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FREE INSIDE!

WILD ABOUT ARGYLL

## 'Flock back to flicks' is call from Oban Phoenix Cinema

by Ellis Butcher  
ebutcher@obantimes.co.uk



Film fans are being urged to 'flock back to the flicks' as Oban's Phoenix Cinema prepares to welcome back the public.

The independent community cinema closed on March 21 as a result of the coronavirus lockdown, but is hoping to re-open on August 24 after more than five months.

Eight years ago, the historic George Street venue re-opened having been shut for two years between 2010-12 – leaving film fans with a long trip to Glasgow to see a movie.

Unlike the major multiplexes, it was saved by a community buy-out and is now overseen by a volunteer six-member executive board, 10 staff, 10 volunteers and fundraisers.

The coronavirus arrived on the back of an 'amazing, record year' for the two-screen cinema in 2019.

Close to 39,000 tickets were sold – around 30 per cent up – and the range of films on

offer – was among the most diverse it has shown. While it receives vital backing from organisations including the British Film Institute (BFI) and Creative Scotland, general manager Jennie Larney has also issued a rallying cry.

'Come back,' she appealed. 'Come back to your local cinema – it's safe, it's local, you

**'We will ensure the cinema is as absolutely safe as it can be.'**

can be with your family, watch a great film and it's a day out when we don't all have to stay inside anymore. We will ensure it's as absolutely safe as it can be – and that's the message we want to get out to people – it's safe to come to your lovely, local cinema.'

The premises will undergo deep cleans after each showing using specially-purchased equipment. A one-way entry and exit system will be in-

duced and people will be encouraged not to leave behind drinks and food containers.

Hand sanitiser stations are to be introduced along with protective screens for staff.

Staff are also being trained in how to operate in a post-Covid environment and internal changes are to be made with cinema-goers separated with empty seats.

The move reduces the capacity of screen one from 148 to just 40.

In screen two, a 'bubble system' will operate, again reducing the 22-seat capacity.

Asked if the changes leave a question mark over its future, manager Jennie does not believe so as it rarely sold out its capacity in any event.

She added: 'The cinema industry is very small and there's only about 700 cinemas in Britain, so we get massive support from the BFI which is working hard to make sure we all stay open. We also have Creative Scotland which is the

Continued on page seven

### Volunteers team up for clean up



Friends of Ganavan and Keep Oban Beautiful volunteers teamed up on Sunday for a beach clean. Cigarette butts, litter and campfire debris were among the haul. As a thank you for all their good work, Dougie Graham, who runs the snack van at Ganavan, rewarded the dozen or so workers with free coffees. For more on this story, turn to page seven.



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OT

## Argyll covid cases split down middle for men and women

No deaths from Covid-19 have been registered in Argyll and Bute since the end of May, according to government statistics, writes Kathie Griffiths.

Public Health Scotland has confirmed a total of 165 cases of coronavirus in the area up to Tuesday July 28, with 64 fatalities recorded. The number of cases per 10,000 people for Argyll and Bute, as of the same date, stands at 19.1 – slightly more than half the national figure.

The numbers were revealed in a report considered by the integration joint board (IJB) of Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) at a meeting via Skype on August 5.

Dr Nicola Schinaia, associate director of public health, said in the report: 'Public Health Scotland report there have been 165 confirmed cases recorded of Covid-19 in Argyll and Bute at July 28, equating to a crude incidence rate 19.1/10,000 people. This includes data from NHS laboratories and UK Government test sites.'

'Scottish Government reported 381 confirmed cases across NHS Highland as of 28th July, equivalent to 11.8/10,000 people. The total number across Scotland was reported to be 18,558, equivalent to 34.1/10,000 people.'

Dr Schinaia added that the population estimates were based on figures from the National Records of Scotland

in 2018. Argyll and Bute was reckoned to have a population of 86,260, compared to more than 235,500 living in the Highland Council area.

An appendix to the report reveals that gender and age data were available for 162 of the 165 confirmed cases in Argyll and Bute.

The gender balance is almost split down the middle, with 82 cases occurring in men and 80 in women.

Just under 40 confirmed cases have been among people aged 75-84, with the age bands of 0-44, 45-54, and 55-64 accounting for just under 30 each.

The 65-74 age group had just over 20, while there were just under 20 cases in those aged 85 and over.

The appendix also states that the highest number of deaths has occurred in the 75-84 age range, while the highest rate of deaths per 10,000 people was in the 85 and over age range.

As of August 2, a total of 4,208 deaths have been registered in Scotland where Covid was mentioned on the death certificate, according to the latest statistics published by National Records of Scotland (NRS).

Between July 27 to August 2, seven deaths were registered which mentioned the virus, representing a decrease of one from the week before. This is the second-lowest weekly total for deaths involving Covid-19 since the first death was recorded in early March.

# Keep safe distance in town, urges doc

Oban's leading Covid doctor and a virus survivor are urging people to socialise by the rules to keep safe.

Granddad James Scott was back at Lorn & The Islands Hospital to handover a £15,500 cheque as a thank you for helping saving his life when Covid struck.

The 63-year-old, who twice escaped death from coronavirus but lost his mum Jessie to the disease while he was in an induced coma, launched the Justgiving appeal to help the hospital get its own negative pressure room to filter-clean infected air.

Dr Colin Millar who is in charge of Oban's Covid-19 clinical team said the donation backed by the community and many generous businesses was 'a big step forward' and the hospital was committed to make it happen.

Plans have already started with an architect to scout the best area in the hospital to site the special room where the air will be controlled by a machine, filtering it and keeping it virus free.

Such a room is more likely to be found at a teaching hospital with an infectious diseases unit rather than a small coun-



James Scott hand over the cheque for a negative pressure room to the local area manager for Lorn and The Islands Hospital Caroline Henderson.

Mr Scott spent 38 days in hospital in Oban and in critical care at Glasgow's Queen Elizabeth University before he got finally got home. He is also planning to give £800 to the hospital in Glasgow.

'I'm completely humbled that the appeal raised so much, but I think many people donated because of my mum. She was my biggest loss to the virus. I miss her every day,' said Mr Scott, who had to learn to walk again but is now recovering well and is back playing golf at Glenclruitten as his fitness continues to improve.

More money is still needed for the negative pressure room, which will benefit future patients with other airborne diseases such as Covid and those treating them.

Anyone wanting to make a donation can email local area manager for Oban and Lorn Islands Hospital Caroline Henderson at caroline.henderson@nhs.net

try hospital, said Dr Millar, who took the opportunity to plead with people to keep following strict social distancing, hand washing and face covering guidelines to keep the community safe.

'What's been happening in Aberdeen is a stark reminder to us all that the problem of Covid has not gone away and that close social interaction appears to be what leads to these clusters. Oban is buzzing right now, the pubs are all busy, stick to the guidelines and stay safe,' said Dr Millar.

Mr Scott added: 'It's a worry to see the town getting so busy. It's the young ones in the pubs

who aren't always following the government advice about social distancing that concerns me so much. They don't want to be taking the virus home to their granny. I'd ask them to think about what they do and where they go very carefully, especially if they have older family.'

Despite doctors' best efforts at Oban, Mr Scott's mum Jessie could not be saved from the virus.

Mrs Scott, who was in her 80s, was a stalwart volunteer in Oban, well-known and much-loved by many in the town who donated to her son's appeal in her honour.

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# Hope Kitchen about to reopen but future demand a concern

by Ellis Butcher  
ebutcher@obantimes.co.uk



Hope Kitchen in Oban plans to reopen today, Thursday, to takeaways lunches and groups.

Prior to the coronavirus, the 'Helping Our People Eat' charity on Soroba Road, allowed walk-ins but will now be offering takeaway lunches between 11.30am-1.30pm.

Any customer can use the takeaway service with people asked to pay what they can afford with a minimum donation of £1.

It will also welcome back social groups between 2pm-4pm, with friendship being a key part of what it offers.

The plan is to see how the arrangement goes until mid-September and then review the return of sit-down meals.

The Christian-led charity had to close its doors on March



Catriona Petit and Beth Campbell of Hope Kitchen, Oban. The charity is reopening for takeaways and groups.

to come under increased pressure, with longer-term solutions needed if the town sees redundancies this autumn and winter.

On average, the charity receives the equivalent of around four trolley loads of donated food a week. This consists of donations handed in by the public, or left at collection points in Tesco and Lidl.

The two supermarkets, along with M&S in Oban, also donate 'short date' food, and that is topped up by local shopkeepers too.

Ms Petit encouraged people to still seek support from Hope Kitchen if they are struggling for food, and said while the

charity was able to help in a crisis, it would not be able to indefinitely support new waves of people coming forward.

Ms Petit said: 'It's an area that's a big concern for Hope Kitchen. Exactly how the next few months will pan out, we don't know, but we would not want the food bank to become an extension of the welfare system.'

'Many people can be an unexpected bill away from disaster and we are concerned that if many people are made redundant and have to go on to Universal Credit, they can wait up to five weeks and there may be an expectation that we can bridge the gap.'

'This is the 21st century and we should not have anywhere where people are reliant on a food bank.'

Those needing help can contact 01631 565730 or email obanhopekitchen@gmail.com

16, although at the height of lockdown it was distributing up to 230 food parcels a week across Oban and Mull.

This week alone, it expects to be delivering in the region of 90 food parcels.

However, service manager Catriona Petit said the likely demand in the next few months was uncertain but

generally it helped around 250 people a week.

People who had never used the food bank before had started to come forward, she said, having lost jobs in industries including tourism and construction.

As furlough schemes wind down and grants dry-up, she expects demand for the service



Seil Playgroup staged a buggy push in aid of Save The Children at the weekend.

## Sun shines on coast-to-coast buggy push

A coast-to-coast buggy push organised by Seil playgroup has raised more than £2,700 in aid of Save The Children, writes Kathie Griffiths.

About 20 adults plus youngsters turned out in glorious sunshine on Sunday to walk from Seil Island Hall at Ellenabeich to the Bridge Over The Atlantic.

The thirsty group refuelled with Prosecco and juice kindly donated by Marion Johnston at the Tigh an Truish and plenty of cake baked by well-wishers.

Funds raised will help Save The Children support children in Yemen who are suffering life in horrific con-

ditions. Balvicar's Rachael MacLean, who was one of the organisers, was thrilled with the amount made so far. 'We are amazed and thankful,' she said.

It was Rachael's older daughter Caragh MacLean who read about the plight in Yemen after late night-scrolling on the internet and came up with the idea of the buggy push.

Save The Children says the war in Yemen is now more than five years long and has left 11.3 million children in need of humanitarian help to survive. The charity fears extreme hunger and disease may have already claimed

the lives of up to 85,000 young children and warns the impact of coronavirus will be even more devastating. Yemen has just over 500 confirmed cases of the virus, the fatality rate is alarmingly high.

Save the Children works in the UK and around the world to give children a healthy start in life, the opportunity to learn and protection from harm.

There is still time to donate, visit [www.gofundme.com/f/coast-to-coast-and-across-the-atlantic-buggy-run](http://www.gofundme.com/f/coast-to-coast-and-across-the-atlantic-buggy-run)

More photographs at [www.obantimes.co.uk](http://www.obantimes.co.uk)

## POLICE FILES

About 7.15pm on August 7, in High Street, Bowmore, Islay, a 45-year-old man was arrested for allegedly assaulting a woman. He was charged, held for court and a report was submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

About 5pm on August 6 at Glenruitten Road, Oban, a man, 46, made threats by telephone. He was later traced by police and issued with a recorded Police warning.

Between May 1 and June 13, at Rockfield Road, Tobermory, a man, 30, allegedly breached bail conditions by contacting a woman. Police arrested and charged the man and a report was submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

Between 10am and 4pm on August 4, within the communal area of a property on Soroba Road, Oban, a White Mountain bike was stolen.

**If anyone has information about any of the above incidents or any other incident, contact Oban police on 101 or anonymously through Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.**

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OT

# Have you seen Oban's big cat?

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



A prowling puma-like animal has been spotted on a hill near houses in Oban.

There have been several claimed sightings of the cat-type creature said to be about six-foot long from nose to tail and 'easily the height of an Alsatian.'

Alan Turner contacted The Oban Times to say he has now seen it twice while waiting for a bus round the corner from McKelvie Road.

His first sighting was at 2.30pm on Saturday when he was with a neighbour who lives nearby.

The second time was Monday at about 11.30am while with the same neighbour and his partner Linda Price.

'We all saw it. It was up on the hill below and above the houses, moving in and out of bushes. It was about 150 yards away from us. It's where there's usually sheep but I haven't seen any up there for



a while - no wonder!' said Mr Turner who is a carer.

He said another woman in the area had been taking rubbish out to the bins one night recently when she heard a growling noise.

'She dropped the bags and ran back to the house. She said she'd never run so fast in her life. Someone else spotted it on July 15.

'It's really baffling me as to

what it could be. There's been stories for a long time about big cats in the hills round here. It's no pet cat and definitely not a dog. I've tried to take pictures of it. I would not have believed it if I hadn't seen it for myself. It had a long tail and it's back had a wee slope. It must've been at least six foot long and easily the height of an Alsatian. It looked like a panther or a puma. There

**Mr Turner says he has seen the cat-like creature twice in the area around McKelvie Road.**

might be two, the second one I saw had white on its feet - I'm sure the first one didn't. They might be breeding,' added Mr Turner, who tried to take photographs on his phone camera.

When The Oban Times contacted big cat expert and retired police wildlife liaison officer George Redpath, who lives in St Andrews, he said he believed the sightings, although some people would argue that black pumas do not exist.

He said it could be a leopard or a hybrid but we would not know for sure until someone gets close enough to it.

'I've come across this description of a big cat being the height of an Alsatian before,' he said, and advised any sightings should be reported to the police.

'It's a Catch 22 situation.

They say don't look a leopard in the eye but if it's a puma you are supposed to watch it and make yourself big, spreading your arms out, while steadily backing away. Don't bend down or pick anything up because it might be seen as a threat.

'Personally, I'd watch it and back off if I felt threatened and get the heck out of there,' he said.

Dr Roo Campbell from Scottish Natural Heritage has suggested residents put up a camera trap to get a close-up photograph of it.

'I'm afraid we can't cast much light on this without some form of photographic evidence. Judging the size of an animal is very difficult and I know from personal experience that black cats especially can look bigger than they actually are when seen at a distance and without anything nearby to judge scale reliably.

'Also some domestic cat breeds such as Main Coon

cats can be unusually large. So it is conceivable it is a large male domestic cat or wildcat-domestic cat hybrid but impossible to be sure. A leopard or puma would usually be larger than an Alsatian. The best we can suggest would be for the residents to put up a camera trap to catch a photo of it.'

In 1980 a puma was captured in the Inverness area after several years of sightings of a big cat. The puma, caught by a local farmer, went to live at a wildlife park and was given the name Felicity. When she died she was stuffed and re-homed in Inverness Museum.

Nearer to home in Argyll, photographs and video footage of a large black cat were taken by an off-duty Ministry of Defence police officer. The animal was walking along a railway line in Helensburgh at the time. Large cats, either black or tan, have been reported in the area before.

Mr Turner has reported his sightings to police.

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OT

# Hello and goodbye as all change at Lismore store

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



David and Teenie Wilson have handed over Lismore shop to new owners after almost 24 years serving the community.

The couple said goodbye to shop hours earlier this month when another husband and wife team, Laura – a former primary school teacher on the island – and Robbie Cook took over the reins.

Now the newly retired pair are adapting to a slower-pace of life in their much-loved camper van.

The plan pre-Covid was to head off on a road trip but for now Teenie and David who have been living over in Port Appin after their own house on the island burned down back in January last year, have only got as far as Lismore.

The couple were left with just the clothes they stood up in after the blaze destroyed



David Wilson has spent the last 24 years serving the community on Lismore.

the camper van on Lismore, we're right at home!

Last year the 160-strong island population launched an urgent appeal for someone to take over the shop and its award-winning sub-post office that even has its own Lismore franking stamps

The shop, well-known for being like an Aladdin's Cave and for being a hub of community life, is the go-to place for groceries and other supplies as well as good craic.

In 2006 it won Post Office Best Rural Branch Award.

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everything they owned, but the community rallied round to help with fundraising.

'We've not got any further than Lismore yet. In fact, we're camped on the doorstep of our old house that we're going to rebuild!' said Teenie.

And David added: 'It still feels a bit like being on holiday at the moment. After almost 24 years in the shop, a bit of

getting used to the change is inevitable but we've got lots to look forward to with more time on our hands.'

Teenie and David still have a croft and a little caravan on the island as well.

'We're enjoying being itinerant at the moment, just moving around when and where we want. For now, we're enjoying our first week of retirement in

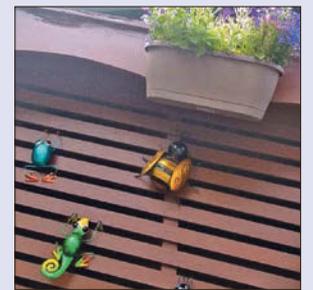
Around Oban

KAY MCDONALD

editor@obantimes.co.uk



WHERE IS THIS?



You can tell the children are back at school by the change in the weather, but I think the majority of them are glad to be back with their friends and teachers, and I'm sure even more of the parents, whilst nervous and slightly apprehensive, are glad to see them go.

It does feel as if there is some semblance of normality now – the town is buzzing with visitors and we're able to go about our business even if it now includes masks, gel and lots of hand washing, as well as standing further away from people.

If that's what it takes to keep us safe and the town thriving, then I'm more than happy to do as I'm told.

A few businesses sadly closed during lockdown and will be missed, but the ones that are still here are making every effort to change how they operate to make the most of what they have.

I've enjoyed watching the work in Airds Crescent progress everyday as Roxy's create an outside seating area where customers can relax

and enjoy the beautiful food they have to offer. Hopefully some good weather now will allow them to make the most of it. It's lovely to see everyone enjoying the outdoor spaces offered by lots of our businesses, it creates a real holiday atmosphere, even for those of us who live here.

BID4Oban received a lovely compliment on behalf of the town from a visitor this week, who said that she felt the town had a buzz and pride in itself and she would definitely be back to explore the independent shops and quality places to eat.

Congratulations everyone, keep up the good work.

Last week's photograph was of the new sign for Hinba Coffee Roasters. This week's photograph is a little harder to find.

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# Artist Gabi makes mark on prehistoric Ormaig

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Artist Gabi Stuckemeier's work rocks!

The artist, whose day job is an occupational therapist at Oban hospital, is about to leave her mark on prehistoric landscape near Kilmartin - on about 250 tree stumps to be exact.

Gabi, and two artist pals, will be spending 10 days painting the stumps on a slope next to Ormaig Rockart site with white limewash to create the shape of a large circle.

Funding for the landart project has come from Creative Scotland via the National Lottery and with full support from Kilmartin Museum and Forestry and Land Scotland, which owns the land where the trees were already felled.

Anyone wanting to see it for real will either have to walk an hour from Carnassarie Castle



Left, Ormaig Landart team Louie Pegna, Gabi Stuckemeier and Stephen Burke.

Photograph: Aaron Watson

Below, an idea of what the landart will look like once finished.



car park, or the less energetic can go onto social media to follow the progress and watch a short documentary film that will map its making.

The circular shape, described as a big white filled-in circle, is a nod to the cup and ring marks at the site which were created over 4,000 years ago.

Gabi was so fascinated by the

rockart she saw at Ormaig and the pattern made by the felled stumps on the steep slope next to it that the landart circle idea just 'popped' into her head, she said.

'I met with the curator at Kilmartin Museum and just mentioned my idea. I'd thought with it being near a pre-historic site they might say

no, but he thought it sounded great - I was a bit taken aback. The forestry people were also up for it and all of a sudden it was all go!' said Gabi.

Weather depending, it should take 10 days from start to finish, the first job is to clear brambles and other trip hazards before the lime washing can be applied.

## CalMac enquiries jump 14%

CalMac has reported a surge of interest since opening bookings up to and including October 18.

Compared with the period July 21 to August 3 last year, enquiries across the board have risen 14 per cent during the last fortnight, new figures show. Overall, CalMac received more than 27,300 enquiries during this period across a range of channels, from social media to emails and calls. That compares to just 23,985 during the same period in 2019.

Social media enquiries alone during the fortnight rose 96 per cent on the same period last year, while emails during this time were up 20 per cent.

On Friday, CalMac announced a 'phased reopening of food and drink services'.

It said: 'We will be providing a selection of hot snacks, soups and sandwiches as well as hot and cold drinks on a number of our longer routes.'

For more info, visit [www.calmac.co.uk/covid19/faqs/the-way-you-sail-with-us-has-changed](http://www.calmac.co.uk/covid19/faqs/the-way-you-sail-with-us-has-changed)

## Oban cinema set to reopen

Continued from page one.

most marvellous organisation. We are lining up some really good films for people to come and see and we expect to have two films initially and come September a lot of new films are coming on-stream too.'

Only recently, it received a £22,000 grant from Creative Scotland to invest in upgraded technology.

Jennie is originally from West London with a background working for Ticketmaster in Leicester Square, where she oversaw the box office for major concerts including The Rolling Stones and Fleetwood Mac. She said the cinema had to move forward.

'You can't stand still, or if you try to maintain the status quo, you start to go backwards, so we have to move forward. We have got a lot of plans for the cinema. Cinema is a unique experience and one of the very last things we do communally where we sit in silence and watch something together.

'It's not like sport where everyone's cheering their team on - the nearest thing is theatre but that's live, so that's why I think it's unique. The town really needs the cinema,' she said.



The volunteers help get the Keep Oban Beautiful message across during a litter pick at Ganavan.

## Clean sweep for Ganavan litter-pick volunteers

Friends of Ganavan and Keep Oban Beautiful volunteers got together for a beach clean on Sunday, writes Kathie Griffiths.

Cigarette butts, general litter and campfire debris were among Sunday morning's haul.

'The good turnout of helpers shows just how much the community cares about keeping our town clean. Of course, if other people cared more and didn't litter in the first place we wouldn't need to do it.

'We hope people seeing us out and about with our litter-pickers and bags will help get our Keep Oban Beautiful message across,' said Laura Corbe, one of the organisers.

More organised litter picks are to follow in the future, one in Soroba could be coming soon.

Dougie Graham, who runs the snack van at Ganavan, rewarded the dozen or so Sunday volunteers with free coffees.

Council refuse collectors had already had an earlier sweep of the beach and car park area that was much-needed over a busy weekend when soaring temperatures attracted crowds to the well-loved beauty spot.

Friday and Saturday nights saw a number of mobile homes, vans and cars once again using the car park as a campsite, ignoring council signs banning sleeping in vehicles.

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OT

## 'Dirty campers' give wild campers a bad name

A trail of mess left at Scotland's beautyspots this summer should not lead to a crackdown on genuine wild campers, a mountaineering body has said.

Mountaineering Scotland said that while recent scenes across the West Highlands had been 'appalling', any rush for new legislation ran the risk of criminalising legal activity carried out by responsible people. Nor would it necessarily end the recent scourge of 'dirty camping', which has seen dumped rubbish, human waste, and camping and barbecuing kits left at scenic locations.

Sites such as Glen Etive are among those to have become hotspots for mess recently.

Neil Reid, communications officer for Mountaineering Scotland, said the media needed to make a distinction between genuine 'wild or roadside camping' which was carried out responsibly by those who abide by the rules and followed the Scottish Outdoor Access Code, approved by ministers in the Scottish Parliament.

The issues of late, he said, had involved those who failed to abide by access legislation

and its responsibilities, and are committing criminal offences under existing laws, from dropping litter to lighting fires.

As ever, the key problem remained enforcement across a large area where there are overlapping agencies involved.

Of the incidents this year, Mr Reid believed a combination of lockdown being relaxed and uncertainty about overseas travel had brought out many people new to camping.

Mr Reid added: 'Some people do have this attitude that once they've used something, they just toss it for someone else to pick up. What we are seeing now is that same attitude and it stands out more in the countryside. It's a societal problem as much as a countryside one.'

Kate Forbes, MSP for Skye and Lochaber, has pledged to tackle the issue and said solutions could involve 'infrastructure, enforcement and education', adding: 'Most visitors are very respectful but there is a problem when it comes to camp fires and waste being left.'

Visit [www.outdooraccess-scotland.scot/scottish-outdoor-access-code](http://www.outdooraccess-scotland.scot/scottish-outdoor-access-code)

# Volunteers thanked for Covid-busting deliveries

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



A volunteer-run shopping service on Mull is coming to an end after making more than 1,000 deliveries.

People shielding from the virus on the island have relied on the network of helpers for groceries and prescriptions, and other essential errands during the crisis since lockdown.

Mull Community Council chairperson Andrena Duffin paid tribute to the sterling work of all the volunteers who have helped keep some of the island's most vulnerable protected and safe.

Although it is hoped the service will not be needed again, she says the island can be reassured it would be ready to kick start again quickly if necessary.

'We sincerely hope it won't be necessary but it's good to know that it's worked well this time and it could work well again if



needed in the future,' she said, adding: 'All the volunteers and co-ordinators have done an incredible job. We are all very appreciative of everything they have done for their community. They've carried out more than 1,000 deliveries.'

Those involved in the special delivery service have included wildlife walking guide Ruth Fleming using her Mull Magic tour bus to carry shopping rather than tourists during

lockdown, and island weaver Sarah Smith, as well as many others who have dedicated their time.

Although the Covid shopping service is ending, the Mull & Iona Pantry, a food bank run as a satellite of Hope Kitchen in Oban, will continue. More than 20 households across those islands are currently getting help, at the peak of the crisis it was supporting about 40 families, said Mrs Duffin.

**Mikey McDonald was one of the volunteers helping deliver food parcels to those in need on Mull.**

Back on the mainland, The Pink Shop in Benderloch has also stopped its Covid deliveries, says Elaine Munro whose family runs the world-famous business.

More than a couple of hundred deliveries have been dropped off across the Ardchattan area, from Barcaldine to Bonawe and North Connel, by volunteer shoppers, packers, and drivers.

'It started in April and finished this week. It's been much appreciated,' said Elaine, with particular thanks going to Mhairi Ross, John Campbell, Gillian Stewart, Nan Johnston, Ross Christie, Roddy Campbell, Chris MacPherson, Robin Hardy, Rosie Thomson, and others including Ali Martin and Marley Squire.

'Every one of them has been a star,' said Elaine.

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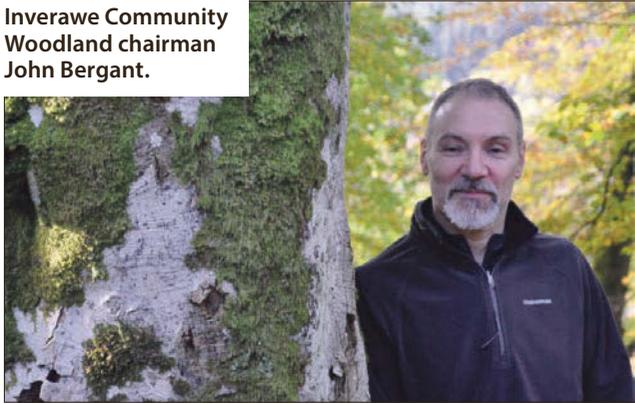
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Inverawe Community Woodland chairman John Bergant.



# Final stage for Inverawe woodland transfer

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



A community is waiting for news of a funding bid to take ownership of ancient woodland at Inverawe.

Inverawe Community Woodland is now in the last stage of acquiring 15 acres of ex-forestry land off the A85 beside the River Awe so people in the area can enjoy it for walking and leisure for generations to come.

About £20,000 is needed from the Scottish Land Fund to complete the transfer of ownership.

Mature beeches and oaks are just some of the species that cover the tree-filled land that has been in the ownership of re-named Forestry and Land Scotland for about half a century. There are also Scottish Pines, Rowans, and Holly trees on the site that is home to Red Squirrels.

The group has more than 30 members now and growing in support of the project that will see volunteers become woodland guardians under the initiative, clearing scrub, getting rid of invasive rhododendrons and freeing up some paths that have been blocked by fallen trees, putting up signs to stop littering by visitors, and possibly draining a boggy area where the land dips into the bottom of a valley so people can cross more easily.

Forestry bosses have given their blessing to the land being sold to the community group, which got Scottish Charitable

Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) status back in February. Inverawe Community Woodland chairman John Bergant compiled a 55-page business plan that spanned three years to satisfy SCIO regulators and potential funders. The group's SCIO number is SC049985.

Membership to the group, which has an official constitution, is open to anyone living in the Tainuilt Community Council area, stretching out as far as Kilchrenan and Dalavich.

Although there are no meetings at this time due to Covid restrictions, anyone interested in helping maintain the land in the future can still get in touch, said Mr Bergant and that includes businesses in the area.

Support has been gratefully received from Forestry and Land Scotland and Highland and Islands Enterprise, guiding the group through the application to get SCIO recognition and to apply for funding from the Scottish Land Fund.

To qualify for Scottish Land Fund money, the association needed to have five per cent of the woodland's valuation which it got through members' fees.

Fundraising will be needed for the upkeep of the land and any costs that come with owning it, including public liability insurance seeing as access would be open to everyone.

Interested? Mr Bergant can be emailed at john.b.bergant@btinternet.com

## Hotel welcomes 'heroes' to Oban as thank you

An Oban hotel will roll out the red carpet this weekend to dozens of NHS and key workers.

As a thank you to those who went 'above and beyond' during the coronavirus crisis, leading Scottish hotel group, Crerar Hotels, appealed for nominations earlier this year.

It offered a free two-night weekend stay with dinner, bed and breakfast at its seven

Scottish properties, receiving a 'phenomenal' 2,500 entries.

All the group's hotels, including those in Oban, Mull, Loch Fyne and Glencoe, are now preparing to make it a weekend to remember for paramedics, hospital porters, doctors, nurses, carers and police officers.

From Friday night, the Oban Bay Hotel will welcome 130 guests to its 74-rooms with

different sittings for dinner and an extended breakfast in order to maintain distancing.

Marc Gardner, general manager, and formerly GM at The Loch Fyne Hotel & Spa, said: 'It's really as a thank you to them from Crerar Hotels and the staff are all looking forward to it. The guests are all here to relax, enjoy Oban and enjoy a well-deserved break.'

The hotel is bidding for four-star status from the AA having undergone a massive refurbishment over the last 12 to 18 months, including all public areas and guest rooms, with visitors able to relax in spa treatment rooms, a sauna and steam room, and outdoor hot tubs, as well as being able to enjoy The Sea Deck with views down the Sound of Kerrera.

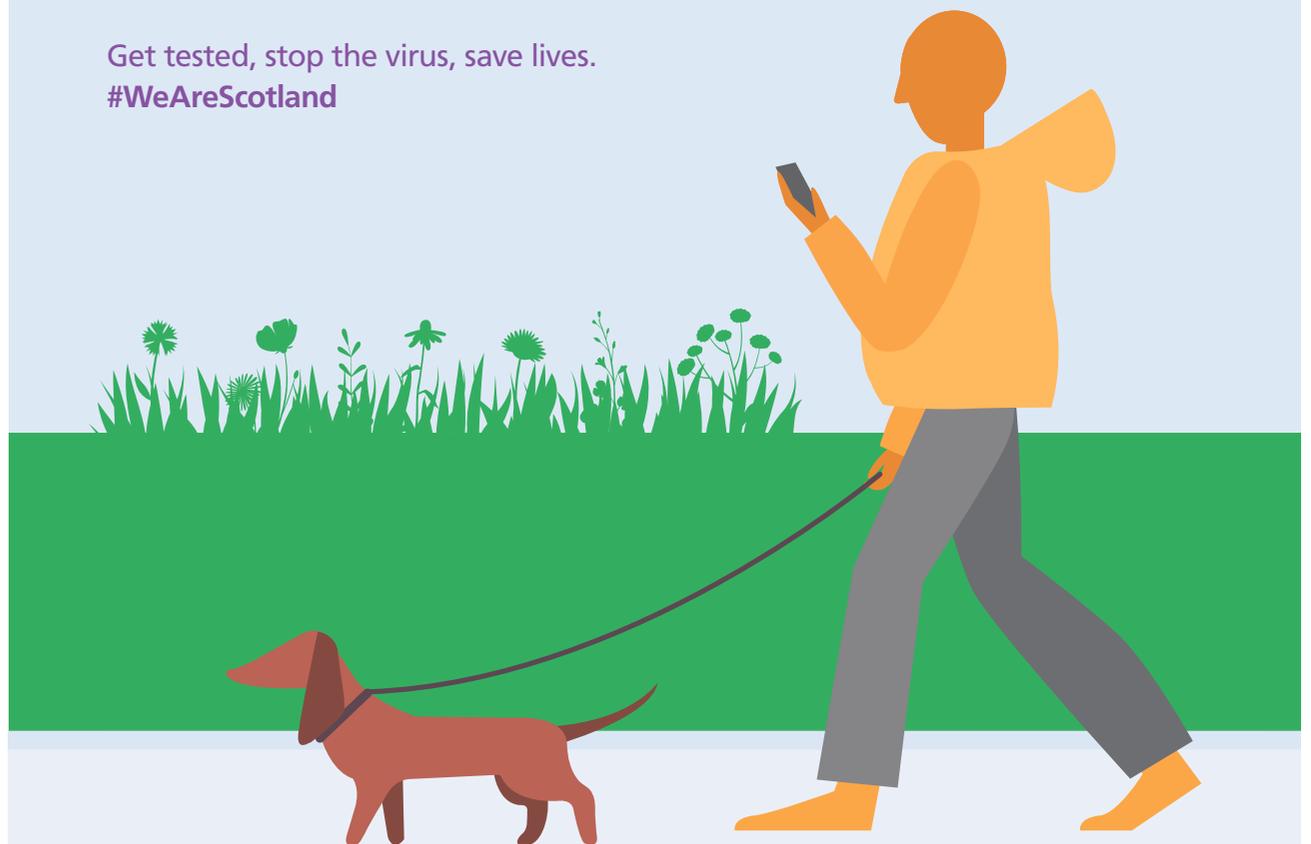
### Been asked to self-isolate? It is crucial you do, to stop the spread.

If you have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for coronavirus, NHS Scotland will get in touch and ask you to self-isolate for 14 days. Support will be available for anyone who needs it.

Even if you show no symptoms, you could pass the virus on to others. By self-isolating, you are protecting yourself, your friends and family and your local community.

For more information and support go to  
[NHSinform.scot/test-and-protect](https://www.nhs.uk/inform-scot/test-and-protect)

Get tested, stop the virus, save lives.  
[#WeAreScotland](https://twitter.com/WeAreScotland)



## TEST & PROTECT

OT

## Three callouts over weekend for Oban RNLI

Nine people and one dog were rescued by Oban lifeboat over the weekend.

The first incident on Sunday at 2.23pm was to help a RIB with five people on board after its engine failed at the south end of Kerrera. The lifeboat towed it back to the Port Beag slipway in Oban.

The second call came at 11.17pm after UK Coastguard got reports of a person in the water at Corpach. An update that the person was safe shortly after the lifeboat launched, meant the crew could return to base.

But just half an hour later, a yacht that had dragged its anchor and run aground at the south western tip of the Ross of Mull required help. When the crew got to the scene just after 2am the yacht was well aground and in danger of capsizing at any moment. Once everyone was accounted for and safely transferred to the lifeboat, the volunteer crew secured the yacht. The lifeboat with the four people and dog on board got back to Oban at 6.30am.

# Corryvreckan drone footage is Facebook hit

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk

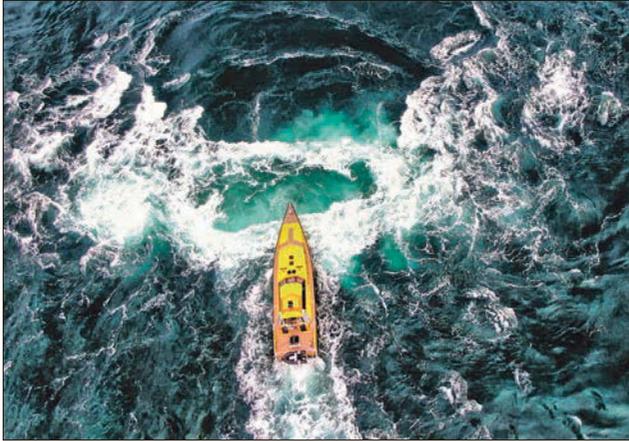


Thousands of people have watched a breath-taking video of a high speed boat taking on the famous Corryvreckan.

Boat builders and designers Safehaven Marine, based in County Cork, posted drone footage of the adventure on Facebook.

The crew stormed their way with Thunder Child II, valued at around €2m and built as a military interceptor or patrol vessel, from their base in Ireland last month to take on the 'pretty wild but beautiful' whirlpool between the Islands of Jura and Scarba. The day Thunder Child II visited there were westerly winds of Force 5 gusting 6, and a 3.9m tide.

Skipper Frank Kowalski who is also Safehaven Marine's managing director said Corryvreckan, which translat-



ed means cauldron, perfectly describes the seething sea state around the whirlpools. The area has a reputation as potentially one of the most violent stretches of water in the world.

'It was quite an experience to have the throttles set for 6kts, holding station just ahead of the standing waves that were breaking behind the boat, and

not be moving at all!' he said.

As the water flows through the Gulf of Corryvreckan it falls into a deep hole and then encounters the steep face of a basalt pinnacle, causing a massive upwelling surge of water to rise to the surface. On a flood tide this surge meets swells entering the Gulf from the West, and creates standing

### Thunder Child II takes on the Corryvreckan.

waves that can reach heights of 9m. Whirlpools that are also formed over the pinnacle can be up to 50m wide.

'In a well found boat the gulf can be safely navigated in fair conditions, or at slack water, but I can imagine that in a Westerly gale on a flood tide, you wouldn't want to be anywhere near the place,' added Frank.

The four-day voyage started out from tourist town Cobh in County Cork refuelling at Bangor marina, heading up the Northern Ireland coast to Rathlin Island before 'a lumpy crossing' to Scotland to enjoy two days taking Thunder Child II through the standing waves and whirlpools in the Gulf of Corryvreckan, and capturing some aerial drone video.

'While we were there It was also nice to see one of our old

Interceptor 42 passenger boats Ventura for the first time since we built her 15 years ago, and still looking good. Operated by Craignish Cruises running boat tours in the Gulf, they guided us on a tour around the islands, visiting the notorious Grey Dogs tidal race and seeing the sea eagles nesting nearby,' said Frank.

After spending a night isolated on the breakwater at Ardfern Marina, the crew headed back to Ireland.

To watch the footage go to [www.facebook.com/safehavenmarine/videos/](http://www.facebook.com/safehavenmarine/videos/)

At the weekend Safehaven Marine set a new UIM world powerboat record for over 50ft class, from Cork to the Fastnet Rock and back Thunder Child II, in a time of 2hrs 36 minutes averaging 44.6kts, recording a maximum speed of 53kts on the run. (subject to ratification by the UIM).

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# Coming out of shielding? Here's how to stay safe.

The advice for people shielding has changed. You should now follow the same advice as everyone else in Scotland.

Up to 8 people from 2 other households indoors  
Up to 15 people from 4 other households outdoors

## Stay safe by...

- Staying outdoors or opening windows if inside
- Meeting people from no more than 4 other households a day
- Washing your hands or using a hand sanitiser often
- Keeping hard surfaces clean and avoiding touching the same surfaces as others
- Bringing your own food, plates and cutlery if eating together
- Not eating from the same bowl as others



Can go into shops, indoor markets and pharmacies  
Take a face covering unless you are exempt

## Stay safe by...

- Avoiding queues by choosing quieter times
- Reducing the number of trips with one big shop
- Putting on your face covering before wiping down the handles of your trolley or basket
- Using self-scan or self-checkout, so it's just you touching the items
- Considering using contactless payment
- Washing your hands or using a hand sanitiser as soon as you can afterwards



Can go to restaurants, cafes, bars and pubs  
May need to leave contact details for Test and Protect

## Stay safe by...

- Choosing quieter times or sitting in quiet areas
- Staying outside if you can and sitting in an outdoor area
- Avoiding going into 1 metre zones
- Sitting facing away from people outwith your group
- Washing your hands or using a hand sanitiser before eating
- Considering using contactless payment



Can visit museums, libraries, cinemas etc.  
Can attend hairdressers and barbers

## Stay safe by...

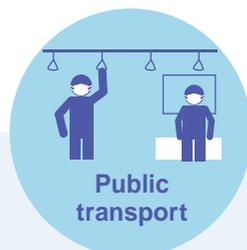
- Avoiding queues by booking in advance if you can
- Choosing times that are more likely to be quiet
- Avoiding going into 1 metre zones
- Avoiding touching hard surfaces and using a hand sanitiser if you do
- Choosing businesses with enhanced hygiene measures



Can use public transport including taxis  
Take a face covering unless you are exempt

## Stay safe by...

- Booking tickets in advance if you can
- Choosing times that are more likely to be quiet
- Putting on your face covering before you get on
- Avoiding touching hard surfaces and using a hand sanitiser if you touch rails or handles
- Sitting near an open window if you can
- Washing your hands or using a hand sanitiser as soon as you get off



Do not go outside if you have any of the coronavirus symptoms  
Call 111 and book a test

## Stay safe by...

- Trying to avoid touching your face
- Washing or disposing of your face covering after using
- Taking a bag with you to put used tissues into
- Taking a hand sanitiser and using it regularly
- Avoiding anyone with symptoms



Remember  
**FACTS**  
for a safer Scotland



Face coverings



Avoid crowded places



Clean your hands regularly



Two metre distance



Self isolate and book a test if you have symptoms

OT

# Window of opportunity for pedal-power Amy

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Workaway Amy Bowman has come up with a pedal-powered way to earn extra cash for her music making.

The eco-savvy 29-year-old who is back on Lismore for her second stint of helping out on crofts and in gardens on the island in return for food and lodgings is offering a window cleaning service with a difference.

Amy, originally from Doune near Callendar, hopes the venture that sees her cycling from job to job with a bucket fastened to the handlebars and carrying a long-pole – looking a bit like a jousting on wheels – will help her save enough money so she can record an album for friends.

Her music can already be heard on SoundCloud and on Facebook if people look up mangolassie.



The baritone ukulele player is also learning to play the guitar and sings. On her wishlist - if she gets enough windows to clean - is a good microphone, a loop pedal and a MacBook for recording.

'I did a few windows for people when I was on Lismore before I went travelling in India. I'm picking up more

customers, there are lots of houses with big windows with big views. I'm even thinking about going over to Port Appin.

'Luckily most places have their own ladders, so I don't have to worry about carrying them with me on my bike and people fill me up with water. I look a bit like a jousting when

**Amy has been cycling around Lismore offering window cleaning services.**

I'm on my way to work on my bike!

'What I like best is getting the chance to chat with people over a cup of tea when that's possible. Lots of people are building their own houses on the island or have put their own twists on their gardens, it's fascinating. I really love it here on Lismore,' she said.

And added: 'I just needed to come up with an idea to make a bit of cash to invest in my music. It would be good to be able to try out different instruments and I'd love to record an album with 10 or 12 songs for my friends to listen to.'

Amy has put up a post on Isle of Lismore Community Noticeboard's Facebook page for anyone whose windows need a sparkle.

## Seil and Easdale Community Council round-up

Community councillors will not be backing an idea to 'grasscrete' a green area in Ellenabeich for buses and coaches to turn more easily in the heritage village.

When Seil and Easdale Community Council asked for residents' feedback on the idea, it received 16 responses and all were in opposition.

'Therefore this is not something the CC would be able to support,' said a spokesperson for members.

The 418 service bus to Ellenabeich has had its timetable cut and now only runs on a Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. It will be reviewed again soon.

Four vacancies are coming up on the community council at the next elections expected to be in October or November.

Yowann Byghan who has stepped down recently has been thanked by fellow CC members for his work as treasurer and for his insight and help with the various issues the community has faced over the past two years. There has been interest expressed in filling the

anticipated vacant posts and the CC is hopeful there will be enough nominations when the time to elect comes.

The community council received £1,550 from Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN) to help fight the Covid crisis.

Trying to help as many different parts of the community as possible, money has so far gone to providing PPE for car scheme volunteer drivers, giving out educational activity packs to youngsters, providing two benches for outside learning at Easdale School, commissioning banners to welcome visitors during Covid but remind them to keep safe practices, and the island's 26 regular lunch club attendees all had a special delivery of a VE Day commemorative tin of shortbread and artwork from children.

The remaining £147 will be used to the 'maximum benefit' to help the community ease out of lockdown. Anyone with suggestions should get in touch by emailing seilandeasdaleccsec@btinternet.com

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# Calls for action after Golden Eagle Tom suddenly vanishes

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



An online video mourning the suspicious disappearance of Tom the Golden Eagle from Argyll, has been viewed by thousands of people so far.

Tom, who hatched in Argyllshire and was just eight weeks old when he was tagged as part of a project to monitor his travellings, had made it to Mull in his short life but decided not to stay.

His last known location before his tag 'failed catastrophically' was in Strathbraan in Perthshire, an area where two other tagged young golden eagles have vanished previously and a spot 'infamous' for its raptor persecution, according to TV wildlife presenter Chris Packham, who fronts the video.

Speaking to The Oban Times about Tom's disappearance, RSPB Mull Officer Dave



**Born in Argyll, Tom spent a year here before heading to Strathbraan, where his tag 'failed catastrophically'.**

the Mull mountains, possibly interacting with our resident pairs. If only he'd chosen to stay, he might still be alive today. But he's now joined a long list of other eagles which have vanished on intensively managed, driven grouse moors with zero tolerance of predators.

'Our first First Minister Donald Dewar called it a national disgrace many, many years ago. It still is, as well as being an international embarrassment and highly damaging for Scotland's wildlife protection reputation.'

Tom's satellite tag showed his last known location on May 18 to be in Strathbraan, Perthshire. Worryingly it is the same place, says the Raptor Persecution UK (RPUK)

video, where two other tagged golden eagles known to them and named Adam and Charlie both disappeared within hours of one another in 2019.

Chris Packham and RPUK started a tagging project together in 2017 to monitor eagles' movements as they try and make their way in the world. Tom is now the fourth from the project to have gone missing.

What is known for certain is that Tom survived for a year, travelling to explore the west of Scotland, out as far as the Isle of Mull, before making a fateful journey east towards the grouse moors in the spring of this year, says RPUK.

Police Scotland were notified of the sudden loss of tag transmission and after examining the tag data agreed that the circumstances were indeed suspicious.

'They undertook a search of the grouse moor but, of course,

didn't find any evidence - no tag, no carcass, nothing. In late July the police gave us permission to publicise this incident,' said an RPUK spokesperson.

Since Saturday, more than 21,000 have backed an online call by the RSPB and Wild Justice for action on illegal raptor persecution on grouse moors.

Tom's tag signal had been strong until it 'failed catastrophically' on the morning of May 18 this year, the video mentions the tags are reliable pieces of expensive technology, designed to last three years and not to fall off.

The area where Tom disappeared features in a government commissioned report identifying spots known for raptor persecution.

Chris Packham showing a RPUK photograph of Tom in the video described him as 'an absolute stunner' and a 'beautiful little bird'.

Sexton said: 'I'm desperately sad and angry, as many others will be, that yet another of Scotland's national birds has vanished without trace on a driven grouse moor, a notorious raptor persecution hot spot, in Perthshire. How many more incidents like this involving our magnificent

birds of prey will it take before our Scottish Government acts? 'Mull is known as Eagle Island and it's no surprise this young male golden eagle chose to spend so much time with us. I'm lucky enough to see golden eagles on a regular basis and may well have seen Tom soaring and gliding over



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OT

## LETTERS

**Well done, James**

We were delighted to be invited when Covid survivor James Scott returned to Lorn & The Islands Hospital last week to handover a £15,500 cheque.

The brave Oban granddad set up a JustGiving appeal to help the hospital get its own negative pressure room, and thanks to the generosity of the town he smashed his target.

It was a fantastic achievement and a great way for him and the town to say thank you to all the hospital staff who have cared for us so selflessly during this terrible time.

**Thanks to Hope Kitchen**

The team at Hope Kitchen reopen today for takeaway meals and social groups.

Since closing its doors in March due to the virus, Catriona Petit and Beth Campbell and their team of volunteers have helped around 250 people a week.

They have done an amazing job, with thanks, too, to everyone who donates to the charity.

Although demand has now eased slightly, the team are concerned that as furlough schemes wind down and grants dry-up, the service will come under increased pressure.

While we agree longer-term solutions are desperately needed, we know Oban residents will ensure no one who contacts the charity will go without.

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



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

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**A big thank you**

Martyn's Monday Club (MCC) has been emotionally touched yet again by the very generous support and backing from everyone, particularly all the tradespeople who gave us their very valuable time to help open our new premises in Breadalbane Street, Oban.

We have to say thank you to them all but it just does not seem enough as their effort and kindness will never be forgotten. We at MMC cannot thank them all enough, they have made our vision a reality.

MKM Builders, Stewart Twort Joiner, Maurice Lockhart Electrician, Craigard décor, Howdens kitchen, Ross Muir Joiner, David McPhee Website design, Adrian Cakebread, Tina, Arran and Amber MacMillan, Colin Thompson, TJ Flooring, William Martin, Steven Carson (Delivery), Jewson's, Connor Nichol, Norman Steeman, Rexel Electrics, Hire and Supplies Ltd (tools), Cafe Shore, Art and Sea custom vinyl graphics, Buildbase Oban, Richard Dale, Matrix computers.

We have also had endless hours of labour and supplies. Thank you once again,

**Diarmid MacMillan,**  
MCC Founder/Facilitator.

**Columnists views**

I write having been touched by the heartfelt offerings of your columnists. It was indeed thought-provoking to read once again of the concerns of Mr Thornber regarding inappropriate land ownership: and outwith the letters page, to once again marvel at his lore of the days of the great estates and all their benefactors who owned them to much local appreciation. The community I grew up in Lewis felt quite differently about the local estate.

No less striking was Angus MacDonald's recent column. I thought it very insightful to read his description of NI, paternity, maternity, health and safety, and holiday/sick pay as 'worrying'. From his self-regard it must be that Mr MacDonald will have never had any sort of government grant, though perhaps he would acknowledge that workforce education and the maintenance of a built infrastructure are themselves forms of subsidy. I can only assume, too, that such a titan of industry with a disregard for public funding will have turned his face away from the significant UK and Scottish financial Covid support?

**Craig Macmillan, Corpach.**

**Inconsiderate camping**

I live in what is arguably one of the most beautiful places in Scotland, the village of Kinlochleven,

## YOUR PHOTOGRAPHS



It's been a while since we had the space to run photographs sent in by our readers, but here is one from Neil Lea from Dunoon who sent us this beautiful shot of Loch Creran with a blink of sunlight in March. If you have a photograph that you have taken that you would like to share with us, send your it for publication to [editor@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk)

on the iconic West Highland Way and a stone's throw from majestic Glencoe. We have our fair share of tourists and the associated problems they cause, but this year takes it to a new level.

After being unable to come here throughout the lockdown we are now inundated – many campsites and hotels are still closed so 'wild' camping is the order of the day. This apparently involves pitching a tent as close to the road as possible on any spare scrap of land – people's gardens or work sites being fair game.

Unfortunately, the majority of visitors do not use bins or toilets (do they not have these at home?). I can only assume they come up here because they've already ruined any nice areas near where they live.

Bring back the lockdown, I'd rather deal with one virus than hundreds of people determined to turn my home into the s\*\*\*\*\* they obviously come from.

**Nan Morris, Kinlochleven.**

**Aire-ing solutions to influx of motorhomes**

There is never any excuse for vandalism. There is never any excuse for leaving litter behind. There is never an excuse for punishing everyone because of the actions of a few... and especially when you cannot tell exactly who was responsible.

Therefore I was disappointed to read that a barrier was being proposed for Ganavan Sands when all of the facilities to easily create a Motorhome Aire are already onsite – and would pay back the investment along with securing the future of the public toilets.

Aires are overnight parking spots for motorhomes – with or without water and waste disposal facilities – and usually paid for. They are very common on the continent.

Readers only have to look a few miles south

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of Oban to see a dedicated motorhome facility that's been created to cater for the demand for overnight parking at Ellenabeich – directly to take the pressure off locals.

Before councillors make a kneejerk reaction, maybe providing paid-for facilities would bring much-needed revenue into the council.

**Donald Macdonald,**  
Founder of Campaign for Real Aires.

I am writing in response and concern to the recent article in the Oban Times calling for the banning of campervans and motorhomes parking overnight in Oban, and wanted to offer both my sincere sympathy for your plight, but also an alternative view.

First and foremost, there is no excuse for badly behaved overnight parking, and I can understand your desire to deter this. However, there is an opportunity here not to be missed. Motorhomes and campervans are largely self-sufficient, meaning they don't need access to toilet blocks, electric hook-ups etc on a daily basis – my van can go four days before I need to empty tanks, in a designated area, of course).

This means that the traditional model of a campsite is outdated and will oftentimes not be used. As an example, I recently visited Oban to see my brother with my van and on enquiring at local campsites was quoted £35 to park my van overnight. Now, I don't need or use electric hook-up, toilets, showers or washing up facilities as I have them in my van already, so would have been paying £35 for a patch of ground for the evening from around 10pm until 8am the next morning. I'm sure you'll agree that's overpriced for what's required.

In lieu of this, I parked (respectfully, not illegally or in front of anyone's house etc) nearer to town overnight for free. Because of the saving I was able to have a lovely dinner in local restaurant Baab, drinks in Marky Dan's, as well as buying breakfast rolls and candles from the small cafe on the harbour in the morning. I also was able to do a litter pick along the front because of where I was parked. Many campervanners and motorhomers will agree that being stuck on a site makes them less likely to eat or drink in town, thus lessening support for local businesses.

The alternative I propose is a French-style Aire set up. Aires are widespread and numerous in France and almost every town or village has one. It is a designated parking spot for campervans and motorhomes, near to towns to allow people to have a one-night stop-off and support the local economy. Most are paid for (around £5-£15 per night) and some are free, with some having chemical toilet and water facilities included in the price. For a more local example, I would like to direct you to The West Harris Trust's motorhome provisions on Harris. For £5 sent via PayPal or in an honesty box, people can park their motorhomes or campervans overnight, and for a further £3 can use toilet waste and water facilities. Here is a link: [www.north-harris.org/?page\\_id=7366](http://www.north-harris.org/?page_id=7366)

This is a very well established example and is making some well-deserved profit from campervans who would usually stop somewhere for free. In a poll posted on a well-established campervanning Facebook group with thousands of members, 81 per cent of people stated they were happy to pay £5 to stay overnight somewhere designated, with the rest of the votes coming from people stating other amounts ranging from £1-£15.

You can find the group here ([www.facebook.com/groups/campira.uk](http://www.facebook.com/groups/campira.uk)) and will see that each member is committed to clean camping, supporting local economies and leaving no trace.

So you can see there is a positive outcome to be had here. I urge you to see both sides of the argument and capitalise on our custom in Oban.

**Lucy Boyle, by email.**

What is it about the nature of some in our nation that let the actions of a minority ruin a golden opportunity for local communities.

I am, like many others, a responsible campervan owner who was, up until today when I was made aware of your article, planning a trip to the wider Oban area in the next week.

I am self-sufficient in my van, affluent and love spending money in local communities. I have decided to take my business elsewhere. When I compare this somewhat parochial attitude to the forward-thinking French village and town approach of providing basic campervan facilities,

## Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL

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



Saoilidh mi gun robh Nicola Sturgeon glè cheart a bhith fiadhaich mun ladarnas aig caigeann de chluicheadairean sgioba bhall-coise Obair Dheathain a chaidh gu ruige taigh-seinnse trang sa bhaile an aghaidh riaghailtean aontaichte a bha a' bacadh a leithid. Bha sinn uile mothachail fad sheachdainean air an t-suirghe a bha na sgiobaidhean agus luchd-taice a' dèanamh air Riaghaltas na h-Alba a' sireadh aonta gus an spòrs a leigeil air ais. Thuigeadh a' mhòr-chuid an liuthad argamaid a bh' ann airson sin, eadar feumalachdan nan cluicheadairean an cuid sgilean cluiche a chumail suas, feumalachdan luchd-taice air cofhurtachd a' chur-seachad a bha iad ag ionndrainn cho mòr, agus cuideachd am feum a th' aig na sgiobaidhean air tòiseachadh ri cosnadh a-rithist. Cha robh mise idir mothachail air ìre an aonta mhionaideach a chaidh a stèidheachadh eadar buidhnean-riaghlaidh a' bhuill-coise ann an Alba agus an Riaghaltas, gus leigeil le farpaisean tòiseachadh às ùr. Ach tha e soilleir gun robh mothachadh ann air mar a dh'fhaodadh sluagh cruinneachadh an lùib "rionnagan" spòrs agus ri linn sin, fhad 's a mhaireadh suidheachadh èiginneach a' choròna-bhiorais, gun robh e cudromach gun seachnadh cluicheadairean ionadan poblach gus cuideachadh le smachd a chumail air an tinnas. Le dùil gun robh na riaghailtean sin air am mìneachadh dha cluicheadairean proifeiseanta air fad nach iongantach gun d' rachadh ochdnar à aon sgioba an aghaidh na comhairle a fhuair iad, gan cur fhèin agus an dùthaich air fad ann an cunnart bho ath-bheothachadh de Chovid 19. Fhad 's a tha mi a' sgrìobhadh seo tha fios gum bheil an t-ochdnar fo ghlasadh leth-oire-

ach, agus dearbhadh gum bheil a' bhioras air dithis aca.

Chan iongnadh gu dearbh na feirge aig Prìomh Mhinistear na h-Alba, neo na h-argamaidean aig cuid a dhaoine gur còir càin chruaidh a dhol air na cluicheadairean fa leth, agus air an sgiobadh chorporra, le cunnart ann gum faodadh clàran spòrs de gach seòrsa an tuilleadh bacaidh fhulang ri linn seo. 'S e an t-adhbhar sgàig as motha uile gu lèir, air iomall an t-suidheachaidh seo, gum faodadh e buaidh a thoirt air planaichean gus sgoiltean na dùthcha fhosgladh a-rithist. Mar a thog mi air an t-seachdain seo chaidh saoilidh mise gum bheil foghlam chloinne air dleasan cho cudromach 's a tha an urra ri dùthaich sam bith, agus a dh'aindeoin gach argamaid chiallach a ghabhas cur às leth spòrs, taighean-bidh, is taighean-seinnse, chuirinn foghlam air toiseach orra uile. Gu h-inntinneach tha mi a' faicinn gum bheil Boris MacLain a' nochdadh an aon bheachd a-nise.

Chan e nàire a bu chòir a bhith air feadhainn a chuireadh an cothrom foghlaim sin an cunnart, ach masladh, agus bu chòir ìre peanaid a dhol orra a bhios na eisimpleir shusbainteach a bheir buaidh air daoine eile!

Whether an act of arrogance or ignorance, the behaviour of six Aberdeen footballers has created serious consequences, but above all else education provision must be protected as one of the vital responsibilities of government to the people it represents.

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

ties, I just shrug my shoulders...The majority of campervan owners are over 50 and affluent.

I'm no business development manager or marketing expert but I'd guess these are the kind of people that a forward-thinking town would want to attract to spend money in their

town? Campervan ownership is booming and will continue to grow. It's clear to me that some communities will provide facilities and take advantage of this trend while others will slam down the shutters – on a golden opportunity.

**Greg Forbes, Kinross.**

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# The Oban Times and St Kilda

## Morvern Lines

IAIN THORNER

ian.thorner@btinternet.com



This week we continue Iain Thornber's extracts from the Oban Times 1930, throwing new light on St Kilda before and after it was abandoned.

This extract is taken from a forthcoming book on the subject.

**Editorial 21 June** [continued from last week]: The great lesson of the evacuation of St Kilda, if it be consummated, is that it proves the need for better transport for the Highlands and Islands. If modern methods, for example, fast motor boats which could dash to St Kilda, choosing the best days in winter, in a few hours from Harris or North Uist, were adopted, St Kilda would no longer be known as the 'bleak, lone isle'. And there are submarines and hydroplanes with their potentialities. Wireless if re-established, would keep the islanders in touch with the mainland. We do not think that the possibilities have been thoroughly investigated. In a few years there will be sweeping changes in methods of transport.

The matter has been too much treated from the mere sentimental point of view, and a hurried decision come to which may yet cause much heart-burning. The Argyll County Council some time ago put before the late Government the method of the Norwegian Government in dealing with their island and seaborne population. A recognition of the same duty of a Government to be in touch with all its subjects wherever situated and the adoption of modern standards would have reconciled the people of St Kilda to remain, and would likewise stem the exodus from the other Islands.

The decision is contained in the following answer by Mr T Johnston, [Under Secretary of State for Scotland] in the House of Commons on Tuesday. 'The Secretary of State for Scotland received a petition dated May 10 last from the inhabitants of St Kilda praying that they might be removed from the island before the winter. The petition which is signed by all householders now on the island, is attested by the missionary and the nurse, and reached him in ordinary course of post.

'I recently visited St Kilda in order to make full enquiries on the spot, and, on my report, my Right Honourable friend has decided to accede



to the prayer of the petition. The arrangements for carrying out the evacuation and for placing the inhabitants are now receiving attention. There is not in view any scheme for the resettlement of the island by my Rt Hon friend.

'Every endeavour will be made to sell the sheep and apply the proceeds to the cost of evacuation and any balance to the future subsistence of the islanders, and every care will be taken to meet the needs of individual families, but it is obviously impossible to make the settlement en masse. There are in all about 64 human beings on the island.'

**Evacuation of St Kilda; Letter dated June 28, 1930:** Sir - I am much interested to see that the Oban Times is expressing a note of doubt in

your issue of this week about the proposed evacuation of the people of St Kilda. This decision may be the right thing in the circumstances, but there are always two sides to a problem. Anyone knowing about West Highlands conditions knows that this problem about St Kilda is no new matter. It seems to me that St Kilda has been 'discovered' by the outside public in recent years. St Kilda has become something of a 'sea serpent', to be spoken about when there is nothing else specially remarkable in the news.

What is to become of the St Kilda people when they are removed from the island? There is plenty of unemployment in the mainland already in skilled industries and in ordinary labour, so there is not much chance of occupation being

found for the able-bodied men from the island. Are the people being removed to fall upon what I think is now called Public Assistance, viz., Poor Relief, or are they going to be settled as a community in crofting and fishing, with necessary housing etc? I gather that there has been a petition from the St Kilda people asking for their removal, but do these people in that remote island really understand what their removal means, and how and where they are to be settled? They probably imagine they are coming to a sort of paradise on the mainland, where all is 'milk and honey'.

It is all very well for Mr Johnston, the Under Secretary of State for Scotland, to pay a visit to the island and interview the households



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Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday August 13, 2020** are listed below with differences for major ports listed underneath. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

<b>Thur</b>	06.31	1.9	12.05	2.8
	18.42	2.0	** **	* *
<b>Fri</b>	01.44	2.9	07.40	1.9
	14.14	2.9	20.00	2.0
<b>Sat</b>	03.08	3.1	08.47	1.7
	15.22	3.1	21.26	1.8
<b>Sun</b>	04.01	3.3	09.45	1.4
	16.09	3.4	22.29	1.5
<b>Mon</b>	04.44	3.5	10.32	1.1
	16.51	3.6	23.15	1.2
<b>Tues</b>	05.24	3.7	11.14	0.8
	17.30	3.9	23.57	0.9
<b>Wed</b>	06.01	3.8	11.55	0.6
	18.08	4.1	** **	**

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

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

## WEATHER

### THURSDAY

Sunny intervals and a gentle breeze  
Temperatures 14°C to 23°C.

### FRIDAY

Sunny intervals and a gentle breeze  
Temperatures 13°C to 21°C.

### WEEKEND OUTLOOK

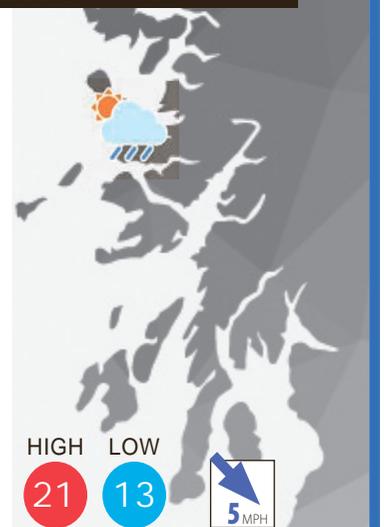
#### Saturday

Sunny intervals and light winds  
Temperatures 14°C to 21°C.

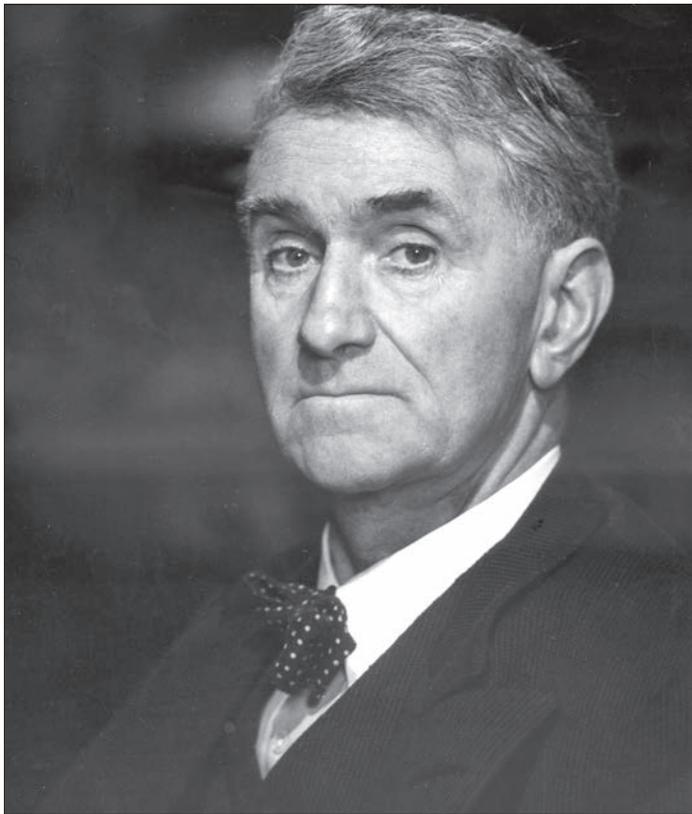
#### Sunday

Light cloud and a gentle breeze  
Temperatures 14°C to 21°C.

### FRIDAY FORECAST



# clearance: part 2



Far left, Boreray, Stac an Armainn and Stac Li viewed from Hirta, the main island in the St Kilda group.

Photograph William Cameron; left, Tom Johnston (1891-1965), was a prominent socialist journalist and under-Secretary of State for Scotland who lost his seat at the 1931 general election. He was a key government figure in clearing people off St Kilda in 1930. Photograph the Oban Times Archives.

individually, and with the best intentions in the world, but what is the use of a flying visit of this kind without previous knowledge of the people and the 'ins and outs' of the situation.

I suppose the epidemic of expecting something for nothing, and a wonderful bounty from the air, has spread even to this isolated spot in the Atlantic. The people of St Kilda, I expect, are as well off as ever they were, and you hit the nail on the head when you hold that better transport in the West Highlands and inter-coastal service is the best solution of West Highland conditions, including the problem of St Kilda.

The West Highlands are indebted to Mr Johnston for what he formerly did as a private member of parliament, pressing in the last Parliament the matter of the disgraceful inadequacy of West Highland transport, and 'more power to his elbow' in this respect, but this proposed step about evacuating St Kilda is, in my opinion, certainly open to question, although one hopes for the best now that the decision has been come to by the Government. I am etc., Hebridean.

**Letter, same column:**

Sir, I have just returned from a visit to the Island of Skye, and found there that the main topic of conversation was the removal of the St Kilda people to one or other of the Hebridean islands. The Skye people are far from being inhospitable, but I heard decided objections to the displaced people of St Kilda being settled on Skye. The remark: 'What will they get to do?' The land of Skye is scanty enough for the natives themselves, and the St Kildans can bring no new trade or industry with them to make them self-supporting. It is on behalf of the St Kildans themselves that the objections are made. These people would be sadly disillusioned at the change, which is intended to make their conditions much better than it is. Life in all parts of the Hebrides is strenuous, and it is doubtful if there are not compensations in St Kilda which some of the other Islanders have not. This is the conclusion I gathered from speaking with many of the people. I am etc., Traveller.

To be continued next week.

## DOWN MEMORY LANE

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



These handsome chaps were all members of Coll volunteer fire service, but what are their names, what was the year, and what was the occasion? We'd love to know, so if you have any information, email us at [editor@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk)



We think this photograph was taken in 1989, but who were this fresh-faced trio of cadets and what was the occasion?

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# BUSINESS NEWS

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## M&Co Oban store to be saved from closure

M&Co has officially confirmed that its long-established store in Oban is one of more than 200 to be saved, writes Ellis Butcher.

The retailer, which has had a presence in the town for over 17 years, appointed administrators in April. The administration process will see its estate reduced from 265 to 218 stores, with around 380 redundancies from a workforce of over 2,600.

But it means the Oban store will be saved as the restructuring exercise has preserved over 2,200 jobs UK-wide at the family-owned retailer.

M&Co's chief executive Andy McGeoch said: 'It quickly became clear that best way to save most jobs and most stores was to enter administration, with a new company acquiring the assets of the old business, and this process has now been finalised.'

'Covid has been by far the biggest challenge our family business has faced in almost 60 years, and I am really pleased we have been able to maintain a presence in over 200 communities.'

Mr McGeoch said many people remain uncomfortable travelling on public transport or visiting busy city centres which could prove 'good news' for local high street stores.

'Local economies rely to a huge degree on their town centres and we have seen too many high streets hollowed out by successive shop closures,' he said. 'More people are beginning to realise that, if they don't support their town centres, everyone's quality of living really takes a hit, so we are proud to be playing a part in the drive to shop locally.'

'The response from our customers during lockdown was phenomenal. It's hugely encouraging to hear our customers say how much they have missed us after months away,' said Mr McGeoch.

In a recent Sunday Times survey, M&Co was voted 14th 'best large company' to work for in the UK.

# Seil couple have 'latte' love for new coffee business

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



There's a world of difference between refitting super yachts in the millionaires playground of Palma, Majorca to roasting speciality coffee on the Isle of Seil.

But young business couple, Fergus McColl and Ness Achilles, are giving their 'best shot' to their fledgling business on Scotland's west coast.

Having maintained and refurbished super yachts in the bustling Balearic capital last year, the couple had a desire for a new venture.

Fergus, aged 29, and Ness, 30, who hails from near Hanover, Germany, returned to Seil, Fergus' family home, having also lived in Germany and Edinburgh in their nine years together.

Fergus said: 'We wanted to do something we had a bit more of a passion for. We wracked our brains and coffee roasting started to appear as something we could do.'

'It's super interesting and there's different flavours, countries and origins, and so much variability in roasting alone.'

In July 2019, they launched Hinba Coffee Roasters – which takes its name from a 'legendary' Hebridean Island, thought to be Seil.

They now have a dedicated roastery from a converted workshop and roast two to three days a week. Their online retail shop sells beans and Seil-roasted coffee originating from Columbia to Guatemala and Peru.

The latest venture has involved opening the doors to a takeaway coffee shop in the former Dolce Vita premises at 62 George Street, and they are also selling goodies from the wood-fired bakery Solace on Seil, and The Puffer on Easdale.

Specialising in the higher end of speciality coffee, the brand strapline is 'pure air, pure taste, pure Hebridean'.

As Fergus explained: 'There's no pollutants in the air around here and the way the roaster



Fergus and Ness recently opened their new coffee shop in Oban, which sells their speciality coffees as well as goodies from wood-fired bakery Solace on Seil, and The Puffer on Easdale.

works is it draws in air, heats that and then that passes over the beans – so there's zero pollutants in the air around here, which we believe does give a cleaner roast and a cleaner taste, finish, clarity and flavour from the coffee.'

Globe-trotting Fergus acquired extensive experience of 'real coffee' having travelled throughout his life, and in particular through central and South America.

He said: 'Coffee is graded on a scale of one to 100 – based on aroma, intensity, quality and green bean quality – all of these different factors give it a score.'

'Speciality coffee is that coffee scored 80 or above and all the coffee we choose are 84 points

and above – you don't often find coffees over 90 points – so we are at the higher end of speciality coffee.'

'Our goal is that we want to produce some of the best tasting coffee in Scotland.'

The company works with importers based in Holland, England and Switzerland, with a focus on quality and ethics.

Fergus said: 'The farm where it is coming from is super important to ensure it's high quality and fairly paid. For example, a Colombian coffee we have at the moment, there are only 500 bags of that produced each year, so it comes from a very small farm and is of very high quality, and they are very fair to their workers.'

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# BUSINESS NEWS

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## Building A Great Business

**ANGUS MACDONALD**

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

*In the third part of our six-part series, Fort William businessman Angus MacDonal offers advice on starting your own company, and why it is quite possible to build a valuable business in the West Highlands.*

### What makes a valuable company

There are three sorts of businesses: a lifestyle business that will hopefully allow you to bring your family up, go on holiday and have a comfortable life, perhaps owning a pub or shop, or working as a plumber or joiner; traders who exist by buying something cheaply and selling it at a high price, living on the profit of their last deal; and the third, which is what I want to focus on in this column, is the dream company. It grows steadily over several years, employs many people on good salaries and spreads wealth throughout an area. This high-quality business benefits almost everyone who has any contact with it.

The viability of the Scottish economy depends on these dream companies. They are the engine of our tax base. Ideally they are locally owned, too, so that the profits don't disappear abroad but are reinvested here, with the company a keen supporter of local causes — the highland games, shinty team, etc.

In my view the dream company has a steadily increasing revenue line over many years, with rising profits and good cash generation. Of course it is not easy to achieve this, but there are a number of business principles that can help you get there.

Build a brand. This involves an unwavering focus on quality: if you build houses that are shoddy then the word gets out, your houses sell for low prices and your income falls. Quality and brand go hand in hand. If you buy an Audi, JCB or Oban whisky, you are getting quality and paying up for it. The owner of a respected brand makes more money, for example, Heinz charges a 50 per cent premium to the supermarket's brand of baked beans.

Repeat revenue. You need your customers to keep coming back, it is much more profitable to



Quality and brand go hand in hand, for example, if you buy a whisky from Oban Distillery you are getting quality and pay accordingly.

sell to existing happy customers than to attract new ones. If your £500,000 a year turnover company keeps its existing customers and adds 30 per cent more annual revenue from extra services or new clients each year for a decade, then your revenue would be £7 million. A maintenance contract, paid by direct debit each month, ideally in advance of the service being provided, would be the dream.

Build a moat. You need to stop other companies from wanting to invade your territory. You can stop them competing with you by being the lowest cost possible, protecting your product with a patent, or by being the provider of such fantastic service why would customers possibly go elsewhere. Sage accounting software is a classic example of a company that seems to have an impregnable moat.

Spread your risk. Every company has a few invaluable employees, treasure them, take out keyman insurance – you can't afford to lose them. Also don't have all your eggs in one basket: try not to have more than 10 per cent of your revenue from any one customer. They may switch to a competitor or change focus and not need your product anymore. Ensure you have back up for your supply chain. During this virus period many companies have strug-

gled to get key components while in lockdown. Lastly, ensure your business is really well run, has a tight grip on finances, a good board of directors, a clear mission and an ethical business ethos.

Let us imagine a fictional company, Wheelchair Maintenance Ltd, started by Ewan and Maggie Cameron, both mountain biking fanatics from Kinlochleven. They fix a wheelchair for a family friend, then for other people in their garage. Within six months they have rented cheap space in the former smelter building and are doing weekly runs to care homes to pick up, repair and service wheelchair and powerchairs.

Three years later they have won the contract for the NHS work in Argyll, and have service engineers that travel to hospitals and care homes. After 10 years they have outstations across Scotland to look after the NHS and private care sector nationally. They have started making new wheelchairs, much better than those currently available. This sounds like a dream business.

There would be corporations from all over the world wanting to buy Wheelchair Maintenance Ltd. It would sell for more than 10 times profit, whereas a trading company or lifestyle business would be difficult to sell at all.

**Next week: Sales and selling.**



## Ben Cruachan Inn is top dog at hotel awards

An award-winning venue in Loch Awe has notched up yet another honour.

The Ben Cruachan Inn, at the foot of the towering 1,100ft peak and overlooking the loch, has been named Scotland's Best Pet-Friendly Hotel in the Prestige Hotel Awards.

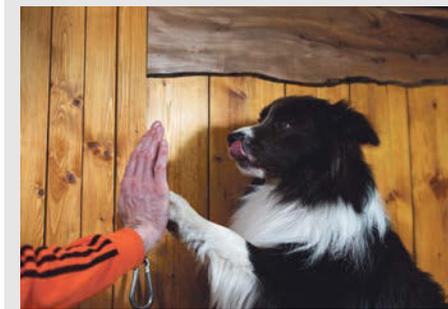
It is in recognition of the work done to welcome dogs and their owners to the popular inn, which has won excellence reviews on the likes of Booking.com and Trip Advisor.

It opened in 2017 following a major investment and refurbishment after standing derelict for years at the side of the A85.

The business is co-owned by Tracey Peedle, husband Ian Irvine, and fellow co-owner Steve McDonald. As well as its bar and restaurant, it offers five letting rooms and five apartments.

Tracey said being dog owners themselves, it was important when visiting places that four legged friends were welcomed over the threshold. The area is popular for walkers and their pets, so it made sense to welcome them, she said.

The inn, which employs up to 15 staff at peak season, also saw general manager Cameron Hill bestowed with a 'highly recommended' award in the manager of the year category to add to its list of successes.



High five: Ben Cruachan Inn is a winner.



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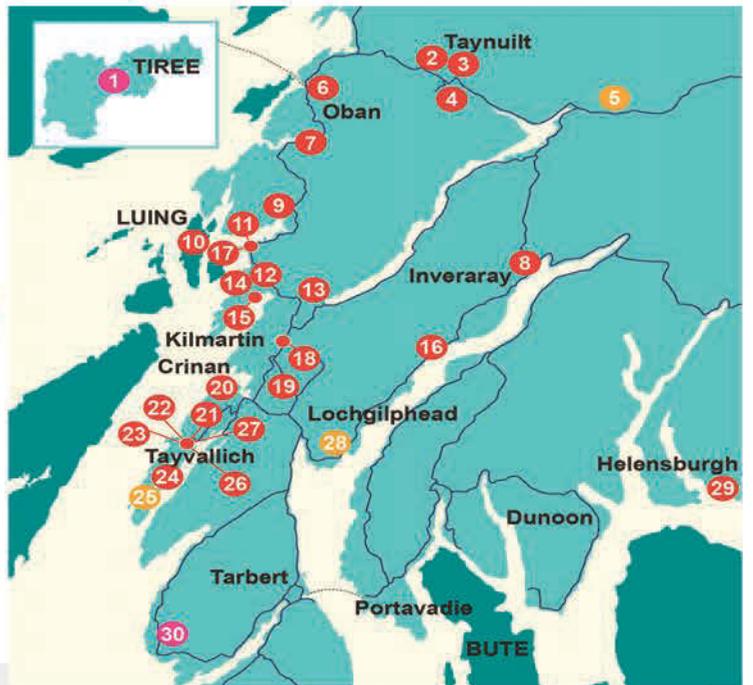
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# LEISURE & ENTERTAINMENT

YOUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S ON IN ARGYLL AND LOCHABER

## Join dots on Argyll Artmap

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Fans of creativity are being invited to follow the red dots on the trail of this year's Argyll Artmap.

Now in its 13th year, there are 30 artists and locations open to visitors over two weekends later this month.

The dates are Friday August 21 to Monday August 24 and then the following weekend, both from 10am to 5pm, although visitors are advised to ring ahead to check openings for the last two days.

Because of Covid, each space will have its own guidance in place from one-way systems to limits on numbers, and visitors are asked to respect those rules to help keep everyone safe.

For the first time the Artmap includes an artist on Tisee this year with others on the trail from as far north as Glencoe down to Kilberry in the south.

Numbered red dots are used to guide visitors to the artists'



Sculptor Lucy Gray from Taynuilt and poet Leone Charlton will be slowing selected work from a project they have collaborated on.

studios, including some gardens and Kilmartin Museum giving the region's creatives a chance to showcase their work.

There is no pressure to buy but the opportunity is available along with the joy of meeting the artist and seeing how the work is made. In many of the studios visitors will also be able to get their hands on and have a go at some of

the techniques themselves. Among those on the trail are Rory Gibson at Glenfearnoch near Kimelford who, when all the jobs are done on the farm, can be found painting in his studio. On a roll, he says he can turn out several paintings a day swept up in his art. From 1973 until 1993 he ran his own picture framing business and fine art gallery in Oban,

and in his own words 'coming somewhat late in life to painting' only recently in the last few years spending more time at the easel on land and seascapes, still life to portraits.

Experienced weaver Louise Oppenheimer is in Kilmartin Glassary, opening her workshop to callers and has been exhibiting as part of the Artmap since it started in 2007.

'I'm in it for the long haul. Having visitors is as useful to me as I am to them, it's great to have fresh eyes look at my work! In this world where speed is of the essence, the slowing down and mindfulness of weaving has lots going for it. If all the world was weaving it'd be a much happier place. I can't emphasise that enough!' she said.

Kat Robertson will be found in her mobile Gaia-hut in fellow artist Lizzie Rose's beautiful garden in the middle of Ardfern village. For spiritually driven Kat, it is all about the process of creating art as a form of healing rather than the finished beautiful paintings themselves. Inspired by nature, this will be Kat's second year on the trail.

Nils Aksnes in Tayvallich makes images using a basic type of pinhole box camera while Melanie Chimielewska in Castleton, Lochgilphead, expresses her love of wild swimming and creatures of

the ocean in stone carvings. Oban's Rockfield Centre and Airds Bay's Lucy Gray are also on the map. Lucy is showing selected works from a collaborative project with writer Leone Charlton for the first time. 'Watershed is a conversation between sculpture and poetry inspired by landscape. We explore the exciting edges where the disciplines meet,' she said.

The artmap exhibition will be launched with a live stream event on Friday August 21.

'Open studios gives people a rare opportunity to handle some of the sculptures which are designed to be held. Visitors to this venue will also get an opportunity to see the photographic work of Ewan Munro,' added Lucy.

At Dalmally Railway Station, textile artist Liz Gaffney-Waite has her own dye gardens and native sheep for the wool she works with.

To find out more, go to artmapargyll.co.uk

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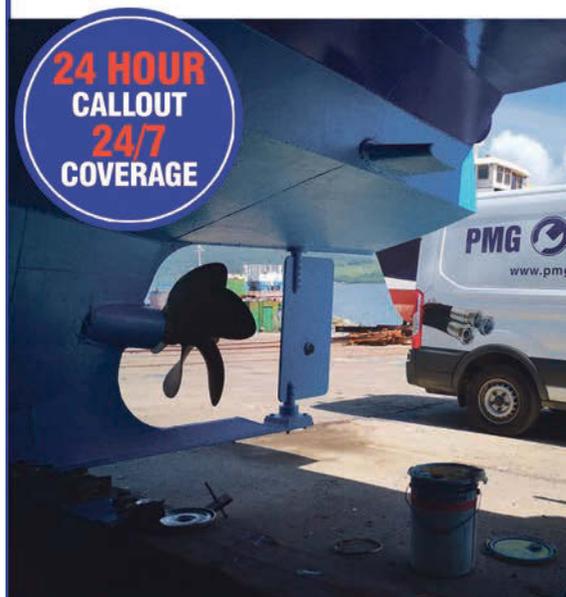
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# Fèis Rois celebrates Cèilidh Trail's 21st anniversary

This year marks the 21st anniversary of pioneering traditional music programme Fèis Rois.

Despite not being able to mark the occasion in the usual style with a summer of musical performances, the dingwall-based organisation is releasing a double album featuring music from former Cèilidh Trail participants and hosting an online extravaganza to celebrate the occasion this Saturday.

Fèis Rois was set for a fantastic summer of concerts and cèilidhs throughout Scotland, England, France and Australia to mark the milestone, but due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the organisation took the decision to cancel this year's Cèilidh Trail programme back in April. Undeterred by the situation and eager to continue with some sort



of celebration, Fèis Rois will release a double compilation album this weekend, featuring tracks donated by 21 former Cèilidh Trail participants, including Highland duo Charlie Grey and Joseph Peach, and Dingwall guitarist Innes White, as well as tracks from bands that include former

Ceilidh Trail musicians: Treacherous Orchestra, Inyal, The Outside Track, Project Smok and Fras.

To coincide with the launch of the album, there will also be an online concert on Saturday, August 15, which would have been the date of the final Cèilidh Trail perfor-

**Josie Duncan features on the new CD with and Pablo Lafuente.**

mance at Eden Court Theatre in Inverness. Taking a similar format as the organisation's successful Virtual Fèis Rois Tutor Concert, which took place online in May and was viewed over 50,000 times, the concert will be hosted on the Fèis Rois Facebook page and will feature former participants, including BBC Radio Scotland Traditional Musician of the Year, Ali Levack, BBC Radio 2 Folk Award winners Josie Duncan, Brighde Chaimbeul and Rachel Newton, and TV presenter and singer Kim Carnie. Other Highland musicians involved include Chloe Bryce, newest member of award-winning folk band Breabach Conal McDonagh, and fiddler

with Kinnaris Quintet, Laura Wilkie. The Cèilidh Trail programme, which provides young musicians and singers, aged 16 to 25, with the opportunity to take part in a professional summer tour with support from a team of musicians and specialist tutors, was established by Fèis Rois in 2000. The very first cèilidh trail was coordinated by Gaelic singer Julie Fowlis, and participants on the first Trail included accordionist and member of Croft No. Five and Treacherous Orchestra, John Somerville, and accordion player, piper and artist, Mairearad Green.

Fiona Dalgetty, chief executive of Feis Rois, said: 'We were determined to mark this big milestone in the Cèilidh Trail history, despite the pandemic and are excited to launch this new album which showcases

the incredible talent that has come from the Cèilidh Trail over the years.

'It is also a hugely important cultural tourism initiative bringing high quality, authentic, traditional music to places where we know visitors will be over the busy summer months, but where they might not usually otherwise hear this music. We're extremely disappointed to not being able to visit all the venues and festivals this year but we hope our audiences will tune in for this very special concert and celebrate the musical talent from Scotland with us.'

The album will be available from feisrois.bandcamp.com from Saturday, August 15, and the concert will be hosted on the Fèis Rois Facebook page on Saturday from 8pm-11pm. Visit [www.facebook.com/feisrois](http://www.facebook.com/feisrois)

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# Robert in lockdown!

**ROBERT ROBERTSON**

robert.d.robertson@hotmail.co.uk



I would like to start with a short and comical correction to last week's column.

In describing the thunder storm, I wrote that the speed at which lightening follows thunder is an indicator as to its proximity. It has since been pointed out to me that this defies all the laws of physics because, of course, light travels faster than sound so it should be the other way round!

Just as well I didn't take Physics when I was in school because, given both my recent blunder and the current educational circumstances, the SQA may well have had to review my result!

One man who would certainly get pass marks in a different subject recently is Donnie "Maroot" - a name that will be familiar to any regular readers of my column. He recently drove from Glasgow to Lochaber, climbed all 10 Munros of the Mamores, then drove back down to the city.

In 15 hours, he covered 45km and 11 Munro peaks

because he accidentally scaled one twice. I cannot begin to imagine the despair when you reach the summit of a mountain only to discover you have been there before!

Overall, though, he seems to have had an enjoyable and fairly sociable trip. He told me at one point he came across a lady sitting by the side of the path having a rest. When Donnie asked her if she were waiting for a bus, she laughed so hard he thought he was going to have to call the air ambulance! He then bumped into two lads from his native Lewis who were carting mountain bikes up one of the hills; and was later stopped by a guy who recognised his Tiree Music Festival hoody having been to the festival (where Donnie appears as the MC) every year.

Only Donnie could make such a huge test of strength and endurance into something that resembles an island association cèilidh dance! With the amount of folk he stopped and blethered to, I'm surprised there wasn't a raffle

at the end of the day.

I told him to pop into my mum and dad's for a cup of tea whilst he was up in Lochaber, but I imagine between 10 Munros he probably didn't have much time on his hands.

To finish on another subject, I wrote last week about virtual festivals as I had just taken part in Belladrum's.

Last weekend, Tide Lines provided a video for another similar event - Lamplight Festival down in Sunderland. We were due to play there in a heavily Scottish line up featuring Deacon Blue, KT Tunstall, and Roddy Woomble. Thankfully the festival is rescheduled for next year but, for the time being, they asked us to provide a cover version of one of the other artists' songs - so we plumped for Deacon Blue's Dignity: a favourite of all of ours for many years. It is perhaps also appropriate for 2020 as more people head off on staycations and are "sailing up the West Coast through villages and towns"...



Donnie bagged all 10 Munros of the Mamores in 15 hours - one of them twice!

# M'ALBA

## MY ALBA

<b>IARDAOIN 13 An Lunastal / THURSDAY 13 August</b>	20.30 Puir-adhair (highland airports) (rpt)	<b>DIMÀIRT 18 An Lunastal / TUESDAY 18 August</b>
17.00 Prògraman Chloinne - Children's programming	21.00 ÙR/NEW: Na Worlds 2020	17.00 Prògraman Chloinne - Children's programming
19.00 O Mo Dhuthaich/ From Uist with Love (rpt)	21.00 ÙR/NEW: Scottish Premiership - Kilmarnock v St Johnstone	19.05 O Mo Dhuthaich/ From Uist with Love (rpt)
19.30 Speaking Our Language (rpt)	00.45 Port - Druthag Bheag Eile (rpt)	19.25 Speaking Our Language (rpt)
19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)	<b>DIDÒMHNAICH 16 An Lunastal / SUNDAY 16 August</b>	19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)
20.00 An Là - News	16.00 Prògraman Chloinne - Children's programming	20.00 An Là - News
20.30 An Lot S3 (rpt)	18.15 An Là - News	20.30 Vets: Gach Creutair Beo (rpt)
21.00 Na Boireannaich a Thog Glasgow City (rpt)	18.30 Binneas na Trads (rpt)	21.00 Ever Believe Me - Sgeulachd Madeleine Smith (rpt)
22.00 Seoid a' Chidsin - The Kitchen Coves (rpt)	18.40 Binneas na Trads (rpt)	22.00 Feadaireachd (Whistling) - Trusadh (rpt)
22.30 ÙR/NEW: Eileanan na Banrighe/Islands of the Queen	18.45 Sgeul Seirbheis (rpt)	23.00 Ceolmhor@Piping Live (rpt)
23.20 Dhan Uisge (Cuan Sound) (rpt)	19.00 Siubhal nan Salm (rpt)	23.30 Alleluia! (rpt)
23.30 Air an Rathad/On the road (rpt)	19.30 Alleluia! (rpt)	<b>DICIADAIN 19 An Lunastal / WEDNESDAY 19 August</b>
<b>DIHAOINE 14 Lunastal / FRIDAY 14 August</b>	20.00 An Lot S3 (rpt)	17.00 Prògraman Chloinne - Children's programming
17.00 Prògraman Chloinne - Children's programming	20.30 Vets: Gach Creutair beo (rpt)	19.00 Tir is Teanga/Language and Landscape (rpt)
18.35 Machair (rpt)	21.00 Bannan (rpt)	19.30 Speaking Our Language (rpt)
19.00 An Là - News	21.30 Bannan (rpt)	19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)
19.25 Binneas-Na Trads (rpt)	22.00 Sgeulachd Deacon Brodie (rpt)	20.00 An Là - News
19.30 Bonn Comhraidh (rpt)	23.00 Eileanan na Banrighe/Islands of the Queen (rpt)	20.30 Puir-adhair (Highland Airports) (rpt)
20.00 Ceol Aig A' Chaisdeal (rpt)	23.50 Eadar Chluich (rpt)	21.00 Farpaisean Chon-Chaorach/Sheepdogs (rpt)
20.25 Fraochy Bay (rpt)	<b>DILUAIN 17 An Lunastal / MONDAY 17 August</b>	22.00 Bannan S5 (rpt)
20.30 An Lot - An Glasadh (rpt)	17.00 Prògraman Chloinne - Children's programming	22.30 Tradfest (rpt)
21.00 ÙR/NEW: Ceol Duthchasach/Ken Burn's Country Music	19.00 Tir is Teanga/Language and Landscape (rpt)	23.00 Na Boireannaich a Thog Glasgow City (rpt)
23.15 Dhan Uisge (Cuan Sound) (rpt)	19.30 Speaking Our Language (rpt)	<b>DIARDAOIN 20 An Lunastal / THURSDAY 20 August</b>
23.25 Skipinnish@Blas (rpt)	19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)	17.00 Prògraman Chloinne - Children's programming
<b>DISATHAIRNE 15 An Lunastal / SATURDAY 15 August</b>	20.00 An Là - News	19.00 O Mo Dhuthaich/ From Uist with Love (rpt)
16.00 Prògraman Chloinne - Children's programming	20.30 Dealbhan Fraoich (rpt)	19.25 Speaking Our Language (rpt)
17.45 An Là - News	21.00 Feadaireachd (Whistling) - Trusadh (rpt)	19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)
18.00 'San Fhuil/It's In the Blood (rpt)	22.00 Bannan S5 (rpt)	20.00 An Là - News
19.00 Druthag na Hearadh/ A little drop of Harris (rpt)	22.30 Farpaisean Chon-Chaorach/Sheepdogs (rpt)	20.30 An Lot S3 (rpt)
19.30 Bonn Comhraidh (rpt)	23.30 Seoid a' Chidsin - The Kitchen Coves (rpt)	21.00 Rose Reilly (rpt)
20.00 Machair (rpt)		22.25 Eadar Chluich (rpt)
20.25 Fraochy Bay (rpt)		22.30 Annie Oakley (rpt)
		23.20 Dhan Uisge (Loch Maree)
		23.30 Air an Rathad/On the road (rpt)

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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
<b>The Weekend</b>				
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

# Dunbeg children star in Scottish Opera's Fever!

Youngsters from Dunbeg Primary School were getting super excited this week, not only about returning to school, but because they became YouTube stars.

Over five weeks the children were able to use online learning resources to learn the songs and dance moves to Fever!, as well as take part in other activities such as costume and prop making. This culminated in a performance which was streamed live on Scottish Opera's YouTube channel and attracted nearly 200 families.

The children were then asked to send in videos and pictures of them joining in at home, which Scottish Opera has now made in to a special video alongside their own team's performers.

The show, which was first performed by Scottish Opera in 2011, features music by Alan Penman and lyrics by Allan Dunn.

A staple of many Scottish schools' calendars, this is the first time an online version of the tour has been made available, bringing the funny and fast-moving story to living rooms up and down the country, culminating in a nationwide virtual performance at the end of June.



**Prior Covid-19 youngsters had a great time when Scottish Opera visited to work on their production of Fever!**

more powerful example of the benefits using music and the other expressive arts to support cross curricular education, than Scottish Opera's Primary Schools opera; Fever!

'In the context of the current pandemic, and updated and adapted for online participation, the subject matter is perfectly balanced between a fantastical and accessible musical story that youngsters (whether at home or still at school) can enjoy interacting with, underpinned by an age appropriate message explaining the principles of microbiology and virology.

'Added to which, is the opportunity to help our children and young people explore the increasingly worrying phenomenon known as 'fake news'.

'Equipping them with the skills to recognise and challenge fake news is widely acknowledged as a key coping mechanism for life in the 21st century, and it's all wrapped up in one funny and fact filled opera experience.'

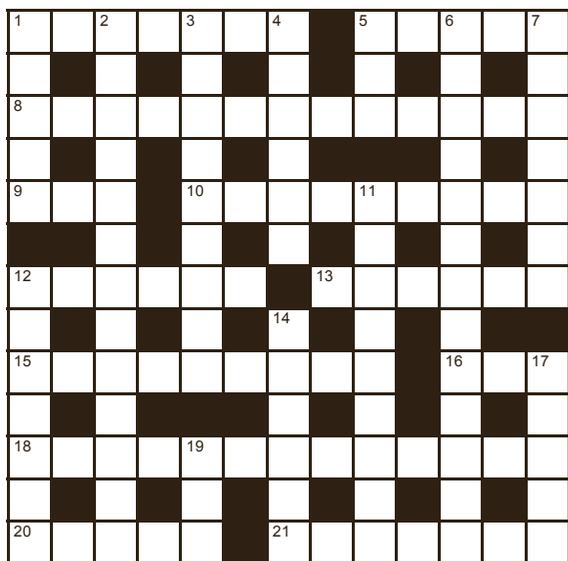
Until June 15, audio teaching tracks and videos, lyrics and activity materials, covering topics including creative writing, science experiments and tips on how to make props and costumes from home, were posted on the Scottish Opera website. These featured seasoned Primary Schools Tour cast members Lucy Hutcheson and Alan McKenzie, who built on existing teaching materials by making new recordings from home during lockdown.

Illustrations were by Iain Piercy. Teachers were able to use the resources as part of their weekly activities with classes, as were parents for use by their children at home.

Fever! takes pupils on an exciting journey, learning the benefits that biomedical science offers humanity, looking at the basic mechanics of the human body, infections and viruses, and exploring the impact of press and media on today's society, including fake news. It designed to help teachers deliver core elements of the Curriculum of Excellence such as social studies, history, technologies, literacy and citizenship.

Scottish Opera's Director of Outreach and Education, Jane Davidson said: 'For people of all ages who think opera plot lines can't be relevant to the present day, there isn't a

## Crossword



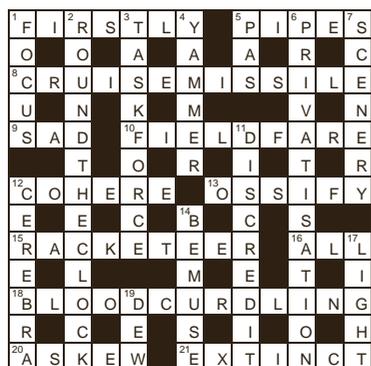
**Across**

- 1 Climbing plant (7)
- 5 Inmate who isn't ever getting out (5)
- 8 In a way that only affects the surface (13)
- 9 Bring an action against (3)
- 10 Sponge circle with jam (5,4)
- 12 A very desirable residence (3,3)
- 13 Oppressively hot and close (6)
- 15 Cold wintry shower (9)
- 16 Scandinavian rug (3)
- 18 Children's party game (9,4)
- 20 Scrumptious (5)
- 21 Intoxicant (7)

**Down**

- 1 Charges (5)
- 2 Type of painting (13)
- 3 Cartoon strip published by the Daily Mirror (9)
- 4 Dried grape (6)
- 5 Wreath (3)
- 6 To carry out fully (6-7)
- 7 Nobility (7)
- 11 Sounds from 1950s (4,5)
- 12 Do not do as one's told (7)
- 14 Series of movements (6)
- 17 Terrible (5)
- 19 Time of light (3)

### LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION



Work has begun on processing the entries for a unique competition which set the country's musicians the challenge of creating a new shinty composition.

Three of Scotland's oldest and most significant sporting and cultural bodies came together to offer a major set of prizes for an original musical competition marking the absence of shinty from this summer's sporting calendar and looking forward to the return of play.

The Royal Celtic Society (RCS), which is this year celebrating its 200th anniversary, in partnership with the Glasgow Celtic Society and shinty's governing body the Camanachd Association, supported by Tulloch Homes, set up the competition, offering three prizes totalling £1,500 for an individual to compose an original composition.

The RCS had originally intended that the winner could have performed at this year's



**Gary Innes and his fellow judges have a big job ahead.**

Camanachd Cup Final at the post-match Final Fling. That game has been postponed until next year, but the intention now is to have a musical shoot-out on that very date in September 2020, between the three best entrants, who will

then share the prizes. The winner will get £750, second place £500 and third place £250.

Speaking on behalf of the RCS, council member Hugh Dan MacLennan, who is administering the competition said: 'This a unique collaboration which set the country's musicians a significant challenge with a major prize. We are delighted with the level and range of entries in what was an experimental venture for all three bodies.

'Using all the technology at our disposal, we came up with a format which did eventually have a broad appeal, and is reflected in the instruments used - including two played on the clàrsach - the type of compositions and songs offered, and the level of interpretation applied by the various musicians.

'An interesting feature of the entries has been the huge age range involved. Without giving anything away, we have

had entries from very young candidates to others who are clearly drawing on a different range of experiences relating to shinty.

'I do not envy Gary Innes and his fellow judges the scale of their task in narrowing their selection down to three finalists. The musicians certainly rose to the challenge.'

Gary will be joined on the panel by representatives of the RCS, the Glasgow Celtic Society and the Camanachd Association, who will be represented by Claire Delaney of Lochaber Camanachd.

The Camanachd Association has rescheduled the 2020 Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup Final for Kingussie in September 2021.

Final details of the musical shoot to be held on Saturday, September 19, when the Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup Final should have taken place, will be confirmed in due course.



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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!



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**INSURANCE JELF CLARKE THOMSON**  
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*Information correct at time of going to press. This page will run in the Oban Times every week for as long as necessary - printed information will be updated weekly but business are advised to get in touch if you have any questions or to add/change listings Tel: 01631 568000.*

# Give local businesses a sporting chance



A long-standing independent sports retailer in Oban has issued an impassioned plea for people to back local business.

Billy Thomson, of The Sports Shop, Oban, said by showing loyalty to local businesses, local people could help support local jobs, the Oban economy as well as local groups and charities.

Mr Thomson's business opened as a single unit in 2011 and has now grown to two and employs three local staff. He said: 'All we are asking local people to do is give us a chance and to think local.'

'If they are going to buy something sporty and they think we might possibly do it, come in the shop or give us a call, that's all we ask. Why not come in and support us.'

Mr Thomson's extensive premises at MacGregor Court has seen trade going well since reopening after lockdown.

He said: 'We are not quite at the levels we would normally be in July and August but we're not far off it. We wouldn't be here without visitors and wouldn't survive on local trade - it's as simple as that. I would say the majority of locals are not buying locally. So Buy Local is a big focus for us and that's where our growth could be.'

'We cover all of the major sports and we support the local community and are all involved in sport locally.'

He also urged sports clubs needing new



The Sports Shop Oban - Billy Thomson, Malcolm Croarkin and Jonathan MacMillan

kits, and local sponsors planning to have their names on shirts, to consider sourcing the kits locally rather than seeing their money go out of town.

Mr Thomson served a stint as a director on the BID4Oban group and is also a long-standing volunteer chairman of Oban Tennis and Squash Club and has

been involved in Oban Lorne Rugby Club for years.

The Sports Shop's Jonathan MacMillan is a long-standing junior golf coach at Glencruitten, while colleague Malcolm Croarkin is an active footballer, tennis and squash player locally while son Daniel plays for Oban Saints AFC.

**THE SPORTS SHOP**  
4 MacGregor Court, Oban, PA34 4DJ TEL: 01631 562050  
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# NEW CAR INDEX



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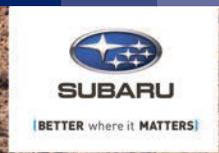


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# PUBLIC NOTICES

## Argyll and Bute Council

### PLANNING

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

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

Ref. No.	Proposal	Site Address
20/01183/PP	Construction of bridge and formation of track	Land North Of Kilbeg Cottage Glenforsa, Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute
20/01303/PP	Renewal of planning permission reference 17/01775/PP (conversion of sawmill to residential dwelling)	The Steadings, Tiroran, Isle Of Mull, Argyll And Bute PA69 6ES
20/01163/PP	Internal and external alterations to lounge area to form additional bedrooms to include minor alterations to fenestration	Alexandra Hotel Corran Esplanade, Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 5AA
20/00753/PP	Change of use of shed from agriculture to aquaculture. Use of agricultural land for fish hatchery and construction of weir and rock armour (retrospective)	Glenforsa Hatchery Glenforsa Estate, Glenforsa Isle Of Mull, Argyll And Bute
20/01026/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse, installation of septic tank and formation of vehicular access	Land North Of The Grange Port Ellen, Isle Of Islay, Argyll And Bute

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

#### THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2017 – NOTICE UNDER REGULATION 20

Planning Application Reference Number: 19/00765/MIN

Proposed development at: Benderloch Quarry, Benderloch, Oban, Argyll And Bute

The proposed development at the address noted above is subject to environmental impact assessment under the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017.

Notice is hereby given that additional information in relation to a EIA Report has been submitted to Argyll and Bute Council by Breedon Northern Ltd relating to the planning application in respect of Periodic Review of Mineral Planning Permission (Determination of conditions to which Mineral Permission is to be subject – ROMP First Review) for Sand and Gravel Extraction Works – Previous Reference: 03/00238/MIN.

Possible decisions relating to the application are: approval of the application without conditions; approval of the application with conditions; or refusal of the application.

A copy of the additional information together with the environmental report and the associated planning application(s) may be inspected electronically through Argyll and Bute Council website at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk). Having regard to Schedule 6, Part 3, s10 of the Coronavirus (Scotland) Act 2020, documents are only available to inspect electronically during the emergency period.

Customers requiring assistance can contact us by e-mail: [planning.hq@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:planning.hq@argyll-bute.gov.uk), or tel. 01546 605518. In the event of the emergency period ceasing, documents will be available for inspection by appointment during office hours in the register of planning applications kept by the Planning Authority, at 1A Manse Brae, Lochgilphead, PA31 8RD. Documents will be available for a minimum of 30 days beginning with the date of this notice.

Copies of the additional information may be purchased from Dalgleish Associates Limited, Mineral & Planning Consultants, 1 Sinclairs Street, Cathedral Square, Dunblane, FK15 0AH (Tel: 01786 822339 or Email: [willie.booth@dalgleishassociates.co.uk](mailto:willie.booth@dalgleishassociates.co.uk) at a cost of £20 for Electronic copies or £100 for a paper copy. Copies of the Non-Technical Summary in hard copy or electronic format are available free on request.

Any person who wishes to make representations to Argyll and Bute Council about the additional information should make them in writing within 30 days from the date of this notice. Written comments can be submitted by email to [planning.hq@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:planning.hq@argyll-bute.gov.uk) or to Argyll and Bute Council, Development Management, Kilmory Castle, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8RT. Customers are requested to use electronic communication where possible during the coronavirus pandemic as our ability to process postal mail is restricted.

Signed: Mr. Tim Williams, Area Team Leader on behalf of Argyll and Bute Council 04 August 2020.

Closing Date: 12.09.2020

#### TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (as amended)

#### Submission of a Masterplan to PDA 10/15 for residential development as identified in the adopted Argyll and Bute Local Development Plan 2015, Land at Imeravale, Port Ellen, Islay.

Notice is hereby given that MacLeod Construction has submitted a Masterplan to Argyll and Bute Council setting out their proposals for PDA 10/15 for residential development as identified in the adopted Argyll and Bute Local Development Plan 2015.

A copy of the Masterplan (reference 20/01281/MPLAN) may be viewed electronically through the Argyll and Bute Council website at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk). Having regard to Schedule 6, Part 3, s10 of the Coronavirus (Scotland) Act 2020, documents are only available to inspect electronically at this time. Customers requiring assistance can contact us by e-mail [planning.hq@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:planning.hq@argyll-bute.gov.uk) or tel 01546 605518.

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 28 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. Customers are requested to use electronic communication where possible during the coronavirus pandemic as our ability to process postal mail is restricted.

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us at:  
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Comhairle Earra – Ghàidheal agus Bhòid



Blast site: **Banavie Quarry**  
**Fort William**

Date of Blast: **Fri 14th Aug 2020**

Time of Blast:

**12:00hrs – 14:00hrs**



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#### FIRST REG OF A CROFT

Michael Barry Hall & Sheana Anne Hall have registered their croft, 12c Lower Carnach, Carnach, Lismore & Appin, on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland.

Any person wishing to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by 29th April 2021.

Details of the registration can be found at [www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home](http://www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home). The croft registration number is C7064.

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#### MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010, MARINE FARM, CAMUS GLAS, LOCH SUNART

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Cost Location	Latitude	Longitude	£ 2500 - 5000
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Moorings Area	56° 39.935' N	05° 50.423' W	
Moorings Area	56° 39.805' N	05° 50.198' W	
Moorings Area	56° 39.725' N	05° 50.228' W	
Moorings Area	56° 39.677' N	05° 50.444' W	
Moorings Area	56° 39.688' N	05° 50.884' W	
Moorings Area	56° 39.751' N	05° 50.114' W	
Moorings Area	56° 39.831' N	05° 50.106' W	
Moorings Area	56° 39.824' N	05° 50.872' W	
Moorings Area	56° 39.812' N	05° 50.432' W	
Moorings Area	56° 39.732' N	05° 50.440' W	
Moorings Area	56° 39.743' N	05° 50.880' W	
Moorings Area	56° 39.684' N	05° 50.737' W	
Moorings Area	56° 39.679' N	05° 50.517' W	
Moorings Area	56° 39.681' N	05° 50.727' W	
Moorings Area	56° 39.659' N	05° 50.654' W	
Moorings Area	56° 39.672' N	05° 50.552' W	
Feedbarge	56° 39.724' N	05° 50.655' W	
Boat Mooring	56° 39.661' N	05° 50.820' W	
Boat Mooring	56° 39.634' N	05° 50.727' W	
Boat Mooring	56° 39.625' N	05° 50.616' W	
Boat Mooring	56° 39.658' N	05° 50.508' W	

(WGS84)

Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at <https://bit.ly/33pKqGr>

Objections relating to safety of navigation in respect of the application should be made in writing to - Licensing Operations Team, Marine Scotland, Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB within 28 days of the date of this notice or by email to: [MS.MarineLicensing@gov.scot](mailto:MS.MarineLicensing@gov.scot), quoting reference: 06080V and MOWI Scotland Ltd.

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



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

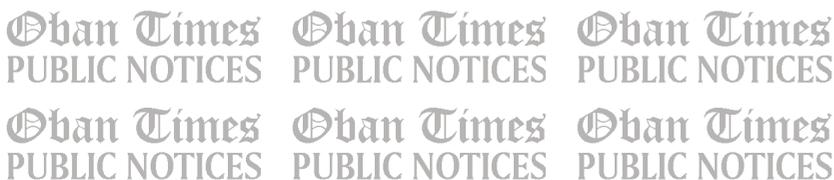
The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk>;

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

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description
20/02734/FUL	Land 55M SW Of Strontian Primary School, School Road, Strontian	Erection of 2 houses
20/02794/FUL	Land to North West of Aonach Mor House, 9 Forestry Houses Torlundy	Erection of house and detached garage (renewal of Planning Permission 17/03842/FUL)
20/02394/FUL	Land 75M NE of The Anchorage Ormsaigmore, Kilchoan	Erection of house
20/02765/PIP	Dal Na Crannich Glenmamie, Lochailort	Erection of house (renewal of 17/00398/PIP)
20/02769/FUL	Land 80M NE of Coilum Ormsaigbeg, Kilchoan	Erection of house

Time period for comments is 14 days

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## Around the markets

**United Auctions, August 10**, sold 8252 store lambs and feeding sheep.

**Averages**

SuffX- £72.65 (+£1.13) on the week; BTexX- £70.77 (-£3.28) on the week; Chev- £67.67 (+£2.83) on the week; Mule- £61.88 (-£3.52) on the week; Chev/Mule- £69.44 (-£1.06) on the week; TexX- £70.37 (-£0.37) on the week; BF- £47.87 (+£5.96) on the week

**Leading prices**

Store Lambs- East Buchanty (BTex) £78.50; Glenhead & East Buchanty (BTex) £77.50; Wester Culbowie (BTex) £77.00; Tulchan Croft (Chev) £78.00; Wester Culbowie (Chev) £72.00; East Mitchellton (Mule) £74.00; Burnhead (Mule) £72.00; Wester Bowhouse (Mule) £71.50; Gateside (Suff) £90.00 & £79.00; Knock O Ronald (Suff) £77.50; Wester Culbowie (Chev/Mule) £71.50; Hillside (Chev/Mule) £69.00;

Low Gartachorrans (Clev/ Mule) £66.00; Gateside (Tex) £89.50; Wester Bleaton (Tex) £84.50; Glenside (Tex) £82.00; Littleport (BF) £52.50; Kirkton (BF) £52.00; Drummond Est (BF) £49.50.

**Dingwall & Highland Marts Ltd, August 7:**

sold 9,164 store lambs at an average of £69.14 (up £10.21 on the year). Beltex (1,355) averaged £69.59 and sold to £94 gross from Simpsons Croft, Scotsburn. Texel (2,648) averaged £69.65 and sold to £90 gross from The Rowans, Brora. Suffolk (3,741) averaged £69.78 and sold to £88 gross from Bluebell Cottage, Fleuchary. Mule (323) averaged £68.14 and sold to £72.50 gross from Milton Farm, Aberarder. Bleu Du Maine (38) averaged £73.71 and sold to £84 gross from Rhifail Farms. Cheviot (550) averaged £64.24 and sold to £74 gross from 1

Drummuie Farm, Golspie. Charollais (68) averaged £67.21 and sold to £68.50 gross from Guidebest, Latheron.

Cheviot Mule (172) averaged £71.97 and sold to £77 gross from Dunearn Farm, Nairn. Other breeds (269) averaged £62.25 and sold to £82 gross from Comar, Beauly.

**Other leading prices per head:**

Lambs: TexX – Wester Craiglands, Fortrose, £89, £86.50, The Rowans, £87.50, Park Farm, Strathpeffer, £86.50, Bluebell Cottage, £86; BeltX – Craigroy Cottage, Dallas, £88, £85, Ballicherry Farm, Balblair, £87, £86.50, Wester Craiglands, £85.50, Simpsons Croft, £85; BDM – Rhifail Farms, £76; SuffX – Lower Gartally, Drumnadrochit, £86.50, Wester Craiglands, £86, Brauich Mills Farm, Kiltarlity, £85.50, 67 Balvraid, Dornoch, £84; CharX – Dunlichity Farm,

Farr, £67.50; Chev – Heatherlea Croft, Ardgay, £72, Auchmore Farm, Muir of Ord, £70, 1224 West Langwell, Rogart, £70; Mule – Abersky, Dores, £70, Milton Farm, £70; Cheviot Mule – Auchmore Farm, Muir of Ord, £75.50, Wester Craiglands, £71.50, Auchmore Farm, £70.50.

United Auctions Stirling (Thursday 6th August 2020) sold 5925 prime sheep comprising of 4154 new season lambs selling to average 213.54p also 66 prime hogs averaged 151.55ppk and 1705 ewes and rams. New Season Lambs (4154) – East Shawtonhill (Tex) £126.00; Groan (Tex) £114.00; Over Buttergask (Tex) £111.00; Woodhead of Aberdalgie (Suf) £118.00; Little Raith (Suf) £112.00 & £107.00; Strageath Hall (BTex) £118.00; Isle Cottage (BTex) £116.50 Lintibert (BTex)

£115.00; Doune Farms (BTex) £112.00; Shanry (Cha) £108.00 & £95.50; Clatto (Cross) £99.00; Pathcondie (Cross) £95.00; Cretlevane (Mule) £99.00; Auchenrivoch (Mule) £97.50 & £96.00; Wester Culbowie (Chev/Mule) £93.50 & £90.50; Kepculloch (BF) £71.00; Halls (BF) £79.00.

New Season Lambs (4154) – Isle Cottage (BTex) 265.00ppk; Easterton (BTex) 252.00ppk; Strageath Hall (BTex) 251.00ppk; Airthrey Kerse (Blue Tex) 264.00ppk; Dalachy (Tex) 249.00ppk & 248.00ppk; Woodhead of Aberdalgie (Tex) 246.00ppk; Islay Estates (Suf) 248.00ppk; & 241.00ppk; Claggan, Islay (Suf) 240.00ppk; Allanfauld (Mule) 219.00ppk; Cretlevane (Mule) 206.00ppk & 205.00ppk; Shanry (Cha) 218.00ppk & 216.00ppk; West Whitefield (Cross) 217.00ppk; Wester Culbowie (Chev/ Mule) 211.00ppk & 209.00ppk;

Pennygowan (Dor) 197.00ppk; Kepculloch (BF) 193.00ppk. Ewes (1705) – Hatton Knowe (Tex) £148.00; East Shawtonhill (Tex) £122.00; Kepculloch (TexX) £119.00; Whitfield (TexX) £114.00; Kepculloch (BFL) £116.00; Ardgate (Mule) £110.00; Clatto (Mule) £106.00; Tesasses Est (Mule) £99.00; Gibsley (Cont) £107.00; Outerston (Cont) £106.00; Langhill (Chev/Mule) £100.00 & £92.00; Hatton Knowe (Suf) £100.00; Broom (HB) £99.00 & £82.00; Hillhead (Cross) £81.00; Whitfield (Chev) £79.00 & £72.00; Elmscleugh (BF) £79.00; Millhouse (BF) £75.00; Dunruchan (BF) £71.50; Hilton of Aldie (Rom) £72.50. Tups –; Whitfield (Chev) £108.00; Gilston (Chev) £95.00; Mains of Burnbank (BTex) £92.00; Dunruchan (BF) £88.00; Elmscleugh (BF) £84.00.

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Few people like paying tax but Scots house buyers may be looking across the Border with more than a little jealousy today. Changes announced this week to property tax – Stamp Duty Land Tax in England and Northern Ireland and Land and Buildings Transaction Tax (LBTT) in Scotland – have created an even bigger gap than existed in the amount payable on a house purchase.

It's the way both governments have reacted to the enormous impact Covid-19 has had and will continue to have on the property market.

People buying a £500,000 house in Scotland will still have to pay £21,250 in LBTT while someone engaged in the same value purchase south of the Border will pay zero Stamp Duty.

Further up the market, buying a £750,000 property will result in a tax bill of £46,250 in Scotland but £12,500 in England. Angry as some people may be, it is better than expected as initial feedback from Scottish Ministers was that there were no plans to replicate Rishi Sunak's giveaway on Wednesday.

We at Rettie have argued for a more radical approach in Scotland, with an extension of the zero rate of LBTT from £145,000 to £325,000. This would have the same 'effect' as the Chancellor's changes as it would have taken 90 per cent of house purchasers out of LBTT altogether. It would also have resulted in a saving of up to £5,850 for prospective house buyers.

Still, I am sure the decision to make purchases up to £250,000 taxfree in Scotland will be welcomed by many, particularly as the average house price in the country is just under £180,000.

This is not a figure to be sneezed at. Many first-time buyers in Edinburgh, for example, will be paying this kind of price so they stand to save £2,100 when the changes take effect. With mortgage lenders now demanding higher deposits, the extra £2,100

first-time buyers can devote to their house purchase – instead of going on tax – could make it easier to get a loan.

Even though Scotland has not gone as far as England, this week's changes will be welcome. If you are working in the housing market like I am, your livelihood is dependent on housing market activity.

This includes all manner of occupations and professions, such as construction workers building new homes, surveyors conducting valuations, photographers taking pictures of properties and legal firms involved in conveyancing work.

After lockdown, people who may have wanted to move house have felt unable to. For example, older people who may have considered downsizing have decided not to due to the health risks involved.

We have to entice people back into the market so that activity makes up for lost ground in March, April, May and June. Before the coronavirus crisis struck, things had been looking very positive in the Scottish housing market. In 2019/20, the number of transactions reached 105,000, which was around 1,000 higher than the year before.

The LBTT 'take' to March this year was £288million, which was

10 per cent up on the year before. By the following month, when lockdown had been in place for only a few weeks, LBTT revenue was down 67 per cent on April 2019.

We, at Rettie, feel changes are needed to LBTT like reducing or removing the tax for older people to encourage downsizing.

The fact is, 55 per cent of revenue comes from sales between £350,000 and £750,000 so it would be very difficult for the Scottish Government to give up this income.

So house buyers in that bracket will have to continue to look to England, green with envy.

Dr John Boyle MRICS, Director.

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## PERSONAL NOTICE



**Morag MacMaster (Inverlochty)**

wishes to thank most sincerely all her friends, neighbours and family for the very many kind wishes, lovely cards, beautiful flowers and gifts which she received on the occasion of her 90th birthday.

Morag very much appreciates the kindness shown to her by everyone.

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## BIRTH

**PATERSON** - Euan and Lorna, Port Appin, are delighted to announce the arrival of their son, Callan Innes Michael, on July 10, 2020 at Forth Valley Royal Hospital. A brother for Emma and Isla and grandson for David and Audrey Paterson, Taynult, and Ian and Lorna Wallace, Appin.

## DEATHS

**CORSAR** - Mary Drummond Corsar (née Buchanan-Smith) DBE, FRSE, MA. Beloved wife of the late Chay, of South Oswald Road, Edinburgh. Dearly loved mother, sister and grandmother. Family only service, memorial to be held at a later date.

**FALCONER** - Winifred Margaret. Peacefully, at home in Oban, beloved mother of Lake and Keith, sister to Harry and Sheila, and adored granny to Lake, Glen, Cameron and Lorne, Winifred Margaret Falconer (née Payne) known to everyone as Margaret.

Deeply devoted wife of the late Lake Falconer. A service will take place at Pennyfuir Cemetery, Oban at 1p.m. on Friday, August 14, 2020. Due to Covid 19 restrictions on numbers attending burials, only those invited are able to attend. Family flowers only, please. Donations, if desired, to Mary's Meals.

**GAULD** - Peacefully at Ardfenaig Residential Home, Ardrishaig, on July 22, 2020, John Peter Gordon Gauld, in his 92nd year, of 10 Rowan Park, Lochgilphead and formerly of 12A Dalavich. Dearly beloved husband of Margaretta Stewart, and much loved father of Peter, Gordon, Caroline and Marina. Adored father-in-law, grandfather and proud great-grandfather. A much respected brother-in-law, uncle and cousin to all the extended family. A good neighbour and dear friend to many. A private funeral service took place at Dalavich Cemetery on Tuesday, July 28, 2020.

**JACK** - Michael Alan (formerly of Kinlochleven) passed away on July 24, 2020 in West Sussex, surrounded by his loving family. Beloved husband, father, grandfather, uncle, brother and friend. Mike will be lovingly remembered and sorely missed, always.

**LITSTER** - Peacefully with his family by his side at the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital, Glasgow, on August 5, 2020, Danny Litster of Springhill, Kilmichael Glassary, by Lochgilphead. Former Proprietor of Danny's Ironmongers, Lochgilphead. Beloved husband of Moira Barclay, dear loved and adored Dad of Yvonne and Vivienne. Proud Grandad of Jamie. Much respected father-in-law of Adrian and George. A dear brother, brother-in-law, uncle and cousin to all the extended family. A good neighbour, respected work associate and a very dear friend to many. A private family funeral service was held at Achtnabreac Cemetery, on Wednesday,

August 12, 2020. Will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

**MACDOUGALL** - Hamish Douglas, died peacefully in his favourite place, Appin, on Sunday, August 2, 2020. He was with his family and died at home in the place he loved. He was a loving husband to June, father and grandfather, and will be greatly missed. Private cremation.

**MACKINNON** - Donald (Donnie), passed away peacefully at Belford Hospital on Wednesday, August 5, 2020, aged 85 years. Beloved husband of Margaret, dearly loved Dad of John, Rosie and Tricia, father-in-law of Christine, John and Peter, grandfather of Nicola, Craig, Matthew and Melissa and great-grandfather of Bertie and Duffy. Sadly missed.

**MCNEILL** - Peacefully at home, Craigmount, Tarbert, on August 5, 2020, after a long illness bravely borne, John, dearly beloved husband of Fay and dear father of Douglas and the late Karen, much loved

father-in-law of Bunty. Retired 2nd engineer MV Claymore CalMac. In accordance with present restrictions funeral private.

**MORRISON** - Morag, aged 91 years, died peacefully at home 30 McKelvie Road, Oban on August 7, 2020 with family by her side. Formerly of North Connel. Dearly loved wife to the late Murdo Morrison, mother to Freddy, Callum, Murdo and the late John Alexander Morrison.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

**CHISHOLM** - Rab and Agnes Chisholm would like to thank everybody who sent cards and flowers from Oban, Edinburgh and Glasgow on the passing of their son Duncan after a long illness. A special thanks to Vivienne, Rosie and Sheila for all their support.

**GAULD** - Margaret and family would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for the many kind expressions of sympathy, flowers, cards and phone

calls received following the recent sad loss of John. Special thanks to Nan and her staff at Ardfenaig Residential Home, Ardrishaig for the care and support given to John and the family at such a difficult time. Also to the carers from Carr Gomm who looked after John at home. Grateful thanks to the Rev Margaret Millar for a personal and comforting service, to Donald MacDonald Funeral Directors for caring and efficient arrangements and to Richard at Kilmartin Hotel for catering. Thanks also to those who paid their respects, lining the route through Lochgilphead and Dalavich village and at the cemetery as John made his final journey home. The amount of £575 was raised for Ardfenaig Comfort Fund.

**GIBB** - The family of the late Harry Gibb wish to thank all family, friends and neighbours for the support and kindness shown to them following their recent sad loss - cards, telephone calls, flowers and

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Facebook messages - and also to everyone who paid their respects en-route to Pennyfuir. Special thanks to all those who cared for Harry over the years. Carers Direct, Outreach Team, Ward B Lorn and Islands Hospital, ambulance teams, North Argyll Carers, Crossroads, all at Lorn Medical Centre, Dr McElroy and nurses at Connel Surgery, and latterly all the wonderful staff at Etive House Care Home. Thanks to Catriona at Hamish Hoey & Sons for her guidance and compassion, Petals for the beautiful wreath, and a very special thank you to Donald MacKinnon for the lovely service at Pennyfuir, and his support to the family.

**MACDONALD** - Brian's family would like to thank all family, friends and colleagues who turned out in the pouring rain to say goodbye to our Brian. Thanks for all cards, letters, phone calls, flowers and visits. Special thanks to doctors and nurses at Ward I and A & E at Lorn and Islands Hospital and Kitty Millar MND Nurse. His carers Jessie, Janis, Marie and Mark for all their excellent, loving care towards Brian. To Dougie and Maria who were always there for Brian on his return to Oban, his dear friend Murdo and Jackie who visited Brian every day. Special thanks to Mgs James MacNeil, Fr David Connor and Fr Thompson for so much comfort given to the family and conducting such a lovely service for Brian. Thanks to Catriona and James Hoey for their support and professional service, Petals of Oban for the beautiful

flowers and to Angus MacColl for piping. Special thanks to Scottish Fire & Rescue for the great send-off they gave to our Brian also to Police Scotland for their assistance on the day of his funeral. Shine bright Brian, you will never leave our hearts.

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Nellie, my music, my song, my forever friend.

- C x  
P.S. Thank you for all the rainbows my friend.

**MACCOLL** - Annie (Nan), Kilmonivaig. Tha gaol màthair sonraichte Tha mi à toirt taing do Dhia gu robh sibh Leamsa.

- June Anne xx  
Love and miss you granny.  
- Archie, Jessie, Kate and Freddie xxxx

**MACGILLIVRAY** - Katherine. Mum six years since you left.

Always thinking about you and miss you every day, you are always by my side.

- Paul MacGillivray.

**MACKECHNIE** - In loving memory of Angus a dear brother, brother-in-law and uncle, who passed away at Killin on August 11, 2005. Sadly missed.

- MacKechnie family, Balfron, Kilmalieu, Oban and Fort William.

**MACLACHLAN** - Treasured memories of a loving mum and gran Fodie, who died August 11, 2016.

Forever in our hearts Always in our thoughts.

- Christine, Alasdair and family, Blairgowrie and Muir of Ord.

**POTTER** - Treasured memories of a dear husband, father and Danda Thomas Potter, who died at An Airigh, Dalmally, on August 15, 1980.

Always in the thoughts of his wife Catherine and family.

Oban Times  
ANNOUNCEMENTS

## THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Laughter has been a real gift to me this week. I was finally reunited in person with two close friends.

I can't much recall what we talked of, but we laughed, and laughed. It was a tonic, and I could feel it building me back up after months of living alone in lockdown.

The bible story that springs to mind when I think about laughter is in the first book, Genesis. Sarah, in her nineties and long thought barren, overhears God's plan for her to become pregnant. Her first response is laughter.

When she gives birth to Isaac she says 'God has brought laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh with me.' (Genesis

21:6). Something that intrigues me about Sarah is that she laughed, but she didn't say no.

I wonder if Sarah's laughter at this divine joke ever faltered into fear and anxiety that her 90-year-old body would not be able to cope with the physiological stress of pregnancy. Or perhaps the sound of that laughter carried her through those nine months, reminding her of God's promise being fulfilled.

Laughter is sometimes described as the sound of joy. I have noticed that laughter is something that can bridge gaps and form bonds like nothing else. Laughter at a joke, or even like Sarah, at an

idea so out there all you can do is laugh.

When I think of Sarah's story, I hear her laughter as courage and as a challenge to us all, not to just laugh away those ideas which are so ridiculous - and could just change the world! - but to embrace them and allow our laughter to carry us through.

Sarah laughed, but she didn't say no. As I laugh, I am reminded to be open to the wonderful, wild, and creative ways God responds to our prayers.

Emily D'Silva,  
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# 'A little bit of everything' in second major

Bob MacIntyre did himself and Oban proud again last week in only his second major golf championship appearance.

Playing in the USPGA Championship in Harding Park, San Francisco, rounds of 73, 67, 74 and 69 saw him finish in a tie for 66th place ahead of some of the biggest names in golf, including major champions and fellow 'lefties' Phil Mickelson and Bubba Watson.

By his own admission, his performance over the four days contained 'a bit of everything'.

What it definitely contained in abundance was grit and determination.

Facing a battle to make the cut on Friday after his opening round saw him battle tough conditions to card a 73, Bob had to sink a nerve-shredding seven-foot putt on his last hole to make sure he made the cut. He would find out later he qualified with a shot to spare but he didn't know it at the time.

If anyone had doubts about the Oban star's ability to

handle the pressure among the elite of world golf, Friday's performance showed he is made of the right stuff.

After his brilliant 67 on Friday, Saturday's 74 was something of an anti-climax, but Bob again showed his class on the final day by recording his second sub par score of the week.

Given Bob's lack of competitive action since the start of the pandemic, to more than hold his own against the world's top golfers, the majority of whom

are tournament hardened by the early return of the USPGA tour, is a fantastic achievement and augurs well for the rest of this strange season.

Two majors played, two cuts made and Bob will be hoping that run continues at the US Open in New York starting on September 17.

After the glamour of his first major of the season, Bob is heading home for a rest before teeing it up at the Wales Open at Celtic Manor resort on August 20.



## Hard-fought fifth for McPhee at Czech GP

John McPhee proved he is made of tough stuff after putting a crash in qualifying behind him to advance from 18th to fifth in Sunday's Moto3 race at the Czech GP.

After crashing out of qualifying on Saturday, the Oban racer avoided any incidents and picked up a couple of places in the first lap of Sunday's race. Making his way through the field, it only took McPhee five laps to make it into the top 10.

He continued to make strong progress throughout the remaining laps to start challenging for the podium in the final six.

Unfortunately he had used the best of his tyres in progressing through the field, which lost him vital seconds in the closing stages and he took the chequered flag in fifth. McPhee stays third in the riders' championship.

Speaking after the race, John

**'To be able to finish fifth after starting 18th, I'm really happy.'**

said: 'It was a tough race, but I'm happy to come away with a handful of points because I was starting to lose grip in the front and the rear with seven or eight laps to go.'

'To come from where I was on the grid, I had to use a lot of rear tyre to get the drive to gain time on the straights. For moving forward in the championship it was important just to take the points. To be able to finish fifth after starting 18th, I'm really happy.'

This weekend, August 14 to 16, McPhee and the PETRONAS Sprinta Racing team will be at the Red Bull Ring Spielberg in Austria for the next race of the season.

# Ten top tips for a return to the gym

**Online Oban coach/personal trainer Finlay Carmichael shares his top tips for a return to the gym following lockdown.**

Gyms will reopen – fingers crossed – on Monday September 14. After months of Instagram workouts, Zoom classes and hill walking, I'm sure you'll be as keen as I am to get back into the gym.

Before you jump into doing exactly the same as you were doing pre-lockdown, here are my top 10 tips:

■ Rather than focusing on specific body parts, start working your full body. Something like two to three lower body exercises, two to three upper body exercises and some core work should be sufficient.

■ Chances are, despite your efforts at home, you will have lost a good bit of strength.

Trying to jump back into lifting the same weights as you did before will leave you extremely sore, so work back up to it over a few weeks.

■ Eat and sleep like a baby. Most people think all progress is made in the gym, when the reality is most is made outside of it. When you are training, you are making micro-tears in your muscle and it's what happens after the session that will help you come back stronger. Make sure you are eating plenty protein and aim for eight hours sleep a night.

■ Turn up. You may be nervous about getting back into the swing of things, and that's natural. But the more

you put it off, the worse it will be.

■ Make sure you are moving outwith the gym. Set yourself a step goal and try to hit it every day/week. 10,000 steps a day is a good goal.

■ Diet is still number one. The gym helps, but it's your diet that will dictate whether you lose fat or gain it.

■ It's easy to focus on everything you feel like you are doing wrong, but taking note of all the things you are doing right will help you massively. Getting in your workouts, hitting your step goal, drinking more water, eating more protein are all great examples.

■ It makes things a lot easier when you are following a plan. You will see yourself

making progress and that will leave you feeling motivated.

■ Have something to aim for. To get to where you want, you need to know what you want. Writing down short/medium/long-term goals is recommended.

■ Enjoy it. If you enjoy something, you will want to do it. Ensuring you are training in a way that you enjoy is key. Put on your favourite music or podcast and have fun.

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WILD ABOUT ARGYLL

# Jacobite steam train firm refutes virus allegations

by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

The operator of the Jacobite steam train running from Fort William to Mallaig has defended its anti-coronavirus precautions after allegations some of its staff were self-isolating after displaying symptoms of the virus and that social distancing and the use of facemasks are not being adhered to.

West Coast Railways (WCR) issued the statement after the company was contacted by a national newspaper claiming a member of the Jacobite staff had spoken to the paper about the concerns over the lack of coronavirus measures.

Allegations also included claims that toilets and tables aboard the popular service, made famous as the Hogwarts Express in the Harry Potter movies, were not being cleaned enough.

WCR restarted operation of the 84-mile Jacobite steam service on July 15 with only a



**Florence MacLean, Steam Train Manager, blows her whistle through a mask. Claims of a confrontation between steam train staff and ScotRail staff are being investigated by both organisations.** Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

no-one has reported testing positive for Covid-19.

'It is true one member of our catering team has been off sick for a couple of weeks with a sore throat. But she has twice been tested for Covid-19 and both times the results proved negative.

'Since the Jacobite began running again last month, our staff have been diligent in wearing masks and ensuring all passengers wear theirs – both while on board the train and while queuing to board at Fort William and Mallaig stations.

'Staff are also at pains to ensure passengers stay a safe distance apart at all times. Wherever possible, we are

issuing electronic tickets to passengers' mobile phones rather than printing paper tickets.

'Normally a passenger would only have to show their phone screen to a member of our staff before boarding the train.

'But you must remember, many of the Jacobite passengers are elderly and some can be forgiven if they are not always au fait with modern technology.

'Consequently, it is true there have been times when staff have had to handle their phone and help them display their tickets.

'However, our staff then immediately sanitise their hands and passengers are encouraged to use the sanitiser which is widely available on and off the train.

'It is not true we do not take contact details for track and trace when issuing tickets. All passengers are given our safety booklet and reminded of social

third of the usual complement of 700 passengers on board.

Hitting back at the accusations, WCR has confirmed it has also lodged a complaint of its own with ScotRail over what it claims has been the behaviour of some of its station

staff following reports of an alleged confrontation.

A spokesman for West Coast Railways said: 'We can categorically deny these allegations. We do not know who made them but they are totally false.

'However, formal complaints have been made to ScotRail's head office in Glasgow about the behaviour of some of their station staff.

'We are not aware of any members of the Jacobite staff self-isolating and certainly

Continued on page three.



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## Alistair's off to Africa to deliver strips

Point and Sandwick Trust's community consultant, Alasdair Nicholson,



pictured, made a second attempt on Tuesday to travel to Africa, armed with island football strips for youngsters and lessons on community resilience and crisis response for people working in development.

Mr Nicholson had been due to fly out in March but put off his trip due to deepening concerns over the coronavirus pandemic. However, that trip is now back on and he left Stornoway on Sunday along with the junior Point FC strips, as well as science textbooks, to deliver to a school at the foot of Mount Kilimanjaro.

He is taking the strips out to Northern Tanzania after Point and Sandwick Trust sponsored new kit for the young Point players. The trust also provided a couple of footballs for the school in Africa, a combined primary and secondary.

Mr Nicholson anticipated great 'glee and happiness' at the gifts and had previously told the 'Wee Reds' in Point that children in Africa were often without strips or boots – sometimes even footballs.

# Annual peace pilgrimage to Ben Nevis to go ahead for VJ Day

by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

When Dudley peace legend Bert Bissell MBE began his humble Bible class at Vicar Street Methodist Church in 1925, he could not have envisaged the impact he would have on so many lives throughout his amazing lifespan of 96 years.

When Bert passed away in 1998 he was buried in Glen Nevis cemetery beneath his beloved Ben Nevis which he had climbed an incredible 107 times and left a peace cairn on its summit which today is officially recognised as the highest war memorial in Britain, with Dudley proudly referenced on its structure.

Bert hated war and happened to be in Fort William with a group of Dudley lads on VJ Day in 1945 when he decided to climb the Ben and started building the cairn.

He was awarded the World Methodist Peace Prize and MBE for his unstinting contribution to the good of mankind.

Today the Bible class is still in existence and is run from Dixons Green Road Methodist Church by Bert's right-hand



The late Bert Bissell photographed at his home.

man, Astley Blake, who is still a member of the Gentleman Songsters Male Voice Choir of which Bert was president for many years.

The choir had the honour of being the first choir ever to sing on the summit of Ben Nevis in 1978.

This year marks the 75th anniversary of VJ Day on August 15 and a group of intrepid Dudley folk will again attempt the ascent in Bert's honour.

It was in 2014 that former borough mayors, councillors

Steve Waltho and Dave Tyler, met with former MP Ian Austin to discuss rekindling the annual peace-making pilgrimage that had twinned Dudley with Fort William. The event proved quite an attraction and this year will be the seventh annual pilgrimage hosted by the Bert Bissell Memorial Society chaired by Councillor Waltho.

The groups have visited Bert's grave and held commemorative services in the church where stained glass

windows from Dudley are installed. Two years ago the Songsters joined the trip to hold a concert in the church to mark their 40th anniversary of the famous 1978 climb.

To date, over the seven years, 48 individuals have made 73 ascents of the Ben but this year will have significant limitations.

Councillor Steve Waltho said: 'This will be a no frills visit – we came so close to cancelling this year's event but our main accommodation was booked and

open, and 22 intrepid individuals were determined to not only utilise the event to raise money for charity, but also to honour the 75th anniversary where we intend to place wreaths on Bert's grave and the summit cairn to remember those lost in war, and also those lost in the Covid pandemic.

'Clearly we need to observe Covid guidance and our church service is cancelled. This year joining us to raise money to support groups in the Covid crisis will be 1st Coseley Scouts chairman Nick Gallagher for his local scout group, fellow Councillor Simon Phipps for the Edwards Trust and Society vice-chairman and taxi boss Shaz Saleem for the Saleem Foundation.

'Also joining the group will be the family of Jules Garrett-Payne for whom the pilgrimage will be an emotional one since money was raised for her treatment on the climb last year, but who sadly passed away three months later.'

Mr Waltho added: 'The group will leave Dudley on Thursday August 13, with the aim being to climb Ben Nevis on the 14th and visit Bert's grave on VJ Day, the 15th, returning to Dudley on the 16th.'

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# Car park crash causes major 'inconvenience'

by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

A careless large vehicle owner has caused major inconvenience to ladies visiting Fort William, by colliding with the wall of the public toilets and causing internal structural damage.

The 'accident' took place over the weekend in the town's Viewforth Car Park, where the only public toilets in the town centre are located.

Highland Council, which owns the toilets, was alerted to the problem when a cleaner called in to say the ladies toilet were flooded.

On inspection it was found that a 'bulge' in the wall had dislodged sinks and plumbing, which could not immediately be repaired.

While the vehicle owner did not report the collision and left the scene, it is thought that the incident, reported locally as involving a 'bus sized', UK-registered vehicle, was caught on CCTV.

However, police could not



confirm whether the vehicle involved was a motorhome and told the Lochaber Times they were not involved and the matter is between the council and the driver of the vehicle in question.

The toilets are now closed until the structural damage

has been assessed as major re-building may be required before it can be opened.

For now, remale visitors in need of a 'comfort stop' will have to hang on a little longer and follow the directions to the only other public toilets at the other end of the town.

Sinks and plumbing were dislodged after a vehicle hit the toilets in Fort William's Viewforth Car Park.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson

Glen Nevis Visitor Centre and Glen Nevis Cemetery.

A number of vehicles had been poorly parked and were causing an obstruction, with the result that a number of vehicles were uplifted. Highland Council operatives were also active in the area.

Local Policing Inspector for Lochaber, Inspector Isla Campbell, had posted a warning online telling drivers: 'If you have left your car on the road at any point in Glen Nevis, I would urge you to return to it and move it. If it is causing an obstruction, it may be removed and you will be responsible for the associated costs.'

Police officers were also in attendance in Glen Nevis, outside Fort William, at the weekend in the area of the



## Report of missing Fort teen being seen in Birmingham

West Midlands Police has taken over the search for missing Fort William teenager, Olti Gega, after a report that he has been sighted in Birmingham.

The 17-year-old Albanian, was last seen in Lochaber in the Camagael area around 12am on Saturday, August 1.

Olti is described as 5ft 9ins, of slim build with black hair, cut short at the back and longer at the front and he has a mole on his right cheek.

He was last seen wearing a grey hoodie, black jeans, black trainers and a black watch.



A number of poorly parked vehicles in Glen Nevis, around the area of the visitor centre and Glen Nevis Cemetery, were lifted by police at the weekend.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson

## Jacobite steam train firm refutes virus allegations

Continued from page one. Please be assured West Coast Railways considers safety to be paramount and we are going to great lengths to ensure staff, passengers and members of the community stay as safe as possible.

Only family pods are allowed to sit together. 'If our staff spot passengers trying to use another seat, different to the one they were designated, they will be politely asked to move.'

'Staff temperatures are also checked every day before their shift starts.'

'Please be assured West Coast Railways considers safety to be paramount and we are going to great lengths to ensure staff, passengers and members of the community stay as safe as possible.'

### Staff

'But it is important people don't mistake our staff for those of ScotRail, who are always present on platforms at both stations.'

'Sadly, there have also been some reports of various mem-

bers of their staff using abusive language to passengers and our staff.'

'These incidents have been formally reported to ScotRail head office in Glasgow.'

A ScotRail spokesperson told the Lochaber Times: 'We're aware of an alleged confrontation at Fort William station where our staff support West Coast Railways, which is being investigated in conjunction with West Coast Railways.'

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# Lochaber trials legend Gary smashes West Highland Way cycle record

by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Kinlochleven motorbike ace Gary MacDonald will be familiar to many of our readers as something of a local legend when it comes to the Scottish Six Days' Trial (SSDT) event.

But with the coronavirus lockdown putting paid to the staging of this year's event, Gary swapped two wheels with a engine for two wheels relying just on leg power to pedal himself into the record books recently by setting a new fastest time cycling the West Highland Way.

Gary said this was something he had wanted to have a crack at for the last three years but never seemed to have enough time.

'The previous record held by the endurance legend himself, Keith Forsyth, was made in 2015 at a time of 10hrs 27mins.

I can't thank Keith enough for his help and advice over the last two weeks and for letting me use his route map from 2015 to keep me in the right direction,' Gary explained.

'I set off at 5.55am from a quiet Milngavie town centre, I quickly found myself in thick fog and mist for a good hour and a half until I reached Balmaha Car Park.

'Quick refuel and headed for Rowardennan. This was the part I was dreading...the hike a bike! I almost enjoyed the battered arms and knees which eventually took me to Beinglas Farm. Relieved to get through this part in good time I powered on to Tyndrum.

'The temperature rose to 25 degrees, instantly I started to suffer. By the time I reached Bridge of Orchy I had hit a brick wall and started to bleed time, felt sick and my legs didn't feel attached to my

body.

'I struggled through until I finally reached the famous SSDT section, chairlift... here's where I cracked out the secret weapon - an OTE 100mg caffeine gel! Before long I was back motoring on, feeling more human. This was short lived when I reached Altnafeidh and had the Devils Staircase in front of me. I could quite literally tell you what every single stone on the way up looks like.

'Finally, I had reached the fun part where I was back on home turf, descending into Kinlochleven. The final pitstop arrived in the village and ahead of me I was faced with the dreaded zigzags out of Kinloch.

'From here I had many ups and downs to Fort William, my body shutting down, but thankfully the jelly babies kept me going.

'The final descent into Glen Nevis... If you'd asked me at the start I didn't think I'd get this far, let alone in that time. What a delight to see a busy Fort William High Street where I crossed the finish line in 9hrs 28mins and 34secs and was greeted by family and friends where I finally broke and burst into tears. What a truly emotional experience.

Gary paid tribute to his bike, a Trek Supercaliber 9.9, which he said was 'quite simply the best XC bike I've ever ridden, as well as thanking his support team of family and friends.

And he added: 'It was brilliant along the way to see family and familiar faces, you know who you are - thank you!'

**Gary MacDonald smashed the previous record for cycling the West Highland Way by almost an hour.**



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Golden eagles, such as these in the, Cairngorms National Park, have not bred at Dundreggan for 40 years. Photograph: Mark Hamblin, scotlandbigpicture

# Golden eagles return to rewilding estate after 40 years

by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

A pair of golden eagles has successfully reared a chick in an artificial nest at Trees for Life's flagship Dundreggan rewilding estate in Glenmoriston – marking the first known return of the iconic birds of prey to breed at the site in 40 years.

The eagle chick flew from the nest for the first time last week – some five years after a Trees for Life team and renowned conservationist Roy Dennis MBE of the Roy Dennis Wildlife Foundation set up an eagle nest or eyrie at a prime location to entice the birds of prey back.

There was no certainty the project would work. Golden eagles build their own nests in remote and inaccessible places, and are highly sensitive to disturbance.

'This is a rewilding success story beyond our wildest dreams. I've been checking the eyrie regularly since we built it in 2015, hoping to see evidence that the eagles had returned – and now they have. As golden eagles may use their nesting sites for generations, we're hoping they are back for the long-term,' said Doug Gilbert,

Trees for Life's Dundreggan Manager.

'Four decades without golden eagles breeding or establishing themselves in this part of our wild and beautiful Highland glen have been four decades too long.

'When we built the artificial nest, we knew it was in a good location for eagles because we found the remains of an old nest at the site. We've been keeping our fingers crossed for the past five years, and it's wonderful that our efforts have paid off like this.'

Golden eagles – regarded by many people as Scotland's national bird – are regularly seen over Dundreggan, but until now there has been no sign of them nesting or setting up a territory.

Highland Raptor Study Group member and golden eagle expert Stuart Benn commented: 'This is terrific news – the first time golden eagles have definitely bred at Dundreggan since 1980. Eagles are undergoing a marked expansion in the Highlands just now, recolonising ground they haven't been on for many years and even colonising some completely new areas.'

The golden eagle has been making a slow recovery in

Scotland. The fourth national golden eagle survey, published in 2016, showed that Scotland's population of the birds had increased to 508 pairs, a rise of 15 percent since the previous survey in 2003.

Trees for Life has been rewilding Dundreggan – including by protecting and expanding fragments of the Caledonian Forest – since its 2008 purchase of the 10,000-acre former deer stalking estate.

This has included restoring golden-eagle-friendly mountaintop forests of tough, waist-high 'wee trees', such as dwarf birch and downy willow. Known as 'montane' species because they can grow near mountain summits despite harsh conditions, these once-common woodlands are now rare in Scotland following centuries of overgrazing by sheep and deer.

A marked rise in black grouse numbers as habitats have recovered has also probably helped the eagles in their breeding attempt, as these are favourite prey for eagles.

In June, Trees for Life lodged a detailed planning application with Highland Council for the world's first rewilding centre at Dundreggan, which it plans to open in 2022.

## Volunteers tackle post-lockdown rubbish clean-ups on Ben Nevis

Piles of rubbish weighing more than 50kg have been cleared off the slopes of Ben Nevis by work parties following last month's reopening of the tourism and hospitality sectors, writes Mark Entwistle.

The John Muir Trust (JMT), which owns the summit of the UK's highest peak, has had volunteer work parties out on the mountain on various dates, together with those from the Nevis Landscape Partnership (NLP).

'In the space of a few short weeks we are seeing the number of visitors on Ben Nevis return to post lockdown levels,' said Nathan Berrie, JMT Nevis Conservation Officer.

'While it is lovely to see so many faces enjoying the outdoors this increase has created several challenges, litter is a particular issue.

'However, we are extremely fortunate to have a community of local volunteers that are willing to give up their time to slog up Ben Nevis.

'For the time being, our volunteer work parties will

be carefully managed to keep staff, volunteers and the public safe. This means we are limited with volunteer numbers and what we can do. However, if restrictions continue to ease we will hopefully be in a position to create more exciting opportunities.

'Over the coming months we have several other Ben Nevis volunteer work parties planned. Unfortunately these are already fully booked due to limitations on numbers, but if anyone wishes to help keep Ben Nevis beautiful by hosting their own litter pick please get in touch by contacting either the John Muir Trust or Nevis Landscape Partnership. 'We will be more than happy to provide equipment.

'We would also like to take this opportunity to thank many members of the public who have spent their time clearing litter throughout Glen Nevis. This does not go unnoticed and we appreciate it hugely.'

And Rory Stewart, Volunteer Coordinator for the Friends of

Nevis (FoN) and NLP, told us: 'At the start of lockdown, in late March, Friends of Nevis volunteer activities were halted and have remained so until now.

'In recent weeks, however, following a return to outdoor work, NLP, in collaboration with Sarah McNeill and Nathan Berrie of the local John Muir Trust team, have been trialing work parties with small groups of locally based volunteers.

'These have proved very successful and providing safeguards are followed, offer a template for Friends of Nevis to run a series of monthly volunteer work parties this autumn.'

The dates for events are on both the NLP and FoN websites, along with a fuller description of current sign up procedures. In addition to the events above there is also the Friends of Nevis AGM (Friday, October 30) and the Autumn Litter Pick (Sunday, November 22). How these events are run will be determined by the Scottish Government's advice at the time.

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# Skye MSP visits island's new hospital site

Skye constituency MSP Kate Forbes met with NHS Highland and construction staff as she was recently given a tour of the island's new multi-million pound hospital site in Broadford.

The £20 million Skye, Lochalsh and South West Ross Community Hospital – which is due to open next year – will include 24 beds, an emergency department, x-ray and ultrasound services, a midwife-led community maternity unit, and an infusion suite.

Ms Forbes met with David Park, chief officer of NHS Highland; Heather Cameron, senior project manager for NHS Highland; Bob Dow of Hub North Scotland, the development partner delivering the new hospital; David Newton, senior project manager for Balfour Beatty, the main contractor, and Donald MacLellan, the site project



manager for Balfour Beatty.

Construction work continued during the lockdown phase of the Covid-19 response after the site was declared an essential critical infrastructure project. However, progress was slower during that time due

to the availability of labour, materials, and workforce accommodation.

Ms Forbes was able to tour the new building and see firsthand the progress being made. She also met staff, including Craig Maxwell who recently

**David Park, chief officer of NHS Highland, and Kate Forbes MSP on site at the new hospital build.**

started on site as a graduate construction manager with Balfour Beatty.

'This new hospital for Skye has been a long time coming and so it's amazing to see construction work progressing. I spoke to some of the workers and engineers on site - all social distances of course,' commented Ms Forbes.

'I hope the new hospital will enable more patients to be treated locally, without having to travel off the island or drive to Inverness.

'It is a stunning new hospital and testament to the importance placed on rural health care.

'At a time of economic diffi-

culties, the construction work is also providing jobs and there is at least one local student who has a job during the summer months as a result.'

Hub North Scotland project director Linda Shearer said she was delighted to welcome Ms Forbes to the Broadford site.

'Despite the challenges presented by Covid-19, all the project partners have worked well together to enable construction to continue and ensure this development has progressed,' said Ms Shearer.

NHS Highland's chief officer David Park added: 'We were delighted to welcome Kate Forbes to the Broadford site and greatly appreciate her keen interest in the new hospital.

'Work is progressing well on the project thanks to the partnership working with Balfour Beatty and associated contractors throughout the Covid-19 pandemic.'

## MSP Allan delivery charges map

Na h-Eileanan an Iar SNP MSP Alasdair Allan has welcomed the launch of an online map which shows pricing by postcode.

The new services will help residents of rural communities identify unfair delivery charges and find the best deals.

After entering a postcode, the website compares charges for a range of parcel sizes from six major companies. Users from around Scotland can also find which online UK retailers deliver to their area.

The free service launched on Sunday at [www.fairdeliveries.scot](http://www.fairdeliveries.scot) is part of the Scottish Government's ongoing action to make delivery charges more transparent.

Mr Allan commented: 'Residents of Na h-Eileanan an Iar face average surcharges of at least 25 percent compared to Glasgow and there is virtually no access to home delivery.'

'This new tool by the Scottish Government will help people identify unfair delivery charges and help to reduce the cost of living in rural areas.'

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Kinlochmoidart House designed by William Leiper and built for Robert Stewart of Ingliston 1882-4. Photograph: Mrs Nino Stewart, Kinlochmoidart

# This week in 1745: Rebellion is in the air...

by Ally Entwistle  
fort@obantimes.co.uk

On this day in August, 275 years ago, Bonnie Prince Charlie was just a week away from the start of the 1745 Jacobite rising.

At Borrodale House, near Arisaig, final preparations were being made. Lochiel and MacDonald of Keppoch both left to gather their men. They would have around 900 and 500 men respectively to fight for the Prince.

As the Jacobite force was mustering, the date was set. As the memorials of Murray of Broughton say: 'Lochiel with McDonald [sic] of Keppoch, Clanronald [sic], Stewart of Ardsheil [sic] principal gentleman [sic] of Glengarys [sic] family [sic]... agree to have their people in

arms in two weeks after, and the Rendezvous was appointed at [sic] Glenphinnen [sic], a small place at the head of Lochiel [sic], upon the 19th day of August'.

When Clanranald had gathered about 100 men, the Prince joined the others at Kinlochmoidart House. It is said when he crossed to Glenuig, the delighted locals appeared and danced a reel to welcome him. He stayed at Kinlochmoidart from August 11-18 when he would leave and make his way to stay over night at Glenaladale House, by Glenfinnan.

The lower Clanranald numbers were explained by Alastair Cameron in his book about St Finnan's Isle on Loch Shiel: 'Though such places as Gaskan, Annat and Drumlinlaigh on the

Moidart side had suffered considerable depopulation, there were still about a hundred MacDonald males above 25 years of age in the district besides MacEacherns, MacIssacs and MacVarishes, while the Jacobite clans Cameron and MacPherson were well-represented on the Argyll side, the sheep run craze having not yet become so effective as to create many clearances in the Ardnamurchan and Morvern areas.'

The Lockhart Papers reveal that: 'The Highlanders did not await the raising of the Standard to commence hostilities. On August 14, Captain Swetenham... was captured by Keppoch's Clan as he was proceeding from Ruthven to Fort William'. Rebellion was in the air.

## The Prince's Walk

Another arboricultural commemoration of the '45 is the so-called Prince's Walk at Kinlochmoidart House. An avenue of oak and horse chestnut were planted after the Prince's stay at Kinlochmoidart, and it is part of a circular walk.

Starting at St Finan's Church, also built by Robertson MacDonald, the walk takes in views of the house itself. Like Borrodale, Kinlochmoidart House was burned down after Culloden, on the Duke of Cumberland's orders. It was rebuilt in 1884.



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HOTELS WITH HEART & SOUL

## Crerar Hotels welcome 'heroes' as thank you

A Glencoe hotel will roll out the red carpet this weekend to dozens of NHS and key workers.

As a thank you to those who went 'above and beyond' during the coronavirus crisis, leading Scottish hotel group, Crerar Hotels, appealed for nominations earlier this year.

It offered a free two-night weekend stay with dinner, bed and breakfast at its seven Scottish properties, receiving a 'phenomenal' 2,500 entries.

All the group's hotels, including those in Oban, Mull, Loch Fyne and Glencoe, are now preparing to make it a weekend to remember for paramedics, hospital porters, doctors, nurses, carers and police officers.

From Friday night, the Oban Bay Hotel will welcome 130 guests to its 74-rooms with

different sittings for dinner and an extended breakfast in order to maintain distancing.

Marc Gardner, general manager, and formerly GM at The Loch Fyne Hotel & Spa, said: 'It's really as a thank you to them from Crerar Hotels and the staff are all looking forward to it. The guests are all here to relax, enjoy Oban and enjoy a well-deserved break.'

The hotel is bidding for four-star status from the AA having undergone a massive refurbishment over the last 12 to 18 months, including all public areas and guest rooms, with visitors able to relax in spa treatment rooms, a sauna and steam room, and outdoor hot tubs, as well as being able to enjoy The Sea Deck with views down the Sound of Kerrera.



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## The Seven Men of Moidart

The Seven Men of Moidart – the Prince's companions – were commemorated in the mid-1800s by Robertson MacDonald, the owner of the Moidart Estate at the time. He planted a row of seven beech trees in a field on the shore of Loch Moidart.

They are clearly seen from

the road – a lay-by contains a more modern cairn and plaque telling the men's story, erected by The 1745 Association.

Replacements were planted in 1988 after the original trees were storm damaged, but these failed to flourish, so seven more

saplings were planted in 2002. These later trees were planted at right angles to the original trees.

It is unclear today exactly which they are, and to the casual observer it appears there are only two-and-two-half men of Moidart still standing.

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## Share your West Highland Way memories for last 40 years

The West Highland Way celebrates its 40th anniversary in October and is looking for stories, photographs and special moments from the public from their time spent on the much-loved long-distance route.

The campaign, part of a special anniversary project funded by the LEADER programme, is now under way and is appealing for stories, video and photography from walkers, runners, and cyclists while on the West Highland Way which runs from Milngavie to Fort William.

This content will form the basis of an online exhibition to celebrate the 40th anniversary on October 6.

Jane McGeary, Business Development Manager for the West Highland Way, told us: 'Many people feel great affection for the West Highland Way and various activities had been planned for this special anniversary year.

'Covid-19 has, of course, affected this but we can't let



Sarah Badman-Flook is one of those sharing her memories of the West Highland Way.

this moment pass without celebrating the incredible success of Scotland's first long-distance route.

'At the start of the year we released a special West Highland Way passport, with walkers receiving stamps along the route. We are keen to keep the public engaged in the celebrations, which is why we also decided to stage a virtual exhibition in October.

'Key to this will be the incredible stories and moments experienced along the 96 miles by the many thousands of people who have enjoyed their time on the West Highland Way.'

To find out how to submit your memories and any accompanying photographs, video, drawings, audio or other material visit the West Highland Way website by September 6.

# Cameron welcomes Ross as Scottish Tory leader

The naming of Douglas Ross as Scottish Conservative leader has been welcomed by Highlands and Islands Tory MSP Donald Cameron as good news for his region.

The Moray MP was the only candidate to have put his name forward to replace Jackson Carlaw.

Former Tory leader Ruth Davidson has agreed to stand in for Mr Ross at First Minister's Questions until next year's Scottish Parliament election when he hopes to win a seat at Holyrood.

'I'd like to offer Douglas my hearty congratulations on becoming leader of our party. Having known him for over 15 years, he has become a firm personal friend of mine, and he will be a formidable leader of the Scottish Conservatives going into the 2021 election and beyond,' said Mr Cameron.

'I am delighted that Douglas



New Scottish Tory leader Douglas Ross, pictured, hopes to win a seat at Holyrood at next year's elections.

prepare for next year's elections when we will offer voters a raft of practical policies to help rebuild Scotland, which will be a world away from the SNP's obsession with another turn on the constitutional merry-go-round.'

Mr Ross, served as MSP for the Highlands and Islands from 2016-17, before winning the Moray constituency from SNP Westminster Leader Angus Robertson at the 2017 General Election.

During his period as an MSP he served in Ruth Davidson's Shadow Cabinet alongside Mr Cameron. Mr Ross was re-elected MP for Moray in the 2019 General Election.

has made his priority the creation of a jobs plan within the first month of his leadership. Practical measures are needed in the Highlands and Islands where we are facing huge economic challenges in the aftermath of the pandemic.

'Coming from the Highlands

and Islands himself, I know that Douglas understands the need for the Scottish Government to act for all of Scotland, and not just the central belt.'

Mr Cameron added: 'I am really looking forward to working with Douglas as we

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# Join the Virtual Trade Mission to Nova Scotia



The current Covid restrictions on international travel have led to a huge amount of disruption but have also created new creative opportunities for international collaboration.

Lochaber Chamber of Commerce had been due to take a delegation of Scottish businesses on a trade mission to Nova Scotia in March this year, which was unfortunately postponed due to the pandemic. But we didn't want this to stop us in our tracks and instead, we are delighted to invite all interested businesses to join our all new Virtual Trade Mission over the week of 21st September, giving businesses the chance to dip a toe in the water of international trade opportunities without even leaving the comfort of home!

Together with Nova Scotia Business Incorporation, local Chambers of Commerce in Nova Scotia, and the assistance of an international business-matching consultant we're busy creating a fantastic virtual programme for our upcoming Virtual Trade Mission to Nova Scotia.

Using online meeting and conference facilities, we'll create opportunities for businesses here to find all the key facts about doing business with Canada and meet with the contacts they'd most like to talk to in Nova Scotia.

Featuring a tailored market briefing, business networking event and the all-important one-to-one business meetings for our delegates, it's a fantastic opportunity for businesses of all types and sizes to explore opportunities in a new and vibrant international market.

This new virtual trip will take place over the week of September 21 and due to the favourable time difference (Nova Scotia is just four hours behind), we'll be able to enjoy afternoon meetings all week.

Lochaber Chamber of Commerce is running this trade mission on behalf of the Scottish Government and as such, it is open to all businesses in Scotland, across all sectors. Best of all – it is completely free to take part – just tell us what business you're in, what your business aims are, which businesses you'd like to talk to, and we'll do the rest!

We already have four companies confirmed from areas as diverse as health and beauty, aquaculture, and the legal profession. There are still limited spaces available – if you'd like to explore opportunities in Nova Scotia, and benefit from specialist business matching to set up meetings, there's still time to sign up. With no costs and no time lost away from work, what have you got to lose? It's free, easy, and open to all Scottish businesses.

If you'd like to find out more about joining us for the Virtual Trade Mission in September, drop us an email to [trademission@lochaberchamber.co.uk](mailto:trademission@lochaberchamber.co.uk)

## Call for DVLA to find Fort theory test venue

Lochaber MSP Kate Forbes has called on the DVLA to find a suitable venue and date for learner drivers to sit their theory tests in Lochaber in advance of driving tests restarting.

Despite issuing dates for other parts of the Highlands – including locations such as Tongue and Gairloch – there is no confirmed date yet for anywhere in Lochaber.

Ms Forbes said: 'Understandably because of the pandemic measures, the DVLA's own mobile theory test unit cannot be used at this time. But what frustrates me is that they have been able to find temporary venues and arrange dates for other parts of the Highlands – including Tongue, Helmsdale and Gairloch – and there is nothing yet confirmed

for Lochaber. If the DVLA can find somewhere suitable in a village the size of Tongue, surely finding a venue in Lochaber – and especially Fort William – is not an impossible ask.

'I can think of plenty of places in the town where this could be hosted for a morning or afternoon. I have written to the DVLA and hope they will resolve this as quickly as possible.'

## Been asked to self-isolate? It is crucial you do, to stop the spread.

If you have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for coronavirus, NHS Scotland will get in touch and ask you to self-isolate for 14 days. Support will be available for anyone who needs it.

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TEST & PROTECT

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# Mental Health Matters

NIC GODDARD

fort@obantimes.co.uk

With increasing awareness of mental health issues come increasing ways of improving mental wellbeing.

The term therapy has many of us thinking of sitting on a couch opposite a counsellor or therapist but for the last couple of years, some GPs have also prescribed nature therapy to patients, particularly to assist with mental health issues.

One such nature therapy that is gaining awareness and popularity is Forest Bathing, or to give it its Japanese name where the practice originated shinrin yoku.

Here in Lochaber, we are fortunate to have access to plenty of woodland spaces including the ancient oak woodlands on the Ardnamurchan peninsula.

I joined an online Zoom session on 'An introduction to Forest Bathing' led by Hugh Asher of Darach Croft to learn more about it.

I was one of 18 participants attending the free session and due to internet issues at home ended up driving to a spot with a good phone signal so I could join using mobile data.

The irony of hooking up two types of computer technology



to learn about disconnecting and immersing myself in nature was not entirely lost on me as the car windows steamed up and I shifted around the steering wheel to balance my laptop.

Hugh explained what Forest Bathing is and how it is a different type of green therapy than just getting outside for fresh air and exercise telling us: 'Forest bathing is not about goal setting, counting steps or following a set route. It is an exertion-free experience where the aim is to reduce your heart rate and slow your breathing. While you are aiming to achieve a meditative feeling

there is a difference between forest bathing and other mindfulness activities in that mindfulness is about taking yourself out of your surroundings while forest bathing is about taking inspiration from and really feeling present in your physical surroundings.'

Forest Bathing does indeed have a long list of both physical and psychological health benefits, including promoting better sleep, reduced heart rate and blood pressure, deeper breathing along with reducing depression, focusing attention, and improving memory.

Getting out into nature has long been recognised as

**Forest bathing is an exertion-free experience where the aim is to reduce your heart rate and slow your breathing, taking inspiration from and really feeling present in your physical surroundings.**

important to our well being, with Hugh explaining: 'Albert Einstein is quoted as saying he always took a daily walk in nature.'

Aided by a slideshow of wonderful images of forest settings, largely from local woodlands, Hugh then guided us virtually through the elements of a forest bathing session explaining that many people find it useful to engage a forest bathing guide to lead their session or attend a group bath.

Hugh is currently in training with the Forest Therapy Institute to become a certified guide himself.

The main principles of a forest bathing session are leaving behind distractions such as phones or other technology along with any goals or expectations. This includes worries and stresses wherever possible.

Stopping to fully become part

of your woodland surroundings and fully engaging all your senses. Slowing down your breathing, closing your eyes to fully listen to the sounds of the forest, inhaling and smelling the scents, tasting (where safe) and touching the different textures, then taking a closer look at small details such as leaves, tree bark, pine cones. Being still and silent and observing the forest return to life around you as you have stopped being a disturbance can allow you to see and hear wildlife, experience the wind, and feel the movement of nature around you.

Hugh explained that during a group session there would often be a sharing of experiences and noting of what you had been drawn to. Part of the ceremony of a forest bath is to finish with some sustenance of a snack and a drink, if at all possible gathered from the forest itself, such as water boiled from a stream.

Finally as you leave the forest and return to life, Hugh tells us: 'you collect your baggage at the end! Picking up your thoughts and worries which hopefully feel much lighter. Often looking back at your

path and counting blessings or lessons you have taken.' Taking questions and feedback from the participants at the end of the session, it was clear that all of us had enjoyed it. My teenage daughter who had come with me for the drive intending to head off for a walk had been lured by Hugh's gentle voice and ended up staying to watch the whole session.

She is a very keen walker who spends hours every week in woodlands but is usually on a fast-paced mission to cover as much ground as possible. Since the session she tells me she has slowed down to take in what is around her a lot more often.

As I restarted the car and de-misted the windows to drive home, it was the tops of the nearby trees which reappeared in view first and I have to say they felt as though they may be calling me with wisdom to impart if I stayed a while in their company.

Darach Croft has further Introduction to Forest Bathing sessions planned online and eventual real-life guided Forest Bathing as lockdown eases. Follow them at [www.facebook.com/DarachCroft/](https://www.facebook.com/DarachCroft/) for details.



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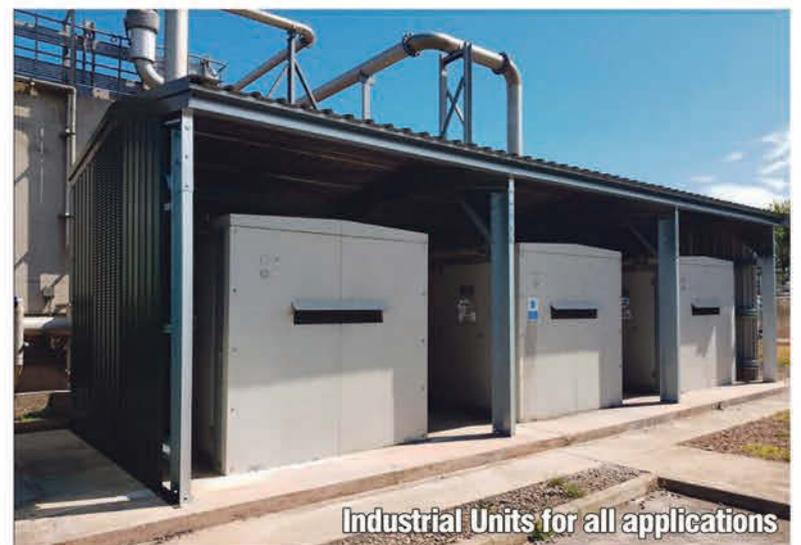
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# DISTRICT NEWS

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or call 01397 703003



Members hard at work preparing the food. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

## Smiles on the menu as Caol Lunch Club welcomes back members

Caol and District Lunch Club opened its doors to members for the first time since March this week, when it dished up a choice of freshly cooked macaroni cheese or fish and chips. Throughout the lockdown, the kitchen in Caol Community Centre has been kept busy making sandwiches and preparing food boxes for distribution to members and the wider community which will continue for as long as is needed, but service members are equally delighted to be back

offering a face-to-face service. Organiser, Linda Campbell said: 'We are all delighted to be able to open the club again and welcome people back. We have made sure all the precautions are in place and being followed so that everyone can sit and enjoy their lunches. 'After such a long delay, people really needed to get out and meet each other again and we are all really pleased that we are able to offer that - everyone enjoyed having a good craic too.'

## Morrisons host 'thank you' afternoon tea

Morrisons supermarket in Fort William last week hosted an afternoon tea to thank hardworking local foodbank and community project volunteers and workers. 'Over the last four months we have received a pallet of food from Morrisons plus donations from our generous customers through our in store 'donate a food bag' scheme,' said Vicky Kelly, Community Champion for Fort William. 'We have worked with 10 new and existing organisations to distribute this food to those in need within our community. 'We wanted to show our appreciation for the lengths these groups have gone to give back and ensure those vulnerable were not overlooked by giving them an afternoon treat.'

## New project at Kishorn Dry Dock

Semco Maritime Ltd has been awarded a yard stay project with Altera Infrastructure for their FPSO (floating production storage and offloading) asset Voyageur Spirit to be moored at Kishorn Port. Semco Maritime was awarded this based on its extensive project management and engineering expertise in conjunction with the bespoke Kishorn Port base, which now includes accommodation, catering and office facilities. The vessel arrived at Kishorn Port on August 1 for an undisclosed period of time. 'We are delighted to have been awarded the contract by Altera Infrastructure to project manage this valued yard stay and associated support services, which is based on our extensive and sought after capabilities and experience. 'We very much look forward to working closely with Kishorn Port and Altera Infrastructure to ensure the highest levels of support are delivered for yard stay,' said managing di-



Voyageur Spirit to be moored at Kishorn Port

rector Brian Mercer, of Semco Maritime Ltd. 'The Voyageur Spirit FPSO will be maintained in the Kishorn port to be ready for re-deployment in the North Sea, where we see a number of opportunities,' said Stig-Morten Helland, vice president and head of UK Operations, Altera Infrastructure. This project is the first oil and gas related project at the Kishorn port facility since 2019. Significant investment has been carried out over five

years to upgrade and recommission the facility which is the largest facility of its kind in the UK and one of the largest dry dock facilities in Europe. Kishorn Port Limited director, Alasdair Ferguson added: 'We are delighted that our dry dock and infrastructure at Kishorn Port has been chosen by Semco Maritime and Altera Infrastructure as the chosen port and dry dock of choice for the berthing lay-up and any associated works required for their FPSO.'

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# Robin Fleming remembered

*The piece in last week's Lochaber News by the Lewis & Harris Piping Society about the late Robin Fleming has prompted Victoria Sutherland, chairperson of Glencoe and Glen Etive Community Council to write a further tribute to this 'kind and unassuming man'.*

'Robin cared deeply about the communities that surrounded his Blackmount Estate and never failed to respond to appeals to help.

'In 1959 his late father Philip Fleming got a request from Philip Rankin – the 'father' of Scottish skiing, asking to be allowed to erect a ski tow on Mealla-Bhuiridh, a hill on the Blackmount Estate.

'Thereby started a close and lasting friendship between the two Philips.

The minutes of the first meeting on February 5, 1960, of directors of the newly formed White Corries Ltd shows the appointment of Philip Fleming as chairman.

'In 1961 the Flemings, who at that time were the owners



of the Kingshouse Hotel, erected a cottage there for an employee of White Corries for which they charged the company no rent. Later a second cottage was added.

'Robin took over the chairmanship from his father in August 1966, and remained in the post until 1984.

'During this time, ski-ing in Scotland became very popular and White Corries as the first ski centre in the

country expanded hugely – all with the help and blessing of the Fleming family which also took to the slopes when at Blackmount.

'All employees of Blackmount were treated as one big family and when it came to retirement, houses were bought for them and the family continued to take an interest in their wellbeing.

'In 1999 my husband Alister – a recently retired Glasgow

lawyer with a family home in Glencoe – was contacted by the professional fundraiser appointed by Abbeyfield to help raise the four million pounds required to build a new Abbeyfield home in Ballachulish.

'Alister, who knew Robin and had served with him for many years on the White Corries board, contacted Robin to see if he and the fundraiser could visit him

at Blackmount to talk about the Abbeyfield project.

'After a friendly meeting, they left without any indication that funds might be forthcoming. Indeed the fundraiser said as they left, 'Well that was a wasted trip!'

A week later a huge cheque arrived followed by additional funds from the Fleming family – in total they contributed around a million pounds to the project. Typically Robin wished no recognition or mention of the generous gifts given.

Abbeyfield is to this day the biggest employee in Ballachulish and we are so very lucky to have this wonderful facility in our area. Much of that we can thank Robin Fleming for.

'One omission in the piece in last week's Lochaber Times was the fact that Robin was himself a piper and an accomplished pianist.

'I have one final story about this man's kindness. In 1999 a school friend of our late son told us he had applied for the first degree course in

piping to be run by the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland but was struggling to fund his course.

'Alister, who knew Robin to be a keen piper, wrote to him telling him of this young man's plight. Imagine the boy's delight when attending the Conservatoire the first day of term to be told that all his fees had been covered by none other than a Mr Robin Fleming.

'Dr Simon McKerrel is now a reader of music at the International Centre for Music Studies at Newcastle University, a composer of pipe music and founder of the Spirit of Scotland Pipe Band, which competes at the World Pipe Band Competition in Glasgow every year, and is a very well known figure in piping circles.

'When thanked, all Robin asked for in return was that Simon might come and play for him from time to time.

'This man, a Highland laird of the best kind, will be long remembered in this area for his generosity.'

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## LETTERS

**Traffic chaos continues**

Police were taking concerns about congestion and illegal or poorly parked cars in Glen Nevis at the weekend, lifting a number of vehicles that were causing an obstruction in the main route through the area.

This is good news and will hopefully make thoughtless drivers think twice before 'abandoning' their car leading to problems for hundreds of drivers, not to mention it being a safety risk for any pedestrians visiting Glen Nevis Visitor Centre and Glen Nevis Cemetery.

**What a legend!**

Kinlochleven motorbike star Gary MacDonald pulled off an amazing record recently proving he's a legend on two wheels, engine or no engine.

Gary had fancied taking a crack at the record for fastest time cycling the West Highland Way, and he smashed it with style when he arrived at the finish line with almost an hour in hand.

Congratulations Gary!

**Rewilding success**

Like many, we were delighted to hear a pair of golden eagles have successfully reared a chick in an artificial nest at Dundreggan rewilding estate in Glenmoriston – the first known return of the iconic birds of prey to breed at the site in 40 years.

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



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We will attempt to resolve your issue in a timely, reasonable and amicable manner. However, if you are unsatisfied with our response, you can contact IPSO by email: [inquiries@ipso.co.uk](mailto:inquiries@ipso.co.uk). We will abide by the decision of IPSO.

**A big thank you**

Martyn's Monday Club (MCC) has been emotionally touched yet again by the very generous support and backing from everyone, particularly all the tradespeople who gave us their very valuable time to help open our new premises in Breadalbane Street, Oban.

We have to say thank you to them all but it just does not seem enough as their effort and kindness will never be forgotten. We at MMC cannot thank them all enough, they have made our vision a reality.

MKM Builders, Stewart Twort Joiner, Maurice Lockhart Electrician, Craigard décor, Howdens kitchen, Ross Muir Joiner, David McPhee Website design, Adrian Cakebread, Tina, Arran and Amber MacMillan, Colin Thompson, TJ Flooring, William Martin, Steven Carson (Delivery), Jewson's, Connor Nichol, Norman Steeman, Rexel Electrics, Hire and Supplies Ltd (tools), Cafe Shore, Art and Sea custom vinyl graphics, Buildbase Oban, Richard Dale, Matrix computers.

We have also had endless hours of labour and supplies. Thank you once again,

**Diarmid MacMillan,**  
MCC Founder/Facilitator.

**Columnists views**

I write having been touched by the heartfelt offerings of your columnists. It was indeed thought-provoking to read once again of the concerns of Mr Thornber regarding inappropriate land ownership: and outwith the letters page, to once again marvel at his lore of the days of the great estates and all their benefactors who owned them to much local appreciation. The community I grew up in Lewis felt quite differently about the local estate.

No less striking was Angus MacDonald's recent column. I thought it very insightful to read his description of NI, paternity, maternity, health and safety, and holiday/sick pay as 'worrying'. From his self-regard it must be that Mr MacDonald will have never had any sort of government grant, though perhaps he would acknowledge that workforce education and the maintenance of a built infrastructure are themselves forms of subsidy. I can only assume, too, that such a titan of industry with a disregard for public funding will have turned his face away from the significant UK and Scottish financial Covid support?

**Craig Macmillan, Corpach.**

**Inconsiderate camping**

I live in what is arguably one of the most beautiful places in Scotland, the village of Kinlochleven,

## YOUR PHOTOGRAPHS



It's been a while since we had the space to run photographs sent in by our readers, but here is one from Neil Lea from Dunoon who sent us this beautiful shot of Loch Creran with a blink of sunlight in March. If you have a photograph that you have taken that you would like to share with us, send your it for publication to [editor@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk)

on the iconic West Highland Way and a stone's throw from majestic Glencoe. We have our fair share of tourists and the associated problems they cause, but this year takes it to a new level.

After being unable to come here throughout the lockdown we are now inundated – many campsites and hotels are still closed so 'wild' camping is the order of the day. This apparently involves pitching a tent as close to the road as possible on any spare scrap of land – people's gardens or work sites being fair game.

Unfortunately, the majority of visitors do not use bins or toilets (do they not have these at home?). I can only assume they come up here because they've already ruined any nice areas near where they live.

Bring back the lockdown, I'd rather deal with one virus than hundreds of people determined to turn my home into the s\*\*\*\*\* they obviously come from.

**Nan Morris, Kinlochleven.**

**Mystery solved**

I am writing in response to a letter from Stan Ireland, Kirn, Dunoon in the recent Lochaber Times: Can Reader Help in Mystery?

In answer to Stan Ireland's letter, wondering why Duncan McLaren's name appears on a Celtic cross in the Strath of Orchy.

Although Duncan McLaren was born in Dunbartonshire and served as Lord Provost in Edinburgh, it appears his father and mother were born in Glen Orchy, somewhere in the glen that runs from Bridge of Orchy to Dalmally.

His father, John, was born sometime around 1764 and married Catherine McLellan in the 1790s.

It seems probable the cross was erected in memory of his parents.

I hope that helps.

**Mark Bridgeman (author).**

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## Aire-ing solutions to influx of motorhomes

There is never any excuse for vandalism. There is never any excuse for leaving litter behind. There is never an excuse for punishing everyone because of the actions of a few... and especially when you cannot tell exactly who was responsible.

Therefore I was disappointed to read that a barrier was being proposed for Ganavan Sands when all of the facilities to easily create a Motorhome Aire are already onsite – and would pay back the investment along with securing the future of the public toilets.

Aires are overnight parking spots for motorhomes – with or without water and waste disposal facilities – and usually paid for. They are very common on the continent.

Readers only have to look a few miles south of Oban to see a dedicated motorhome facility that's been created to cater for the demand for overnight parking at Ellenabeich – directly to take the pressure off locals.

Before councillors make a kneejerk reaction, maybe providing paid-for facilities would bring much-needed revenue into the council.

**Donald Macdonald,**

**Founder of Campaign for Real Aires.**

I am writing in response and concern to the recent article in the Oban Times calling for the banning of campervans and motorhomes parking overnight in Oban, and wanted to offer both my sincere sympathy for your plight, but also an alternative view.

First and foremost, there is no excuse for badly behaved overnight parking, and I can understand your desire to deter this. However, there is an opportunity here not to be missed. Motorhomes and campervans are largely self-sufficient, meaning they don't need access to toilet blocks, electric hook-ups etc on a daily basis – my van can go four days before I need to empty tanks, in a designated area, of course).

This means that the traditional model of a campsite is outdated and will oftentimes not be used. As an example, I recently visited Oban to see my brother with my van and on enquiring at local campsites was quoted £35 to park my van overnight. Now, I don't need or use electric hook-up, toilets, showers or washing up facilities as I have them in my van already, so would have been paying £35 for a patch of ground for the evening from around 10pm until 8am the next morning. I'm sure you'll agree that's overpriced for what's required.

In lieu of this, I parked (respectfully, not

illegally or in front of anyone's house etc) nearer to town overnight for free. Because of the saving I was able to have a lovely dinner in local restaurant Baab, drinks in Marky Dan's, as well as buying breakfast rolls and candles from the small cafe on the harbour in the morning. I also was able to do a litter pick along the front because of where I was parked. Many campervanners and motorhomers will agree that being stuck on a site makes them less likely to eat or drink in town, thus lessening support for local businesses.

The alternative I propose is a French-style Aire set up. Aires are widespread and numerous in France and almost every town or village has one. It is a designated parking spot for campervans and motorhomes, near to towns to allow people to have a one-night stop-off and support the local economy. Most are paid for (around €5-€15 per night) and some are free, with some having chemical toilet and water facilities included in the price. For a more local example, I would like to direct you to The West Harris Trust's motorhome provisions on Harris. For £5 sent via PayPal or in an honesty box, people can park their motorhomes or campervans overnight, and for a further £3 can use toilet waste and water facilities. Here is a link: [www.north-harris.org/?page\\_id=7366](http://www.north-harris.org/?page_id=7366)

This is a very well established example and is making some well-deserved profit from campervans who would usually stop somewhere for free. In a poll posted on a well-established campervanning Facebook group with thousands of members, 81 per cent of people stated they were happy to pay £5 to stay overnight somewhere designated, with the rest of the votes coming from people stating other amounts ranging from £1-£15.

You can find the group here ([www.facebook.com/groups/campira.uk](http://www.facebook.com/groups/campira.uk)) and will see that each member is committed to clean camping, supporting local economies and leaving no trace.

So you can see there is a positive outcome to be had here. I urge you to see both sides of the argument and capitalise on our custom in Oban.

**Lucy Boyle, by email.**

What is it about the nature of some in our nation that let the actions of a minority ruin a golden opportunity for local communities.

I am, like many others, a responsible camper-van owner who was, up until today when I was made aware of your article, planning a trip to the wider Oban area in the next week.

I am self-sufficient in my van, affluent and love spending money in local communities. I

## Beachd Ailein

**ALLAN CAMPBELL**

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



Saoilidh mi gun robh Nicola Sturgeon glè cheart a bhith fiadhaich mun ladarnas aig caigeann de chluicheadairean sgioba bhall-coise Obair Dheathain a chaidh gu ruige taigh-seinnse trang sa bhaile an aghaidh riaghailtean aontaichte a bha a' bacadh a leithid.

Bha sinn uile mothachail fad sheachdainean air an t-suirghe a bha na sgiobaidhean agus luchd-taice a' dèanamh air Riaghaltas na h-Alba a' sireadh aonta gus an spòrs a leigeil air ais. Thuigeadh a' mhòr-chuid an liuthad argamaid a bh' ann airson sin, eadar feumalachdan nan cluicheadairean an cuid sgilean cluiche a chumail suas, feumalachdan luchd-taice air cofhurtachd a' chur-seachad a bha iad ag ionndrainn cho mòr, agus cuideachd am feum a th' aig na sgiobaidhean air tòiseachadh ri cosnadh a-rithist.

Cha robh mise idir mothachail air ìre an aonta mhionaideach a chaidh a stèidheachadh eadar buidhnean-riaghlaidh a' bhuill-coise ann an Alba agus an Riaghaltas, gus leigeil le farpaisean tòiseachadh às ùr. Ach tha e soilleir gun robh mothachadh ann air mar a dh'fhaodadh sluagh cruinneachadh an lùib "rionnagan" spòrs agus ri linn sin, fhad 's a mhaireadh suidheachadh èiginneach a' choròna-bhiorais, gun robh e cudromach gun seachnadh cluicheadairean ionadan poblach gus cuideachadh le smachd a chumail air an tinneas.

Le dùil gun robh na riaghailtean sin air am mìneachadh dha cluicheadairean proifeiseanta air fad nach iongantach gun d' rachadh ochdnar à aon sgioba an aghaidh na comhairle a fhuair iad, gan cur fhèin agus an dùthaich air fad ann an cunnart bho ath-bheothachadh de Chovid 19.

Fhad 's a tha mi a' sgrìobhadh seo tha fios gum bheil an t-ochdnar fo ghlasadh leth-oireach, agus dearbhadh gum bheil a' bhioras air dithis aca.

Chan iongnadh gu dearbh na feirge aig Prìomh Mhinistear na h-Alba, neo na h-argamaidean aig cuid a dhaoine gur còir càin chruaidh a dhol air na cluicheadairean fa leth, agus air an sgiobadh chorpóra, le cunnart ann gum faodadh clàran spòrs de gach seòrsa an tuilleadh bacaidh fhulang ri linn seo. 'S e an t-adhbhar sgàig as motha uile gu lèir, air iomall an t-suidheachaidh seo, gum faodadh e buaidh a thoirt air planaichean gus sgoiltean na dùthcha fhosgladh a-rithist. Mar a thog mi air an t-seachdain seo chaidh saoilidh mise gum bheil foghlam chloinne air dleatanas cho cudromach 's a tha an urra ri dùthaich sam bith, agus a dh'aindeoin gach argamaid chiallach a ghabhas cur às leth spòrs, taighean-bidh, is taighean-seinne, chuirinn foghlam air toiseach orra uile. Gu h-inntinneach tha mi a' faicinn gum bheil Boris MacLain a' nochdadh an aon bheachd a-nise.

Chan e nàire a bu chòir a bhith air feadhainn a chuireadh an cothrom foghlaim sin an cunnart, ach maslachd, agus bu chòir ìre peanaid a dhol orra a bhios na eisimpleir shusbainteach a bheir buaidh air daoine eile!

Whether an act of arrogance or ignorance, the behaviour of six Aberdeen footballers has created serious consequences, but above all else education provision must be protected as one of the vital responsibilities of government to the people it represents.

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

have decided to take my business elsewhere. When I compare this somewhat parochial attitude to the forward-thinking French village and town approach of providing basic camper-van facilities, I just shrug my shoulders...The majority of camper-van owners are over 50 and affluent.

I'm no business development manager or marketing expert but I'd guess these are the

kind of people that a forward-thinking town would want to attract to spend money in their town?

Campervan ownership is booming and will continue to grow. It's clear to me that some communities will provide facilities and take advantage of this trend while others will slam down the shutters – on a golden opportunity.

**Greg Forbes, Kinross.**

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# New marine strategy highlights importance of an ocean in balance

In order to help safeguard the planet's ocean environment, a leader in Scottish marine science has called for investment in research, technology and people, as he launched the Scottish Association for Marine Science's (SAMS) new five-year strategy on Wednesday (July 29).

SAMS Director Prof Nicholas Owens says there has never been a more important time to support marine science research as Scotland develops its Blue Economy, a crucial part of the country's recovery post-lockdown.

A commitment to saving the oceans, Earth's largest ecosystem, is embedded in the UN Sustainability Goals and, as we approach the UN's Decade of the Oceans 2021-2030, Prof Owens said society had a responsibility to ensure the ocean was protected for the



**SAMS director Professor Nicholas Owens**

and the natural world.

'As the oldest marine research organisation in the United Kingdom we will empower our team of researchers to use their ingenuity in observing, understanding and predicting the changes in our ocean to develop new solutions to the problems of climate change, depletion of marine life, water pollution, waste, and food security. We will encourage them to develop environmentally advanced innovation and commercialisation products to benefit the Blue Economy.'

The global ocean is the most important component of Earth's life support system and helps to stabilise the

climate. However, it is seriously degraded and is under threat of ecosystem collapse from climate change, ocean acidification, pollution, and overexploitation.

These stressors are caused by human activities and behaviour, and the demands for seafood, shipping, mineral resources, coastal development, energy, waste disposal and tourism are still growing. The need for marine conservation and economic development of marine industries can therefore be in conflict.

SAMS' strategy seeks to find a sustainable middle ground, an ocean in balance, whereby the marine environment is protected, while meeting the needs of the population.

Prof Owens added: 'I'm committed to a vision where one day our oceans will be fully healthy again, teeming with

diverse and abundant marine life. I dream that this healthy ocean will also bestow on us clean energy, plentiful and good food, powerful medicines and global transport systems that will connect people and societies.'

The SAMS business model of research, education and enterprise is geared to generate new knowledge that informs policy makers about our ocean environment. It also allows the institute to disseminate these findings through teaching, as part of the University of the Highlands and Islands, and to develop solutions and commercially useful products through its marine science consultancy, SAMS Research Services Ltd.

The SAMS strategy and a short video featuring Prof Owens can be viewed here: [www.sams.ac.uk/strategy](http://www.sams.ac.uk/strategy)

## Picture a **Healthy Relationship**



*Worried you might be in an unhealthy relationship?*



**Lochaber  
Women's Aid**

**The young women of today are our hope for the future, so that is why Lochaber Women's Aid have chosen International Youth Day on 12 August to launch an Instagram account 'lochaberwa'.**

They aim to get the message out to younger women of Lochaber that there is a service based in Fort William that can offer guidance, support and advice about healthy relationships. They want young women to be able to make positive and safe choices in their relationships.

Lorraine Revitt, Service Manager of Lochaber Women's Aid said "Whilst we regularly visit Lochaber high schools to raise awareness about healthy relationships with teenagers, we recognise that there is a need to reinforce the message. We know that having good quality relationships is vital to good health and wellbeing".

Today, there can be a lot of pressure on young women to conform, fit in and go along with others. A lot of young women are controlled through constant texting and on-line messaging. They need to know that this is unacceptable. The Instagram account will be used to share advice so that young women know that, in a healthy relationship you should feel safe, equal, happy and respected.



*Get the right message about healthy relationships*

A lot of young women use Instagram, and so do many of the partners that we work with. We hope that the account will enable us to get our message out to more members of our community. This will add to the awareness raising already provided through our website [www.lochaberwomensaid.org](http://www.lochaberwomensaid.org) our facebook page @LochaberWomensAid and our twitter account @lochaberwa.

Any young woman needing advice and guidance can contact us on **01397 705734** for a confidential chat with a specialist support worker.

# 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

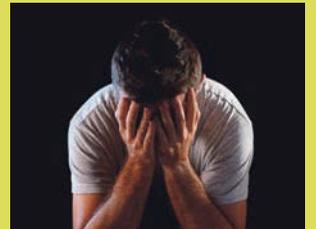
guidelines. By thinking local first, we can help Scotland's economic recovery from its grassroots, supporting our town centres within all of the public safety guidelines. The impact we can have by doing this should not be underestimated.'

'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.

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## Anxiety about returning to work?

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### Corpach gym issues warning after online scam attempt

The owners of a Corpach gym say they have been targeted by online scammers trying to take advantage of the coronavirus lockdown that has seen gyms remain closed.

In a statement, Wolfhouse operators Colin Morley and Emma Hebborn told the Lochaber Times: 'Gyms are still closed in Scotland and many are facing financial hardship during the pandemic and some will probably have to close.'

'We at Wolfhouse Gym Limited, Annat Point Industrial Estate, only opened on December 14 and had to close on March 20.'

'Although finances are tight, it is our members' and community's generosity that has kept us going. Today [Thursday] we were informed by an acquaintance in Glasgow that he had received an email supposedly from Wolfhouse Gym to say that due to finances and Covid-19, we were closing down the business and were selling all our equipment.'

'They then listed the items for sale with prices. Photographs and texts in the email were taken from our website.'

'This acquaintance, at our request, emailed them back and asked to buy two rowing machines. He then received an invoice for £960, allegedly from us, asking for immediate payment. We contacted the bank - Barclays in Leicestershire - whose details were provided for payment and contacted Police Scotland.'

'There are some dishonest people trying to use the pandemic and gyms still being closed in Scotland to their advantage, which is disgusting.'

## Shinty groups benefit from new funding

Five shinty memories groups are to benefit from grants totalling almost £5,000.

Ballachulish and Lochaber, Lovat, Kyles Athletic and Inverness shinty memories groups have received the grants.

Shinty Memories Scotland secured the funding from Life Changes Trust (LCT) to build on work already done in a number of shinty-playing areas and offer support for new groups. This is the first tranche of £10,000 LCT is handing

out. The funding will enable recipients to start up new initiatives and build on work already being done.

Ballachulish shinty club has been awarded the maximum grant of £1,000 to enable it to complete production and filming of *The Boys in the Gallery*, a play for voices, the primary source for which was varied, hand-written entries inside the covers of a set of old Gaelic Bibles found in St John's Episcopal Church, at Ballachulish, last summer.

The entries span a 100-year period,

but most fall between 1914 to 1945. The club intends to distribute the film to other shinty memories groups.

Kyles Athletic has also been awarded £1,000 which it will use to buy a large screen for their clubhouse in Tighnabruach to enable people with physical and other challenges to attend meetings. Lochaber District Shinty Memories Group plans to use its £1,000 grant to produce six Shinty Memories Newsletters over the next year.

David MacMaster, chairman of Shinty

Memories Scotland, said: 'We were delighted with the variety and quality of the five applications we received and all but one received the maximum available. Clubs looked at the potential funding and the current circumstances with the pandemic and adapted their applications to local needs. Ballachulish were particularly imaginative in the way it made its application.'

'We look forward to the second tranche of £5,000 which we will make available in October.'

## 'Turf' times at Claggan Park



It was hard work in the weekend sun as Fort William Football Club director Colin Wood, left, and Scott Hunter, right, with players, committee members and helpers laid new turf over the improved drainage they have installed at Claggan Park over the last few weeks.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

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