, agreed to suspend me for a week. Would Independent councillors

have a say in the suspension of any Lib Dem or Labour Councillors?

When the Independents first approached the Lib Dems to form an administration the Lib Dems stated the only way they would agree was if Independents adhered to a set of Standing Orders. We were assured our independence would not be compromised when it came down to supporting issues in our local communities.

However, after being elected to the council for a third term I was informed it was the intention of the Independent Group to insert a loyalty clause in their Standing Orders that would see Independent councillors in the administration sign a commitment never to vote or move an amendment against the administration. They will no doubt deny that as it will make them anything but Independent. I was informed that if I could not agree to those conditions the Independents could not submit my name for any of the committees. I note that they have now removed Councillor Andrew Baxter from the committees that he presently sits on.

I, too, was left without any voting powers on any of the Highland Council committees.

The fact is, the Independents are the largest political party/group in Highland Council but they are anything but Independent. I would like to believe that those councillors from Lochaber who are members of the administration spoke out in support of Andrew's right to independent thought and action.

The Highland Council administration is heavily weighted in favour of councillors from elsewhere in the Highlands. Local government powers should be devolved to local areas.

In future, Local Government elections candidates intending to contest under the Independent banner should make it clear on their nomination form whether they intend to join the 'Independent' group or contest as a real Independent councillor in the true meaning of the word.

Whatever one thinks of Andrew Baxter's politics, he is a hard working local councillor and deserves support from his fellow Lochaber councillors for that reason alone.

**Bill Clark
Tomonie
Banavie**



Carla Louise Craik's granny Jean Morrison told us Carla turned four on July 17 - and Granny Jean had her birthday this week!

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!

Our lockdown birthday shout-outs will cease at the end of July providing restrictions are eased enough for your children to enjoy celebrating with their friends once more. To make sure your child is included send your requests to editor@obantimes.co.uk by Monday, August 3.



Nathan Mackechnie, from Oban, celebrated his second birthday on Friday, July 10. He had a small garden party with close family, and had a lovely day.

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

Volunteers now required in Oban.

Call **01546 60 5550** or email info@abcab.org.uk to find out more.



MM MORRISON
VEHICLE HIRE
Local pick up available
Competitive rates

WIDE RANGE OF VANS FOR HIRE

Morrison Motor Repairs
Unit 1 Creran Marine, Barcaldine
by Oban, Argyll PA37 1SG

Tel: 07825 581171
Email: morrisonmotorrepairs@gmail.com

Gordon & Strathern Ltd
HOME IMPROVEMENTS

Porches, Extensions, Roofline, Windows & Doors

TEL 01631 720074 or 07776402550
sales@homeimprovementsargyll.co.uk
www.homeimprovementsargyll.co.uk

BUSINESS NEWS

Send us your business news by emailing
editor@obantimes.co.uk or call 01631 568000

New contract secured for Cruachan Power Station

The Cruachan Power Station has started to provide the National Grid with 'critical system support services' as part of a six-year contract.

One of the power station's generating units will keep power supplies secure without generating any electricity to enable more wind and solar power to come online, said operators Drax Group.

Drax is the first of five providers to supply the support services to the grid in a move expected to save consumers more than £120 million over the lifetime of the contracts.

Drax's hydroelectric pumped storage plant is built inside the hollowed-out mountain and uses reversible turbines to pump water from Loch Awe to fill an upper reservoir on the mountainside at times when demand for electricity is low, said the company. This process allows the plant to act like a giant battery – when demand increases, the stored water is released through the plant's turbines to generate power quickly and reliably, it added.

The new six-year partnership is with National Grid Electricity System Operator (ESO), which is responsible for balancing supply and demand for electricity in Great Britain. It has been hailed as a world-leading approach to managing the decarbonisation of the grid – securing electricity supplies, saving consumers money and helping to enable more wind and solar power.

Will Gardiner, CEO of Drax Group said: 'This new partnership underlines our commitment to enabling a zero carbon, lower cost energy future. Cruachan has played a critical role in the growth of renewables over the last decade and this new contract will enable more wind and solar power to come onto the grid in the years ahead.'

Julian Leslie, ESO head of networks, said: 'The GB electricity system is one of the most advanced in the world and we're really excited to be adding to that with this new approach to operating the grid. Our contracts with providers such as Drax are cheaper and greener, reducing emissions and saving money for electricity consumers.'



Mari-Nel Scorer, Fingal's new Wellbeing manager.

Former Oban ship is now Edinburgh's 'top hotel'

by Ellis Butcher
ebutcher@obantimes.co.uk



A luxury floating hotel with links to Oban was due to welcome guests back from yesterday (Wednesday July 22).

Final preparations had been made to reopen Fingal, which is ranked as Edinburgh's number-one hotel on TripAdvisor and is now berthed in Edinburgh's historic Port of Leith.

Launched in 1962, the former Northern Lighthouse Board tender worked out of Oban for 30 years and six years in Stromness, Orkney, before going into private ownership.

It was purchased by The Royal Yacht Britannia in 2014 and made a £5m investment to provide the ultimate in luxury.

Fingal has also just appointed a Wellbeing

Manager in Mari-Nel Scorer to ensure overnight guests and diners enjoy a 'unique, luxurious and seamless experience'.

She said: 'We've introduced some small changes to help guests feel more at ease while eating out in public again, but our core dining experience, luxury cabins and values remain reassuringly unchanged. We will continue to reinforce our world-class reputation as one of Scotland's most iconic hotels and foodie destinations.'

'Whatever our guests request, we will go above and beyond to deliver.'

She will work with guests to tailor the level of service contact that they are comfortable with and will personally escort guests to their cabin or dining table on arrival.

Mari-Nel will also facilitate the exclusive use

of the private dining areas on board, including The Bridge and the Skerryvore Suite which offer views of the bow of the ship.

Each of Fingal's 23 luxury cabins are named after Stevenson lighthouses and it is open to non-residents for afternoon tea, dinner and cocktails.

Andrew Thomson, head of Fingal, said: 'Fingal has gone from strength to strength since launching in January 2019 and we look forward to continuing that legacy as we welcome our guests back on board once again.'

'We wish Mari-Nel every success in her additional role as our first Wellbeing Manager. As we reopen our doors, we hope to reinforce Fingal's reputation for outstanding service and a truly world-class guest experience delivered by Mari-Nel and our dedicated crew.'

Slimming World Fish Pie



• Syn FREE • 1 hour 10 minutes • Serves 4

Ingredients

1 small onion, roughly chopped
 100g peeled butternut squash, roughly chopped
 100g cauliflower, cut into florets
 ½ x 400g can cannellini beans, drained and rinsed

Method:

- Put the onion, squash, cauliflower, beans, garlic, stock cube, mustard powder and 250ml boiling water in a medium-size saucepan over a medium-low heat. Cover and simmer for 20 minutes or until tender.
- Meanwhile, make the topping. Cook the potatoes in a saucepan of boiling water over a high heat for 15 minutes or until tender. Drain and mash well, then stir through the parsley and quark and season to taste.
- While the potatoes are cooking, put the leek in a small saucepan with 2 tbsp water. Cover and cook over a medium-low heat for about 10 minutes or until softened. Drain and keep warm.
- Remove the cauliflower mixture from the heat and blitz until smooth with a stick blender (or use a food processor and return to the pan). Return the mixture to a gentle simmer and add the fish and prawns. Simmer gently for 8-10 minutes or until the fish is just cooked, stirring gently from time to time. Stir in the leek and season lightly.
- Preheat the grill to medium-high.
- Tip the fish mixture into an ovenproof dish (that will fit under your grill) and spread it out evenly. Spoon the mash over the top and cook under the grill for 10 minutes or until bubbling and slightly golden. Serve hot with your favourite vegetables.

Packed with juicy prawns, smoked haddock and cod, the Slimming World Fish pie is a comforting classic. This healthy fish pie is topped with potato and parsley mash.

2 large garlic cloves
 1 fish stock cube, crumbled
 1 tsp mustard powder
 1 medium leek, sliced
 250g skinless and boneless smoked haddock fillet, cut into bite-size chunks

250g skinless and boneless cod fillet, cut into bite-size chunks
 200g raw peeled king prawns
 For the Topping
 1kg potatoes, peeled and roughly chopped
 2 tbsp finely chopped fresh parsley
 75g plain quark

Watch this space for groups re-opening

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

Slimming
 WORLD

touching hearts, changing lives

Detailed recipes available at:

slimmingworld.co.uk   

visitscotland.
com

ENJOY *Summer* SAFELY

A SAFE SUMMER OF FUN

Your Guide to summer in Scotland

| Tips on where to go and what to do

Safer Summer Days Out



For more information on staying safe, please go to
visitscotland.com

Playing our part for a safer summer

All together >

All together >

Follow the official advice a summer of family fun in

WITH BEER gardens entering their second week of opening in Scotland and the five-mile restriction on non-essential travel lifted, the country has begun to look forward to a summer of fun.

While social distancing measures are still in place and it is important not to take undue risks, there are plenty of things to do safely.

Zoos and animal parks around Scotland re-opened on June 29, and now that the five-mile restriction has eased they can welcome visitors from near and far.

Edinburgh Zoo, Five Sisters Zoo in West Lothian, Blair Drummond Safari Park in Stirling and the Highland Wildlife Park in the Cairngorms National Park have all reopened, with customers asked to book in advance.

Fife Zoo suffered a devastating fire just days after reopening after the Covid-19 lockdown, but no animals were harmed and owners have said they hope to return to normality as soon as possible thanks to support and fundraising from the local community.

Stately homes and gardens have also reopened, with several National Trust for Scotland properties now open to visitors.

These include Culzean Castle and Country Park in Ayrshire, Threave Garden in Dumfries and Galloway, Brodie Castle's garden and grounds, Arduaine Garden in Argyll and Crathes Castle's garden and estate in Aberdeenshire.

Historic Environment Scotland has said that it will monitor the situation and reopen properties in due course.

Unstaffed outdoor sites are already open, so visitors can enjoy walks around Edinburgh's Holyrood Park and West Lothian's Linlithgow Peel among others.

Walkers and climbers are now welcome to visit the country's national parks to enjoy some outdoor exercise.

Guidelines remain to avoid touching surfaces or opening gates where possible, to follow signs and avoid coming into contact with farm workers where applicable, and to keep dogs on leads and avoid areas known to be busy.

Pubs and restaurants with

Summer is here and people from across the country can enjoy the many attractions that we have on our doorstep, as long as we follow UK Government advice and enjoy summer safely. There are plenty of places to go and things to do to suit every budget. Here is our guide to the numerous great days out in across our region.



CITY: Edinburgh's historic Royal Mile.

outdoor space have also been allowed to reopen. Glasgow's The Cranside Kitchen, near the Rotunda, has claimed to be the country's largest beer garden, with a free-to-enter area seating more than 200 guests with

social distancing measures in place.

The beer garden offers a range of drinks alongside food from five popular Glasgow restaurants, Rioja, Halloumi, Pickled Ginger, Kilmurry & Co

and La Rotunda. In Edinburgh the Corn Exchange has billed itself as the largest beer garden in the city, having transformed the car park into a space where people can enjoy drinks as well as play darts, ping-pong,

swing ball and watch sport, all while observing the necessary hygiene routines.

With hundreds of smaller beer gardens open around the country – including Dundee's The Kilted Kangaroo and



There are plenty of things to do safely

and enjoy Scotland



CARING: Gary Curran with a wildcat born in lockdown.

Zoo is ready for visitors

Five Sisters Zoo in West Lothian opened up to the public on June 29, with a number of new measures in place to help prevent the spread of the virus. These include mandatory advance booking to avoid crowding and queues, a one-way system around the zoo, hand-washing stations and the cancellation of any activities which involve the public touching or feeding the animals. The soft play area and restaurant are also closed, but food kiosks are still open. Keeper talks have been cancelled, but several videos of the talks have been made available online. The zoo is currently opening

at about one third of capacity to ensure space for social distancing, and owners say they will monitor the situation and review measures in place after the first couple of weeks. "It's been good so far, the feedback we've had has been really positive," said assistant manager Gary Curran. "The past few months have been quite difficult financially, so it was a relief to be able to open safely." He added: "We're looking forward to the rest of the summer and hopefully some more good weather! "People really enjoy it here and they're having a good time so far."

Take time to ensure that you are in the know before you go

SUMMER IS here and our colourful countryside, breathtaking beaches and glorious gardens beckon.

Many attractions are reopening, but have restricted visitor numbers and pre-booked time slots, so the UK Government recommends looking at the official websites for attractions and organisations you plan to visit before you travel, so that you're in the know before you go.

To make your days out as enjoyable as possible, we encourage you to plan your trip in advance and to check all of the important facilities and attractions, while looking after our great outdoors.

To ensure we're all doing our bit to travel responsibly, here are a few simple steps to help make planning easy.

When planning your trip, check that important facilities – like toilets and car parks – are open before you travel so you're not caught short.

If you have an attraction in mind, please check online to see if you need to pre-book a time slot.



TAKE TIME TO KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Some places may be extremely popular, so get off the beaten track and discover a hidden gem that you can brag to friends about.

Keep two metres apart from anyone outside your household where you can. This applies to walking, running, cycling, sitting and sunbathing too.

Wear a face covering at all times when on public transport like buses, trains, taxis and minicabs.

Make sure you have a bank card because many outlets are currently only accepting cashless payments and you don't want to miss out on that ice cream.

And take hand sanitiser with you – you don't know where will be open for you to wash your hands.

Leave the car behind where possible and visit attractions by walking or cycling.

Please remember that England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland have different guidelines, advice and timescales for re-opening tourism.

To help you enjoy summer safely, please check the respective official sources for information prior to travelling by using the website [visitbritain.com/know-before-you-go](https://www.visitbritain.com/know-before-you-go)



Safer Summer Days Out

For more information on staying safe, please go to [visitscotland.com](https://www.visitscotland.com)

Playing our part for a safer summer

All together

Aberdeen's Siberia Bar and Hotel – there is no shortage of options for enjoying this summer safely and enjoying good times in Scotland.

The mark that shows visitors we are good to go in Scotland

WITH MANY of our favourite attractions now beginning to reopen their doors, Scottish tourism bosses have teamed up with Tourism Northern Ireland, VisitEngland and VisitWales to come up with a way for people to check whether they are “good to go”.

The We’re Good To Go initiative was developed jointly by the four UK Visitor agencies.

The UK-wide industry standard and consumer mark will provide a “ring of confidence” for visitors as the tourism sector works towards reopening.

The We’re Good To Go mark means businesses can demonstrate that they are adhering to the respective Government and public health guidance, have carried out a COVID-19 risk assessment and checked that they have the required processes in place, ensuring

they can welcome visitors back with confidence.

The scheme is free to join.

UK Government tourism minister Nigel Huddleston said: “I want to encourage the public to experience a great holiday this summer and be confident that they can do so safely.

“This new industry standard will show people that tourism businesses, destinations and attractions are adhering to the guidance.

“It puts safety first and is an important move in getting this industry back up and running.”

VisitScotland chief executive Malcolm Roughead, said: “We are pleased that after a very difficult few months Scotland’s tourism industry are starting to welcome visitors.

“However, it’s important to remember that things may be a little different now, there may be reduced facilities

available or if busy, a greater need to follow physical distancing restrictions to protect yourself and others.

“Planning and researching will also become an important part of the holiday experience and we really want visitors to ‘know before they go’ when it comes to travel; checking what is open and pre-booking if required.”

To obtain the mark businesses must complete a self-assessment through the online platform [goodtogo.visitscotland.com/your-business-good-to-go-scotland](https://www.visitscotland.com/your-business-good-to-go-scotland) including a check-list confirming they have put the necessary processes in place, before receiving certification and the We’re Good To Go mark for display in their premises and online.

Businesses across the UK are assessed according to their respective national guidance including the social distancing and cleanliness protocols that must be in place.



ALL SET: We're Good To Go in Scotland

Safer Summer Days Out

Make the most of summer while protecting yourself, friends, family and others.

ENJOY Summer SAFELY

BUSINESS NEWS

Send us your business news by emailing
editor@obantimes.co.uk or call 01631 568000

New film promotes 'stay in Scotland' breaks

by Ellis Butcher
ebutcher@obantimes.co.uk



The Oban and Lorn Tourism Alliance has backed a VisitScotland film urging Scots to take breaks closer to home this summer.

It is part of a £3 million marketing drive to welcome back Scottish tourism after nearly four months of lockdown restrictions imposed after the coronavirus pandemic.

It encourages Scots to appreciate what's on offer in their own country as tourism was permitted to reopen from Wednesday July 15.

Linda Battison, marketing director for OLTA, said the alliance had also launched a local visitor charter, which would start to appear as posters in local businesses.

The aim is to encourage those returning to the area to observe social distancing, be considerate, maintain hand hygiene and wear face coverings, among others, with the hashtag #ObanMinded

The charter has been backed by BID4Oban and Oban Community Council against a backdrop of 'nervousness' about an influx of visitors following the outbreak.

Ms Battison said: 'It will take all of us working together to keep our visitors safe. There is understandable nervousness in the community and it's up to us to remind our guests that they have a responsibility to uphold the guidance to keep our area Covid free.'

Of the new film by VisitScotland, she said Oban was a perfect distance from the central belt to provide a full 'get away from it all' experience without driving all day.

'And the journey is through such beautiful iconic scenery as you hug the shores of Loch Lomond and Loch Awe, so it's a fantastic start to a holiday,' she said.

'We've so much on offer in Argyll and whilst not all businesses will immediately reopen the majority are totally ready and many are already signed up to the UK-wide 'Good To Go' scheme so visitors can feel confident that they've taken every step to welcome them back safely.'



Oban Distillery appears in the new film.

The film by VisitScotland has the clear message that 'Only in Scotland can travelling so little make such a big difference'.

The campaign is backed by 10 weeks of advertising across STV, Channel 4, ITV and SKY, along with a six-week campaign on radio and digital channels.

Vicki Miller, marketing director for VisitScotland, said the film celebrated the reopening of tourism.

'The Covid-19 pandemic has had a devastating impact on the industry, and we'd like to encourage people across Scotland to get out there and support businesses in any way we can,' she said.

'This film celebrates the huge variety of activities we have right across the country, showing you don't have to travel too far to have a fantastic experience.'

'Alongside this though, it's important we respect that tourism might not look

the same as before, but the warm Scottish welcome remains.

'We ask that people follow the recommended guidelines, book in advance and respect the local communities so there's something to enjoy for everyone.'

Fergus Ewing MSP, tourism secretary, said: 'It's been an extremely tough period for Scotland's tourism sector but thanks to everyone's efforts in suppressing the virus, we are now at the stage where we can warmly welcome visitors once again.'

'VisitScotland's marketing campaign will be instrumental in encouraging people back to our hotels, restaurants and visitor attractions.'

'Our country has so much to offer and I hope people in Scotland take this opportunity to book a well-deserved break, and support our world-class tourism industry in turn.'

Tax cut for tourism firms welcomed

A six-month tax cut for businesses in tourism and hospitality has been welcomed by Argyll and Bute Council, writes Ellis Butcher.

The UK Government will slash 15 per cent off VAT between July and January meaning operators in food, accommodation and attractions will pay five per cent, not 20.

The move was hailed in Argyll and Bute where tourism contributes £510 million-a-year and employs 15 per cent of the workforce.

Councillor Alastair Redman, policy lead for economic growth at the council, said: 'The temporary reduction in VAT is welcome and we hope as restrictions continue to ease, our hospitality and tourism sector can start to recover.'

'We have all done a fantastic job safeguarding each other since March. Businesses are making considerable efforts to adapt and manage customer safety moving forward and it is now time to welcome visitors back safely.'

Businesses seeking more information about the temporary reduction can visit www.gov.uk

Meanwhile local eateries and their customers in Oban are being encouraged to take advantage of the UK Government's new Eat Out to Help Out scheme, which offers discounts to diners between Mondays and Wednesdays of up to 50 per cent off the cost of their meal during August at participating restaurants, cafés and pubs that serve food, and hotel restaurants. Businesses are registering for the service, with the offer starting August 3.

Highlands and Islands MSP Donald Cameron said it would help hotels, restaurants, and cafes generate income during the quieter, earlier part of the week: 'Argyll and Bute has many fantastic eating establishments and I really hope this scheme will provide them with a helping hand as they reopen after the lockdown,' he said.

'I would encourage business owners to log on to the UK Government website and explore what the scheme has to offer.'

Councillor Andrew Vennard said: 'This scheme could scarcely come at a better time as we seek to get the town moving forward.'

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

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

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

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

info@wyliebisset.com www.wyliebisset.com

**Call now on
0141 566 7096**

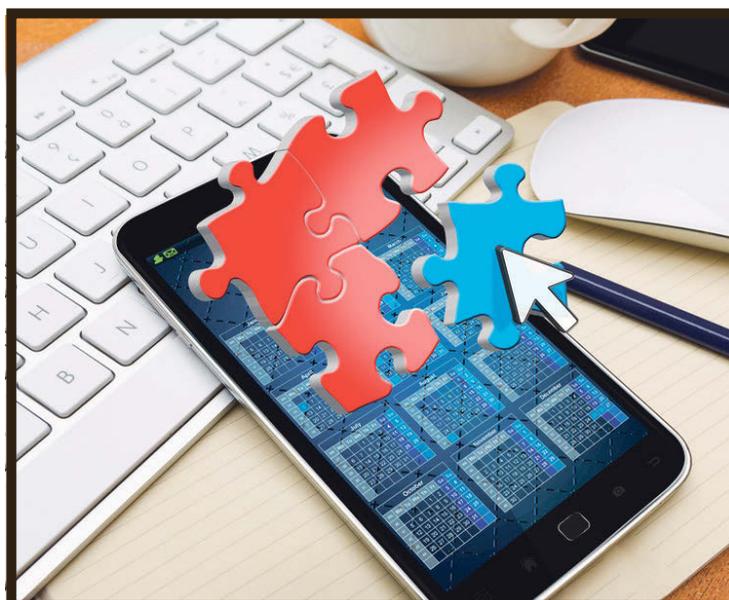
Wylie + Bisset
Chartered Accountants, Business & Tax Advisers

168 Bath Street, Glasgow G2 4TP

Tel: 0141 566 7000

4 High Street, Oban,
Argyll PA34 4BG

Tel: 01631 562478



Please support our local stores and services
and help us keep our local communities safe.



Observe social distancing



Be considerate



Allow more time to travel as



Normal service has not
yet been resumed



Maintain hand hygiene



In shops, and on public transport
cover your face



New protocols, new ways of working



Do explore our hidden gems



Experience more



Don't leave home if you're
displaying symptoms of Covid 19

#ObanMinded #LoveOban #VisitOban
#StaySafeOban #RespectTheDestination

As we
welcome
back visitors
we ask that
everyone is



OBAN & LORN VISITOR CHARTER – JULY 2020

#ObanMinded



Oban Business Improvement District

www.bid4oban.co.uk



ADVERT SPONSORED BY BID4OBAN



Opening on Friday 31st July!

Please see our website to reserve your table

Tayvallichinn.com

Our new menu is available for takeaway and sitting in, with additional specials for dining in with us.

We've got the team back together and we're busy getting everything ready to welcome all our customers back!



STARTERS

- SEAFOOD SOUP £6.50
With warm bread roll and butter
- SMOKED SALMON PÂTÉ £7
With oatcakes and salad
- MACARONI CHEESE £7
With garlic bread - add smoked salmon £1.50
- HAND DIVED TAYVALLICH LANDED KING SCALLOPS £12
3 scallops pan fried in garlic butter served with dressed leaves
- CLASSIC MOULES MARINIÈRE £8
Scottish mussels steamed in white wine, cream, garlic and onions served with a warm bread roll
- PICKLED MUSHROOM AND WALNUT SALAD £7.50
With a tarragon dressing
- SOUND OF JURA LANGOUSTINE £10
Served hot in garlic butter with a bread roll or served cold with salad and garlic mayonnaise

MAIN COURSES

- FISH & CHIPS £13
In our own beer batter served with tartare sauce
- SCOTTISH MINUTE STEAK SANDWICH £10
On a toasted ciabatta roll with caramelised onions, wholegrain mustard mayonnaise and salad
- SOUND OF JURA LANGOUSTINE £21
Baked in garlic butter or served cold with garlic mayonnaise and salad - both served with rustic chips
- HAND DIVED TAYVALLICH LANDED KING SCALLOPS £25
6 king scallops pan fried in garlic butter served with salad and rustic chips
- MACARONI CHEESE £10
with ciabatta garlic bread - Add smoked salmon £3
- CLASSIC MOULES MARINIÈRE £14.50
Scottish mussels steamed in white wine, cream, garlic and onions served with a warm bread roll or swap to chips for £2
- Homemade beef burger £12
2 4oz burgers served on a seeded bun with salad, onion rings and burger sauce served with rustic chips on the side - add cheese & bacon - £1 each
- Sound of Jura dressed crab £16.50
with a dressed salad and bread rolls
- CURRY OF THE DAY £12
served with wild rice, popadom, mango chutney & spiced onions
- OPEN PRAWN SANDWICH £10
Served with marie rose sauce, salad and coleslaw



Please make our team aware if you have any allergies, we can provide you with our full allergen menu.
All food is prepared from fresh in our busy kitchen. This means:
- We can't always guarantee that there are no allergy traces in other dishes.
- Some dishes take time to make. If you are in a rush, let us know and we can advise.

SIDES

- RUSTIC SKIN ON CHIPS £3.
- MIXED LEAF SALAD £3
- ONION RINGS £3
- 2 WARM BREAD ROLLS AND BUTTER £2
- GARLIC BREAD £3

CHILDREN'S MENU

- FISH AND CHIPS £7
Fresh haddock fillet in our own batter served with chips
- CURRY OF THE DAY £7
Served with wild rice and popadom (curry may be spicy, please ask)
- CHICKEN GOUJONS £7
Fresh chicken fillet in our own batter served with chips and beans
- 4oz BEEF BURGER £7
Served with chips
- MINI MOULES MARINIÈRE £7
with chips
- MACARONI CHEESE £7
Served with garlic bread

SOMETHING SWEET

- BANOFFEE PIE £6
Biscuit base with toffee sauce & bananas topped with fresh cream
- WARM CHOCOLATE BROWNIE £6
With chocolate sauce and vanilla ice cream
- TODAYS CHEESECAKE £6
With toasted oats and fresh raspberries
- WEE ISLE DAIRY ICE CREAM
1 SCOOP £2 2 SCOOPS £4 3 SCOOPS £6 Chocolate, Vanilla, Strawberry & Salted Caramel
- LEMON SORBET £4



Please make our team aware if you have any allergies, we can provide you with our full allergen menu.
All food is prepared from fresh in our busy kitchen. This means:
- We can't always guarantee that there are no allergy traces in other dishes.
- Some dishes take time to make. If you are in a rush, let us know and we can advise.

See you soon!

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



LEISURE & ENTERTAINMENT

YOUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S ON IN ARGYLL AND LOCHABER

Documentary tracks Lewis musician's visit to America

by Fiona Scott
fscott@obantimes.co.uk



There can't be many musicians who split their time between the field and the stage but crofter and professional musician Colin Macleod does just this – as revealed in a new BBC ALBA music documentary.

Colin, 35, from the Isle of Lewis, is considered one of the most promising, original talents in the Scottish music scene.

He signed with one of the biggest record companies in the world – BMG Records – in 2018 and launched his debut album Bloodlines in America.

A deep connection to his birthplace of Lewis is fundamental to his life as a musician and Bloodlines is rooted in this and tells stories from the island.

The album release took Colin to some of the world's biggest stages, including New York and Texas, and

a performance on the Late Late Show with James Corden took his music to millions across America.

Colin said: 'It's just so nice to be able to come to all these amazing places because I wrote a few songs.'

'It's a bit nuts really when you think about it, I sat in my bedroom and wrote some songs and now it means I can travel the world and play gigs, it's pretty cool, I'm very jammie.'

Colin reveals that he decided to pursue a career in music when he previously travelled to New York in his 20s and that his favourite thing is recording new songs because he loves creating new music.

In this unique programme, viewers are treated to a selection of previously unseen musical highlights interspersed with beautiful footage of the Isle of Lewis – some intimate and acoustic, and some the full band from 2018 – as Colin took the songs at the

core of Bloodlines out into the world.

Songs performed include Dream, Kicks In, South By South West, Shake the Walls and Feels Like, which is about an incident at a pub in Stornoway when a man got thrown out the window and then ran back in to continue fighting.

Colin Macleod – An Ceòl/Colin Macleod – The Music was featured on BBC ALBA last Thursday but can still be found on BBC iPlayer.

Colin Macleod appeared on the Late Late Show with James Corden, which ensured millions of Americans heard his music.



PMG ENGINEERING SERVICES



24 HOUR
CALLOUT
24/7
COVERAGE

**QUICK
RESPONSE**

**HIGH QUALITY
HYDRAULIC
HOSES AND INSERTS**

**ON-SITE
ENGINEERS**



07766 513 585 • info@pmg-services.com • www.pmg-services.com

Construction • Forestry • Quarry • Static Plant • Agricultural • Marine



It's not business as usual for veterinary practices.

You can expect delays for non-essential treatments for your animals. Please respect your vet's decision and be patient.

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

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

Find out more advice for animal owners in our coronavirus information hub:
<https://www.bva.co.uk/coronavirus/coronavirus-advice-for-animal-owners/>

BVA
British Veterinary Association

**CORONAVIRUS
AND VETS #COVID19**

**crown
vets**

Crown Vets, Glen Nevis Place,
Fort William PH33 6DA
Tel: 01397 702727 info@crownvetsfortwilliam.co.uk

Creative writing: how to begin

The last few months have been a difficult and unsettling time. But it has also been a time of positive change and reflection, prompting people to be more creative.

Writing, be it poetry, song writing, or short stories for example, has given many a way of making sense of this time, of sharing their feelings and looking after their mental health.

For those who have perhaps found it difficult to know where to begin, Seil author Kenneth Steven offers this advice to help you start your creative writing journey.

For me, there are two essential ingredients when it comes to setting out as a creative writer: time and space. And by creative writing I mean poetry, short stories, novels and children's writing: everything involving the use of the imagination.

I'm afraid that when someone claims they don't have time to write I simply don't believe them – it's a question of making time. PD James



Kenneth recommends you find a quiet place to write.

started writing when nursing a dying husband: he needed cared all through the day. There was a part of the night when finally he went to sleep and she had the chance to put pen to paper: so that was what she did. If we are serious about wanting to write we will do – we will make time.

For many years I lived in Dunkeld close to the entrance to the cathedral. When friends heard my address they would roll their eyes and say: 'What

a place to be! And you're lucky enough to be a writer!'

Except it wasn't that easy. The truth is that the modern world invaded even that rather idyllic corner of Scotland. First, there were the thousands of pilgrim feet and voices: I was driven mad by not being able to find sufficient quiet. My former wife watched a great deal of television: it was a tiny flat and the distant murmur of low voices maddened me because

I couldn't concentrate. But it was she who suggested (probably to stop the grumbling) that I should have a cabin built in my mother's garden in Aberfeldy, a place where I could hide away to write. After considering the idea for a few days, I realised she was quite right.

When finally I sat down to start working in that incredibly simple shed among the trees, the words simply poured from the pen. I will never forget what those first days were like. Poem after poem appeared as though by magic on the page. For me – and after long years of leading creative writing sessions, I would suggest for the vast majority of others too – the finding of real quiet makes all the difference. But it doesn't have to be a hideaway in a garden, it can be a living room or a bedroom or an attic – just at a time when others in the household are asleep or absent.

There are few rules for creative writers, but this is one I have discovered: we are

all larks or owls. We're either attracted to the very early morning or else it's the late evening. I have yet to meet anyone who's said they're drawn to the mid-afternoon (what I term the hammock time), though in actual fact that's exactly when I did write in the Aberfeldy cabin. I've come to believe strongly that you'll use the time you're given; if that's what you have, then in due course you'll adapt to that rhythm.

But what I quickly came to realise in my cabin times was that I couldn't simply turn on good writing like a tap. We go into our creative space weighed down by the modern world. We live lives beset by emails, phone calls and text messages. We are all expected to respond quickly.

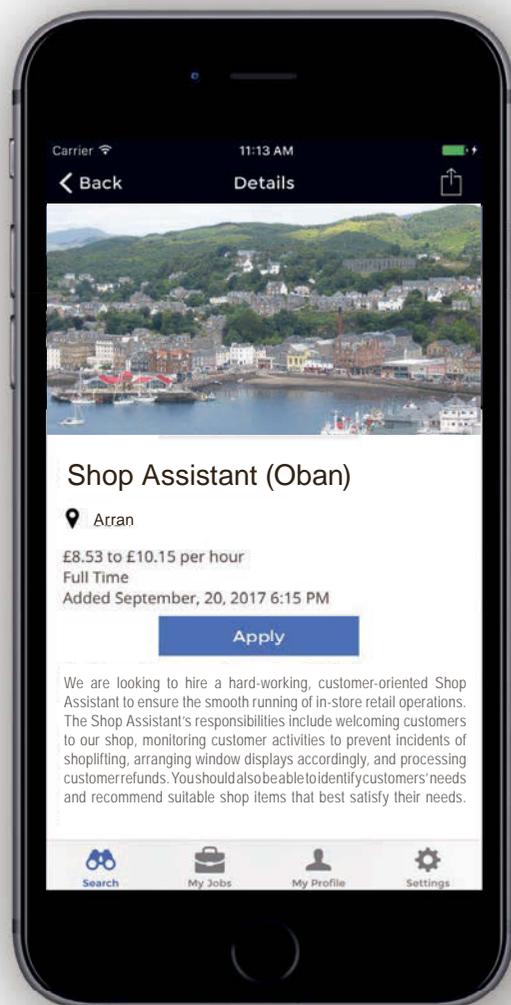
I think creative writers are generally very poor when it comes to practice writing. Visual artists, actors, singers and musicians: their creative lives are dominated by practice. Why should it be any different for those from the writing community? What do

I mean by practice writing? Describing the view out of the window; going back into memory to try to capture a moment as evocatively as possible; imagining a dialogue between two certain characters – there's no end to the possibilities. What practice writing provides is creative grounding. It brings us from being all over the place in our minds to give us creative focus.

What this practice allows us to do is to start then to pour ourselves into what I like to call deep writing. It creates a kind of doorway. So the real writing can begin.

Kenneth Steven is best-known as a published poet and he writes and presents many poetry-related programmes for BBC Radio. He's also a Scottish novelist and children's author. He's written two books on writing, and led workshops and worked as writer in residence both at home and abroad. Visit his website:

www.kennethsteven.co.uk



We've made it even easier to find your next job in the perfect location.

HIJOBS

Download our app for free at hijobs.co.uk/app



Karen gets in tune during lockdown

by Fiona Scott
fscott@obantimes.co.uk



regular Oban visitor has published a book of fiddle tunes inspired by her trips to the West Coast.

Caithness fiddler and highland dancer Karen Steven has put together a collection of 51 original compositions, based around the traditional music of Scotland.

Karen Steven's New Scottish Fiddle Tunes has four themes; Highland Council Commission Year 2000, Tunes for Scotland's National Nature Reserves, tunes for Tanya Horne School of Highland Dancing and finally, tunes for family and Friends. Tune

types include; jigs, reels, marches, waltzes, Strathspey and slow air, in a range of keys.

Twenty three of the 51 tunes in the book were composed during lockdown, in May.

'It was at the end of May, while furloughed, that I decided to publish a book, which includes the tunes recently composed, along with a further 28, written over the last 20 years, explained Karen.

Fantastic

'Writing the book has been a fantastic learning experience for me, long, long hours, but an enormous amount of fun too.'

Endorsed by Ronnie Gibson, conductor of Angus Strathspey and Reel Society, and Iain Fraser, director of Merlin

Academy of Traditional Music, the book also reveals the authors musical inspirations over the years, teaching and learning experiences, performance, competitions and commissions. In addition Karen has included tunes written for people who are dear to her or who have given a lot to the community in which they live.

'For every tune in the book, I have written a line or two about the inspiration,' she added.

'I holiday regularly in Oban and love the whole Lorn area and the islands which has influenced my music too.

'I feel strongly that the music provide players with the melody, free of my own personal



Karen's book is available from Music Scotland, 20 Argyll Square, Oban.

interpretation, I have however, also added seven style tips towards the back of the book, giving players an insight into some of the bowing and ornamentation techniques that I use in my own playing.'

In addition to around 4,000

words of text and the 51 tunes in the book, Karen has recorded each tune and each style tip. These are presented in MP3 format on a soundcloud page specifically for the book. The link to the page where all 51 tunes can be listened/played

along to, is listed in the book along with practical examples of her style tips which can be located using the same soundcloud address.

The book will be available locally, in Oban, from Music Scotland, 20 Argyll Square.

Fourteen years of digital archives

Available to Digital subscribers



The Oban Times
& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

LOCHABER TIMES
& OBAN TIMES



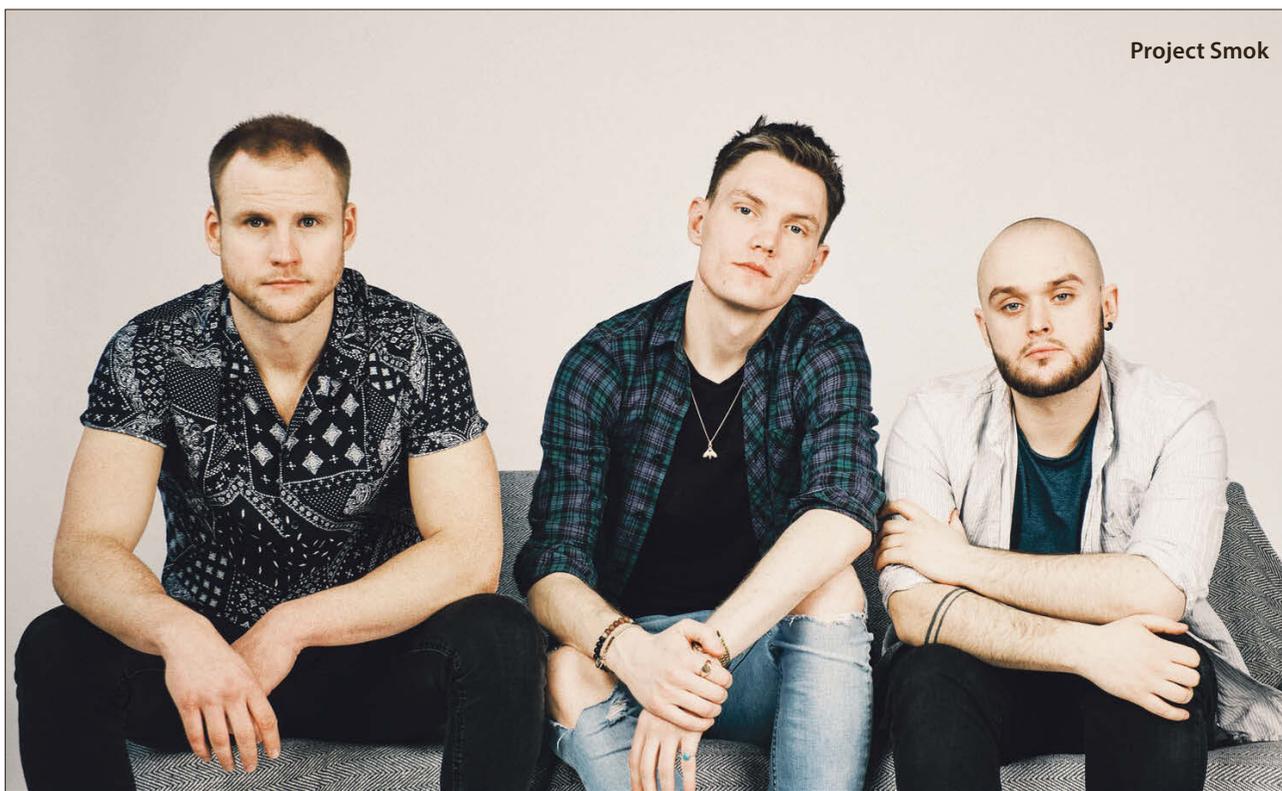
YOUR LOCAL RADIO LISTINGS
Tune in to 103.3Fm or listen live at www.obanfm.scot or on the TuneIn app

Oban Fm – Morning, Noon, and Night

The Week	8-11am	12-3pm	4-7pm	8-11pm
Monday	Stephen	Bob	Marcus	Rosemary 8-9pm
Tuesday	Stephen 10am	Archie 11-1 then Macky 1-3pm*	Bob	Mer
Wednesday	Karen	Doug	Campbell	Gordon
Thursday	Andy & Sarah	Archie	Stephen	Margo
Friday	Stephen	Allan (the One)	Margo	Peter

The Weekend

Saturday	Stephen until 10am	Linda 11-2pm	Kenny's Jukebox Jamboree	Archies Scottish Show 7pm-9pm Dave Hobbs 60's Hits 10pm - Midnight
Sunday	Breege	Archie/Stephen	Sunday Praise 5pm - 6pm	Dave and Murdo 7pm - 9pm Graham Scott's Drum and Bass 10pm - Midnight



Project Smok

Crossword

Across

- 7 Breakfast item (6)
- 8 Direct (4-2)
- 9 Medicine (4)
- 10 Unreasonably (8)
- 11 Check progress (3-4)
- 13 Acclaim (5)
- 15 Swagger (5)
- 16 Sailors' song (7)
- 18 Former princes of Austria (8)
- 19 Rot (4)
- 21 Indolent (6)
- 22 Representative (6)

Down

- 1 Rip (4)
- 2 Local area (13)
- 3 Prance (7)
- 4 Burglary (5)
- 5 Course of thought (13)
- 6 Exposed layer in a mine (8)
- 12 Completeness (8)
- 14 Mythical bird (7)
- 17 Bed cover (5)
- 20 Crack (4)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

1	L	A	2	V	E	3	R	4	E	5	X	6	P	7	O	8	R	9	N	10	E	11	S	12	O	13	M	14	E	15	B	16	R	17	E	18	A	19	M	20	G	21	L	22	O	23	N	24	E	25	R	26	P	27	A	28	K	29	L	30	O	31	C	32	A	33	L	34	E	35	P	36	E	37	R	38	A	39	S	40	S	41	E	42	N	43	T	44	K	45	E	46	E	47	P	48	E	49	R	50	T	51	H	52	D	53	X	54	E	55	P	56	E	57	R	58	T	59	H	60	X	61	E	62	P	63	E	64	R	65	T	66	H	67	X	68	E	69	P	70	E	71	R	72	T	73	H	74	X	75	E	76	P	77	E	78	R	79	T	80	H	81	X	82	E	83	P	84	E	85	R	86	T	87	H	88	X	89	E	90	P	91	E	92	R	93	T	94	H	95	X	96	E	97	P	98	E	99	R	100	T	101	H	102	X	103	E	104	P	105	E	106	R	107	T	108	H	109	X	110	E	111	P	112	E	113	R	114	T	115	H	116	X	117	E	118	P	119	E	120	R	121	T	122	H	123	X	124	E	125	P	126	E	127	R	128	T	129	H	130	X	131	E	132	P	133	E	134	R	135	T	136	H	137	X	138	E	139	P	140	E	141	R	142	T	143	H	144	X	145	E	146	P	147	E	148	R	149	T	150	H	151	X	152	E	153	P	154	E	155	R	156	T	157	H	158	X	159	E	160	P	161	E	162	R	163	T	164	H	165	X	166	E	167	P	168	E	169	R	170	T	171	H	172	X	173	E	174	P	175	E	176	R	177	T	178	H	179	X	180	E	181	P	182	E	183	R	184	T	185	H	186	X	187	E	188	P	189	E	190	R	191	T	192	H	193	X	194	E	195	P	196	E	197	R	198	T	199	H	200	X	201	E	202	P	203	E	204	R	205	T	206	H	207	X	208	E	209	P	210	E	211	R	212	T	213	H	214	X	215	E	216	P	217	E	218	R	219	T	220	H	221	X	222	E	223	P	224	E	225	R	226	T	227	H	228	X	229	E	230	P	231	E	232	R	233	T	234	H	235	X	236	E	237	P	238	E	239	R	240	T	241	H	242	X	243	E	244	P	245	E	246	R	247	T	248	H	249	X	250	E	251	P	252	E	253	R	254	T	255	H	256	X	257	E	258	P	259	E	260	R	261	T	262	H	263	X	264	E	265	P	266	E	267	R	268	T	269	H	270	X	271	E	272	P	273	E	274	R	275	T	276	H	277	X	278	E	279	P	280	E	281	R	282	T	283	H	284	X	285	E	286	P	287	E	288	R	289	T	290	H	291	X	292	E	293	P	294	E	295	R	296	T	297	H	298	X	299	E	300	P	301	E	302	R	303	T	304	H	305	X	306	E	307	P	308	E	309	R	310	T	311	H	312	X	313	E	314	P	315	E	316	R	317	T	318	H	319	X	320	E	321	P	322	E	323	R	324	T	325	H	326	X	327	E	328	P	329	E	330	R	331	T	332	H	333	X	334	E	335	P	336	E	337	R	338	T	339	H	340	X	341	E	342	P	343	E	344	R	345	T	346	H	347	X	348	E	349	P	350	E	351	R	352	T	353	H	354	X	355	E	356	P	357	E	358	R	359	T	360	H	361	X	362	E	363	P	364	E	365	R	366	T	367	H	368	X	369	E	370	P	371	E	372	R	373	T	374	H	375	X	376	E	377	P	378	E	379	R	380	T	381	H	382	X	383	E	384	P	385	E	386	R	387	T	388	H	389	X	390	E	391	P	392	E	393	R	394	T	395	H	396	X	397	E	398	P	399	E	400	R	401	T	402	H	403	X	404	E	405	P	406	E	407	R	408	T	409	H	410	X	411	E	412	P	413	E	414	R	415	T	416	H	417	X	418	E	419	P	420	E	421	R	422	T	423	H	424	X	425	E	426	P	427	E	428	R	429	T	430	H	431	X	432	E	433	P	434	E	435	R	436	T	437	H	438	X	439	E	440	P	441	E	442	R	443	T	444	H	445	X	446	E	447	P	448	E	449	R	450	T	451	H	452	X	453	E	454	P	455	E	456	R	457	T	458	H	459	X	460	E	461	P	462	E	463	R	464	T	465	H	466	X	467	E	468	P	469	E	470	R	471	T	472	H	473	X	474	E	475	P	476	E	477	R	478	T	479	H	480	X	481	E	482	P	483	E	484	R	485	T	486	H	487	X	488	E	489	P	490	E	491	R	492	T	493	H	494	X	495	E	496	P	497	E	498	R	499	T	500	H	501	X	502	E	503	P	504	E	505	R	506	T	507	H	508	X	509	E	510	P	511	E	512	R	513	T	514	H	515	X	516	E	517	P	518	E	519	R	520	T	521	H	522	X	523	E	524	P	525	E	526	R	527	T	528	H	529	X	530	E	531	P	532	E	533	R	534	T	535	H	536	X	537	E	538	P	539	E	540	R	541	T	542	H	543	X	544	E	545	P	546	E	547	R	548	T	549	H	550	X	551	E	552	P	553	E	554	R	555	T	556	H	557	X	558	E	559	P	560	E	561	R	562	T	563	H	564	X	565	E	566	P	567	E	568	R	569	T	570	H	571	X	572	E	573	P	574	E	575	R	576	T	577	H	578	X	579	E	580	P	581	E	582	R	583	T	584	H	585	X	586	E	587	P	588	E	589	R	590	T	591	H	592	X	593	E	594	P	595	E	596	R	597	T	598	H	599	X	600	E	601	P	602	E	603	R	604	T	605	H	606	X	607	E	608	P	609	E	610	R	611	T	612	H	613	X	614	E	615	P	616	E	617	R	618	T	619	H	620	X	621	E	622	P	623	E	624	R	625	T	626	H	627	X	628	E	629	P	630	E	631	R	632	T	633	H	634	X	635	E	636	P	637	E	638	R	639	T	640	H	641	X	642	E	643	P	644	E	645	R	646	T	647	H	648	X	649	E	650	P	651	E	652	R	653	T	654	H	655	X	656	E	657	P	658	E	659	R	660	T	661	H	662	X	663	E	664	P	665	E	666	R	667	T	668	H	669	X	670	E	671	P	672	E	673	R	674	T	675	H	676	X	677	E	678	P	679	E	680	R	681	T	682	H	683	X	684	E	685	P	686	E	687	R	688	T	689	H	690	X	691	E	692	P	693	E	694	R	695	T	696	H	697	X	698	E	699	P	700	E	701	R	702	T	703	H	704	X	705	E	706	P	707	E	708	R	709	T	710	H	711	X	712	E	713	P	714	E	715	R	716	T	717	H	718	X	719	E	720	P	721	E	722	R	723	T	724	H	725	X	726	E	727	P	728	E	729	R	730	T	731	H	732	X	733	E	734	P	735	E	736	R	737	T	738	H	739	X	740	E	741	P	742	E	743	R	744	T	745	H	746	X	747	E	748	P	749	E	750	R	751	T	752	H	753	X	754	E	755	P	756	E	757	R	758	T	759	H	760	X	761	E	762	P	763	E	764	R	765	T	766	H	767	X	768	E	769	P	770	E	771	R	772	T	773	H	774	X	775	E	776	P	777	E	778	R	779	T	780	H	781	X	782	E	783	P	784	E	785	R	786	T	787	H	788	X	789	E	790	P	791	E	792	R	793	T	794	H	795	X	796	E	797	P	798	E	799	R	800	T	801	H	802	X	803	E	804	P	805	E	806	R	807	T	808	H	809	X	810	E	811	P	812	E	813	R	814	T	815	H	816	X	817	E	818	P	819	E	820	R	821	T	822	H	823	X	824	E	825	P	826	E	827	R	828	T	829	H	830	X	831	E	832	P	833	E	834	R	835	T	836	H	837	X	838	E	839	P	840	E	841	R	842	T	843	H	844	X	845	E	846	P	847	E	848	R	849	T	850	H	851	X	852	E	853	P	854	E	855	R	856	T</
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----	---	----	---	----	---	----	---	----	---	----	---	----	---	----	---	----	---	----	---	----	---	----	---	----	---	----	---	----	---	----	---	----	---	----	---	----	---	----	---	----	---	----	---	----	---	----	---	----	---	----	---	----	---	----	---	----	---	----	---	----	---	----	---	----	---	----	---	----	---	----	---	----	---	----	---	----	---	----	---	----	---	----	---	----	---	----	---	----	---	----	---	----	---	----	---	----	---	----	---	----	---	----	---	----	---	----	---	----	---	----	---	----	---	----	---	----	---	----	---	----	---	----	---	----	---	----	---	----	---	----	---	----	---	----	---	----	---	----	---	----	---	----	---	----	---	----	---	----	---	----	---	----	---	----	---	----	---	----	---	----	---	----	---	----	---	----	---	----	---	----	---	----	---	----	---	----	---	----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	-----

Robert in lockdown!

ROBERT ROBERTSON

robert.d.robertson@hotmail.co.uk



Tide Lines Air Chuairet will air this Saturday evening on BBC Alba at 9pm which means weekly readers of this column will finally find out why I was recently filming dressed in a spacesuit; why I found myself in Home Bargains buying space related toys; and, a little bit more seriously, how it felt for the band to perform for the cameras in a big empty warehouse with no audience. You'll also get to catch a little bit of me playing golf so perhaps some of you might be so kind as to let me know why you think I'm losing so many balls!

It's been a fun programme to put together with the Beezr production team. There is loads of new music and hopefully one or two light-hearted moments that should raise a smile.

It has, after all, been a big week for my budding career in television! I walked into the Park Bar last week for the first time in four months and, within a couple of hours, found myself shouting "slàinte mhath" with a few pals in front of the cameras for ITV News. They were doing a feature on the pubs opening in Scotland

and decided to focus on the Park Bar. I'm not sure they quite knew what hit them when they came across us.

On entering the pub after such a long absence, not only were our temperatures taken at the door but we were also asked for our phone numbers. We were delighted at this because it was the earliest a girl had ever asked for our phone numbers on a night out. We were barely even in the door! It turned out, of course, it was for track and trace purposes – or so we were told!

Anyway, to celebrate the grand reopening, myself and my pal John Robertson wrote a little poem – which I thought I would include in this week's column for your enjoyment; or perhaps your bewilderment.

There once was a bar called the Park

For months it has been in the dark

No whisky or fizz

Just a virtual quiz

It just didn't quite hit the mark.

We've been dying for a pint for so long

Our lives have just felt all wrong

No mixed grills or tinnies

Or tablet of Winnie's

Nor a Donald Macrae Gaelic song.

But call all the Highland clans!

We've followed the government plans

The craic can restart

Two meters apart

So, come on Nina, pour us some drams!

To finish, a wee notice that the Comunn Tir nam Beann Dùn Èideann (Edinburgh) have postponed their centenary dinner until April 3, 2021 due to concerns about the coronavirus. The venue remains the Royal Scots Club; meeting at 7pm to dine at 7.30pm.

While the Comunn are holding no cèilidhs this summer or beyond, they recently drew my attention to a zoom cèilidh featuring Emma "Scalpaigh" MacLeod as their guest singer.

I will report more info on future virtual cèilidhs as I hear it.

Hidden treasures sought for TV show

STV Productions is seeking homeowners in Oban to uncover treasures.

The company is searching for people who are clearing out their homes in and around Oban to take part in an new television series, which is being made for Discovery-owned channel, Really, and STV.

Fronted by expert auctioneer, Angus Ashworth, the producers would love to chat to people who are downsizing or need to clear out a property. Or perhaps a collection no longer

brings the joy it once did – so now's the time to de-clutter and make some space.

Every clearance can uncover treasures, such as war medals or even fossils and rare collectables. Those taking part will then be put in touch with Ryedale Auctioneers where they can decide if they want to go ahead with auction – and they might make a bit of cash along the way.

Every episode will tell stories and celebrate those hidden gems in what is guaranteed to be a surprising and uplifting journey of discovery.

Angus said: 'Clearing houses is something of a passion but

equally I can't wait to meet new people and hear their stories as we explore the contents of the houses, hopefully unearthing some hidden gems.

'It's amazing what treasures can be found in among the clutter or hiding in an attic. If they're there, we'll find them.

'It's a privilege to be invited into people's homes and I'm sure there are lots of people out there who need help with a clearance – so please get in touch, we'd love to hear from you and have a chat.'

If you'd like to take part get in touch with takepart@clearout.tv or call 0141 300 3214 for an initial chat.

M'ALBA

MY ALBA

DIARDAOIN 23 An t-Iuchar / THURSDAY 23 July

- 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
- 19.00 O Mo Dhùthaich – From Uist with Love (rpt)
- 19.30 Speaking Our Language (rpt)
- 19.55 Binneas – Na Trads – The Shee
- 20.00 An Là – News
- 20.30 Wild Atlantic Way, with Anne London (rpt)
- 21.00 Am Pòsadh Afraganach – The African Wedding (rpt)
- 22.00 Gaol @ Gael
- 22.30 Eileanan na Banrìghe – Islands of the Queen
- 23.20 Dhan Uisge (River Garry) (rpt)
- 23.30 Air an Rathad – On the Road (rpt)

DIHAOINE 24 An t-Iuchar / FRIDAY 24 July

- 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
- 18.35 Machair (rpt)
- 19.00 An Là – News
- 19.25 Binneas – Na Trads – The Shee (rpt)
- 19.30 Prosaig (rpt)
- 20.00 Ceòl Aig a' Chaisteal – Fiddle Music
- 20.25 Fraochy Bay (rpt)
- 20.30 Fuine (rpt)
- 21.00 Ceòl Duthchasach – Ken Burn's Country Music
- 22.50 Dhan Uisge – River Garry (rpt)
- 22.00 ÙR/NEW: An Bronntanas
- 23.00 ALT (rpt)

DISATHAIRNE 25 An t-Iuchar / SATURDAY 25 July

- 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
- 17.45 An Là – News
- 18.00 Tiugainn a' Dhannsa (rpt)
- 19.00 Breabach Beò (rpt)
- 19.30 Prosaig (rpt)
- 20.00 Machair (rpt)
- 20.25 Fraochy Bay (rpt)

PUIRT-ADHAIR (Highland Airports) (rpt)

- 20.30 ÙR/ NEW Tide Lines 2020: Air Chuairet
- 22.50 Celtic Connections (rpt)
- 23.00 Dhan Uisge (River Garry) (rpt)
- 23.05 Ceòl Duthchasach / Ken Burn's Country Music (rpt)

DIDÒMHNAICH 26 An t-Iuchar / SUNDAY 26 July

- 16.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
- 18.15 An Là – News
- 18.30 Binneas – Na Trads
- 18.35 Sgeul Seirbheis (rpt)
- 18.50 Ar N-Aran Làitheil – Spiritual Service (rpt)
- 19.30 Alleluia! Spiritual Music & Verse (rpt)
- 20.00 Wild Atlantic Way, with Anne London (rpt)
- 20.30 Na Tìrìstich – From Tiree with Love
- 21.00 Bannan (rpt)
- 21.30 Bannan (rpt)
- 22.05 All That Lies Behind Me – Sgeulachd Donald Merrett (rpt)
- 23.05 Eileanan na Banrìghe/Islands of the Queen (rpt)

DILUAIN 27 An t-Iuchar / MONDAY 27 July

- 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
- 19.00 Tir is Teanga / Language and Landscape (rpt)
- 19.30 Speaking Our Language (rpt)
- 19.55 Binneas – Na Trads (rpt)
- 20.00 An Là – News
- 20.30 ÙR/ NEW An Lot – An Glasadh
- 21.00 Trusadh – Mòine (rpt)
- 22.00 Bannan (rpt)
- 22.30 Farpaisean Chon-Chaorach / Sheepdogs (rpt)
- 23.30 Gaol @ Gael

DIMÀIRT 28 An t-Iuchar / TUESDAY 28 Iuchar

- 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
- 19.00 O Mo Dhùthaich / From Uist with Love (rpt)
- 19.30 Speaking Our Language (rpt)
- 19.55 Binneas – Na Trads (rpt)
- 20.00 An Là – News
- 20.30 Na Tìrìstich (From Tiree with Love)
- 21.00 Of Diabolical Purpose – Sgeulachd Monsier Chantrelle (rpt)
- 22.00 Tide Lines 2020: Air Chuairet (rpt)
- 23.50 Celtic Connections (rpt)

DICIADAIN 29 An t-Iuchar / WEDNESDAY 29 July

- 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
- 19.00 Tir is Teanga / Language and Landscape (rpt)
- 19.30 Speaking Our Language (rpt)
- 19.55 Binneas – Na Trads
- 20.00 An Là – News
- 20.30 Puir-adhair (Highland Airports) (rpt)
- 21.00 Farpaisean Chon-Chaorach / Sheepdogs (rpt)
- 22.00 Bannan (rpt)
- 22.30 Port – Druthag Bheag Eile (rpt)
- 23.00 Am Pòsadh Afraganach/The African Wedding

DIARDAOIN 30 An t-Iuchar / THURSDAY 30 July

- 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
- 19.00 O Mo Dhùthaich / From Uist with Love (rpt)
- 19.30 Speaking Our Language (rpt)
- 19.55 Binneas – Na Trads (rpt)
- 20.00 An Là – News
- 20.30 Wild Atlantic Way, with Anne London (rpt)
- 21.00 ÙR/NEW Eilean Chanaigh (Summer on Canna)
- 22.00 ÙR/NEW: Solas – Margaret Fay Shaw of Canna
- 22.30 Eileanan na Banrìghe / Islands of the Queen
- 23.20 Gaol @ Gael
- 23.50 Dhan Uisge – Sanna (rpt)



BBC.CO.UK/ALBA | BBC.CO.UK/IPLAYER

Co-bhanntachd eadar MG ALBA agus am BBC | A partnership between BBC and MG ALBA

Stoddarts

HONDA ATV'S-YAMAHA OUTBOARDS-PIONER BOATS-LOGIC ATV EQUIPMENT
ALL IN STOCK
HONDA - NEW MODEL TRX520'S AND 420'S
SELECTION OF QUALITY USED MACHINES WITH WARRANTY
YAMAHA OUTBOARDS- NEW AND USED
PIONER BOATS-MAINTAINANCE FREE
LOGIC EQUIPMENT-TRAILERS,FLAILMOWERS,SPRAYERS ETC.
SEND FOR DETAILS
SERVICE KITS-FOR ALL ABOVE AND MAIL ORDER SERVICE

TEL: 01631 564176 / 07799 692072
 john.stoddarts@btconnect.com
www.stoddartsofoban.co.uk

FINANCE AND DELIVERY ARRANGED

HIGHLAND FASTENERS LTD

NOW STOCKING Milwaukee

Opening hours
 07:30 – 17:00
 Monday – Friday
 08:00 – 12:00
 Saturday

A warm and safe welcome to our customers
Highland Fasteners Ltd, 23-25 Stevenson Street, Oban, Argyll
01631 570584 e-mail sales@highlandfasteners.com

OPEN FOR BUSINESS

Most businesses are back up and running as normal, however opening times may change, please call the independent businesses to find out more.

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
Tel: 01631 562016

IAIN DARLING/WYNNE BUTCHERS
Tel: 01631 567400

TASTE OF ARGYLL
Tel: 07882226675

MILLSTONE WHOLEFOODS
Contact Saffron on 01631 562704 or email contact@millstonewholefoods.co.uk

OBAN BEER SELLER
Tel: 07796 418973 or email obanbeerseller@gmail.com

OBAN FOOD HUB
Check out the Oban Food Hub Facebook page for strict guidelines on collection and delivery.

TASTE OF ARGYLL KITCHEN
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
Tel: 01631 562358.

TAKE-AWAY FOOD

CUAN MOR
Tel: 01631 565078

GEORGE STREET FISH RESTAURANT AND TAKE-AWAY
Tel 01631 566664

OBAN GRILLHOUSE
Tel: 01631 358246

CORIANDER
Tel: 01631 570806

PIAZZA
Tel: 01631 563628

KEBABISH OF OBAN
Tel: 01631 566885

OBAN FILLING STATION
Open 7am-6pm

BIRCHWOOD FILLING STATION
Open 7am-6pm

We are publishing this information in association with BID4OBAN and ObanFM, supported by the Scotland's Towns Partnership who, along with the Oban Times, are dedicated in 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.

Along with our wonderful NHS staff and carers, our local food, fuel, news platforms and home supply businesses are our community champions!



IN ASSOCIATION WITH
Oban Business Improvement District
www.bid4oban.co.uk



BOSSARDS PATISSERIE
Open Monday- Saturday 9am - 4.30pm

CAFE SHORE
Tel: 01631 563076

BUILDING, TRADES, GARDENING & DIY

CITY PLUMBING SUPPLIES
Tel: 01631 567640

CITY ELECTRICAL FACTORS
Tel: 01631 562362 OR Email: sales.oban@cef.couk

HIGHLAND FASTENERS
Tel: 01631 570584

POPPIES GARDEN CENTRE & CAFÉ
Tel: 01631 565718 OR Email : sales@poppiesgarden-centrre.com

KINLOCHLAICH GRADEN CENTRE
Tel: 07881 525754 or email fiona@kinlochlaich.plus.com

CRAIGARD DECOR
Tel: 01631 562680 or email tonycave@aol.com

GARAGES

RODDY'S GARAGE
Tel: 01631 565882

FLIT
Tel: 07810391753 or email: flit@btconnect.com

KERRIE'S TYRES
Tel: 01631 570000

MUNRO'S GARAGE
Tel: 01631 564463

MORRISON MOTORS
Tel: 07825 581171

FIN'S PLACE
Tel: 01631 566 220 or 07766 757 013

TRAILWEST
Tel: 01631 563638

LEGAL SERVICES

DM MACKINNON - SOLICITORS & NOTARIES
Tel: 01631 563 014 OR email info@dmmk.co.uk

ANDERSON BANKS SOLICITORS & ESTATE AGENTS (OBAN AND BENBECULA)
Tel: Oban office: 01631 563158 or email: info@andersonbanks.co.uk
Tel: Benbecula office: 01870 602061 or email: uist@andersonbanks.co.uk

STEVENSON KENNEDY SOLICITORS
Tel: 01631 562317 or email: gordon@stevensonken-nedy.co.uk

MACPHEE & PARTNERS
Tel: 01631 562308 or email: law@macphee.co.uk

E THORNTON AND CO SOLICITORS & ESTATE AGENTS
Tel: 01631 566771 or email: info@ethornton.co.uk

INSURANCE JELF CLARKE THOMSON
Tel: 01631 567675 Graeme Bass mobile: 07872 131073

TAXIS

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

HEALTHCARE

JOHN WALLACE OPTICIANS OBAN PRACTICE
Tel: 01631 563170

CONVENIENCE STORES/NEWSAGENTS

ALBANY STORES
Sunday to Wednesday 6am to 6pm
Thursday to Saturday 6am to 9pm

SOROBA SHOP
Mon-Sun 10am-8pm

McCOLLS Oban
Mon-Sun 7am-8pm

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

HANNAH'S
Mon-Sat 6am-8pm, Sun 6am-6pm

VETS AND PET SUPPLIES

CREATURE COMFORTS
9am until 2pm every day except Sunday

KINTALINE FARM
Mon-Sun 10am - 5pm by arrangement

OBAN VETERINARY SURGEONS
All enquiries by telephone 01631 562876

SHOPPING

OBAN MUSIC SHOP
Tel: 01631 566304

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

SCOTTISH ISLAND JEWELLERY
Tel: 07760297957 Shop: 01631 570005 and Mobile : 07760297957

THE JETTY GALLERY
Tel: 01631 570102 or email annie@thejettygallery.com

ALBA ART
Tel: Graham on 07778003833

BOLLIWOOD

TRAVEL & LEISURE

ERIC SMITH TRAVEL
Email eric@gowestravel.co.uk, dianne@gowestravel.co.uk

IT & COMPUTER SERVICES

MATRIX COMPUTERS
Tel: 01631 571571 Email: info@matrixcomputers.co.uk

OBAN COMPUTER SERVICES Limited
Tel: 01631 566561

TV AERIAL SERVICES

MACLEOD TELEVISION LTD
Tel: 01631 54310 or email - office@mcleodtv.co.uk

QUANTITY SURVEYORS

MORHAM & BROTCHE
Tel: 01631 563 721 or 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 has restricted sorting office hours to 7am-9am, Sat 7am-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

Campaign for shoppers to 'Love Local'



Scotland's Towns Partnership has launched a 'Love Local' campaign encouraging everyone to support businesses at the heart of their community.

The campaign seeks to remind all those living in Scotland, including Oban, that town centres are not just a series of buildings and pavements – they are made up of people – and harness the compassion and solidarity that was shown by communities during the coronavirus outbreak to help fuel the recovery.

The campaign follows publication of new polling figures which showed two thirds of Scottish residents intended to shop locally once high streets reopened and that the success of town centres depends on local support.

Businesses across Scotland have been working with Business Improvement Districts (BIDs), local councils and others to put in place arrangements so people can shop locally, but safely.

The Love Local campaign has received the support of Andy Spence, chief executive of Bid4Oban, who urged people in the town to get behind it.

He said Scotland's Towns Partnership had helped the BID group with a number of initiatives during lockdown and now, as Oban emerges from it.

A new initiative to help with the town's recovery are Love Oban vouchers - designed to be bought as a gift, such as birthday or wedding presents.

The aim is to encourage people to buy a voucher and then give it as a gift which can be redeemed in up to 80 participating local businesses.

Starting at £10, the vouchers are available to purchase from Button Nose Boutique, Alba Artshop, The Sports Shop, Intersport, Oban Photographic Centre, the BID4Oban office and Etive Restaurant.

With help from the Scotland Towns Partnership, BID4Oban were able to advertise those businesses which had managed to keep operating during lockdown and help keep vital custom coming their way.

The 'Open For Business' section featured both on the website of The Oban Times and every week in the paper - being seen by a regular audience of thousands of people. It helped promote the local economy, and spotlight success stories of those locally who had nimbly adapted to the crisis and kept going.

Communities Secretary Aileen Campbell MSP also supports the new campaign.

She commented: 'It is now more vitally important than ever to consider shopping, eating and drinking locally as we all have a role to play in Scotland's economic recovery.'

'Simple steps like choosing to visit a nearby shop or café, or buying goods or services from a business in your own community, helps support jobs and goes a long way to fostering the vibrant selection of products and services on offer close to home.'

'By following the public health advice, we can all make exploring what the neighbourhood has to offer as safe as possible.'

'I would encourage everyone who is able to head out and discover for themselves what living locally can offer them – I know that business owners at the heart of our communities will appreciate it immensely.'

Phil Prentice, chief officer of Scotland's Towns Partnership, said: 'The impact of coronavirus has hit our town centres and local businesses hard. Now is the time for us all to support them to get back on their feet in a way which recognises that we still need to stay safe and follow the public health guidelines.'

'By thinking local first, we can help Scotland's economic recovery from its grassroots, supporting our town centres within all of the public safety guidelines. The impact we can have by doing this should not be underestimated.'

'The breadth of businesses in our town centres is vast. Whether you need a book, a pint of milk, a night out and a meal or some garden furniture, please think local first.'

'Scotland Loves Local is all about getting people back to their roots and recognising that our town centre businesses and the people who run them are part of the fabric of our communities. Sometimes for generations these people have been there for us. Now it's time for us to be there for them.'

STRACHUR SMIDDY MUSEUM and CRAFT SHOP

re-opens for 24th season
AUGUST and SEPTEMBER
SAT/SUN 1pm -4pm
Entrance by donation

D&K LAFFERTY Ltd. CONTRACTORS. OBAN

Fresh & Waste Water Mains Laying Operatives

- Scottish water doms & EUSR qualified
- Fresh/waste water pipe installation
- Septic tank emptying
- High pressure jetting qualified
- Confined space qualified
- Tarmac contractor roads/driveway

Office: 01631 564712 Tel: 07785182488
Email: dklaftertyltd@gmail.com
6 Knipoch Place, Oban, Argyll PA34 4ED

Accredited Contractor

Kinlochlaich Garden Centre Plant Centre and Nursery between Fort William and Oban

Open 7 days 10am - 4pm
Also available by arrangement/
re-booking in addition to
public opening hours after 4pm
Delivery available
Can also leave orders out for collection.

We have a one way system in and out, and once in it is easy to social distance as we are well spaced out. Hand sanitiser available too.

www.kinlochlaichgardencentre.co.uk
Tel: 07881525754

Sponsored by  **Oban Business Improvement District** 

www.bid4oban.co.uk

TO PLACE YOUR ADVERT IN THE OBAN TIMES:

TELEPHONE: 01631 568000
Lines open: Mon to Fri 9am- 5pm
E-MAIL: adverts@obantimes.co.uk
Please remember to give your name, address, postcode and phone number.

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.

S&S SERVICES




Full stock list available on our website
www.sandsservices.co.uk
T 07831 808702 or 01292 880080
Finance packages available.

To find out more about the NFU Vehicle Discount Scheme call John Spicer at
S&S Services on
07831 808702 or
01292 880080



NFU Scotland comment on Agricultural Loan Scheme announcement

NFU Scotland President Andrew McCornick said: "The announcement that Scotland's farmers and crofters will be able to access up to 95 per cent of their BPS and Greening payments from September this year will add certainty and stability across Scottish agriculture and the wider rural community at a time of unpredictable change.



"Covid-19 has caused a huge amount of uncertainty throughout agriculture, as it has for almost every other industry, and it will come as a great relief to many farmers and crofters who still need to be able to invest in their

business in order to continue to feed the nation – as well as provided much-needed cash flow ahead of unknown winter period that will undoubtedly be dominated by Brexit challenges.

"The ability for Scottish Government to make what will be effectively advanced payments is also testament to claimants sticking to the 15 May application deadline, despite the unprecedented circumstances this year.

"Knowing the loan scheme is coming will provide some much-needed reassurance to all farmers and crofters, helping anyone who needs to talk to their bank about borrowings get through these uncertain times."

"I would urge all to opt into this year's scheme and to do so by email where possible to ensure payments are processed and made as soon as possible."

SHEEP CLIPPING

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

BLACK CHEVIOT FLEECE WOOL

Contact:
M MacDonald
01445 760250
07810 011760
Ross-Shire

WE SUPPLY QUALITY UNDERGROUND DRAINAGE AT COMPETITIVE PRICES ACROSS THE ARGYLL & BUTE AREA

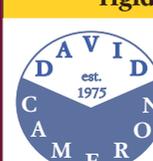





- No minimum order requirements
- Delivery may be available at short notice or weekends by arrangement
- Competitive prices - call for a quote

Argyll & Bute
Centre Drainage Ltd

CALL US FOR A QUOTE ON WATER AND SEPTIC TANKS

HAY & HAYLAGE timothy, ryegrass or meadow	STRAW barley, wheat or oat
Guaranteed FINEST QUALITY round 4 x 4's, small conventional & all Hesston-type bales. Prompt delivery by lorry & trailer or smaller rigid vehicles for PART LOADS to most areas INCLUDING ISLANDS.	
 DAVID CAMERON Agricultural Merchant, Drymen 07979 816211 01360 660323	One telephone call could save you £££'s especially on HEAVY small bales of choice green hay.
WHY PAY MORE ELSEWHERE?	
SHAVINGS Top class best value bales, small or large flake - unmatched spread cover	SAWDUST Premier white or coloured heavy bales

WANTED FOR BREAKING Tractors, Diggers, Trucks and Heavy Plant.

1970 onwards. Any condition, worn out or accident damaged.

Contact JOHN CRAIG at J CRAIG & SON
EASTER CLEVAGE FARM,
DUNNING PERTH

Tel: Mobile **07774 629123** night **01764 684625**
email jct8210@googlemail.com

S&S SERVICES

SUBARU
ISUZU

SCOTLANDS NO1 SUBARU AND ISUZU DEALER

ISUZU
THE PICK-UP
PROFESSIONALS



PICK-UP WHERE YOU LEFT OFF

**WE ARE OPEN FOR ALL
YOUR MOTORING NEEDS**

- SALES • SERVICE
- PICK UP AND DELIVERY SERVICE
- ACCESSORIES •

Give us a call to discuss
your needs 01292 880080



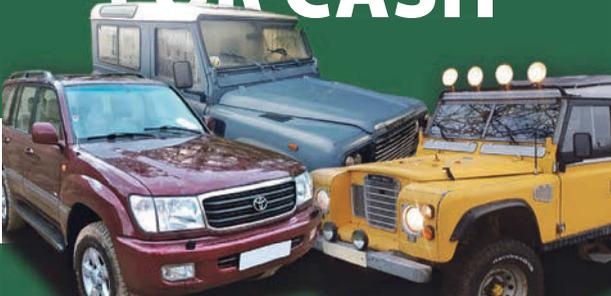
SUPPORTING THE PEOPLE OF ARGYLL FOR OVER 30 YEARS
HEATHFIELD, AYR KA8 9SX

TEL: 01292 880080 or JOHN: 07831 808702

West Coast MOTORING

✓ GARAGES ✓ DEALERSHIPS ✓ PRIVATE SALES ✓ NEWS

WANTED 4X4S FOR CASH



WANTED ALL 4X4'S & COMMERCIAL VEHICLES

We buy for retail, breaking and export so no matter the age or condition we can make a cash offer. Young or old, all makes and models, engine problems, farm used, accident damaged, mot failures etc.

WON'T BE BEATEN ON PRICE, FAST PAYMENT AND COLLECTION.

TEL: 07789 855381

ARKIP 460: FISHING - SPEED ALUMINIUM HULL BOAT 4.6ML, 1.85MW

Good condition fast aluminium boat with 50hp Yamaha outboard with console steering, Perspex windshield, 3 storage lockers, 25l fuel tank, nav light, spare outboard mounting, bad weather canopy and full boat cover. On 'roller' road trailer with spare wheel – all in good working order.



£7,500

Telephone 07595466088

WANTED

All types of 4x4's, motor homes and caravanettes. Cash waiting. Any age or condition. We also buy water damaged or in need of repair. Also all types of touring caravans from 95 onwards.

M: 07885 203020

Email: gbplantsales@hotmail.co.uk

WANTED

All touring caravans and motor homes, campers etc, high mileage, MOT failures or damp, all considered, any make or model, will travel.

Tel: 07546 788945



17FT NAB DORY

30hp Honda outboard good condition



£2200

Telephone 07775 501658

BMW XDRIVE SPORT

2016, 36000miles, full leather, sunroof, led lights, service history, MoT, beautiful example.



£17, 200 ovno

Telephone 01631 730323

WANTED

All types of good quality 4 x 4 vehicles, Landrovers, Toyota, Mitsubishi, Kia, Ford etc and all 4 x 4 pickups. Older 4 x 4's and non runners/MOT failures, High Mileage. etc considered. Best prices paid. Will collect.

T: 07546 788945



MOTs • Servicing • Repairs

All makes of vehicle serviced and repaired.

Munro's of Oban, Lochavullin Ind. Estate, Oban PA34 4PL
Tel: 01631 564463
Email: munrosofoban@aol.com
Web: www.munrosofoban.co.uk

<h2>NEW CAR INDEX</h2>	 <p>SUZUKI Gordon Motors Uk Dealer Of The Year 2014 Comrie Rd, Crieff, Perthshire PH7 4BQ Tel.01764 652125 Delivery throughout the West www.suzuki.co.uk/gordonmotors</p>	 <p>W.D. Semple www.wdsemple.com Inveraray Shore Street Tel.01499 302150 Lochgilthead Highbank Park 01546 606767/ 606272</p>	 <p>ISUZU S & S Services Old Bridge Road, Heathfield, Ayr 01292 880080 01292 880440</p>	 <p>Great Wall S & S Services Old Bridge Road, Heathfield, Ayr 01292 880080 01292 880440</p>	 <p>SUBARU S & S Services Old Bridge Road, Heathfield, Ayr 01292 880080/880440</p>
------------------------	---	---	---	--	--

West Coast CLASSIFIEDS

2006 LUNAR ZENITH TOURING CARAVAN.

5 berth, nice light van 1100kg, good condition, solar panel, two new leisure batteries. Motor mover included.



£3000 ono

Telephone 07786 255281

CONDITIONS OF ACCEPTANCE FOR ADVERTISEMENTS

YOUR attention is drawn to the following terms and conditions which relate to the placing of advertisements in all publications owned by Wyvex Media Limited. Parties to this agreement are the Publisher, Wyvex Media Limited Limited on the one part and the Advertiser on the other part. The Publisher publishes newspapers, magazines, books and provides advertising space therein or provides for the delivery of advertising materials to the public within these publications.

1 Advertising copy shall be legal, decent, honest and truthful and comply with the British Code of Advertising Practice and all other codes.

2 The Publisher does not guarantee the insertion of any particular advertisement.

3 The Publisher reserves the right to cancel or alter the advertisement by giving reasonable notice.

4 An order for an advertisement shall be deemed to be made on acceptance of the advertisers' order by the Publisher whether placed by telephone, mail, fax or in person.

5 Cancellation of display advertising must be received by the Publisher before the publishing deadline, failing which, the publisher reserves the right to invoice the customer in full for the whole cost of the advertisement.

6 The parties submit to the jurisdiction of the Scottish Courts and Scots Law. In the event of any dispute or action by the Publisher to recover payment from an advertiser, it is agreed that matters will be settled in the Oban, Argyll Sheriff Court or such other Court as the Publisher may choose.

7 The Publisher shall not be liable for any loss or damage occasioned by any total or partial failure (however caused) of publication or distribution of any newspaper or edition in which any advertisement is scheduled to appear. In the event of any error, misprint or omission in the printing of an advertisement or part of an advertisement, the Publisher will either re-insert the advertisement or relevant part of the advertisement, as the case may be, or make reasonable refund or adjustment to the cost. No re-insertion, refund or adjustment will be made where the error, misprint or omission does not materially detract from the advertisement.

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

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

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

11 Payment of any invoice raised by the Publisher will be due 15 days from the date of invoice or as otherwise directed on the invoice. In the event of non-payment the Publisher may charge late payment interest at a rate of 2% and this is chargeable on a daily basis from the due date until the bill is paid. In addition the Publisher may charge a late payment levy of £10 as an administration fee. In the event of late payment the Publisher reserves the right to disallow any discounts given and to raise an additional invoice for the discount which will be treated as though it has been raised with the original invoice.

12 A request to insert an advertisement assumes acceptance of our conditions. Published by Wyvex Media Limited, P.O. Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB, Tel: (01631) 568000

www.obantimes.co.uk and registered as a newspaper at the Post Office. http://termsandconditions.wyvexmedia.co.uk

MOBILITY

TOWER MOBILITY INDEPENDENT LIVING AIDS



**LIFT AND RISE RECLINERS
ROLLATORS, SCOOTERS
WHEEL CHAIRS**

HANDY AIDS TO DAILY LIVING.

MATHESONS FURNISHINGS

Soroba Road Oban PA344HQ

01631 565195 info@mathesons.co.uk



METALS WANTED

JW METALS

WANTED

**Copper, Brass, Lead,
Batteries and all types
of Cable.**

Competitive prices paid.

Tel: 07761 584443

TIMBER KIT HOMES & CONSTRUCTION

MACLEOD

CONSTRUCTION LIMITED



- TIMBER KITS
- WINDOWS & DOORS
- AGGREGATES
- PLUMBING & ELECTRICAL
- JOINERY & REFURBISHMENT
- CONSERVATORIES
- SCAFFOLDING



www.macleodconstruction.co.uk
Tel: (01546) 602989 • Email: sales@mkmacleod.co.uk

BLINDS

ApolloBlinds
Inspiring Ideas
Expertly Delivered
Since 1972

NEW Roman Collection

INTRODUCTORY OFFER
20% OFF

see our website for details and more offers!

01631 295 010
www.apollo-blinds.co.uk/argyllandlochaber

plus
FREE HOME CONSULTATION AND FREE INSTALLATION

DIY & TRADE SUPPLIES

HIGHLAND FASTENERS



**TRADE & DIY
ESSENTIALS**

Power tools
Hand tools | PPE
Workwear | Decorating
Fasteners | Fixings

Opening hours Mon-Fri 7.30am-5pm, Sat 8am-12pm

Highland Fasteners Ltd, 23-25 Stevenson Street, Oban, Argyll
01631 570584 e-mail sales@highlandfasteners.com

PERSONAL NOTICE

David MacKinnon

has at last retired officially on 24th July 2020, at the age of 67 after 34 years' service with the railway.

Enjoy David, you deserve it.

With love from Eileen, Helen, John, James and Andrew, Lisa, Lorne and of course Alfe.

Oban Times TRADE CLASSIFIED

Oban Times TRADE CLASSIFIED

Oban Times TRADE CLASSIFIED

RECRUITMENT

IN ASSOCIATION WITH
HIJOBS



WEST HIGHLAND HOUSING ASSOCIATION

West Highland Housing Association is a charitable organisation working in the Oban and Lorn area. We are recruiting a Housing Assistant to cover maternity leave (1 year), for our office based in Oban, but currently working from home due to the Coronavirus restrictions.

Housing Assistant (Maternity Leave Cover), Starting Salary £24,845

You will be part of a team of 7 and we would expect our ideal candidate to have customer service experience and experience of using IT. We would want you to demonstrate that you have excellent interpersonal skills and can communicate effectively with people on the phone, face to face and via email.

We are looking for someone who understands high quality customer service and wants to improve services for our tenants and owners.

- Can effectively engage with customers
- Good IT skills
- Enjoy working within a team
- Positive attitude
- Desire to learn
- Self-motivated
- Ability to solve problems
- Trustworthy

In return West Highland Housing Association is offering an excellent remuneration package which includes 25 days paid leave per year plus 15 public holidays and a contributory pension scheme. The organisation is a gold accredited Investors in People organisation and is committed to developing its staff team.

If you want to speak to us about this post, please contact Iona Smith on 01631 566451 and we will be delighted to talk further about our work and our expectations for the post.

A full job pack can be downloaded from our website at www.westhighlandha.co.uk

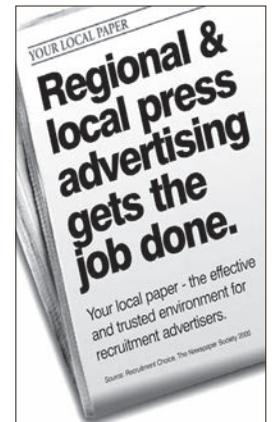
We will only consider completed job applications – no CVs.
Applications should be received by noon on 30 July 2020
Interviews will be held on Wednesday 19 August 2020

NOW LOOKING FOR NEW FILM CREW!

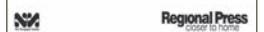
COOKS ★ KITCHEN ASSISTANTS
BAR STAFF ★ FLOOR SUPERVISOR
KIOSK & WAITING STAFF ★ CLEANERS
WEEKEND POT WASHING & RUNNER
VOLUNTEER USHERS

Excellent pay and incentives for cheery, professional and hard working people! For full details and to apply, visit:

WWW.HIGHLANDCINEMA.CO.UK



So, if you're looking for a new job or new staff, use the regional press, the best medium to get results.



like us on
facebook
www.facebook.com/obantimes



Senior childcare practitioner -
Stramash Outdoor Nursery Oban - F/T (40hrs pw)
term time or year round – if term time only must have some availability to cover during the holidays

Salary: £22,000 pa (pro rata for part time)

Closing date: 5pm Fri 31st July

Apply via our website

stramash.org.uk/work-with-us/

Fourteen years of digital archives

Available to Digital subscribers



The Oban Times LOCHABER TIMES



Can't get to the shops?

PAGE TURNER

version of the Oban Times available online

SUBSCRIBE AT

www.obantimes.co.uk/subscriptions

SPECIAL OFFER
3 months for just
£4.80



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

TRANSPORT SCOTLAND

THE A830 TRUNK ROAD (GLENFINNAN) (40MPH SPEED LIMIT) ORDER 2020

THE SCOTTISH MINISTERS give notice that they have made the above Order under section 84(1)(a), and 124(1)(d) of, and paragraph 27 of schedule 9 of, the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

The effect of the Order is as described in the herald, dated 19th September 2019, Oban times, dated 26th September 2019, and the Edinburgh Gazette issue number 28236 dated 20th September 2019. The Order comes into force on 21st July 2020.

Due to the current restrictions in force in relation to covid-19 full details of the order as made the relevant plan and a copy of the Order being revoked, can be viewed on the Transport Scotland website at:

<https://www.transport.gov.scot/road-orders/?roadorderregion=1291>

H. MCDONALD

A member of the staff of the Scottish Ministers
Transport Scotland Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road,
Glasgow G4 0HF



www.highland.gov.uk



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

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

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

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description
20/02573/PIP	Land 45M S of West Highland Hotel, Mallaig	Erection of 2 houses - Renewal of planning permission 17/02582/PIP
20/02580/FUL	Snips Albert Road, Ballachulish	Change of Use from Hair Dressing Salon (Class 1) to Residential for long term lets (Class 9)
20/02530/FUL	Land 70M SE Of Hillside Portuairk, Kilchoan	Erection of house

Time period for comments is 14 days

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

MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010
MOORINGS, NARRACH BRIDGE, KINLOCHLEVEN

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

Cost	Location	Latitude	Longitude	£2000
	Narrach Bridge,	56° 42.760' N	005° 00.100' W	
	Kinlochleven	56° 42.760' N	005° 00.080' W	
		56° 42.753' N	005° 00.091' W	
		56° 42.753' N	005° 00.072' W	
		56° 42.755' N	005° 00.112' W	

(WGS84)

Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at <https://bit.ly/3gCO14g>.

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

MS.MarineLicensing@gov.scot within 28 days of the date of this notice, quoting reference: 07352 and iPowerboat Ltd.

Fair Processing Notice

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

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

CROFTING COMMISSION
COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD
DECROFTING APPLICATION

AJ Maclean, 6 Kenovay 0.057 ha, site for a dwelling house (101882)

Comments from any member of the crofting community within the locality of the croft and any expressions of demand for the croft (which may be made public), may be sent to the Crofting Commission by 21/08/2020 at info@crofting.gov.scot / Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW.

DECROFTING DIRECTION ISSUED

DG Anderson, 10 Airds Bay, 0.076 ha, Existing house site, use & fencing conditions (100098)

Full details at www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk

The Oban Times
PUBLIC NOTICES

MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010
OUTFALL REPAIR
ONICH, CORRAN FERRY TERMINAL

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

Cost	Location	Latitude	Longitude	£ 40,000
	Repair Area	56° 43.287' N	05° 14.149' W	
	Repair Area	56° 43.273' N	05° 14.163' W	
	Repair Area	56° 43.273' N	05° 14.144' W	
	Repair Area	56° 43.286' N	05° 14.109' W	

(WGS84)

Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at <https://bit.ly/2ZzQhq4>

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

Licensing Operations Team, Marine Scotland, Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB within 14 days of the date of this notice or by email to: MS.MarineLicensing@gov.scot, quoting reference: 07372 and Scottish Water.

Fair Processing Notice

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

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

FIRST REG OF A CROFT

Mrs Joanna Margaret MacKinnon has registered their croft, 1/2 5 Torrin, Strath, Isle of Skye, on the Crofting Register of Scotland held by the Registers of Scotland.

Any persons who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by 9th April 2021.

Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C7031.

CROFTING COMMISSION
COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD
APPLICATION TO CREATE A NEW CROFT

C McIntyre of 1 Brackletter and 2 Brackletter, Brackletter Lodge, Spean Bridge, Fort William, PH34 4EX is applying to create two new crofts. Case number 104661.

Comments can be made to the Crofting Commission by any member of the crofting community within the locality of the land, within 28 days of the date of this newspaper.

Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW - info@crofting.gov.scot

Please specify your interest in the application and your reasons for commenting. A copy of any representations made will be forwarded to the applicant.

Our privacy notice is available at www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk/privacy-policy or on request.

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
20/01127/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse	Land South West Of Elzeard House Aros, Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute
20/00909/LIB	Installation of flood gates	Fishermans Pier Main Street, Tobermory Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute
20/01151/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and garage, installation of septic tank and formation of access	Land West Of Barran Caltunn Cottage Glencruitten, Oban Argyll And Bute
20/01071/PP	Erection of fencing around pumping station and formation of vehicular access and turning head to serve pumping station	Land West Of Dunstaffnage Mains Farm, Dunbeg Argyll And Bute
20/01083/PP	Construction of bellmouth and forestry access road off the A816	Land Off The A816 Between Kames Bay And Kilmelford Boat Yard, Kilmelford Argyll And Bute
20/01041/PP	Erection of 6 flats, 6 dwellinghouses, installation of septic tank and formation of vehicular access	Former Ossians Retirement Home North Connel Argyll And Bute

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

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

www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

Comhairle Earra - Ghàidheal agus Bhòid



The Oban Times
PUBLIC NOTICES

The Oban Times
PUBLIC NOTICES

THANK YOU

for continuing to support your local newspaper

Research shows that for every £1 spent with a local, independent business, between 50p-70p circulates back into that local economy



So every time you pick up a copy of The Oban Times you are not just helping one local business but a whole range of local businesses

The Oban Times

we ♥ local

The Oban Times
PUBLIC NOTICES

The Oban Times
PUBLIC NOTICES

The Oban Times
PUBLIC NOTICES

DEATHS

BLAIR - After a long illness bravely borne, Thomas "Keith" Currie Blair of 34 McDonald Terrace, Lochgilphead on July 17, 2020. Cherished husband of Catriona. Beloved father of Helen and Kenny and step father to Catherine and Stewart. Respected father-in-law of Robert and Dina. Much adored Grandpa to Lisa and Stacey. Private funeral service will be held at Kilmodan Churchyard, Glendaruel on Monday, July 27.

HENDERSON - Sadly but peacefully, on July 17, 2020, following a short illness, in her 73rd year, Marilyn, devoted wife of the late Graham, of Kilchrenan and a much loved sister to Mike. A private service will follow.

MACDONALD - Peacefully at Etive House Care Home, on July 13, 2020, in her 89th year, Anne Alpin MacDonald (a former Post Office employee), only daughter of the late Donald and Mary MacDonald,

formerly of Glencruitten Drive, Oban. The family would like to convey their heartfelt thanks to friends, neighbours and the staff at Etive House for their solicitude and kindness to Anne.

MACDONALD - Suddenly but peacefully at Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban on Wednesday, July 15, 2020, aged 43 years, Brian, dear son of Anne and Bruce, loving dad to John, a much loved brother, brother-in-law and uncle. Dearly loved by fiancée Michelle and her son Aaron. A great friend to so many. 'Our world is going to be a lonelier place without you, but you will always live on in our hearts' Love Mum, Dad and family. Due to funerals being restricted to a maximum of 20 mourners, Brian's funeral will be private. If you wish to pay your respects while social distancing, the funeral cortege will leave St. Columba's Cathedral at approximately 11.00 am on Monday, July 27. It will process along the Esplanade, past the Corran

Halls, along Dunollie Road, down George Street, through Argyll Square, along Combie Street, up Soroba Road to the roundabout at the Fire Station, before returning through the town on its way to the crematorium.

MACFADYEN - Peacefully at North Argyll House, Oban on Thursday, July 16, 2020, in her 95th year, Mary Morrison née Kennedy. Beloved wife of the late John Allan MacFadyen formerly of Kilbride Farm, Kilmore, much loved mum to John, Marion, Neil, Kenna and the late Sandra, nana to her nine grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. A special thank you to all the staff at North Argyll House. Funeral private. She will be sadly missed.

MACKINNON - Suddenly but peacefully at home in Dunollie, on July 15, 2020, in his 71st year, Iain MacKinnon. Dearly loved and sorely missed by all his family. In accordance with Iain's wishes he was taken home to Barra.

McDONALD - Suddenly, while enjoying his favourite pastime at Orchill Trout Fisheries near Auchterarder, on July 10, 2020, Alexander Ross McDonald, "Sandy" aged 70 years of 24 Ballimore, Kilmichael. Much loved husband of the late Sally Barker and loving father to Isla. Devoted Seanair to Charlie and Harris and much loved father-in-law to Scott. Dear brother of Colin, Ishabell, Murdo and Helen. A much respected brother-in-law, uncle and cousin to all the family. A popular figure in the angling community and a much respected neighbour and former work colleague to many. Private funeral service will be held at Achnabreac Cemetery today, Friday, July 24. The funeral cortege will depart from one of Sandy's favourite shops, Fyne Tackle, at 10:30 a.m. and proceed down Argyll Street, Lochgilphead where those wishing to pay their respects can line the route while social distancing.

McINTYRE - Margaret (née MacLean). Peacefully at her home 3 Kerrera Terrace on July 15, 2020 surrounded by her loving family. A much loved wife of the late Neil, treasured Mum of Archie and Mairi, devoted granny to Neil and Gemma, dear mother-in-law to Dougie and Jean, much loved sister of Mabel, Elizabeth and the late May, a beloved aunt and loyal friend, she will be sorely missed by us all. A private funeral was held at Pennyfuir Cemetery on Tuesday, July 21.

SINCLAIR - Peacefully at her home 56 Ardenslate Crescent, Kirn, Dunoon, on July 19, 2020 after a short illness borne bravely, Fiona Sinclair nee Campbell, aged 76 years. Formerly of Tigh Chladdich, Crarae, Furnace, Argyll. Beloved wife of Duncan and loving mother of Elizabeth. Cherished granny of Jennifer, Louise and Cameron. Dear mother-in-law to Steven. Sister to Sir Menzies Campbell. A good neighbour and loyal friend to many. A private funeral service will be held at Kilevin Cemetery, Minard on Friday, July 24.

the special hymn 'I Watch The Sunrise'. Thanks also to McDonald Bros, Inverloch for the beautiful flowers. We also want to thank David Johnston and the Fire Brigade for their touching tribute, Shanna Eddie for the footage and everyone in Mallaig and Morar who took the time to pay their respects to Elizabeth during her last trip round the village. Finally special thanks to John Fraser & Son, Chapel Street, Inverness especially Linnie Quail for her incredible support, warmth and compassion with the funeral arrangements. We could never thank you enough for everything you have done for the family.

MEMORIAMS

CARGILL - Precious memories of John, loving husband, dad and papa, who died peacefully on July 25, 2019.

Nothing could be more beautiful than the memories of you

To us they are very precious because they are of you Forever in our hearts.

- Jean and family.

DONALDSON - In loving memory of our mum and nan Lexy, who passed away July 27, 1989.

Your life was a blessing your memory a treasure

You are loved beyond words and missed beyond measure.

- Iain, Maria and Rosanna.

KERR - Lovely memories of our mother, mother-in-law and granny Flora, who died July 26, 2014.

- Love John, Morag and family x

FUNERAL DIRECTORS



MANSON & MACBEATH
FUNERAL DIRECTORS

~ Chosen for Our Care ~




Tel: 01397 701110
24 Hour Professional Service
Inverloch, Fort William, PH33 6NB

Proud to be Lochaber's Only Locally Owned & Managed Funeral Directors

MEMORIALS



Oban Memorials
Monumental Sculptors

Modern and Traditional Memorials,
Lettering, renovations and Brochure
available on request.

Unit 4, Crannog Lane,
Oban PA34 4HB
01631 563123 or 07765815982
email: info@obanmemorials.co.uk

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

MACBETH - The family of the late Elizabeth MacBeth wish to thank all relatives and friends for the support and sympathy shown to them in their recent bereavement. Thanks to the doctors and nursing staff at Wishaw General Hospital for their care and attention. Special thanks to Fr. Pamula for the lovely service, Piper Dougie Beck for the uplifting tunes and Anne MacDonald for singing

FUNERAL DIRECTORS

McLELLAN
FUNERAL DIRECTORS






Experienced, Highly Qualified & Compassionate Local Staff.

Totalling over 86 years of funeral experience between us.
Quality of care to Lochaber since 1923. Personal & professional.
Lochaber prepaid funeral plans giving peace of mind for the future.
Administered by an FPA approved provider and trust fund.
Elegant Gathering Rooms for celebration of life events. Faith based or Celebrant.
Wide range of distinctive headstones & memorials - a lasting tribute.
Reassurance that we care for your family, as we do our own.
Kindest regards, Pete, Tracey, John, Peter, Amanda & Calvin



DUDLEY ROAD, FORT WILLIAM PH33 6JB
01397 702128 (24 HRS) WWW.MCLELLANFUNERALS.CO.UK



QUALITY CARE SINCE 1923

Greenlees & Son

— FAMILY FUNERAL DIRECTORS —

We believe in fair funeral pricing,
our graveside and crematorium services are only

£895.00 + disbursements.

No hidden fees and no money ever asked for upfront.

"Our Family looking after your Family"

- Proprietor Scott A. Greenlees Dip. FAA



Tel. 01397 719 600 — 24 hour service
Kilmallie Road, Caol PH33 7AR
www.greenleesfunerals.co.uk

MACDONALD - Remembering Caroline, who passed away on July 20, 2015. In our hearts your memory lingers, always tender, fond and true. There is not a day dear Caroline we do not think of you.
- Ken, Iona, and Catherine.

MACDONALD - Precious daughter and sister, Kayla Mary MacDonald. Although we're not together, We will never be apart, Because you have that special place, Right here within our hearts Always and forever. Love and miss you Our Princess
- Mum Ruairidh and Ronnie Xxx

MACDONALD - Beloved and treasured memories of my darling daughter and our sister Kayla, taken away too soon on July 23, 2017.

If I could have a lifetime wish And one dream that could come true I would pray to God with all my heart

Just to see and speak to you A thousand words won't bring you back

I know because I've tried And neither will a million tears I know because I've cried You have left behind my broken heart

And precious memories too But I have never wanted memories

I have only wanted you.
- Inserted by her sorrowing Dad and brothers Ruairidh and Ronnie.

Your lifetime a beautiful memory Your absence a silent grief Our beautiful and beloved granddaughter.
- Pappa and Granny, Tíree.

Always in our thoughts Forever in our hearts.
- Magga, Tearlach, Sandra and Lachie, Tíree.

MACDONALD - Kayla Mary MacDonald. Our beautiful girl, Three years today since you were taken away, Such a beautiful precious angel,

We will never stop missing And loving you Every minute of every day.

- Gaga and uncle Ewen x
MACDONALD - Kayla (our girl).

We didn't know that morning That god would call your name In life we loved you so much In death it's still the same

It broke our hearts to lose you Your love is still our guide You left us precious memories

And are always by our side Our family chain is broken It will never be the same

We think about you every day Until we meet again Love forever

Grampa and Lorraine xxxx xxxx

MACDONALD - Kayla. We are sending a dove to heaven

With a parcel on its wings Be careful when you open it It's full of beautiful things

Inside are a million kisses Wrapped up in a million hugs To say how much we miss you

And to send you all our love We hold you close within our hearts

And there you will remain To walk with us throughout our lives

Until we meet again Love always
- Uncle Ewen, Auntie Caitlin and Uncle William xxxx xxxx

MACDONALD - Remembering our beautiful niece and cousin, Kayla, taken far too soon on July 23, 2017. We loved you very dearly We miss you every day We see your face so clearly You're just a cloud away Always in our thoughts.

- Dougie, Diane, Lauren and Dougie xxx

MACKICHAN - In loving memory of my much beloved and adored husband Cameron, who passed July 24, 2014.

Dearly loved father, step father, granddad and great-granddad. You gave me many things in life, gifts both great and small But most of all you gave me love

The greatest gift of all.
- Your loving wife Ann.

McCANN - In memory of our mum and dad, Lizzie and John who passed away August 1, 2010 and July 23, 1994.

Deep the memories, precious they stay No passing of time can take them away.

Missed every day by all the family.

SWAINSON - Cherished memories of a precious daddy Tony Swainson.

Back in mammy's arms Heavenly father hear our prayer Guide our daddy with tender care

Love him in Heaven As we did at home The dearest daddy this world could hold

You always had a smile to share Time to give and time to care A loving nature kind and true

Is the way we'll remember you. Please take care of Paul, daddy. Love and miss you so much.

- Jacqueline and Marie xxx

MEMORIALS

The largest stock of memorial headstones in the Highlands

John Fraser & Son
Established 1884



A unique and lasting tribute to your loved one

Four generations of the Fraser family have offered personal, professional funeral services to the Highland community for over 135 years. We hold an extensive range of memorial designs in different granites.

Our large stock means that turnaround time is minimised. Prices start at £750 and include unlimited lettering, design, flower vase, installation at any cemetery in mainland Highlands, VAT and the cemetery fee. Bespoke options and restoration are also available.

Linnie Quail, our Lochaber representative, is available to talk about our memorial options on the phone, Zoom or Skype until house visits are possible.

Contact **Linnie Quail** on 07774705783 or linnie@johnfraserandson.com
Browse our range of memorials on our website at www.johnfraserandson.com

Oban Times
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Oban Times
ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHARITY DONATIONS

WE ARE MACMILLAN. CANCER SUPPORT

Working towards a time when every person in Scotland has equal and ready access to the best information, treatment and care for cancer

Fundraising Office
Macmillan Cancer Support
PO Box 24040 Edinburgh EH3 1DZ

Tel 0300 100 0200

In memory of Dawn Joyce

THE DOVE CENTRE

By Oban Hospice
Donations always gratefully received

24 Stevenson Street Oban PA34 5NA

Tel: 01631 561315

www.obanhospice.org.uk

@obanhospice

CANCER RESEARCH UK

Together we will beat cancer

Help bring forward the day when all cancers are cured

DONATE TODAY:

Treasurer, Cancer Research UK Oban & District, Glenside, Polvinister Road, OBAN, PA34 5TN Tel: 01631 564420

FR Fundraising Regulator

Cancer Research UK is a Registered Charity in England and Wales (2099464), Scotland (SC041666) and the Isle of Man (11073). Registered address: Cancer Research UK, 2 Redman Place, Stratford, London E20 1JQ

MARIE CURIE CANCER CARE

Oban & Lorn Fundraising Branch

Donations always gratefully accepted

Please contact
Marie Curie Care Mannin, 2/5 Lismore House Station Road, Oban 01631 571009

FUNERAL DIRECTORS



D & A MUNN LTD.
FUNERAL DIRECTORS | Est. 1880
Owned and run by Ian MacInnes & Son

Oban's Longest Established
Independent Funeral Directors

Professional, Respectful
and Experienced Staff

Private Chapel of Rest

8-Seat Dorchester MKII Limousine Hire

Golden Charter Funeral Plans



Simple Burial
or Cremation
Service

FROM £1695.00

D & A MUNN Ltd
Breadalbane Street, Oban, Argyll PA34 5NZ
Tel: 01631 562562 Email: ian@munns-oban.co.uk



like us on **facebook**

www.facebook.com/obantimes

John MacEachen Memorial Trophy to go ahead

The family of the late John MacEachen have decided to go ahead with the annual memorial trophy competition after serious consideration of the current situation and in consultation with Glencruitten Golf Club.

It was felt that people are needing a break and there is nowhere safer in the current situation than out in the fresh air at Glencruitten.

The golf club is also needing the very welcome boost in income that the day brings.

More importantly the local cancer charities have suffered badly with almost all of their fundraising events in recent months being cancelled.

In the last two years this event has raised over £11,000 and is expected to add a significant amount again this

year. The competition, supported by D & K Lafferty Contractors, will take place on Saturday September 5 in a four-man team stableford format – entry fee is £60 per team.

A buffet and live music (social distancing compliant) along with a

raffle with superb prizes is also part of this fantastic day.

To book a place please telephone Angus MacEachen on 07711 292714 or email angusmaceachen@hotmail.co.uk All proceeds go to LOCAL cancer charities.

Last lap crash for unlucky McPhee

A podium finish and even a win looked likely for Oban's John McPhee in last Sunday's Moto3 Spanish Grand Prix in Jerez, but a last lap crash prevented him from crossing the line.

McPhee made a sluggish start to the race and slipped back to 10th place from the outside of the front row. However, after some superb riding he fought his way back up the field.

With eight laps remaining it really was anyone's race to win. The top 12 were joined at the hip in a classic Moto3 encounter.

Spaniard Alberto Arenas was looking strong at the spearhead of the group with P2

changing all the time between McPhee, Tony Arbolino and Darryn Binder.

With four laps to go, McPhee made his move. An aggressive pass on Arenas at Turn 11 was followed by a two-for-one purchase at turn 13 on Arbolino and Binder – the Oban rider was meaning business in the closing stages but he was not going to break clear as the top 11 were waiting to pounce.

With two laps left, McPhee led but Arbolino and now Arenas were getting impatient. Down the back straight, Arbolino got the slipstream and took P1 from McPhee, with Binder and Arenas getting too close for comfort



John McPhee takes the lead during last Sunday's Spanish Grand Prix in Jerez.

before Binder crashed out at turn nine.

It was starting to hit boiling point and McPhee was back in the lead as the number 17 dived up the inside of Arbolino, who left the door wide open on the penultimate corner.

However, down the back straight Arbolino was tucked into the slipstream and made the move going into the Dani Pedrosa corner, with Arenas then getting past McPhee at turn nine as Jorge Lorenzo corner – the last corner – awaited.

And drama followed. McPhee dived up the inside but ran slightly wide, with Celestino Vietti then touching Arbolino

on the exit, who in turn made contact with McPhee – the Petronas Sprinta man could do nothing and crashed out with the finish line in sight.

'It's unfortunate about the result, but these things happen and we'll try again next week'

There was no problem for Arenas though, the Spaniard stayed out of trouble and won the run to the line to win – taking another 25-point haul.

Japan's Ai Ogura had a wonderful final few laps to finish P2 for his second podium of the season, with Arbolino settling for P3 after going into the last corner first.

After the race John said: 'Unfortunately that's racing. I gave everything I had today and tried my best on the last lap. I didn't get a great start and I had to overwork the tyres a bit to get back to the sharp end, but it means I've got more knowledge ahead of the next race.'

'The good thing is I felt strong all race. It's unfortunate about the result, but these things happen and we'll try again

next week. We know now that we can turn up at every race and be near the front, to be within the podium positions.'

'Knowing that is a massive confidence boost, everything is working well with my bike and we're doing everything we can as a team.'

John's next race is on Sunday (July 26) again at the Circuito de Jerez.



THANK YOU
for continuing to support
your local newspaper

The Oban Times

Research shows that for every £1 spent with a local, independent business, between 50p-70p circulates back into that local economy

So every time you pick up a copy of The Oban Times you are not just helping one local business but a whole range of local businesses

we  local



LOCHABER TIMES

& OBAN TIMES

No 8521

Thursday 23 July, 2020

www.lochabertimes.co.uk

95p

LOCHABER TIMES

we  local

Research shows that for every £1 spent with a local, independent business, between 50p-70p circulates back into that local economy

THANK YOU

Every time you pick up a copy of The Lochaber Times you are not just helping one local business but a whole range of local businesses

Priest frustrated after OAPs lose out on internet help

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

The organisation set up to oversee the roll out of £5million worth of internet connections, training and associated laptops and tablets to people classed as clinical vulnerable, low income and digitally excluded during the coronavirus pandemic, has been forced to deny that a group of Arisaig and Morar Roman Catholic residents were turned down on religious grounds.

The Connecting Scotland project is being delivered to those left isolated by the coronavirus pandemic by the Scottish Government, in partnership with local authorities, Healthcare Improvement Scotland, The Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO) and various digital and IT sectors.

Thinking this scheme would be a great opportunity to help some of his more isolated parishioners, Father Stan Pamula, parish priest for St Mary's RC Church in Arisaig, as well as Our Lady of Perpetual Succour

and St Cumin Church in Morar, made an application last month to Connecting Scotland on behalf of 10 local people.

But he says he has been left bitterly disappointed after being forced to inform the 10 people, several of who are in their 90s, that they will not be getting help to get online from the scheme.

'I can't understand how my parishioners did not meet the criteria.'

'I can't understand how my parishioners did not meet the criteria. Now I am faced with telling them they might have stood a better chance of being successful if I had not applied on their behalf through the church parishes,' Father Stan told the Lochaber Times.

'After I submitted our application in June, well before the deadline, I got another email saying there had not been enough applications and there were still more devices to hand

out. So I am totally confused as to why we were not successful.

'Some of these people are in their 90s and stuck at home shielding - they will be very disappointed.'

Asked to clarify why the bid on behalf of Father Stan's parishioners was unsuccessful, Aaron Slater, Digital Participation Project Manager for the SCVO, said Connecting Scotland had received a very high level of interest from a range of voluntary sector organisations and public sector services across Scotland.

'As a result we haven't been able to make an award to everyone who has applied, which we understand can be very disappointing for those who have not been successful,' he told us.

'While we're unable to comment on specific applications, we can confirm that there is absolutely no prohibition on applications which are submitted by religious groups.

'To determine successful applications in each local

Continued on page 14.

Barber shop quartet...



There wasn't much singing as this barber shop 'quartet' followed social distancing rules while waiting for their turn in the chair at the Middle Street Barbers in Fort William, after last week's latest relaxation of lockdown regulations. No doubt there were smiles behind the masks! Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos



Scottish Charity Number SC030764

WE ARE DELIGHTED TO
WELCOME YOU BACK
With safety procedures in place
**APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE UPON
REQUEST. PLEASE CALL 01463 233 662**


Highland
BlindCraft Beds
They work like a dream

Opening Hours
Monday to Friday: 9am-4pm
Saturday: Closed
Sunday: Closed

Telephone: 01463 233662

Fax: 01463 710809 Email: sales@highlandblindcraft.co.uk

Sales Office, Factory and Showroom,
39 Ardconnel Street, Inverness, IV2 3HB

LT

Charity opens first caravan for bereaved families

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



A charity giving bereaved families a break gets the keys to its first respite caravan later this month.

Thanks to overwhelming support of well wishers, Anam Cara Fasgadh will start welcoming families to its luxury caravan at Tralee Bay Holiday Park near Oban on August 1.

The charity's Michael McGuire said there is already a waiting list of child-loss families desperately needing the safe haven it can provide after just 14 months of fundraising.

Mr McGuire, of Caol, Fort William, and his wife Rachel lost their son Kyle when he was stillborn almost 32 weeks into her pregnancy in May 2009.

The couple were at Tralee Bay recently with their six-year-old daughter Amelie, who has been helping with fundraising, to view the caravan for the first time. Mr McGuire said: 'This caravan will become a lifeline for many families, especially now when times are even more difficult because of coronavirus. All being well, people will be able to come here to spend time that they need with loved one and it won't cost them a penny.' The charity's ambition



Michael McGuire with his daughter Amelie, with the keys to the caravan.

is to open up a network of similar caravans and cabins at peaceful holiday park locations around the UK but lots more funds will be needed to make it happen.

Lockdown meant the cancellation of many events planned for this year, including a Ben Nevis Night Climb Challenge, now moved to next June.

Co-founder Susan Simpson, who lost two babies, Alex and Eilidh Beth, said: 'Our first caravan is already in demand - we're getting more and more enquiries and our calendar is filling up. Our own family knows first-hand how special a

space like this can be when you experience losing a child.'

Her other daughters Niamh, 11, and Charis who is 15, were among the first alongside the McGuire family to get a sneak-peek inside the new caravan with dad Andrew.

Anam Cara Fasgadh is there to help families who have lost a baby, child or young person - it's name in Gaelic means love and shelter for bereaved souls.

The caravan at Tralee, sleeping a family of four with two bathrooms and decking overlooking a lake, is just a few minutes stroll from the beach. Earlier this month, the

charity was also gifted a family week in a caravan by the owner of Port Ban Holiday Park at Kilberry near Tarbert.

'We appreciate everyone's help so much, it has got us to this milestone and we hope there will be more to come with people's loving support,' said Mrs Simpson.

To kit it out the already furnished caravan at Tralee, the charity has drawn up a wish list on its website including home-from-home essentials like pots and pans and a storage shed.

Support is also needed to help make-up welcome packs for visiting families including local produce, gift vouchers, eating out tokens and children's craft activities.

And the charity will also be funding their own mascot teddies for families to take home as keepsakes.

In the UK each year an estimated 17,000 plus families are bereaved through stillbirth or the death of an infant, child or young person up to the age of 25 - more than 250,000 others experience a miscarriage.

To find out more about Anam Cara Fasgadh and how you can help or get its help, visit www.anamcarafasgadh.org

Temporary classrooms ordered for high school

Three double-classroom modular units are being hired for Lochaber High School after news that work to repair May's flood damage might not be completed until December, writes Mark Entwistle.



construction industry guidance on the approach required to carry out repair work in an occupied building while some restrictions relating to the Covid pandemic remain in place.

Work is continuing at the secondary in Fort William to get the building ready for pupils coming back after the summer holidays in August, after it suffered extensive damage due to a burst internal water main pipe.

Highland Council has said the work being carried out is to dry out and clean the affected areas, and to determine the full extent of the remedial work that will be required. It is anticipated at this stage that the work may have to continue until December.

An order has been placed to hire three double-classroom modular units as temporary accommodation for the duration of the remedial works. This will free up classrooms to allow work to be undertaken in a phased manner and with the minimum of disruption to pupils and teachers.

The council is aiming for a 100 per cent return of pupils across Highland when all schools reopen for the new session in August.

The contractors will follow Scottish Government and

They will work with the council's in-house project team and school management to ensure that all necessary measures are in place for the safe return of pupils and staff in August, and as work continues during term time.

Head Teacher Scott Steele, pictured, commented that, while the disruption could not have come at a more challenging time, he was confident, with the support of colleagues from across the council, that the school will be operational at the start of the new session.

'Lochaber High School staff have all contributed to the preliminary work and will work in collaboration with all until the project is completed,' he added.

Councillor John Finlayson, chairperson of the council's Education Committee, added: 'A lot of work has been done to put in place arrangements so pupils can return to their school so I would like to thank everyone involved for their excellent work and I am sure parents and pupils will be delighted to hear this positive news.'



WE ARE OPEN AS NORMAL!

Mon-Fri: 8.30am - 5pm, Sat: 9am-1pm



We look forward to seeing our customers again!

ACCIDENT REPAIR CENTRE WE ARE NOT JUST A BODY SHOP
VEHICLE SERVICING + MECHANICAL REPAIRS • VEHICLE DIAGNOSTICS
4 WHEEL ALIGNMENT • AIR-CON SERVICING • GENERAL MOTOR REPAIRS



Glengallan Industrial Estate, Oban. Tel: 01631 566009
email: info@cjautos-oban.co.uk www.cjautos-oban.co.uk



KENNETH FERGUSON

ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR LTD

YOUR LOCAL SOLAR PV INSTALLER

CONVERTS DAYLIGHT IN TO ELECTRICITY

- CUTS YOUR ELECTRICITY BILLS
- REDUCES CARBON FOOTPRINT
- TAX FREE SAVINGS
- FREE NO OBLIGATION SURVEY











Morar House, Connel, Argyll PA37 1PA
 Tel: 01631 710862 Mobile: 07917 167477 Web: fergusonelectrical.co.uk

Jobs blow for Fort smelter workers

by Fiona Scott
fscott@obantimes.co.uk



The continued impact of Covid-19 and the uncertainty around Brexit is being blamed for the loss of up to 18 jobs at the Fort William-based Lochaber smelter.

Operators Liberty British Aluminium became ALVANCE British Aluminium as part of a new structure back in February this year but in March the company was forced to furlough around 40 of its workers in response to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The firm, part of metals industry tycoon Sanjeev Gupta's GFG Alliance group of companies, announced on Tuesday it would be scaling back the workforce on a permanent basis.

An ALVANCE British Aluminium spokesman said: 'The Covid-19 pandemic has compounded an already difficult commercial environment for aluminium.'

'Given the continued impact of the virus and uncertainty around post-Brexit trade talks, the market is likely to remain challenging for up to 18 months.'

'With regret, we therefore have made the difficult decision to begin a consultation on reducing the workforce at the Lochaber smelter.'

'We will be proposing a



The smelter is now in consultation with staff over the lost of up to 18 jobs; Kate Forbes has been in discussions with the company. Photograph: Iain Ferguson

reduction of around 15 to 18 jobs. As a responsible employer, we need to balance the welfare of our people with the need to protect the long-term sustainability of the Lochaber smelter, which is a vital piece of Scotland's industrial infrastructure and valuable contributor to the regional economy.

We will provide appropriate support to those affected - including looking at employment opportunities elsewhere through GFG Workforce Solutions, a redeployment vehicle operated by our parent organisation, GFG Alliance.'

Commenting on this latest jobs blow to the area Frazer Coupland, CEO of Lochaber

Chamber of Commerce, said: 'The global marketplace is a difficult place to work at the best of times.'

'I can only imagine with the world the way it is at the moment it is not making things any easier for those who trade in these markets.'

'I am sure the team at Alvance will have given thorough consideration whilst making these hard decisions.'

'The Lochaber smelter still remains part of the critical national infrastructure, as the only remaining aluminium smelter in Scotland and the UK.'

Kate Forbes, MSP for Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch, has been in talks with the compa-

ny this week and is cautiously optimistic that the business will continue to operate in Fort William.

She said: 'I realise this will be an anxious time for workers at the Lochaber smelter.'

'This is, of course, difficult news, at a time when many people have come through a tumultuous time during lockdown.'

'Liberty have assured me that they remain fully committed to the

site and I, and many others, will no doubt hold them to that. It is almost four years since the smelter was saved, saving over 100 jobs.'

'Although this is difficult news, due to the wider pressures on the industry, it is important to ensure that the smelter continues as a key local employer in recognition of the fact that it employs more people today than it did four years ago.'

'I want to ensure there is as much support in place for the workers as possible. As always, if any constituents wish to speak to me, I am available.'



Olivia Bridge of MacPhee and Partners, left, hands over cheque to Carol Shankley of Highland Hospice outside the new shop in Fort William High Street. Photograph: Iain Ferguson

Where there's a will their is a donation to hospice

Fort William solicitors, MacPhee and Partners, have raised £1,670 for Highland Hospice by participating in the charity's Make a Will Month initiative, writes Fiona Scott.

MacPhee and Partners' solicitor, Olivia Bridge, said: 'We were delighted to support Highland Hospice at this difficult time, knowing many of their fundraising events had been put on hold. The response from both our new and existing clients was fantastic.'

With lockdown restrictions easing, MacPhee and Partners are, once again, able to offer home visits for wills and powers of attorney for those clients who cannot attend the office.

Highland Hospice's corporate fundraiser, Karen Duff, said: 'Thank you so very much to Olivia and her team for supporting our Make a Will Month and to all the clients whose donations contributed towards this wonderful total.'

'Not only are they looking after their loved ones by securing their legacy, they are also supporting the work of Highland Hospice and their local community in Lochaber.'

Receiving the cheque on behalf of Highland Hospice was the charity's Fort William shop assistant, Carol Shankley, who said: 'We are so grateful to MacPhee and Partners. The people of Lochaber are very supportive of Highland Hospice and our Fort William shop is one of the most successful in the Hospice chain.'

'Progress on reopening the new High Street location, has been stopped due to lockdown but, once it is up and running, the branch will require extra volunteers.'

If anyone is interested in helping out, even for a few hours a week, please contact volunteer@highlandhospice.org.uk or visit www.highlandhospice.org/volunteer

Safer Summer Days Out

Find out everything you need to know to enjoy a fun-packed, safe summer in our 4 page guide later in today's edition.

Produced in partnership with the UK Government

All together >

LT

A82 crash figures revealed

The A82 trunk road between Glasgow and Inverness via Fort William has recorded the most accidents in Scotland, according to new figures, writes Ellis Butcher.

The data, provided by the Scottish Government to the Scottish Lib Dems, shows a total of 55 serious collisions and 18 fatalities between January 2017 and summer 2019.

The figures do not include 'damage only' incidents where no injuries are reported.

The Lib Dems ranked it among Scotland's 'deadliest' roads. At 167 miles long, it is the country's second longest trunk road behind the A9,

and one of the country's most popular scenic routes and a 'vital artery' linking the West Highlands to the central belt.

Across all of Scotland's trunk roads, there were nearly 800 serious or fatal accidents.

Jamie Stone, Lib Dem MP for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, has called on the Scottish Government to invest more in road safety.

Mr Stone said: 'With our tourist industry reopening, thousands of people will be planning their trips to see more of our beautiful country.'

A Transport Scotland spokesperson said: 'Scotland

compares well with the road safety record of the rest of the UK and many other countries.

'This provides no comfort to the friends and family of those who have sadly lost their lives and we want to do more.

'Information on accidents is used to ensure action and investment is targeted to the areas that need it most.

'We remain committed to working with our road safety partners to deliver a co-ordinated approach to road safety to secure the ultimate vision established in Scotland's Road Safety Framework to 2020 and beyond, where no one is killed on our roads.'

Roadworks near Invergarry under way

A new £60,000 road safety project on the A87 at Munerigie two miles west of Invergarry is under way this week with work set to take approximately three weeks to complete.

The project involves installing new safety barriers which will protect road users from roadside hazards including trees and steep drops.

To keep roadworkers and

road users safe during the project, temporary traffic lights and a 30mph speed limit will be in place throughout the duration of the improvements.

Eddie Ross, BEAR Scotland's North West Representative, said: 'This scheme on the A87 at Munerigie is part of our commitment to improving road safety on the network.'

'The temporary traffic lights are essential for the

protection of our workforce as well as motorists. Due to the nature of the works the traffic management will be in place continuously, however our teams will do all they can to complete the project as quickly and safely as possible.

'We thank motorists for their patience in advance and would encourage motorists to plan their journeys by visiting the Traffic Scotland website.'



Cameron McNeish says Scotland badly needs a system of low-cost overnight parking places for campervans and motorhomes, similar to Aires in France.

Outdoor legend McNeish says don't blame litter on campervanners

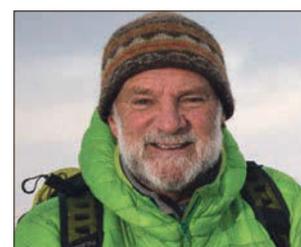
by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Well-known broadcaster, author and outdoor pursuits expert, Cameron McNeish, a former chair of the Nevis Partnership, has cautioned against all litter problems being blamed on campervan and motorhome users.

His remarks follow several weekends of problems at various Lochaber beauty spots, including wild campers on the beaches at Arisaig and Morar and hundreds of cars, tents and motorhomes descending on Glen Etive, with mountains of rubbish and damage left behind.

The problems prompted a conference telephone summit last week, hosted by Fergus Ewing, Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy and Tourism, which involved representatives from local community councils and organisations along the Road to the Isles, and which was organised by local MSP Kate Forbes.

Mr McNeish told us: 'I am aware that we are in unusual times at the moment. Hordes of young people who would normally be drinking on the sun-warmed beaches of Costa



Cameron McNeish

del Sol, Majorca and Ibiza can't get there because of Covid.

'Neither can they get B&B or hotel accommodation or even a campsite with toilet facilities in Scotland at the moment so they are buying a cheap tent and a ton of booze and head instead to the honey-pots of Scotland. They are, in the main, totally unaware of what no-trace-camping is about.

'On the other hand we are seeing something I warned about a few years ago, the 'dispersal effect' from Loch Lomond.

'When the National Park there decided it would be permits or criminalisation for everyone who 'wild camped' during the summer months there were many of us who believed most of these regular 'dirty campers' would simply go elsewhere.

'It appears Glen Etive was

their chosen location,' adding: 'Finally, I'm getting impatient with all those who link campervans and litter. The period of lockdown has seen an epidemic of littering, all over Scotland at a time when there were very few campervans on the road.'

'We have certainly seen a large increase in the number of campervans and motorhomes visiting Scotland but any sensible nation would recognise this as a welcome addition to tourism.

'All over Continental Europe this sector of the tourist market is welcomed with suitable low cost infrastructure. In France they are called 'Aires'.

'Our continental cousins are aware these campervan owners spend money in fuel stations, local shops, pubs and restaurants but here in Scotland there is a tendency to treat campervanners like lepers.

'We badly need a system of low-cost overnight parking places for campervans and motorhomes.

'Until we provide these things visitors will choose to spend overnights in laybys, something they are legally entitled to do under UK Road Traffic law.'

recycle for Highland
ath-chuairtich airson na Gàidhealtachd

The Highland Council
Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd

Garden Waste Collection Service

Do you currently receive a garden waste collection?

2019/20 permits expire on 31st August.

The new 2020/21 permit season begins on 1st September.

To receive your permit in time for the first
2020/21 collections order by 2nd August 2020.



WAYS TO PAY!

- www.highland.gov.uk/gardenwaste
- Call 01349 886660

www.highland.gov.uk/gardenwaste ✉ recycle@highland.gov.uk ☎ 01349 886660

Kenneth John takes up deputy lieutenancy post

by Fiona Scott
fscott@obantimes.co.uk



Donald Martin, Lord-Lieutenant for the Western Isles, has announced the appointment of Kenneth John MacLennan MBE of Callanish, Isle of Lewis, as a Deputy Lieutenant.

Mr MacLennan fills a vacancy created by the passing of the late Simon Fraser OBE in 2016.

Mr MacLennan, who was awarded the MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List in June 2007 for services to the local community, is a retired local government officer who spend 33 years with Comhairle nan Eilean Siar.

He is currently a part-time inspector and stamper with the Harris Tweed Authority and an active crofter.

A native Gaelic speaker, Mr MacLennan was born and brought up in Callanish and



attended Breascleite and The Nicolson Institute schools before attending Napier College in Edinburgh where he studied Civil Engineering.

He is actively involved in several community groups and is the current chairman of Breascleite Community Association, Urras Oighreachd

Charlabhaigh (Carloway Estate Trust) and East Loch Roag Historical Society, as well as a community councillor on Breascleite Community Council.

Married with a grown-up family of four, he and his wife Joan, who is from South Uist, have five grandchildren.

In his role as chairman of the Breascleite Community Association, Kenneth John MacLennan welcomed HRH The Princess Royal to its centre in 2019.

In congratulating Mr MacLennan on his appointment, the Lord-Lieutenant said: 'I am delighted to appoint Kenny John as a Deputy Lieutenant and I look forward to working with him on behalf of the Lieutenancy.'

'In addition to his long career with the council's technical services department, he has a strong background and wide experience in community activities at various levels on the west side of Lewis.'

'His appointment as a Deputy Lieutenant recognises the valuable contribution Kenny John has made to community development and voluntary work over many years.'

Commenting on his appointment Kenny John said: 'It is a great honour for me to become part of the Lieutenancy team and I look forward to working with the Lord-Lieutenant, his Deputies and Clerk.'

'It is also very humbling to replace Simon Fraser, who was a friend and a very well-respected gentleman, not only in our own community but throughout the Western Isles.'

The Western Isles Lieutenancy comprises the Lord-Lieutenant who is HM The Queen's representative in the area. He is supported by a Vice Lord-Lieutenant (Mrs Elizabeth McAtear), up to a maximum of 10 Deputy Lieutenants and a Lieutenancy Clerk (Miss Margaret Mackay).

Further information on the work of the Western Isles Lieutenancy is available on www.westernisleslieutenancy.org.uk

Oban Regatta store reopens after refit

The Regatta store in Oban will reopen on August 7 - following its sister site at Fort William, which opened on July 17.

It is part of a roll-out of new stores and new jobs, the outdoor clothing company said, with work having been carried out at the George Street store, and High Street, Fort William.

A total of 10 jobs have been created across the two openings and one in Callander, the company said.

Regatta has more than 48 retail stores and retail partners across the UK.

Jo Black, retail director, said: 'This really is an exciting time for the Regatta brand to be opening in Fort William, Callander and Oban.'

'Scotland is a fabulous marketplace and our customers can expect to receive great service, great brands and see an incredible range suitable for all the family at affordable prices as we look to inspire more and more people to fall in love with the great outdoors.'

Invercoe Bridge work due to start in December

Work to demolish and replace Invercoe Bridge will start in December with the search for a contractor now on.

The long awaited project has been on the table for more than a decade while safety fears were raised recently when cracks appeared on the concrete crossing, which goes over the River Coe on the B863 Glencoe to Kinlochleven road.

The £3million replacement plan was approved by Highland Council last week much to the relief of locals who have been campaigning for many years to have the lifeline structure made safe and fit for purpose.

Councillor Andrew Baxter said: 'It has taken many councillors, both present and past, asking questions and highlighting the precarious condition of the Invercoe Bridge, to finally get the go ahead for work to start on its replacement.'

'Local residents have waited over a decade for the Highland Council to finally stump up the cash needed for this lifeline bridge. If this bridge had failed, it would have been catastrophic for both local businesses and residents. Invercoe would



Councillor Andrew Baxter is delighted that work is scheduled to start on rebuilding Invercoe Bridge in December.

effectively been cut-off and Kinlochleven residents forced to add miles to many of their journeys.

'Many of us were concerned that the traffic restrictions to protect the bridge would become a permanent feature, so I am delighted that we are one stage closer to work actually starting.'

'It's fantastic that this is finally going ahead.'

Highland Council is currently inviting tenders for the construction of the replacement 196ft two-span steel bridge that will serve Invercoe and Kinlochleven and also form part of the long-distance Argyll Coastal Route.

Work is estimated to take 12 months in total and a tem-

porary crossing will be put in place during the project.

A spokesman for the local authority said: 'The contract will include the provision of a temporary road bridge, demolition of the existing bridge and the construction of the new bridge.'

Councillor Baxter is now looking for attention to be turned towards similar structures in the area: 'There are many other bridges in my ward, including the Kinlochleven Viaduct and along Glen Etive that require repair,' he added.

'I will continue asking that they are at the top of the list, when the council decides some money can flow down the Great Glen.'

MACLEOD

CONSTRUCTION LIMITED

Rock & Gravel Quarries

KILMARTIN & ACHNABA STONE®

We are delighted to be open to the public again!
Customers and staff are always MacLeods top priority and we will continue to work within Government guidelines to ensure safety for all!

www.macleodconstruction.co.uk

LT

Sculpture site prep started

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

A bronze sculpture which will celebrate the lives of two climbing legends has moved closer to completion as preparation work gets underway at the spot where it will be sited.

The Collie Mackenzie Heritage Group has been fundraising for some time to bring the project to fruition and place the sculpture in the landscape looking towards the Cuillin.

John Mackenzie was from the crofting village of Sconser and began climbing the Cuillin at the age of 10. He went on to become the first ever native Scot to become a professional mountain guide to Alpine standards.

Mackenzie met Professor John Norman Collie, an internationally renowned scientist and mountain expert, on Skye – and the pair formed a climbing partnership and friendship that spanned



Mountaineering legend, Sir Chris Bonington, left, gave his support to the Collie and MacKenzie Heritage group, when he met committee members Hector and Morag Nicolson at the Fort William Mountain Festival. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image.

over half a century. The heritage group had previously landscaped the surrounding area of the sculpture site at

Sligachan, incorporating a car park, oak shelter, information panels, paths, a stone seat and bronze relief of the

Cuillin. In February it successfully reached the £117,000 target to bring the project to fruition.

The site for the sculpture is already being prepared.



Having reached the funding target to build the sculpture (a matter of weeks before news of the pandemic broke and lockdown began), the group made the decision to keep going and aim for its target of unveiling the sculpture at the end of the year.

Preparations at the site are now under way and it is hoped that if things go to plan the sculpture can be in place for late September.

They are closely following the government's guidelines regarding gatherings at events. It remains to be seen whether a ceremony to mark the unveiling of the sculpture will be able to take place, but if not, it is planned that the sculpture will nevertheless be

put in place for this date.

Morag Nicolson, chairperson of the Collie MacKenzie Group, commented: 'We would like to thank all those who have been with us on this journey to build the sculpture and who have given us tremendous support along the way.'

'It's been a struggle, and at times we doubted it was going to happen, but we kept going with the support of the Skye community and from people from all round the world.'

'It's testament to them that we will now be placing the sculpture of both climbing pioneers at Sligachan, looking towards the Cuillin, the hills that both men did much to map and explore.'

Moving Home? Renovating?

Thinking about a multi-fuel stove or wood-burner?

We provide a professional, local service and we're open for business!

from trusted manufacturers

arada
-stoves-

hunterstoves

Mendip
Stoves

Dean
Forge

Opening hours: Open Tuesday to Saturday 10am to 5pm

RS STOVE CRAFT
Lorne Street, Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8LU
Tel: 01546 603111
Contact us on 07470 699572 at any other time.

Skye care home worker retests positive for Covid-19 virus

NHS Highland confirmed that a member of staff at Home Farm care home in Portree has re-tested positive for Covid-19, writes Mark Entwistle.

The individual has been followed up in line with national guidance and has been advised to isolate and contact tracing has been undertaken.

In addition, and as a further precaution, NHS Highland said it was in the process of re-testing individuals in keeping with national guidance and would inform all of those tested of their results as soon as they were available.

The home, which was at the centre of a court hearing earlier this year after 10 residents died as a result of a Covid-19 outbreak, has been closed to new admissions.

Evidence is emerging internationally about Covid-19 and it is now recognised that some people have prolonged positive swab results and others can have intermittent negative and positive results over many weeks.

As such, an ongoing positive result does not mean that an individual is still infectious or that they pose a risk to others.



Home Farm Care Home at Portree. Photograph: BBC Scotland.

However, when combined with new symptoms, it is necessary to adopt a precautionary approach as it is not possible to exclude the potential of a new infection or reactivation.

NHS Highland said there are no other cases of confirmed Covid-19 infection in the local community or on the rest of Skye and does not believe there to be an increased risk

of Covid-19 infection to the wider community at this time.

However, the virus can recur even in rural communities and so everyone should continue to adhere to physical distancing guidelines, wear a face-covering when in enclosed spaces, clean their hands and surfaces regularly and immediately self-isolate if they develop symptoms.

Over and out from Ballachulish

by Fiona Scott
fscott@obantimes.co.uk



In keeping with measures of the easing of lockdown, the residents of the Ballachulish Community Council area took down their famous Green tick posters and the equally famous ppatrols ceased last Tuesday, July 14.

Designed to provide an easily visible way of communicating distress or need during the period of lockdown that was certain to come, the Green and Red posters were distributed by Ballachulish Community Support Group volunteers on March 14.

Twice daily patrols began on March 15 and were originally done by car. In a bid to ensure the patrols were sustainable, group organisers set about dividing the village into areas and recruiting volunteers to cover these areas.

On March 21 patrols on foot or by bicycle began, and the rest is history...

Over a period of 100 days the patrollers never missed a check in. Since foot patrols commenced they have walked or cycled in all weathers risking hypothermia, heat stroke



Patrollers Mary MacDonald, Angus MacInnes and Mary and Ian Hamilton.

the wonderful community effort in Ballachulish. Stay safe everyone.'

The community has expressed sincere thanks to patrol organiser Ruth Sime and patrollers Mary and Colin MacDonald, Helen and Ian Hamilton, The Moran Family, Christine and Drew MacFarlane-Slack, Sandra Russell, The Baldwin Family and Angus McInnes for their efforts in patrolling from Ballachulish to Lettermore

twice a day for the duration. Thanks also went to Lochaber Environmental Group who loaned Angus his ebike.

Patrollers, and those who did get out and about, had their spirits lifted throughout lockdown by the Baldwin's enterprising Gosh Wow Comics, with a blackboard displayed outside their premises with a different joke on it every day. The final one went out last Wednesday, July 15. 'Why do bees hum? Because they can't remember the words.'

MOREPHOTOS
www.lochabertimes.co.uk

and midgie attack.

Throughout lockdown, local residents, particularly those who were housebound or vulnerable, have had the assurance that their red flag would be seen and reported.

Signing off from her duties last week, patrol organiser Ruth Sime said: 'We have definitely come through this as a stronger community.'

'A big thank you to everyone who patrolled for more than three and a half months. Over

an out, stay safe and thanks very much.

Patroller Mary MacDonald signed off: 'All fine and dandy in Brecklet. Over and out from Colin and I.'

Angus McInnes said: 'It's been a blast. All damp but good at Lochside', while the Baldwins who patrolled Areas 12 and 5 added, 'Everything is cool and groovy'.

Helen Hamilton concluded: Thank you - we enjoyed being able to help out, in a small way,

Kate Forbes voices concerns for future of Gaelic language

Kate Forbes MSP has called for the Gaelic language to be treated as normal in all services for the Highlands and Islands to increase confidence in speakers to use the language in everyday situations, writes Fiona Scott.

Her comments follow new research by the UHI and Soillse, which was published in a book called 'The Gaelic Crisis in the Vernacular Community: A comprehensive sociolinguistic survey of Scottish Gaelic', that said daily use of Gaelic was too low if it is to be sustained as a community language.

The MSP for Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch, who made history in 2018 by becoming the first female MSP to give a plenary speech entirely in Gaelic in the current Holyrood chamber, has been a proud advocate for the language since first being elected back in 2016.

She said: 'One of the communities under research, Staffin in Skye, is in my constituency. When I hold surgeries there, some constituents choose to discuss matters in Gaelic



Kate Forbes MSP

with me. This isn't just about preserving our heritage, understanding our culture or sentimentalising our ancestors' memory - important as all of those are. This is about our future, and ensuring that this language is alive and in use for many years to come.

'I cannot overstate how critical the next few years will be. This research is sobering and stark, and I think all of us should actively work to ensure these predictions don't come true.'

The final chapters of the book address the mismatch in existing Gaelic policies and the level of crisis among the speaker group.

The stark conclusions, indicating the risks of language erasure, are balanced by recommendations that offer the basis for language policy interventions through community empowerment.

'Every organisation in the private and public sectors, particularly in the Highlands and Islands, faces a choice of either facilitating or reversing the decline of Gaelic,' added Ms Forbes. 'If it is still going to be a vernacular language, rather than just the preserve of academia, then speakers should be allowed to take it into schools, the workplace, local shops and places of worship.'

'I take my responsibility as MSP for Gaelic-speaking communities very seriously - so should every other organisation, body and individual that lives or works in these communities.'

A PLAN FOR JOBS

£1,000
TO COMPANIES FOR EVERY
FURLOUGHED WORKER STILL EMPLOYED
AS OF 31 JANUARY 2021

£2 BILLION
KICKSTART SCHEME TO CREATE
JOBS FOR 16-24-YEAR-OLDS

VAT CUT TO 5%
FOR TOURISM & HOSPITALITY
FOR THE NEXT 6 MONTHS

With these measures and more,
the UK Government is helping protect
livelihoods in Scotland and across
the rest of the UK.

Find out more at [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk) or search **Plan for Jobs**

LT

Glenfinnan Gold lives again as Spean brewery pays homage to local legacy

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

There will be many in Lochaber who fondly remember the Glenfinnan Brewery and the four-barrel microbrewery's small range of craft beers.

But although the brewery is no more, the equipment that spent about a decade producing such popular beers as Glenfinnan Gold and Glenfinnan Dark, has continued to fulfil its original purpose, albeit in a new home at Spean Bridge.

And now in homage to that unique Lochaber legacy, the Glen Spean Brewing Company's latest recipe has been christened Glenfinnan Gold, joining an existing stable that already comprises



Ian-Peter MacDonald, far left, Lucy Hicks and John Fish with the new Glenfinnan Gold beer in front of equipment from the former Glenfinnan Brewery; and the new beer with an original Glenfinnan Brewery cask. Photographs: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image

Snow Goose, Pale Blonde, Highbridge IPA and Red Revival.

The Glen Spean Brewing Company only started life a little more than two years ago, set up in an 18th-century farm steading at Tirindrish in Spean Bridge by Ian Peter MacDonald, James Leggatt and Lucy Hicks.

However, as Mr MacDonald explained, the purchase of the brewery equipment from Glenfinnan came with the added bonus of one of its founders, John Fish, supplying his expertise to the fledgling Glen Spean

Brewing Company.

Mr Fish had set up the Glenfinnan Brewery in 2005, together with two fellow retired ex-teachers - Dave Leckie and the late Donald John Robertson.

The brewery was officially opened in May 2007 at an event featuring the then local MP, the late Charles Kennedy.

'When we bought the brewery the Glenfinnan, John kind of came with it and his help has been absolutely fantastic. That's why on the back of the label of our new Glenfinnan Gold is a sketch

of John,' Mr MacDonald told the Lochaber Times.

'We have a different recipe for our Glenfinnan Gold, however, and it is a really nice complement to the other beers in our range. Unusually for us, it is brewed from a single malt from a farm in Fife which is malting its own barley.'

'We are also intending to submit a planning application for a new tap room so that people can enjoy the whole experience and they can come here and see people actually brewing the beer they can then drink.'



Raising the standard in May 2017, along with a pint of Standard, are Glenfinnan Brewery founders, from right, the late Donald-John Robertson, David Leckie and John Fish, who welcomed local MP, the late Charles Kennedy, far left, and Glenfinnan Gathering organiser, the late Ronnie McKellaig, second left, to the official opening of their new venture.

Photographs: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image.

0%

FINANCE AVAILABLE

Tralee Heating Services

- LPG & Natural Gas
- Landlord & Safety certificates
- Installations
- Repairs
- Servicing

All Heating Services for domestic & leisure

T: 01631 720 255
M: 07590 440 877
E: traleebaygas@gmail.com
W: www.traleeheatingservices.co.uk

NO CALL OUT CHARGE FOR OBAN & SURROUNDING AREA.

CALLING ALL HOTELS, B&Bs, OFFICES & RESTAURANTS

Control the spread of dangerous bacteria and viruses through our specialist disinfection strategy and provide a safe working environment for staff and customers.

COVID-19: Provide protection for staff and customers

- ☑ Strategy proven effective against Coronavirus
- ☑ Equipment as used by NHS

Firms find a West Highland Way to adapt during Covid

by Fiona Scott
fscott@obantimes.co.uk



Having turned their hands to offering new products and services during lockdown, businesses along the West Highland Way are looking forward to welcoming back walkers.

Family-run gift shop The Granite House, situated on Fort William High Street, just a few metres from the end of the iconic walking route has been providing a free local delivery service during lockdown offering thousands of products, including jigsaws, Lego and craft-related goodies to keep both the little and big kids busy.

This service, organised by sisters Katherine and Gillian, proved to be very popular and kept the business busy despite the sharp drop in visitors to the Highlands. Gillian became



a familiar figure on her electric bike, delivering birthday presents around Fort William.

Owner Alistair Ness said: 'Our lovely loyal locals have supported us during lock-

down. However, we're looking forward to the return of walkers on the West Highland Way and climbers on Ben Nevis as soon as possible!'

Rena Baillie who manages

tourism business Strathfillan Wigwams, near Tyndrum has found several ways to keep busy during lockdown.

Firstly, bedsheets from Kirkton Farmhouse, rented

The Granite House offered a delivery service during lockdown, while Rena Baillie who manages tourism business Strathfillan Wigwams, near Tyndrum, helped make facemasks.

out alongside the Wigwams, were given a new lease of life as gowns for NHS district nurses in Glasgow.

'Our group of five women made 70 gowns of which 18 were made by myself on a 1958 Singer sewing machine,' she told us.

'I also started making face masks for locals and relatives with the proceeds going to the Falls of Dochart Care Home in Killin, who do an amazing job.

'Fiona from Glenorchy Farm came up with the idea for the flour hub when it became difficult to source from supermarkets. At Strathfillan

Wigwams, we were able to source bread flour from our suppliers, which was sold in the porch at the Artisan Cafe with an honesty box so that there was no contact between buyers.

'This supply of flour got lots of locals (adults and children) baking bread and cakes during lockdown.'

The West Highland Way, Scotland's much loved long distance route from Milngavie to Fort William, is celebrating its 40th anniversary in October this year backed by funding from the LEADER programme.

Information on the West Highland Way is available at www.westhighlandway.org

KEEPINTOUCH

email us at fort@obantimes.co.uk
telephone 01397 703003

SEPTIC TANK SERVICES

Callum Simpson

- ✓ SEPTIC TANK EMPTYING & CLEANING
- ✓ SEPTIC TANK INSTALLATION
- ✓ GROUNDWORKS & LANDSCAPING
- ✓ CRANE HIRE

In Partnership with
Turley Bros.



We won't be beaten on price, service or quality.

Turley Treatment Tanks

CONCRETE TANK - 40 YEAR WARRANTY

www.septic tankservicesltd.com 07917358285



Accredited Installer

LT

Crowdfunding to print family mystery book

The life story of a 1920s ship steward who left his family to make his fortune in New York is about to be made into a graphic novel.

Thomas Carmichael's great-granddaughter Katie Carmichael has just launched a Kickstarter campaign so she can share the century-long family mystery that surrounds his life and ended in murder – or was it an accident?

Thomas Carmichael worked for David MacBrayne on highland mail steamers and was based at Oban Pier until he emigrated to work for the United Fruit Company.

Thanks to Scotland's People and other family history databases, Katie was able to piece together the sketchy information about Thomas to reveal details of his life and his death in Depression-era New York, a time when many Scots were emigrating in the hope of new lives and work.

The book called *My Great Grandfather, the Alien*, is a fully illustrated scrapbook-style graphic novel, which includes illustrations created from the archival documents that helped Katie join the dots about her ancestor, bringing his strange story to life.

The Kickstarter campaign for *My Great Grandfather, the Alien* can be found at: tiny.cc/mggta

Lochaber estate partners with trust to help rare alpine plant to bloom

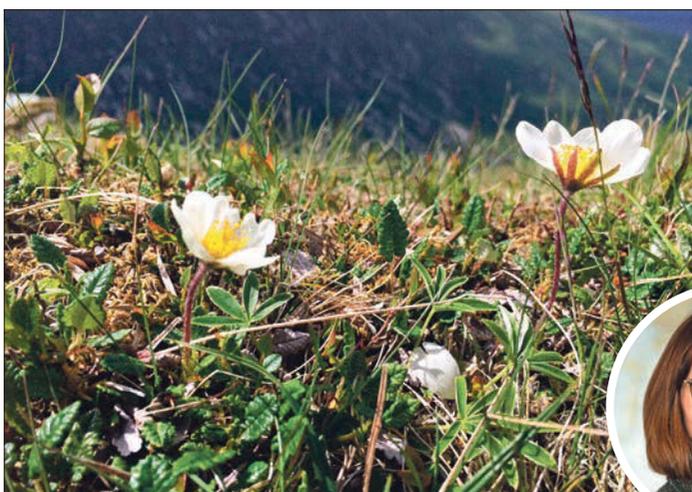
by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Jahama Highland Estates is working in partnership with leading wild land conservation charity John Muir Trust to restore the population of an Arctic alpine flower which has become increasingly rare across Britain's upland regions.

The mountain avens, an alpine plant with distinctive eight-petal blooms and a yellow centre, is found more widely in the Scottish Highlands but classed as 'vulnerable' in England and 'endangered' in Wales.

It grows in cold, sunny locations and flowers in early summer. Its cultivation is being supported as part of a broader strategy to protect Britain's biodiversity.

Working alongside Scottish Natural Heritage and Natural England, seeds from the flowers will be collected on estate lands near Fort William, propagated and then planted



on the slopes of Helvellyn.

The third highest mountain in England's Lake District, Helvellyn is currently managed by the John Muir Trust and one of the few places further south where the plant has a marginal foothold, which this project hopes to strengthen further.

Samples of the flower have been located on lime-rich ridges at a height of 850 me-

tres on Beinn Na Socaich, a mountain in the Grey Corries, near Fort William, looked after by Jahama, and which neighbours John Muir Trust-managed land at Ben Nevis.

Mountain avens grow widely elsewhere in the world – they are the national flower of Iceland and the territorial emblem of Canada's Northwest Territories.

Jahama manages 114,000

acres in the west Highlands that came as part of the purchase of the Lochaber Smelter by parent company, GFG Alliance – a group of assets and businesses owned industrialist Sanjeev Gupta.

with local communities. Jahama's Chief Operating Officer, Julia Stoddart, said it was a privilege to have such a rich range of plants and wildlife on the estate and that the company took its management responsibilities as 'stewards of the landscape' seriously.

Julia Stoddart, Chief Operating Officer of Jahama Highland Estates. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image.



acres in the west Highlands that came as part of the purchase of the Lochaber Smelter by parent company, GFG Alliance – a group of assets and businesses owned industrialist Sanjeev Gupta.

The estates are managed under a strategy of combining traditional rural activities with sustainable industrial activities, while engaging closely

with local communities. Jahama's Chief Operating Officer, Julia Stoddart, said it was a privilege to have such a rich range of plants and wildlife on the estate and that the company took its management responsibilities as 'stewards of the landscape' seriously.

'We're delighted to help with this project, which we hope will strengthen the precarious populations of mountain avens across the border in England,' she said.

Pete Barron, from the John Muir Trust, added: 'Without the support of Jahama and the other partners in this project, the Lakeland population of this relatively rare mountain plant species could not have been augmented and protected. This also illustrates the strength of partnership work in the Nevis area.'

GETINTOUCH

email us at fort@obantimes.co.uk
telephone 01397 703003

THE SPORTS SHOP IS OPEN!

HUGE 20% OFF

all existing sale stock - great bargains on footwear, clothing and equipment for men, ladies and juniors

BEFORE YOU BUY GIVE US A TRY...

Before you next go online to make a purchase from a large corporation, why not pop into your local Sport Shop to see if we can help.

Not only will you receive your item there and then, but we are giving an **EXTRA 20% OFF** all sale stock for the whole of July.

We would love it if all our local sports teams would at least give us a chance at quoting for their kit and equipment

Local businesses need your support now more than ever

4 MacGregor Court, Oban, PA34 4DJ TEL: 01631 562050 thesportsshop-oban@btconnect.com

Open Mon-Sat 9am-5.30pm / Sun 12noon - 4pm
Safe shopping measures in place

Please support your town and **SHOP LOCAL**

WE ARE OPEN

MADE IN ARGYLL

More than just souvenirs!
Sensibly priced
Quality crafts
Handmade by locals

Unit 5, The Waterfront (opposite train station).
TEL: 07703 301831
www.madeinargyll.co.uk



Dr Irving was a partner in Craig Nevis General Practice

Tribute: Dr Eric Watson Irving

Dr Eric Watson Irving, Doctor, born January 16, 1945, died March 27, 2020

Dr Eric Irving, who died in Ayr hospital on March 27, at the age of 75, was a well-known doctor in Fort William and Ayrshire. His sudden, unexpected death has been a shock for family and friends.

Born in Campbeltown, to William Black Irving from Tarbert and Mary Clark Watson from Campbeltown, he and brother Anthony went to various schools - Campbeltown PS, Kilwinning PS and Dalmellington Secondary for three years, where his father was the head teacher. He then moved on to Ayr Academy.

Eric gained his medical degree at St Andrews University and Queen's College, Dundee, beginning his studies in 1963.

On qualifying, Eric undertook medical and surgical residencies in Heathfield and Ayr County Hospitals. It was here that his attention was caught by a very attractive fair-haired nurse called Lorna and it was not long before they were going out together on a regular basis. Subsequently Eric was the Registrar at Law Hospital, Lanarkshire.

He married Lorna in 1970 and with son Lorne moved to Fort William Four years later their daughter, Isla was born.

Eric was a partner in Craig Nevis General Practice, and he remained a well-loved member of the community where many people relied upon him for his support and compassionate bedside manner. He retired in 1998.

Eric and Lorna moved back to Ayr a year later where he

continued to do locum work for several years.

Eric had a keen interest in all types of cars, especially BMWs, and he owned a family Bedford dormobile. Many a family holiday was spent driving down through England, crossing the channel in the dormobile, and camping in the South of France.

After moving back to Ayrshire and in semi-retirement, Lorna and Eric loved to travel. They spent time in Canada, France, Mauritius, and when their daughter moved to Australia, they spent long holidays there, enjoying quality time with their grandchildren.

Eric is remembered to have been very sociable with a 'pawky' sense of humour and he maintained contact with a wide range of friends from his Ayr Academy days. He had an abiding interest in Argyll and many happy memories of care-free holidays spent in Tarbert, Loch Fyne with his cousins at their grandparents' home, Heathfield.

Lorna was a keen bird watcher and regularly involved Eric in her hobby. Whilst Eric would never admit to being a birder, he kept up a weekly outing with fellow birdwatchers in Ayr after the passing of Lorna, an activity that had only recently stopped due to Covid-19.

Eric was inclusive of all, no matter your background there was always a seat at the table for you. He will be a sorely missed member of the community in Ayr.

Lorna passed away in 2013 and Eric is survived by his son, Lorne in Ayr, his daughter Isla in Sydney, Australia, and his brother, Tony.

Body clocks keep ticking in the high Arctic Ocean

Scientists have discovered how the bodyclocks of tiny marine life in the Arctic summer keep ticking even when day becomes indistinguishable from night.

When the midnight sun beats down, it seems the biological clocks of minuscule marine organisms carry on regardless despite permanent daylight.

Marine biologists from Oban studying how climate change

affects the Arctic found the genes of tiny shrimp-like animal plankton called copepods keep ticking even hundreds of metres under snow-covered sea ice. Indications are animals are using other signs such as tides to set their body clocks.

Researchers had previously suspected the daily cycles of biology would cease during the Arctic summer when the sun is

permanently above the horizon and day and night become indistinguishable. They expected the lack of a light-dark trigger to affect the proper functioning of the circadian clocks that affect tourists and marine plankton alike.

Project leader Dr Kim Last from the Scottish Association for Marine Science, near Oban, said: 'It's simply astonishing

to know these tiny copepods have a functioning circadian clock when they can be tens to hundreds of metres underwater and sea ice at a time when there is virtually no difference between day and night.'

Researchers also found circadian clock genes generally cycle daily, in the north and only a few hundred miles from the Pole, their clock had changed.

UK Government
Scotland
UK TRANSITION

Prepare for a change of course

On 1 January 2021, there will be new requirements for exporting fish to the EU. To keep your business moving, make sure to register for catch certificates and export health certificates.

Find out more at gov.uk/transition

**UK'S NEW START
LET'S GET GOING**

- ✓ Check
- ✓ Change
- ✓ Go

LT

This week in 1745: prince sets foot in Scotland for first time

Eriskay: A sign of things to come?

As Bonnie Prince Charlie arrives on Eriskay, at Coilleag a'Phrionnsa (The Prince's Cockle Strand), he pulls a handkerchief from his pocket and accidentally scatters seeds of morning glory (shore bindweed). The plant is not native to the Hebrides, and becomes known as 'The Prince's Flower'.

He is immediately taken to the hoouse of the tacksman, Angus MacDonald, and learns that Macdonald of Clanranald and Macdonald of Boisdale are in South Uist, so a messenger is despatched.

Word is put about that the Prince is a visiting Irish priest, so as not to arouse suspicion. The party pass the night at the tacksman's house, which is uncomfortable as there aren't enough beds for all the guests. The Prince declines to take one.

The next day the Prince meets with MacDonald of Boisdale, who tells him that he will receive no support from the MacDonalds of

Clanranald, the MacDonalds of Sleat on Skye, and the MacLeods of Skye, and would be better off going home. The Prince reportedly replies: 'I am come home, Sir.' Undeterred, he plans to push on and find support elsewhere.

The Du Teillay sets sail the next day for the mainland and drops anchor at Loch nan Uamh. An eagle is spotted hovering above the boat, and Tullibardine is said to have told the Prince: 'Sir, I hope this is an excellent omen, and promises good things to us. The king of birds is come to welcome your royal highness upon your arrival in Scotland.'

A boat is sent with a message to young Clanranald, who is Boisdale's nephew, asking for a meeting. A tent on the deck is filled with wines and spirits ready to entertain guests. Aeneas MacDonald also goes ashore to bring his brother, Kinlochmoidart, to meet the Prince. After a short interview, Kinlochmoidart is despatched with letters to Lochiel at nearby Fassfern, and others.

by Ally Entwistle
fort@obantimes.co.uk

Last week we left Bonnie Prince Charlie aboard the Du Teillay, being battered by storms on his way to the western Highlands.

The 24-year-old Prince's travelling companions on board the Du Teillay were a motley crew of seven much older and rather infirm gentlemen – later called The Seven Men of Moidart – who must have found this rough passage quite trying.

No doubt they would have been greatly relieved when they saw the small isles, which form the tail bone of the Outer Hebrides, come into view.

The Seven Men consisted of four Irishmen, two Scots and an Englishman. Most were ages with the Prince's father, rather than the Prince, and had variously been involved with the Court in Exile, the 1715 rising or the French army.

The quartet of Irishmen were Sir Thomas Sheridan, who had been the Prince's tutor and was a veteran cavalry officer; Sir John MacDonald, a former cavalry officer; Sir John William O'Sullivan, who had served in the French army, and the Irish Episcopalian clergyman, the Reverend Kelly, who was in

The Prince's Cairn

Close to the Loch nan Uamh viaduct, an old-fashioned metal sign points across the road to The Prince's Cairn. It is a quietly unassuming signpost to a place of great significance in the story of the '45.

A walk down to the lochside from the layby opposite brings you to a small promontory and the cairn making the spot where the Prince stepped from the Du Teillay onto Scottish mainland soil.

That first step began a chain of historic events, and 14 months later, it would be the spot where the Prince, a hunted fugitive, would leave the Scottish mainland on board another French vessel. He would eventually make his escape abroad to safety, and would never return to Scotland.

The cairn was erected in 1956 by the 1745 Association, a historical society, and bears a plaque in both English and Gaelic. Oddly, the plaque describes it as the spot where the Prince departed on September 20, 1746 and fails to mention his arrival there in 1745.



The 1745 portrait of Prince Charles Edward Stuart by the artist Allan Ramsay. Photograph courtesy of the Scottish National Portrait Gallery.

charge of propaganda for the Prince.

William Murray, Marquis of Tullibardine, who had been out in 1715 but suffered badly from gout, was one of the Scots. Aeneas MacDonald, a banker who had spent his life in Paris, and was responsible for securing much of the Prince's initial funding, was the other Scot in the party.

The Englishman, Francis Strickland, came from a long line of Stuart loyalists but was disliked by the Prince's father.

On hearing he was with the Prince, James attempted to have him dismissed.

July 23 – the Du Teillay arrives at the isle of Eriskay. The Prince and his retinue are now in Scotland. They pass the night on Eriskay after a lukewarm reception.

July 24 – The Prince and his companions return to the Du Teillay to wait for MacDonald of Boisdale to appear. Boisdale meets the Prince and refuses to join him in his endeavour and accom-

pany him to the mainland.

July 25 – The Du Teillay sails on to reach the mainland and weighs anchor at Loch nan Uamh, between Lochailort and Arisaig – just down the road from Glenfinnan, where the standard will be raised the following month and the '45 begin.

The Prince disembarks, and sets foot on Scottish mainland soil for the first time. The Du Teillay sets sail for the return journey to Brittany. The Rising will begin in a matter of weeks.



AM Transport

Going the extra mile for you

Nationwide delivery service

Serving Highlands and Islands and West/Central Scotland

Daily service from Glasgow and Argyll

Deliveries and collections from all over Britain

Local staff understand the needs of a local community

Building 120A, MACC Business Park, Campbeltown, PA28 6NU

We now have a depot in Linwood which can receive goods if you order online and they don't deliver to your address give us a call.

We can collect from our Linwood address at favourable rates.

We are in Ikea everyday for next day delivery to all Argyll and Bute.

Please call 01586 554270 for more details

Fax: 01586 550461 Email: enquiries@amtransportcampbeltown.co.uk

www.amtransportcampbeltown.co.uk

Helping you get back to work!

For all your essential building and DIY needs

Open: Monday to Friday 7.30am till 5pm

Facemasks and Visors NOW IN STOCK





HIRE and SUPPLIES

Tel: 01631 566306

www.hireandsupplies.com



Lochaber monitor farm highlights social aspects of programme

A new report has taken a different take on the success of Scotland's Monitor Farm Project, highlighting the power of the social aspect of farmers getting together and talking to support better farming business practice and profitability.

The feedback has shown how much this plays a role with modern farming being an increasingly isolated business.

The three-year project has given birth to new forums for discussion set up by the farmers themselves, including Chris Cameron at Strone Farm in Lochaber's Great Glen, which will have a role in supporting Scotland's farming future.

Social cohesion, leadership and support networks are at the heart of the success of the Monitor Farm Project, according to one of the facilitators, SAC Consulting, part of Scotland's Rural College (SRUC).

In gathering evidence on the impact of the three-year programme, funded by the Scottish Government SRDP programme, a new report by SAC Consulting highlights

that, as well as improving farm business performance, the lasting value is in the networks and relationships built in farming communities across Scotland.

'Monitor Farms are a powerful way of getting the rural community together to work collectively to plan a sustainable future,' explained Iain Riddell from SAC Consulting. 'As we look towards a new era of farming support, a continued drive to boost farm profitability and the demands of farming to adopt new technologies, the farming community needs space and place to discuss how this can be done.'

The monitor farm project was run by AHDB and Quality Meat Scotland (QMS), with facilitation input from SAC Consulting on six of the nine farms, and financed by the European Union's Knowledge Transfer and Innovation Fund.

The aim was to improve the productivity, sustainability and financial margins of

the monitor farms – which spanned regions across Scotland and sectors – and of the farming groups which supported each one.

More than 70 per cent of the participants said the programme had allowed them to form valuable new networks and relationships.

SAC Consultant Niall Campbell, who facilitated the Lochaber group, said the social benefits of the monitor farm model cannot be underestimated: 'The true and lasting value of this project is the trusted networks that have been created and the willingness of those involved to openly discuss ideas, to challenge each other to think differently and to learn from others,' said Mr Campbell. 'These are all core to running a successful and progressive business and plans to keep these discussion groups going beyond the term of the project is both credit to the programme and key to keeping farming businesses in Scotland at the top of their game.'

'The change in mindset and networks gained from the programme are a significant legacy that will be felt for years to come both on individual farms and throughout the wider farming community.'

Peer-to-peer discussion and finding solutions from within is the basis of the monitor farm model. Each of the nine monitor farms had a 'community group' of other local farmers in the region and within this a smaller business group which carried out benchmarking.

Discussion was led by the farmers with support from the facilitators to bring an outside perspective. Guest speakers were invited to cover specialist topics pertinent to each group, including a soil expert from Canada for the group in Morayshire.

All of the groups – in Nithsdale, Sutherland, the Borders, North Ayrshire, Shetland, Morayshire, Angus, the Lothians, and Lochaber – plan to stay actively in touch to support the development of their businesses.



Morvern McArthur of SAC Consulting (left) and Lochaber Monitor Farmer Chris Cameron.

Are you a current or former Postmaster?

If you held a contract with Post Office and experienced shortfalls which you believe were caused by previous versions of Horizon, you may be eligible to make a claim.

If you wish to register a claim, the Historical Shortfall Scheme is open until 14 August 2020.

Cases will be assessed by an independent advisory panel.

For details and to submit a claim please visit onepostoffice.co.uk/scheme



LT

Priest frustrated after parishioners lose out on internet help

Continued from page one.

is convened, including a representative from SCVO and a least one representative from that local authority.

'The assessment panel then considers the eligibility of the identified end beneficiaries, as well as the other criteria detailed in the application guidance, before making a decision.'

But Father Stan says he is mystified as to how North West Lochaber Church of Scotland was awarded 10 iPads and MiFi units under the scheme, despite, according to him, submitting an application some time after his own.

'I am really disappointed that now I have to inform my parishioners, who were not able to apply themselves, that they should have asked another, non-religious body to get a chance. It is a sad, sad world we live in indeed.'

But Mr Slater also contacted Father Stan again on Friday to reassure him religious groups

were not barred from applying.

'I would like to reassure you that your application was not deemed to be unsuccessful on religious grounds. Your application was not as strong as other applications on your ability to provide ongoing digital inclusion support,' Mr Slater told Father Stan.

'We recognise that for many applicants the outcome will be one of disappointment. However, we may be able to reconsider eligible applications that were unsuccessful should there be a further round of the programme.'

Asked for his views, local Caol and Mallaig councillor, Allan Henderson, told us: 'Many of these very helpful schemes seem to have twists and turns that leave some very deserving cases scratching their heads in disbelief.'

'I would prefer to see an element of common sense discretion, rather than the rigid conditions. They are after all set out as guidelines.'

Mental Health Matters

NIC GODDARD

fort@obantimes.co.uk

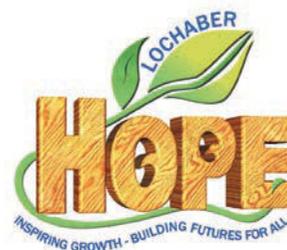
As lockdown continues to ease and we find ourselves adjusting to new changes in our day-to-day lives it is clear that the coronavirus pandemic has had an effect on the mental wellbeing of people as well as risks to physical health.

But we are not alone.

There are many organisations and services in the Lochaber area offering help and support, and our new Mental Health Matters column will be focusing the spotlight on the people and places involved in promoting mental wellbeing.

Lochaber Hope is a Fort William-based charity that have been offering services in counselling, mentoring and training for some 15 years. I talked to Alyson Smith founder and manager about how Lochaber Hope has operated through the last few months of lockdown and will continue going forward.

Alyson told me: 'As soon as the pandemic hit we moved all of our services online. That meant our peer support groups, counselling and men-



toring all moved to Zoom or phone.

'It was almost like starting all over again as we adapted to the different way of working.'

'We also very quickly created a whole programme of additional Zoom meetings - there is something happening every single day and many that operate on a weekly or fortnightly basis.'

'We have Zoom meetings for general chatting or led sessions in subjects such as yoga, mindfulness, crafts along with specific sessions for dealing with anxiety.'

However while many people have acquired all sorts of new IT skills and are now proficient at Zoom and video calls, for some people a group chat

just isn't the best way to access help and support, so there are still one-to-one phone calls offered.

'Alyson explained: 'We started with more than 50 Zoom sessions a week being offered and really got the message out there about them with leaflets and social media, but the uptake while good, was not as much as I had expected, so we knew we had to find other ways to reach people who may need support.'

Realising that accessing the online services at all may be a barrier, Lochaber Hope has been providing free laptops and broadband access to people to enable them to get online in their own home.

Along with this a new chat feature has been added to the website (www.lochaberhope.org.uk), which has some-one available on weekday evenings to chat, listen and offer support, or signpost to further help as an anonymous service.

Alyson added: 'This has been really well used and we will carry on offering this

alongside our other services even once lockdown ends.'

In these unprecedented times even the most resilient of us have faced challenges we could have never imagined before. From uncertainty over financial, employment or educational security, to being cast in roles we have previously never experienced as home schoolers, gardeners, bakers or carers, we have all had cause to reflect on our lives and our place in the world.

The final word goes to Alyson.

'Everything we all facing just now is new and keeps changing. Don't disregard your emotions as we try to deal normally with abnormal circumstances. Allow yourself to have those feelings and keep reaching out and talking about them.'

Lochaber Hope offers help and support if you need it, along with volunteering opportunities if you are able to offer help to others. Find them via their website, on Facebook or telephone 01397 704836.



Fourteen years of digital archives

Available to Digital subscribers



The Oban Times
& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

LOCHABER TIMES
& OBAN TIMES



Dr Cowan's research will help with oyster conservation.

SAMS research to aid oyster conservation

Understanding how oysters respond to the natural environment during reproduction could increase productivity in hatcheries and also improve the success of conservation measures, according to a researcher at the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) in Oban.



Dr Mairi Cowan will spend the next three years investigating hormonal and environmental factors that control the development of bivalves during key life stages, focussing on the Native Oyster *Ostrea edulis*.

Her €337,400 Neuroshell project is funded by a EU Horizon 2020 Marie Curie Fellowship.

Dr Cowan is currently studying how temperature and light affect the hormones of native oysters and samples their neural and reproductive tissues during the conditioning and spawning period to identify the hormones that are involved in mediating environmental effects on reproduction.

She said: 'Environmental factors are controlling the seasonality of reproduction in oysters through mechanisms of hormone control, but exactly which hormone systems are involved in this transduction is unclear.'

'Oysters integrate a medley of cues from the natural environment, which can be

difficult to recreate in a captive environment such as a hatchery. This can lead to problems in the synchrony of adults spawning and metamorphosis of larvae into spat.

'At the fundamental level, if you can understand the hormonal control mechanisms of reproduction and how environmental factors are driving these, you can tailor culture conditions to optimise reproductive success in a hatchery.'

'This information can be used, not only to increase production but supports the conservation of the species.'

Dr Cowan gained her PhD at the Institute of Aquaculture in Stirling before working for five years at the University of Cadiz in Spain studying brain hormone systems in sea bass.

Originally from Kintyre, she is enjoying being back on the west coast of Scotland, where oyster production is so important.

Dr Cowan has a helper in MSc student Aaliyah Malla, pictured, who is completing her Masters dissertation researching broodstock conditioning of native oyster.

Aaliyah has been undertaking a Master programme on Aquaculture, Environment and Society, studying for one year at SAMS – a partner in the University of the Highlands and Islands – and six months each at the University of Crete and the University of Nantes.

Glenfinnan council holds its AGM

Glenfinnan Community Council held its Annual General Meeting online, on July 12. Present were Duncan Gibson (chairman), Simon Matthews (vice chairman), Pat Grieve (secretary), Sandy Hughes (treasurer) and community councillors Willina Colman, Julia Foster, Joan Robertson and Frances Whyte.

Also present were Caol and Mallaig councillor Denis Rixson, Mark Entwistle (Lochaber Times) Emily Bryce (National Trust) and six members of the community.

Members heard that road issues continue although recent work was acknowledged. This was then subject to discussion at the monthly council meeting which followed.

The annual firework display in November was another successful local event. But there

were concerns raised about the numbers now attending and how to manage this. Carried forward to the CC meeting.

Also discussed was the Glenfinnan Community Facilities SCIO, with those present being informed this should soon be in a position to provide an update on the car park project and the ex-MOWI shore base which is now part of The Loch Shiel Jetties Trust.

In his chairman's report, Mr Gibson covered the impact

of Covid-19 on the community and gave his thanks to everyone for adhering to the guidelines and continuing instructions. He acknowledged the concerns as restrictions are eased and visitors arrive.

Mrs Hughes gave the treasurer's report. The finalised accounts had been approved. The office bearers remain the same.

No date was made for the next AGM, but it will be held in June 2021

UK Government
Scotland
UK TRANSITION

UK'S NEW START LET'S GET GOING

The UK has left the EU. As we transition to our new relationship, we all need to take action to prepare.

Sign up now on [gov.uk/transition](https://www.gov.uk/transition)

- ✓ Check
- ✓ Change
- ✓ Go

LT

LETTERS

Smelter jobs losses are bitter blow for workers

Many will be sorry to have read today about the loss of up to 18 jobs at Lochaber smelter.

ALVANCE British Aluminium says it has been forced to scale back its workforce on a permanent basis due to the impact of Covid-19 in a bid to save the long-term future of the plant.

First there was the uncertainty surrounding Brexit, and we all hoped the smelter bosses would be successful in securing new markets to keep the workforce in jobs. But like so many other companies, the devastating impact of the virus, on top of what was already a tricky market, has been the last straw.

But with the Lochaber smelter the only remaining aluminium smelter in Scotland and Britain, not only is the company critical for the UK as a whole, but it is also vital that it remains viable as it is a key local employer.

Thankfully, Liberty has assured Kate Forbes MSP that it remains fully committed to the site.

The company and the government must now do everything in their power to ensure the workers who are losing their jobs are given every support to find something new so they and their families are not forced to move out of the area.

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.

Barr River hydro scheme

Mr Iain Thornber's letter, 'Will community benefit from hydro scheme?' paints a rather jaundiced picture of the Barr River scheme. Perhaps I could offer a more positive view. Morvern Community Development Company (MCDC) is building the first wholly community-owned hydro scheme in Morvern. As your correspondent knows, all the surpluses generated by the scheme will flow back to the community.

I would agree wholeheartedly with the need for 'total transparency, openness, and frank engagement with local residents as to where the income, if any will go and just who will disburse it'. Fortunately, MCDC is a democratic organisation. It is, as your correspondent knows, a charity owned and controlled by its members. Membership is open to all the electors of Morvern. The community will continue to guide how MCDC operates and how the surplus income generated by the scheme is invested in the community.

I am somewhat surprised at your correspondent's comment that information has been 'woefully lacking'. As your correspondent knows, the membership agreed to the scheme going ahead after seven years of consultation. In a ballot of the residents in Morvern, conducted by Highland Council, 94.6 per cent of those who voted were in favour of building the hydro scheme. MCDC has held several public meetings where questions, including your correspondent's, have been answered fully and frankly. MCDC will, of course, continue to keep the community updated on progress.

It is a shame that your correspondent uses your letters page to pour scorn on the hard work of volunteers within his own community. On the bright side, it has the unintended consequence of highlighting how many brilliant things are happening on the tiny Morvern peninsula (population around 320).

Nick Tordoff, elected director, Morvern Community Development Company, Lochaline Harbour, Morvern.

Corpach Harbour – a success story

I write regarding the recent planning application by Boyd Bros. at Corpach Harbour.

When the Pulp Mill closed in the early eighties, huge unemployment brought despair. Covid-19 is with us and the full devastation, particularly in tourism, may not be clear until next winter and way beyond. How fortunate we are in this community to now have such a

Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL

editor@obantimes.co.uk



Bha caochladh adhbharan againn airson tilleadh dhan Eilean Sgitheanach airson trì làithean air an t-seachdain seo chaidh, agus mar a thachair bha sinn a' siubhal a-null air an latha a bha riaghailtean a' ghlasaidh gan togail gu ire mhòr.

'S dòcha ri linn an lasachaidh sin a bhith dìreach a' tachairt, bha sinn mothachail gun robh na rathaidean fhathast gu math sàmhach airson an àm den bhliadhna, ach mun àm a thill sinn Disathairne abair, mar a tha an seanfhacal ga chur, "gun robh car eile ann an adharc an daimh!" Gun fhacal brèige bha càraichean agus carbadan campachaidh a' taomadh a-staigh chun an taobh an iar, agus dhan Eilean Sgitheanach gu sònraichte, agus mar a bha mi ag ràdh anns a' chòlbu mu dheireadh a sgrìobh mi tha earbsa mhòr ga chur ann an ciall mhuintir na sgìre, agus an luchd-turais. Air sgàth slàinte agus maith gach coimhearsnachd bidh sinn an dòchas gun dearbh iad uile gum bheil iad a' toillsinn na h-earbsa sin!

Ged nach robh cus dòchais agam gum biodh ùine neo cothrom iasgaich ann chuir mi slatan is acfhainn anns a' chàr cuide ris a' chòrr den gheadhachail a tha daonnan na phàirt den t-seòrsa turais seo, agus gu mì-fhortanach thill an uidheam gun ùrachadh eòlais air an t-sàl! Ach bidh cothroman eile ann tha mi 'n dòchas, agus bha mi cho farmadach air iasgairean eile 's mi a' faicinn nan sùlairean a' bualadh air siol ann an Loch Dhùn Bheagain! Chuir mi, ge-tà eòlas às ùr air a' mheanbhchuireig, ach gu fortanach chum frioghan gaoithe smachd an

ire mhath oirre. A rèir aithris teaghlach, nuair a bha mo shinn-seanair a' togail cruach-fheòir san iodhlann air feasgar ciùin cuileagach is a thuir nàbaidh ris gun robh "a' chuileag dona", fhreagair am bodach còir "cuin a bha i riamh math?"

Ged a tha fios agam gum bheil cuid ann air nach cuir "a' chuileag" cus dragh idir, na mo bheachd fhìn seo a' phrìomh easbaidh a th' ann an sgìrean dùthchail a' chinn a tuath 's an iar. Tha cuimhne agam air fear a b' aithne dhomh nach robh idir àrd, ag ràdh "nach math an àirde" ris an fhear mhòr aig an deach air ruigheachd air rud a bha suidhichte os an cionn.

Fhreagair am fear mòr, le snodha-gàire, gun chuir a' chuileag-bheag tric dhachaigh e a dh'aindeoin a chuid meud! Nuair a tha taghadh de sheallaidhean cho taitneach air feadh na Gàidhealtachd agus nan eileanan far an iarradh daoine 's dòcha suidhe air feasgar samhraidh, tha a' mheanbh-chuileag mhallaichte ag àicheadh sin dhuinn agus gar cur an teicheadh a bhroinn taighe!

Bhiodh Iain Noble ag ràdh rium gum bu chòir dhuinn dòigh a lorg air an glacadh 's an reic ann an cnogain, mar sògh a dh'fhaodadh a bhith cho cliùiteach ri siol Bheluga!

Renewing my acquaintance with the dreaded midges on Skye last week, as so often before, I thought how this is the area's only disincentive!

Allan Campbell
ailean@obantimes.co.uk

diversified local economy. One of the great success stories to come out of the devastation from the pulp mill closure in the 1980s, has been the regeneration of the factory site and associated port. Corpach Boatyard started the renewal, both building and repairing boats. Other small businesses followed.

Boyd Bros. Haulage then had the vision to develop sea transport into remote areas and thereby taking many large timber lorries off small roads. This grew into Corpach Harbour as we know it today. Another local company, Great Glen Shipping, was then successfully established.

The main site is now home to one of the biggest and most advanced sawmills in Europe.

Corpach Harbour is a very important part of that success. Ferguson Transport and Shipping relocated their main base to Corpach and the vision for an integrated Road, Rail and Sea Hub is becoming a reality, taking thousands of lorry trips off our roads and creating hundreds of local jobs.

This planning application is about ships docking on a Sunday. There are good safety and efficiency reasons for this. Noise of ships docking is not the issue. Historical issue of 'flaunting operating rules' should be dealt with objectively, constructively and fairly.

Things are going to be even harder for businesses after the Covid devastation.

We need to support the diversity of our local

MBC
MARTIN BOYLE CONTRACTING LTD

Still operating under Government guidelines

SEPTIC TANK

Do you need your tank checked? Need an installation quote? We're here to help.

CALL: 01546 603989
info@mbcargyll.com • mbcargyll.com

Family Run Business Since 2005 • Accredited Installer • SEPA & CHAS Registered

MACC Business Park

Workshops available to let

Sizes ranging from 62 Sqm to 1500 Sqm on secure business park site
Onsite offices, accommodation, internal and external storage space
Flexible lease terms available

Contact MACC Developments Ltd Office on 01586 551555 or enquiries@maccdl.co.uk for further information

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

economy and fully value the jobs that are so vital to the wider welfare of our community, our economy and the funding of our public services.

Corpach Harbour is a great success for the wider Fort William economy and Boyd Bros should be congratulated for making it happen. There should be reasonable debate on all the issues that this planning application has thrown up. However, we should be careful for what we wish. Supporting local business should not divide us but unite us in common sense - and good community solutions.

Finlay Finlayson, Corpach Resident.

Endorsing Aires

As a person who has been motorhoming for the past 26 years, may I say that I fully endorse the letter from Linda Battison, marketing director, OLTA (Oban Times, July 9).

I have previously written to Argyll and Bute Council on more than one occasion, pointing out the value of aires, even making suggestions of possible sites. I received very non-committal answers.

Aires can be found on the continent and in Ireland. They can be coin operated and provide facilities for fresh water, grey waste and black (toilet) water. They also provide for litter disposal. This alleviates problems that could happen when there are no facilities.

The large majority of motorhomers are responsible people and appreciate their environment. Motorhome owners spend money in the local shops, local attractions, cafes and pubs, thus boosting the income of the local area.

I do hope that Argyll and Bute Council will recognise the benefit of aires and will construct some in the near future. There has been a huge increase in the sales of campervan/motorhome this year.

Just don't get me started on the subject of parking and height barriers!!

Ann Gillies, Hunters Quay, Dunoon.

Forward thinking

Open letter to Highland Council members and residents of Fort William,

In light of so much infrastructure funds being made available from government, I would like to suggest forward moves concerning the future of our town. Install temporary metered angled parking bays in the high street from October 1-May 1, some with charge points for electric vehicles. This would greatly improve winter foot fall.

Completely waterproof walkways in the high

street with polycarbonate cantilever covers. This would create an all season west highland market town.

To revive our thriving port and historic pier, we should instigate an optional assessment for a new and extended town pier. One which reaches into deep water and includes a hammer head design to accept large cruising vessels. A break water should be installed on the north side, including additional town centre parking and a launch facility for boaters. Berthing rights should be created for the world famous Crannog restaurant and cruises.

A pontoon system suggested in the past by Councillor Murphy and Tony Usher from Highland Council could be installed in the calm water area. This would serve the efficient highland ferries and possibly attract private investment for a water taxi service to the excellent Corpach marina which is currently under construction.

N. MacLean, Fort William

Expelled from Independent

Irrespective of which political party councillors belong to, diluting Lochaber's voting representation is unacceptable.

Lochaber councillors may disagree with each other but they should never stand shoulder to shoulder with the Inverness-based administration at the cost of losing a Lochaber vote.

Independents are making out it has never happened before. This is not the case.

During my second term as an Independent councillor, I spoke and voted on issues that were not in line with the Independent administration's views. On one occasion I was asked to resign from the administration by the chairman of the Independent group. I told him I would not be resigning.

I subsequently received an email advising me the Independent, Lib Dem and Labour Councillors had, at the administration group's business meeting, agreed to suspend me for a week. Would Independent councillors have a say in the suspension of any Lib Dem or Labour Councillors?

When the Independents first approached the Lib Dems to form an administration the Lib Dems stated the only way they would agree was if Independents adhered to a set of Standing Orders. We were assured our independence would not be compromised when it came down to supporting issues in our local communities.

However, after being elected to the council for a third term I was informed it was the intention of the Independent Group to insert a loyalty clause in their Standing Orders that would see

Independent councillors in the administration sign a commitment never to vote or move an amendment against the administration. They will no doubt deny that as it will make them anything but Independent. I was informed that if I could not agree to those conditions the Independents could not submit my name for any of the committees. I note that they have now removed Councillor Andrew Baxter from the committees that he presently sits on.

I, too, was left without any voting powers on any of the Highland Council committees.

The fact is, the Independents are the largest political party/group in Highland Council but they are anything but Independent. I would like to believe that those councillors from Lochaber who are members of the administration spoke out in support of Andrew's right to independent thought and action.

The Highland Council administration is heavily weighted in favour of councillors from elsewhere in the Highlands. Local government powers should be devolved to local areas.

In future, Local Government elections candidates intending to contest under the Independent banner should make it clear on their nomination form whether they intend to join the 'Independent' group or contest as a real Independent councillor in the true meaning of the word.

Whatever one thinks of Andrew Baxter's politics, he is a hard working local councillor and deserves support from his fellow Lochaber councillors for that reason alone.

**Bill Clark
Tomonie
Banavie**

Comb back chair mystery

Could readers of the Oban Times assist in adding to the record of this West Highland type of chair.

Recorded at Auchendrain Township with Rachael Thomas, curator, a rather well made comb back chair was found when it became a museum, and is a particularly good example.

Lilias Noble of Dunderave Castle on Loch Fyne was recommended by architect Robert Lorimer to install such chairs made by a family known as Campbell's of Bonawe in 1911.

Can this Campbell family be identified? Chairs of the type are often kept out of love.

It would be great to hear of other 'cutty' stools/chairs in private ownership, to add to the record of this unique Highland tradition.

**Crissie White
Regional Furniture Society
crissiewhite@ntlworld.com**



Lucas Livornese, from Kinlochleven, turned 13 on Tuesday, July 14. His GrandAlex came to visit on his birthday and soon after his pals Rudi and Django came along to help celebrate too!

Happy lockdown birthday in Lochaber to you!

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

Since they cannot enjoy a birthday celebration with all their friends and family - we would love to give them a shout out in the paper.

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

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

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

Our lockdown birthday shout-outs will cease at the end of July providing restrictions are eased enough for your children to enjoy celebrating with their friends once more.

To make sure your child is included send your requests to editor@obantimes.co.uk by Monday, August 3.



WIDE RANGE OF VANS FOR HIRE



**Local pick up available
Competitive rates**

Morrison Motor Repairs
Unit 1 Creran Marine, Barcaldine
by Oban, Argyll PA37 1SG

Tel: 07825 581171
Email: morrisonmotorrepairs@gmail.com



Gordon & Strathern Ltd HOME IMPROVEMENTS



Porches, Extensions, Roofline, Windows & Doors

TEL 01631 720074 or 07776402550
sales@homeimprovementsargyll.co.uk
www.homeimprovementsargyll.co.uk



LT

VisitScotland announces plan to reopen iCentres

VisitScotland has announced its plan to reopen its 26 iCentres by the end of August following a four-month closure due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

In a phased approach, which puts the safety of staff and visitors at the centre of the plan, the first four sites in Edinburgh, Balloch, Aviemore, Aberfoyle, and Jedburgh have opened this week. The second phase will begin on Monday, July 27 and will include five sites – Oban, St Andrews, Pitlochry, Portree and Ullapool.

The remaining sites will be opened on a rolling basis throughout August.

The phased approach is due to the team at VisitScotland having to make internal changes to every one of the 26 iCentres to ensure they are adapted for physical distancing, but also to continue to give visitors a warm welcome.

There will be a range of safety features installed, including Perspex screens, hand sanitisers and signs to ensure physical distancing, with some dates possible to change on the

dependence of materials and suppliers.

The reopened iCentres will initially only offer an information service to visitors with the hope of reintroducing ticketing, accommodation booking and retail as soon as safe to do so.

Throughout the lockdown, VisitScotland's information service never really closed, with iCentre staff delivering visitor information through a range of other channels including a new messenger service, an iCentre telephone and email service, as well as other customer channels.

Manuela Calchini, Head of Information at VisitScotland said: 'Our iCentres are a significant part of the community and we understand that there will be a desire to open them as soon as possible – we share that desire and want to support the tourism industry and communities as we come out of lockdown, however the safety of our staff and visitors is paramount.'

Hillwalkers urged to Tak It Hame

Mountaineering Scotland is asking hill walkers and climbers to help keep Scotland's hills and mountains clear of litter, writes Fiona Scott.

Tak It Hame 2020 is being launched as the lifting of travel restrictions has seen much publicity about littering and 'dirty camping' in some of Scotland's most popular beauty spots.

Following the success of Tak It Hame in 2019, it had been planned to relaunch the campaign in early spring to coincide with the 50th anniversary of Mountaineering Scotland. But due to coronavirus that was put on hold along with all outdoor activities.

Now with tourism in Scotland starting to reopen, Tak It Hame aims to support the national anti-littering campaign 'Scotland is stunning – let's keep it that way', by encouraging everyone who



Mountaineering Scotland's Davie Black, centre, during a 2019 litter pick on Conic Hill, Loch Lomond.

goes walking or climbing in Scotland's hills to take responsibility for keeping our world-renowned mountain landscapes beautiful by taking litter home for proper disposal and recycling. The message is simple – 'If we don't do it, who will?'

Davie Black, access and conservation officer for Mountaineering Scotland said: 'When we launched the Tak It Hame campaign alongside our

Conservation Strategy in June 2019, we hoped our members and clubs would get involved and that it might start to reach the wider hill-walking and mountaineering community.

'In fact, it reached much further than we ever expected, with people from all over Scotland and the UK wanting to get involved.

'Many of Mountaineering Scotland's affiliated clubs organised litter picks, and many

individuals – both members and non-members – shared photos on social media of the litter they had removed from the hills, using the #TakItHame hashtag.

'It was really encouraging to see how people got behind the campaign and that's why we are keen to get it back up and running again this year.'

Hill-goers are encouraged to take a suitable bag in their backpack each time they venture out, to take litter away for recycling or disposal. As part of the campaign, Mountaineering Scotland is also asking people to think about how they could reduce their single use of packaging for drinks, snacks and packed lunches, and find alternatives.

we  local

Research shows that for every £1 spent with a local, independent business, between 50p-70p circulates back into that local

So every time you pick up a copy of The Lochaber Times you are not just helping one local business but a whole range of local businesses

LOCHABER TIMES

Can't get to the shops?



SPECIAL OFFER
3 months
for just
£4.80

PAGE TURNER
version of the Oban Times
available online

SUBSCRIBE AT WWW.OBANTIMES.CO.UK/SUBSCRIPTIONS

Campaign for shoppers to 'Love Local'



Scotland's Towns Partnership has launched a 'Love Local' campaign encouraging everyone to support businesses at the heart of their community.

The campaign seeks to remind all those living in Scotland, including Fort William, that town centres are not just a series of buildings and pavements – they are made up of people – and harness the compassion and solidarity that was shown by communities during the coronavirus outbreak to help fuel the recovery.

The campaign follows publication of new polling figures which showed that two thirds of Scottish residents intended to shop locally once high streets reopened and that the success of town centres depends on local support.

Businesses across Scotland have been working with Business Improvement Districts (BIDs), local councils and others to put in place arrangements so people can shop locally, but safely.

The Love Local campaign has received the support of Communities Secretary Aileen Campbell MSP.

She commented: 'It is now more vitally important than ever to consider shopping, eating and drinking locally as we all have a role to play in Scotland's economic recovery.'

'Simple steps like choosing to visit a nearby shop or café, or buying goods or services from a business in your own community, helps support jobs and goes a long way to



Fort William businesses suffered terribly during lockdown when the high street was all but deserted. So now is the time to support our local businesses and let them know how much you appreciate them.

fostering the vibrant selection of products and services on offer close to home.

'By following the public health advice, we can all make exploring what the neighbourhood has to offer as safe as possible.'

'I would encourage everyone who is able to head out and discover for themselves what living locally can offer them – I know that business owners at the heart of our communities will appreciate it immensely.'

Phil Prentice, chief officer of Scotland's Towns Partnership, said: 'The impact of coronavirus has hit our town centres and local businesses hard. Now is the time for us all to support them to get back on their feet in a way which recognises that we still need to stay safe and follow the public health

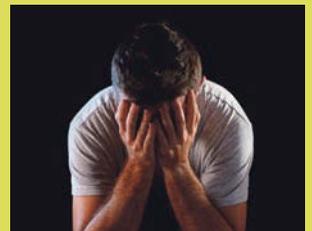
guidelines. By thinking local first, we can help Scotland's economic recovery from its grassroots, supporting our town centres within all of the public safety guidelines. The impact we can have by doing this should not be underestimated.'

'The breadth of businesses in our town centres is vast. Whether you need a book, a pint of milk, a night out and a meal or some garden furniture, please think local first.'

'Scotland Loves Local is all about getting people back to their roots and recognising that our town centre businesses and the people who run them are part of the fabric of our communities. Sometimes for generations these people have been there for us. Now it's time for us to be there for them.'

Anxiety about returning to work is real, it will affect most of us.

As we are beginning to come out of crisis lockdown and back to work, we can expect to start to feel the trauma that we have and still are going through, like loss, fear, uncertainty and financial anxiety.



We are currently trying to fit normal responses to abnormal circumstances.

We may all face real or perceived threats and will definitely see them and react differently from some of our colleagues which can be difficult to understand and accept.

Many of us have suffered loss, all of us loss of freedom, some of us are wondering who we are outside our jobs, most of us will feel anxiety, this is normal, the unknown makes us anxious.

Please do not underestimate or disregard your feelings, let Lochaber Hope reach out to you.

Speak to one of our experienced counsellors or contact us to find out about our other helping services.

Marshall & Pearson

35 High Street, Fort William

Current Opening Times Monday to Saturday 10am to 4pm

Hardware, DIY, Household, Cookware, Electrical, Gardening & Key Cutting

Marshall & Pearson

Click and Collect available from www.marshallandpearson.co.uk



Tel: 01397 700500



Kinlochlaich Garden Centre Plant Centre and Nursery between Fort William and Oban

Open 7 days 10am - 4pm
Also available by arrangement/
re-booking in addition to
public opening hours after 4pm

Delivery available

Can also leave orders out for collection.

We have a one-way system in and out, and once in it is easy to social distance as we are well spaced out. Hand sanitiser is available too.

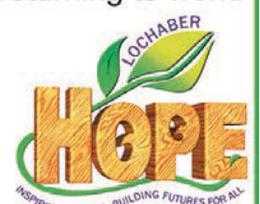


www.kinlochlaichgardencentre.co.uk
Tel: 07881525754

Anxiety about returning to work?

Do not underestimate or disregard your feelings of anxiety about returning to work.

For mental health and wellbeing support for employers and employees, contact us.



www.lochaberhope.org.uk
reception@lochaberhope.org.uk
f lochaberhope 01397 704836

Community canoe project is making a big splash

by Fiona Scott
fscott@obantimes.co.uk



A Spean Bridge canoe instructor is offering an opportunity for individuals and families in the Lochaber community to get out and get active on the water this summer.

Reece McAfee was all set to start up his new venture, River to Sea Scotland, when Covid struck.

'I set up the company over the winter ready for its first season this summer,' he told us.

'The west coast of Scotland has so much to offer paddling wise, from world-class sea kayaking, a wide range of white water rivers to suit all abilities, to gorgeous interlocking waterways – making it an expedition haven.'

Plans to open with a splash were doused with cold water, however, and the highly qualified paddlesport guide was forced into dry dock, along with the rest of the country, until the lockdown restrictions eased.

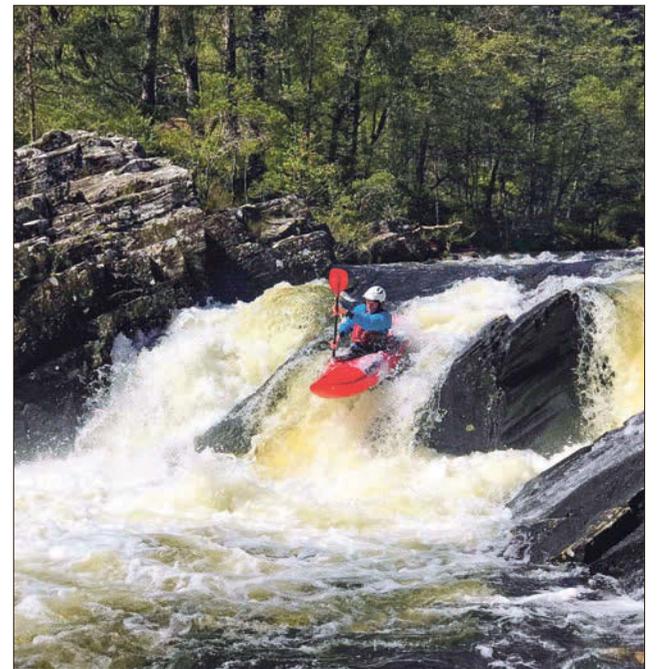
Originally from London, Reece now wants to plunge in and offer something back to the community that he has adopted as his own.

'This year has been a tough year for many, for a variety of reasons that Covid has brought,' he said.

'With that in mind, I wanted to do something to give back to the community and to give locals the opportunity to do something a little bit different



Reece McAfee is running guided community days and canoe hire on a not-for-profit basis.



Reece demonstrates how it's done.

while having a quality day out with their loved ones without breaking the bank. We wanted to create something accessible to all, regardless of financial backgrounds.'

Reece came up with the idea of holding not-for-profit community day trips and canoe hire. Locations/timings are decided on a Thursday once an up-to-date forecast can be seen and then published on the River to Sea Scotland Facebook page where locals can sign up.

Reece continued: 'Our day trips are designed for those that have never paddled before, or fancy something a bit more

Plans to open with a splash were doused with cold water along with the rest of the country, until the lockdown restrictions eased

than just a canoe hire. For our day trips, we will find out a bit more about you and your group, and tailor the experience to match your needs and desires.'

So far Reece has run two canoe hire sessions, benefiting eight families, and run a range of day trips, including a surprise canoe trip for two boys who had done a bit of paddling before.

'Tricked into going to the hairdressers, they arrived at Bunarkaig to meet myself, with a trailer load of canoes for a day on the water,' added Reece.

'The surprises kept coming, from introducing canoe sails for sections of the journey, to allowing them to join me on the local rapids at the end of the day.'

A second family was after a splash and dash playful experience with their young children. The group canoed a short distance on Loch Arkaig, went for an exploration on shore and made hot chocolate over the fire before finishing the day with a variety of wet and silly games.

A couple of families paired up for a day of wildlife spotting, so Reece steered them in the direction of Arisaig where they were surrounded by seals, birds, and weird and wonderful rock pool marine life.

A more adrenaline-fuelled excursion provided a trip

down the river Lochy, tackling some local white water en route.

All trips and canoe hire are based around the theme of 'no set prices, donation only – based on what the experience was worth to the individual or group.'

Information on how to sign up is on the pinned post on the Facebook page.



THANK YOU
for continuing to support
your local newspaper
LOCHABER TIMES

Research shows that for every £1 spent with a local, independent business, between 50p-70p circulates back into that local economy

